



COUNTY OF ACCOMACK
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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Michael T. Mason, CPA
County Administrator

May 8, 2019

Mr. Christopher Isdell
Accomack Residency Administrator
Virginia Department of Transportation
23096 Courthouse Avenue
Accomack, Virginia 23301

Dear Mr. Isdell:

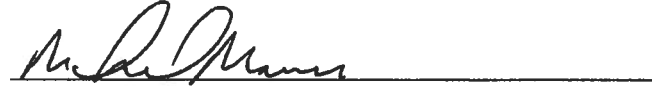
Accomack County and the Town of Chincoteague are writing to request a study of potential future expansion and improvement projects on State Route 175.

A primary highway connecting U.S. Route 13 to Main Street on Chincoteague Island, S.R. 175 passes through northeastern Accomack County and provides primary access to the NASA Wallops Flight Facility. The County and Town recognize this facility's importance to regional economic development and as such, request an assessment of road widening to provide additional lanes between U.S. Route 13 and Atlantic Road. This will facilitate future growth of the Wallops facility while improving management of large truck traffic that currently shares the roadway with employees and visitors accessing the Wallops facility, Town of Chincoteague, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, and Assateague Island National Seashore. The study should also specifically address the feasibility of widening along the federally owned corridor beginning at Atlantic Road and continuing to the causeway as this portion of Route 175 presents unique challenges with regards to adjacent ownership.

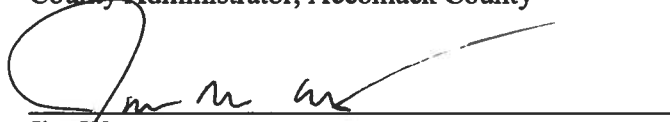
Additionally, the County and Town recognize the Eastern Shore of Virginia Transportation Infrastructure Inundation Vulnerability Assessment study (2015), which demonstrates that accessibility of the Route 175 causeway connecting Chincoteague and Assateague Islands to the Eastern Shore will be impacted at 2 feet of sea-level rise, predicted to occur between 2045 and 2090. The study explains that flooding of the causeway will occur with increasing frequency leading up to 2045 and, around that time, portions of the causeway will remain inundated during high tide and ultimately during all tides. As such, it is crucial to examine viable mitigation and reconstruction options that improve causeway infrastructure resiliency through the requested study.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. Please contact us with any questions and comments on this request.

Sincerely,



Michael Mason
County Administrator, Accomack County



Jim West
Town Manager, Town of Chincoteague