PUBLIC NOTICE
REPLACE EXISTING 2 LANE BASCULE DRAWBRIDGE WITH A 5 LANE BASCULE DRAWBRIDGE
LOCATED ALONG MOSES GRANDY TRAIL BETWEEN MILL CREEK PKWY AND GEORGE WASHINGTON HWY SOUTH.
VDOT Project #: 0017-131-827

In cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the City of Chesapeake (City) is proposing to replace the existing two lane bascule drawbridge with a five-lane bascule drawbridge including improvements to connecting roadways or approach work required to tie into the new bridge.

This project is the U.S. Route 17 Deep Creek Bridge Replacement project over the Dismal Swamp Canal, which is part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW), in the City of Chesapeake, Virginia. The bridge, owned by USACE and operated by the Norfolk District, was built in 1934, and is substandard in capacity, weight, and age. The existing two lane bascule drawbridge will be replaced by a five-lane bascule drawbridge and includes improvements to approaches and connecting roadways necessary to accommodate the bridge widening. The bridge replacement will consist of two separate structures: a three-lane westbound bascule drawbridge structure and a two-lane eastbound bascule drawbridge structure. The new bridge’s horizontal clearance will remain 60 feet. Its vertical clearance will be unlimited during bridge openings, and approximately four feet when the bridge is closed. Upon completion, ownership of the bridge and connecting roadways will be permanently transferred to the City of Chesapeake, the Non-Federal Sponsor.

In order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared by the USACE and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued for this project in April 2001. The five-lane bascule drawbridge on the southern parallel alignment was identified as the preferred alternative. In May 2009, a Limited Re-Evaluation Report (LRR) was developed, and in 2016 the NEPA "Record of Environmental Consideration" (REC) document was completed. The approved REC concluded that the 2001 EA and FONSI remained valid.

Federal funding is now being pursued for construction. The FHWA has completed additional technical studies required and intends to adopt the 2001 EA prepared by the USACE. Therefore, the EA and additional technical studies are being made available for public review and comment. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places are included in the NEPA document.

Interested parties may view the environmental documentation at City of Chesapeake City Hall, 3rd Floor, 306 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA 23322. Public comments regarding the completed environmental document will be received from August 29, 2019 until September 25, 2019.
Nondiscrimination
Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, no person shall be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. If you feel you have been denied participation in, or denied benefits of, or been subjected to discrimination, in regard to this project development or otherwise discriminated against because of your race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability, you may contact the Virginia Department of Transportation, Office of Equal Opportunity located at 1401 East Broad Street in Richmond, Virginia, 23219 or telephone (804) 786-2935 or TDD (800) 307-4360.