

Item #5: Establishment of a Regional Committee to Address Recurrent Flooding

HRPDC Executive Committee Meeting

March 20, 2014

Benjamin J. McFarlane, AICP

Regional Planner





Credit: City of Norfolk

↑ NAVAL ↑
HOSPITAL

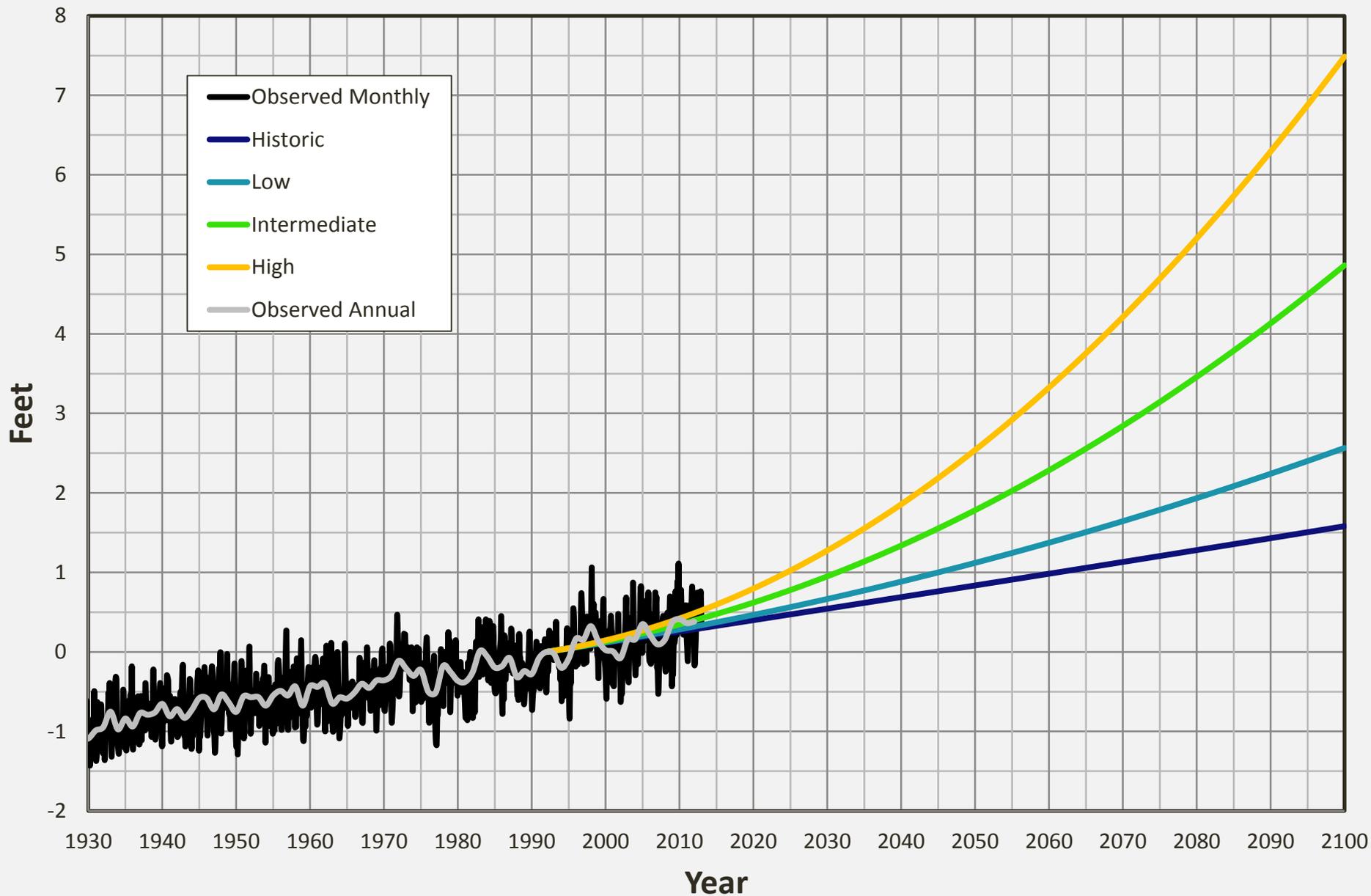
CAUTION
HIGH
WATER

SPEED
LIMIT
25



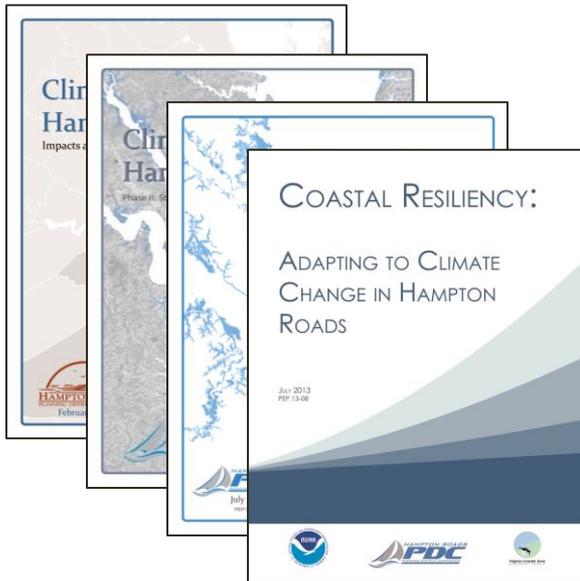
Credit: David Powell

Observed and Projected Relative Sea Level Change at Sewells Point Tide Gauge, Norfolk, VA (1930-2100)

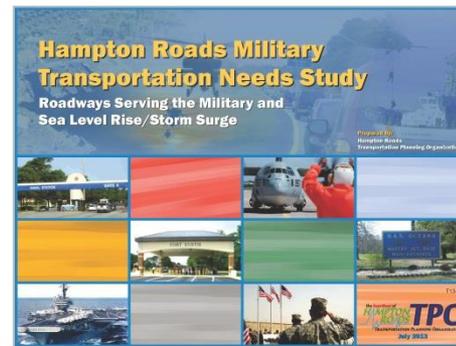


Past Efforts Related to Recurrent Flooding

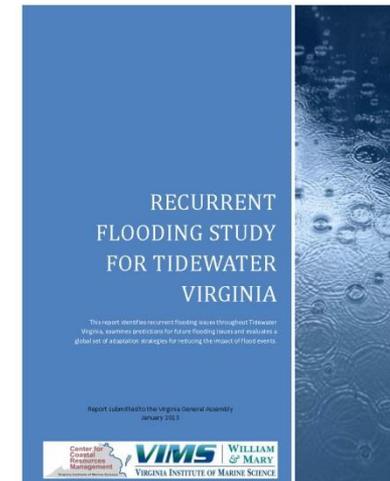
HRPDC



HRTPO



VIMS



Ongoing Efforts Related to Recurrent Flooding

- Federal
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study
- State
 - Secure Commonwealth Panel – Recurrent Flooding Sub-Panel
 - Joint Legislative Subcommittee
- Regional
 - New LIDAR data
 - Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Grants
 - Hampton Roads Adaptation Program
- Academic
 - Old Dominion University
 - Virginia Institute of Marine Science
 - William & Mary Law – Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic

The Case for Regional Action

- Flooding and sea level rise cross local boundaries.
- Our infrastructure systems are regional, so impacts to those systems will be felt regionally.
- Cooperation on standards and policies reduces costs, prevents unnecessary redundancy, and results in a stronger voice when engaging the state and federal governments.
- **There is no existing entity dedicated to developing and implementing adaptation policies in Hampton Roads.**

Recommended Action

In response to a request from the City of Virginia Beach, HRPDC staff recommends that the Commission establish a Special Committee to address planning for recurrent flooding and sea level rise.

- **Mission:**

1. Develop recommendations for local governments
2. Advocate for state and federal support
3. Serve as the primary regional contact to coordinate efforts with federal agencies and academic institutions

- **Membership:**

- Staff from interested localities and departments
- Other regional stakeholders