

Agenda Item #4

Regional Climate Change Project

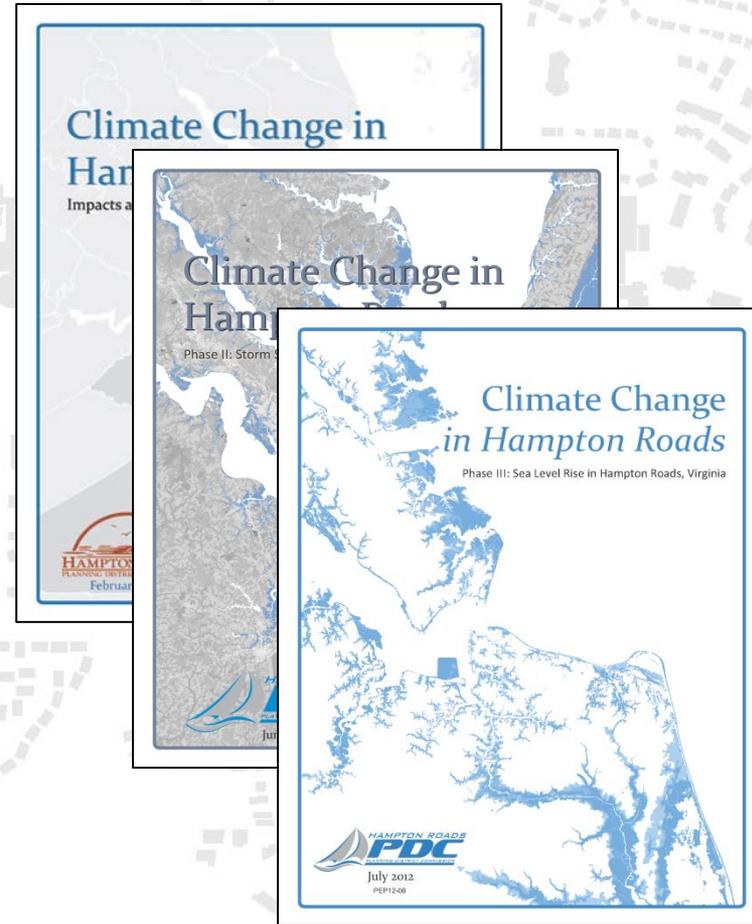
Phase III Final Report

Presented to the
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
Benjamin J. McFarlane, AICP
Regional Planner
July 19, 2012



Project Background

- Funded by Focal Area Grant from Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
- Three-year project
 - Year 1: General Impacts of Climate Change on Hampton Roads
 - Year 2: Storm Surge
 - Year 3: Sea Level Rise



Project Description

- Three components:
 - Technical Report
 - Community Outreach
 - Coordination

Report Contents

- Discussion of sea level rise trends and projections for Hampton Roads
- GIS analysis of the region's exposure to sea level rise
 - Methodology
 - Results
- Findings and Recommendations
- Appendices

Findings and Recommendations

- The necessary regionally consistent, high-resolution elevation data is not yet available for Hampton Roads
- Sea level rise will be a major issue for several localities
- HRPDC staff is working with local, state, and federal partners to acquire the data
- Localities should begin planning for sea level rise through comprehensive and other plans

Findings and Recommendations

- There is no official state or federal guidance for addressing sea level rise
- USACE has developed guidance for incorporating sea level rise into infrastructure projects
- Hampton Roads should work with state and federal elected officials to develop and fund guidance and assistance to affected communities
- Localities and others should consider using the guidance for project planning and design

Findings and Recommendations

- Subsidence and its impacts on local sea level rise are not well-documented
- Effective adaptation strategies will vary based on context, feasibility, and popular support
- The region should continue to study the causes and rates of subsidence in Hampton Roads
- The region should continue studying potential strategies for adapting to sea level rise and other impacts of climate change

Related Efforts

- VIMS
 - Recurrent Flooding Study
- ODU
 - Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Initiative
 - Economic Impacts Study
 - Hampton Roads Adaptation Forum (with Virginia Sea Grant)
- UVA
 - FHWA-funded study
 - Virginia Beach Listening Sessions
- HRPDC Coastal Zone Management Grant

Committee Review

- Comments received from localities and other stakeholders were incorporated to the best extent practicable
- Report was discussed by the Joint Environmental Committee on several occasions
- Presented for official review by the Committee on July 12, 2012
- Committee voted to recommend that the HRPDC approve the report for publication and distribution

Questions and Discussion