

Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway

Deep Creek Bridge

REPLACEMENT PROJECT FACT SHEET



Current Bridge Details

- Built in 1934
- Daily vehicle traffic: 27,000
- Owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Serves as the crossing of U.S. Route 17 Business over the Dismal Swamp Canal/Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in the Deep Creek section of Chesapeake
- Positioned on regional hurricane evacuation route
- Two-lane split leaf bascule drawbridge operating in conjunction with the Deep Creek Locks

Current Bridge Limitations

- Considered “functionally obsolete” meaning the bridge design is not suitable for its current use due to inability to handle current traffic volume, speed, size or weight of vehicles
 - No safety shoulders
 - Weight restricted
 - Narrow lanes
 - High traffic volumes
- Limited use for emergency response vehicles and truck traffic due to weight restrictions
- Peak hour traffic crippling to Deep Creek community, including heavy school traffic
- Requires increasing maintenance and repair work
- Sufficiency rating of 48.8%

Replacement Plans

- Replace existing 2-lane drawbridge with a 144-foot long, 60-foot wide five-lane drawbridge generally along existing alignment
- Improvements will be phased to accommodate traffic during construction. Initially, a 2-lane bridge will be constructed immediately south of the existing bridge, the existing bridge will then be demolished, and a new 3-lane bridge built in its place.
- The project includes improvements to the approaching roadways.
- City of Chesapeake will take over operation and maintenance of the bridge upon project completion

Funding the Replacement

- Project Cost: \$48.4 million
 - \$10 million Federal Work Plan New Start: complete design (\$500,000) and initiate construction (\$9,500,000)
 - \$12 million Congress Energy & Water Appropriations
 - \$20 million from the Commonwealth of Virginia
 - \$6.4 million Army Corps of Engineers
- City of Chesapeake has already spent \$1.5 million for right-of-way acquisition

Replacement Schedule

- Early 2016 – Federal funding secured
- June 2016 – State funding secured
- April 2017 – Right-of-way acquisition begins
- Late 2019 – Construction begins

FAQs

- Will the completed bridge be tolled? *No.*
- Will vehicles still be able to use the bridge during construction? *Yes. The new south span of the bridge will be built first while the current bridge is still in use. Once the south span is completed, traffic will be diverted to that span, the old bridge will be demolished, and the new north span will be constructed in its place.*

For more information visit www.nao.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/AIWW-Deep-Creek-Bridge/