



SERPPAS Coastal Resilience and Regional Adaptation Work Group Call Summary

January 9, 2022; 2pm ET

Theme and Speakers

Military-Community Climate Resilience Planning

- Ben McFarlane, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Military (bmcfarlane@hrpdcva.gov)

Materials

[Meeting Recording](#)

[Presentation: Military-Locality Coordination for Resilience in Hampton Roads](#)

Discussion

- Welcome & Speaker Introduction – Michelle Covi, Coastal Resilience DoD Liaison/Work Group Lead
 - Ben McFarlane, Senior Regional Planner, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Military
- Military-Locality Coordination for Resilience in Hampton Roads – Benjamin McFarlane, Senior Regional Planner, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC)
 - Hampton Roads consists of 17 member localities (10 cities, 6 counties, 1 town)
 - High concentration of federal facilities from many agencies (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, NASA, National Park Service, USFWS, Veterans Affairs)
 - Partnerships driven by individual localities
 - HRPDC managed those contracts as the sponsor with OEA and then with OLDCC (after organization name change)
 - South Hampton Roads JLUS Projects – Norfolk-Virginia Beach JLUS in August 2019 & Portsmouth-Chesapeake JLUS in August 2021
 - Joint land use study that would tackle the issues of resilience by focusing specifically on issues like utilities, roadway access, and direct flooding impacts
 - Looking at resilience as part of a JLUS led to the groundwork for what is now military resilience installation reviews
 - Key issues include access, provision of community assets, ongoing issues with coordination & communication, development, flooding, mobility, and parking
 - Started with focusing on flooding with the Norfolk study and then expanded to some of the topics that were covered in the Portsmouth study
 - Study Goals – Norfolk
 - Reliable and resilient access routes for DoD personnel; adequate and well-maintained stormwater management systems; reliable and resilient utility networks; effective and institutionalized coordination, cooperation, and collaboration at multiple scales; and a regional prioritization mechanism for resiliency initiatives



- Recommended actions: <https://www.hrpdcva.gov/departments/joint-land-use-studies/norfolk-va-beach-joint-land-use-study/>
- Study Goals – Chesapeake
 - Mitigate flooding impacts to the transportation network; strengthen military installations resilience; maintain and expand access to Navy installations; enhance neighborhoods that surround Navy installations; redevelop and reuse land to improve the local economy; adopt policies and regulations to manage growth and prevent conflicts; and strengthen relationships between Navy installations and localities
 - Recommended actions: <https://www.hrpdcva.gov/departments/joint-land-use-studies/portsmouth-chesapeake-joint-land-use-study/>
- From Studies to Results
 - Working on having regular meetings with locality partners and Navy partners to continue having ongoing conversations about implementation
 - Local staff implementation committees established with HRPDC support. These are made up of city managers, planning department members, public works representatives, and other similar positions
 - Implementation committees will support:
 - Maintaining communication between localities and installations
 - Implementation of study recommendations through grant applications and other efforts
 - Sharing of information between localities
- Opportunities for Collaboration
 - Data: Stormwater Infrastructure Data; LiDAR
 - Planning and Analysis: Coastal Storm Risk Management Plans; Hydraulic and Hydrologic Models; Watershed Master Plans
 - Project Construction: Flood Protection Projects; Stormwater BMPs
 - Operation and Maintenance: Roads; Stormwater Infrastructure
- Funding for Collaboration – For many communities, the primary source of funding is from the local level, but there are many types of state and federal funding available.
- Maintaining Access
 - Making sure that access to the installations is available when it needs to be is a large focus
 - Norfolk is seeking DCIP and OLDCC funding to help adapt Hampton Blvd., which provides access to NS Norfolk and NSA Hampton Roads, to sea level rise and stormwater flooding
 - During flood events, Sandbridge neighborhood residents must evacuate through Dam Neck Annex. Virginia Beach is using local Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) funds to extend Nimmo Parkway, which will provide additional, more resilient access to the neighborhood.
 - These issues were identified during the JLUS, and they can now focus on working on the problems.
- Implementation – Norfolk
 - Used state funding from Community Flood Preparedness Fund to support a hydrologic and hydraulic study of Lake Whitehurst watershed, which contributes to flooding on JEB Little Creek.



