

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #5: ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS RECURRENT FLOODING

SUBJECT:

Many organizations in Hampton Roads, including the HRPDC, are working on efforts related to recurrent flooding and sea level rise.

BACKGROUND:

Recurrent flooding is a significant challenge for many localities in Hampton Roads, and sea level rise will increase the vulnerability of the region to coastal storms and tidal flooding. This important issue crosses city boundaries and all aspects of the regional economy. The issue also affects access to the region's military installations. Many organizations locally, regionally, and statewide are conducting studies and planning exercises to help the region prepare for and adapt to these impacts. These include efforts by the HRPDC, Old Dominion University, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, the College of William and Mary Law School, and the Secure Commonwealth Panel, among others. Mayor William Sessoms, City of Virginia Beach, has requested that the HRPDC assume a leadership role in coordinating the region's response to the issue of recurrent flooding and desires to add this item to the annual UPWP.

Mr. Ben McFarlane, HRPDC Regional Planner will provide an overview of the efforts being undertaken to the Commission.

Attachment 5

Note: This item will be presented for action under item #11



City of Virginia Beach

WILLIAM D. SESSOMS, JR.
MAYOR

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March 6, 2014

Mr. Dwight Farmer, Executive Director
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320

Subject: Recurrent Flooding Issue

Dear Mr. Farmer:

The General Assembly is finalizing action on a two-year study regarding recurrent flooding. Since this is an issue for most Hampton Roads localities, I believe it would be proper and helpful for the Planning District Commission to assume a leadership role in coordinating the regions' response to this issue. Certainly, the Transportation Planning Organization has previously studied the effects of recurrent flooding and tidal surge on access to military bases. The Directors of Public Utilities and Public Works meet regularly on this issue. I would like to propose this item be added to the work plans of the Planning District Commission and possibly the Transportation Planning Organization.

This important issue crosses city boundaries and all aspects of our economy whether it is a three-foot sea level rise impacting 12,000 acres of prime farmland in southern Virginia Beach or even more land in Chesapeake. The issue involves the aforementioned access to our military installations and indeed the ability of some installations to continue to operate effectively. There are also significant impacts on public roads, stormwater conveyance, and sewage disposal.

I respectfully request this subject be added to the Planning District Commission agenda at the March 20th meeting. If you would want to discuss in the meantime, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

William D. Sessoms, Jr.
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Paul Fraim, Mayor, City of Norfolk
James K. Spore, City Manager
Robert Matthias, Assistant to the City Manager