



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER,
NAVY REGION MID-ATLANTIC
1510 GILBERT STREET
NORFOLK, VA 23511-2737

IN REPLY REFER TO:
11210
N4
September 19, 2016

Virginia Department of Transportation
Attn: Mr. Scott Smizik
1401 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219-2000

Dear Mr. Smizik:

As a cooperating agency in the re-evaluation of the Hampton Roads Crossing Study Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic (CNRMA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft SEIS.

Naval Station Norfolk is the largest Naval Base in the world with an average daytime population of 70,000. One of the specific elements of the SEIS is to improve strategic military connectivity. All alternatives provide additional capacity which will alleviate congestion and improve emergency readiness as it pertains specifically to naval operations and mission readiness. In addition, alternatives B, C and D incorporate a secondary connection that would allow both civilian and active duty commuters to be distributed more evenly across transportation corridors throughout Hampton Roads. Consequently, this would reduce congestion and ultimately improve strategic military connectivity beyond the current roadway system.

Enclosure 1 herein provides additional information regarding potential Navy impacts. Detailed comments regarding various roadway constructs will be submitted in the future once the preferred alternative has been selected. The following comments highlight potential direct impacts to the Navy based on a review of the SEIS:

- (1) The proposed alignment of the I-164 Connector identified in Alternatives B, C, and D would negatively impact planned, mission-critical infrastructure at the Craney Island Fuel Depot. Further coordination with the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be required to identify a mutually agreeable alignment should the preferred alternative include this option. Additionally, the proposed at-grade roadway would bisect the Navy's property. The Navy requires unimpeded access to all of its facilities at Craney Island;
- (2) The Navy is in the process of investigating safety distance requirements for military ships refueling at Craney Island in relation to a public highway and will provide that information when available;
- (3) Further coordination with the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be required to consider the alignment of a future tunnel beneath Norfolk Harbor Reach with respect to anticipated federal navigation channel deepening activities and the cumulative impact on maritime operations at Naval Station Norfolk should the preferred alternative include this tunnel/bridge option;

- (4) Potential impacts to maritime and air operations at Naval Station Norfolk must be accounted for during the design/construction phases and avoided and/or minimized during construction. The Navy is specifically concerned about mission impacts resulting from the use of cranes during construction along the I-64 corridor within the Chambers Field approach/departure corridor. Further coordination will be required to address this issue; and,
- (5) Navy is in support of a full movement interchange that provides access to the Navy, Norfolk International Terminals, and the public. The proposed location of the land-based interchange for the I-564 Connector west of Hampton Boulevard identified in Alternatives B, C, and D is not feasible due to the relocation of Gate 6 at Naval Station Norfolk which is currently under construction. The Navy requests that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) evaluate UPC 59175, I-564 Air Terminal Interchange, which is east of Hampton Boulevard and identified in the 2040 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan.

The Navy will continue to work with the VDOT, Federal Highway Administration and the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization to address transportation issues in the Hampton Roads area. If you require clarification or additional detail regarding potential Navy impacts, please contact Ms. Rhonda Murray by telephone at (757) 341-0232 or by e-mail at rhonda.p.murray@navy.mil.



M. R. MOORE
Captain, U. S. Navy
Chief of Staff

Encl: (1) Table of Comments

Copy to:
Federal Highway Administration
Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization
City of Norfolk
City of Portsmouth
Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command
Commanding Officer, Naval Station Norfolk
US Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District