- Signed an Intergovernmental Support Agreement with the Navy that created potential opportunities for collaboration on services such as stormwater management, electrical services, and roadway maintenance.
- Implementation – Virginia Beach
 - As part of a city-wide, locally funded initiative to develop stormwater models for each of the city’s watersheds, Virginia Beach obtained stormwater infrastructure data from JEB Little Creek, incorporated it into the city stormwater model, and shared the model with the installation.
 - Virginia Beach recently began working with the USACE on a [Coastal Storm Risk Management Study](#). Navy Region Mid-Atlantic has also signed an agreement with USACE to fund additional work that would result in a combined study of the Navy’s installations and the city.
- Implementation – Portsmouth
 - Portsmouth received \$500,000 from Virginia’s Community Flood Preparedness Fund to develop a city-wide resilience plan. The city is also working with OLDCC to develop grant proposals for resilience strategies for critical transportation corridors.
 - Portsmouth is working with Hampton Roads Transit to provide regular bus service to Norfolk Naval Shipyard. The city also received a state SMART SCALE grant for commuter parking lots near Norfolk Naval Shipyard and Naval Medical Center Portsmouth.
- Implementation – Chesapeake
 - Chesapeake is currently working with a team of consultants to develop an industrial waterfronts plan that considers economic development and resilience needs for the Elizabeth River’s Southern Branch.
 - Chesapeake received a \$75,000 grant from the Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund for a city resilience plan.
- Implementation – Regional
 - The HRPDC is using OLDCC resiliency grants and local funding to pilot a network of 20 roadway flooding sensors throughout Hampton Roads. ([Additional information](#))
 - The HRPDC is developing resilient stormwater management design guidelines using dedicated locality contributions and NOAA funding through the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.
 - The HRPDC received a grant from OLDCC to conduct a MIRR for Navy installations in Norfolk and Virginia Beach. The study, which is underway, will verify and update findings for the Norfolk-Virginia Beach JLUS and consider additional impacts and strategies inside the installations.
 - The Hampton Roads Sanitation District is funding a resilience study looking at the exposure of the district’s treatment plants, pump stations, and mains to current and future flooding.
- Questions
 - Q: How did you get to the point where there were so many implementation projects? What are the key things that drove your region to this point?
 - A: Resiliency used to be a topic that people did not want to discuss but we had some flooding events that have really driven the conversation and gotten political attention.



When there is stormwater flooding in areas where there is not supposed to be, that gets attention very quickly.

- Q: What were some of the issues you faced in the JLUS process?
 - A: Getting data from the Navy can be a struggle. There have been misplaced or overstated concerns about operational security. Additionally, we have run into the issue where the localities or the installations do not like to share bad news so they have not been up front about it.
 - Q: Could you speak more about the actual implementation process of formulating an approach, getting the right stakeholders engaged in joining the communities, and being willing to move forward?
 - A: Most of our communities have not placed a high priority on doing these implementation steps. We try to convey to the localities that it is very important to be a good partner in order to continue to be an attractive option for new military commands or facilities. It is also about being aware of the opportunities and taking advantage of them. OLDCC has implementation grants which are a great resource.
 - Q: Can you give any more information about the road flooding sensors and what they are?
 - A: I am not the point person for that project, but I will send any information I can find about it to Michelle. We have identified critical depths for each of those roads that tell us whether they are passable or should be closed, depending on how much water is on the surface. We installed the sensors to measure depth and avoid having to rely entirely on models. (Slide deck with more information [linked here](#))
 - Q: From your perspective with working across the region with installations partners, have you noticed a change in position or in willingness or interest as a result of DoD's and other departments' change in position relative to climate change?
 - A: I've heard about these plans, but I haven't seen any of them or had any specific conversation about them. So, it's hard for me to say whether or not there has been a change. I do feel like, in some ways, that it seems to be more for a topic of conversation than it was 4 or 5 years ago. The department does seem to be saying these things out loud more often, but I am not familiar enough with the plans to say what is driving them.
 - In response to Ben's answer, the work group member provided this link: [DoD: Tackling the Climate Crisis in the chat.](#)
- SERPPAS Updates – Addie Thornton, SERPPAS Coordinator
 - SERPPAS Steering Committee Meeting the first full week of March (March 8-9; Atlanta, GA)
 - Climate Resilience Summit (Jan 30 – Feb 1)
 - SERPPAS Principals Meeting (May 17-29; Jacksonville, FL)

The next work group meeting will be Monday, February 13th, at 2pm EST