



Public Input Requested on Regional Waterways for Long Range Transportation Plan

The Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission's online survey focuses on future dredging plans in the region's at-risk waterways.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SALUDA, VA (October 8, 2018) – The Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC), as part of its efforts to update the region's Long-Range Transportation Plan to include waterways, is seeking the public's input through an online survey, MPPDC Director Lewie Lawrence announced today.

The survey is available at www.mppdc.com.

"The updated transportation plan will feature a newly created waterways section that will allow us to focus heavily on planning the future dredging needs of our region's at-risk waterways," Lawrence said. "The Middle Peninsula's greatest asset – besides its people – is the blue-green infrastructure that defines what it means to live and work here. We want to ensure the waterways that many rely on are well protected and navigable for the commerce and recreation that fuels much of our region's economy."

The addition of the waterways into the transportation plan was fueled by Delegate Keith Hodges' (R-Urbanna) bipartisan leadership effort to create the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Fund and Grant Program; and a study released by the U.S. Coast Guard that identified waterways experiencing shoaling, where a body of water has become shallow. The study specifically identified shallowing areas in various navigable creeks throughout the Middle Peninsula that provide access to the Chesapeake Bay.

"For the purpose of our transportation planning, we are defining the waterways identified in the U.S. Coast Guard report as experiencing any level of shoaling as at-risk waterways," Lawrence said.

By adding a waterways section to the transportation plan, the MPPDC will provide localities across the Middle Peninsula with an overview of the issues facing their residents and begin the planning process now to address it with a prioritized list of future dredging projects.

The survey itself specifically asks residents to identify which locality on the Middle Peninsula they reside in, their relationship to the waterways (such as a waterfront property owner, recreational waterway

user or commercial waterman), what waterways they see as of greatest importance to their water-based activities, areas they have already experienced shoaling issues that cause navigation issues, and what waterways they see as needing dredging.

Among the waterways the MPPDC has identified as needing further study include the following:

- Essex County's Hoskins Creek
- Middlesex County's Parrots, Urbanna and La Grange/Robinson Creeks
- Mathews County's Davis Creek, Winter Harbor, Hole in the Wall, Horn Harbor and Millford Haven
- Gloucester County's Aberdeen, Cedarbush, Timberneck, Rowe, Perrin, Sarah and Fox Creeks; and Brown's Bay

ABOUT THE MIDDLE PENINSULA PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

The Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC) is one of 21 planning commissions in Virginia charged with promoting the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social and economic elements of the district by planning, and encouraging and assisting localities to plan, for the future.

The MPPDC is comprised of the six counties (Essex, Gloucester, King and Queen, King William, Mathews, and Middlesex) and three towns (Tappahannock, Urbanna, and West Point) on the Middle Peninsula.

Commissioners are appointed by each locality and consist of two elected and one citizen member for each county and one elected member for each town. Three county administrators and one town manager serve on the Commission on a rotating basis. The Executive Director/Secretary, selected by the Commission, manages the daily operations of the planning district's professional staff.

MPPDC is funded by annual contributions from its member local governments, by appropriations from the Virginia General Assembly, and by grants from state and federal governments and other entities.

MPPDC prepares an annual work program and budget each year determined by the needs and priorities of the region and available funding opportunities.

For more information about the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, contact Lewie Lawrence at llawrence@mppdc.com or (804) 758-2311.