



CITY OF
**VIRGINIA
BEACH**



Public Meeting

Pungo Ferry Road Improvements Environmental Assessment

Creeds Elementary School

920 Princess Anne Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23457

June 18, 2026 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

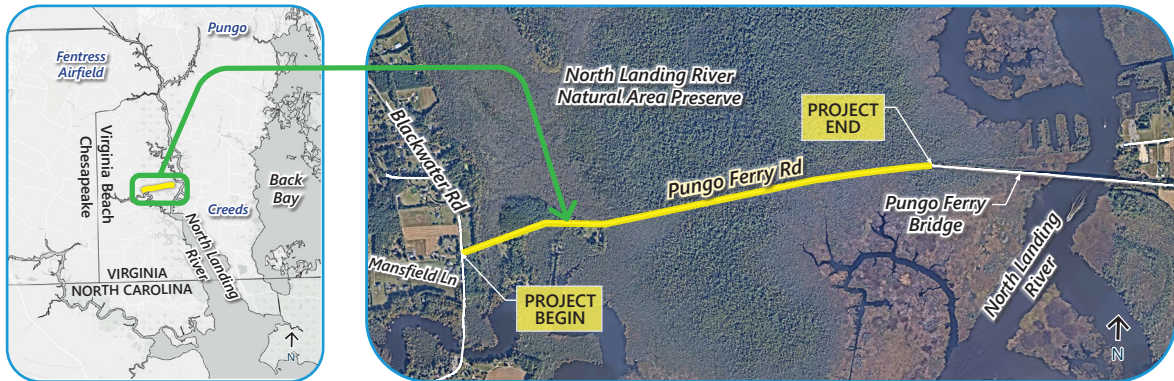


Welcome!

The City of Virginia Beach welcomes you to the public meeting for the Pungo Ferry Road Environmental Assessment. We are eager to hear your thoughts and suggestions on the proposed project.

Pungo Ferry Road provides a key connection across the North Landing River in the City of Virginia Beach, serving as a lifeline for residents, local agriculture, tourism, and recreation. This essential route is facing challenges due to reoccurring flooding and the ongoing threat of increased localized flooding. These challenges present risks to all roadway users, resulting in frequent closures and traffic disruptions, including jeopardizing emergency vehicle response times in critical situations.

Location Map



Project Background

Pungo Ferry Road is a two-lane road serving as an important route for local traffic with more than 4,700 vehicles traveling the corridor per day. Pungo Ferry Road between the Pungo Ferry Bridge and Blackwater Road runs through a low-lying, waterlogged area, at an elevation that ranges from 1.7 to 4 feet (NAVD88) in the middle section, to approximately 10 feet at either end, resulting in a depressed road profile. As a result, Pungo Ferry Road is subject to flooding during rain events, but also to frequent flooding due to wind-driven tides on sunny days. The low elevation of the road relative to the surrounding environment means that flooding occurs frequently, even with minor rain or winds. This situation will worsen as frequent and continuous localized flooding intensifies. Water levels have been rising in Virginia Beach at almost twice the global rate. The Pungo Ferry Road Improvement Project as proposed would raise the elevation of Pungo Ferry Road, which would minimize reoccurring flooding.

In addition, project improvements would reduce roadway safety hazards and correct roadway deficiencies. Pungo Ferry Road consists of two 11-foot-wide travel lanes with graded shoulders that range from 4 to 6 feet wide. The shoulder is soft material and does not support vehicles either for recovery or emergency pull-off. This existing road design does not meet current Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and City clear zone standards. These safety standards require an unobstructed area outside of the travel lanes for errant vehicles to recover. The existing clear zone is approximately 10 feet, compared to the 30-foot VDOT minimum standard that should be provided.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of this project is to increase the resiliency of Pungo Ferry Road and improve safety conditions. In order to meet this goal, the project must meet the following objectives:

- Raise the road to minimize recurrent flooding
- Bring the road up to VDOT and City design standards and maintain an important east-west connection by minimizing the number of times when the road is unavailable due to flooding
- Reduce roadway safety hazards and correct roadway deficiencies

Summary of Alternatives

Three alternatives were carried forward for analysis in the Environmental Assessment:

- » **No Build Alternative:** *No construction would occur to elevate the roadway.*
 - » Frequent flooding would continue to occur and is projected to increase due to future rising water levels and intensified weather patterns
 - » Existing maintenance schedules would be maintained
 - » Roadway would not comply with VDOT and City safety standards
- » **Northern Shift Alternative:** *Realign Pungo Ferry Road approximately 9' to 32' to the north.*
 - » Centerline of the road would be raised to approximately 6.5 feet to minimize recurrent flooding
 - » Two 12-foot travel lanes
 - » 8 feet of shoulder provide enhanced safety
 - » 4.3 to 7.6 acres of right-of-way impact
 - » Would require private property and Section 4(f) property acquisition
 - » 9.28 to 10.28 acres of wetland impact
 - » About 3 years to construct
- » **Retaining Wall Alternative (Preferred Alternative):** *Realign Pungo Ferry Road approximately 15' to the north with a series of retaining walls.*
 - » Centerline of the road would be raised to approximately 6.5 feet to minimize recurrent flooding
 - » Two 12-foot travel lanes
 - » 8 feet of shoulder
 - » Series of guardrails adjacent to the retaining wall provide enhanced safety
 - » 3.5 acres of right-of-way impact
 - » Would require only private property acquisition
 - » 6.27 acres of wetland impact
 - » About 3.5 years to construct

Potential Impacts

| Resource | Northern Shift Alternative | Preferred Alternative |
|---|---|---|
| | | Retaining Wall Alternative |
| Right-of-Way Impacts | 4.3-7.6 acres | 3.5 acres |
| Wetland Impacts | 9.28-10.28 acres | 6.27 acres |
| Construction Duration | 30-36 months | 42 months |
| Land Use, Public Lands, and Section 4(f) Properties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquisition would be needed from both private landowners and DCR, which is a Section 4(f) property • Anticipated right-of-way acquisition could take up to 4 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land acquisition only needed from private landowners • Anticipated right-of-way acquisition could take approximately 1 year |
| Historic Preservation | Analysis ongoing | Analysis ongoing |
| Socioeconomics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on extent of shift, alternating one-way traffic could be necessary • Safety concerns increase with one-way traffic pattern • One-way traffic results in increased travel time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-way traffic could be maintained, except where new roadway construction connects to existing roadway • Safety concerns decrease with two-way traffic pattern • Two-way traffic maintains travel time |

Project Schedule



YOUR FEEDBACK IS VALUABLE

Email comments or questions by July 18, 2026 to Christina Ammens at cammens@vbgov.com or by mail at the address listed below. Comment cards are available at tonight's meeting and can be submitted in one of the available card boxes.

Christina L. Ammens, PE

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CIVIL RIGHTS

It is the responsibility of the City to ensure that members of the community are afforded the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation systems and projects affecting them. The City of Virginia Beach ensures non-discrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

