Eastern Shore Rail to Trail Study
Accomack and Northampton Counties

Public Notice of Virtual Public Informational Presentation

October 27 to November 11, 2020
Virtual materials available at Virginiadot.org/EasternShoreTrail

Background: The former Bay Coast Railroad offers 49.1 miles of primarily flat straight terrain that presents an opportunity for a shared use path connecting communities, businesses, and State/Federal parks throughout Northampton and Accomack Counties. The Eastern Shore Rail to Trail Study seeks to assess the feasibility of converting the abandoned railroad into a shared use path. The railroad corridor runs mostly parallel to US Route 13 on the Eastern Shore and travels through the Towns of Hallwood, Bloxom, Parksley, Onley, Melfa, Keller, and Painter in Accomack County and the Towns of Exmore, Nassawadox, Eastville, Cheriton, and Cape Charles in Northampton County.

About the Study: The study explores the opportunity to reduce interaction between vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists on US Route 13 with the development and construction of a shared use path, to improve pedestrian mobility, accessibility, and safety. Shared use paths are separate and dedicated areas removed from motorist traffic, supporting multiple recreation and transportation modes including walking, bicycling and others. The study area extends approximately 50 miles between the Town of Cape Charles and the Town of Hallwood. While the shared use path alignment will largely follow the abandoned railroad track alignment, the study will also identify potential connections into Town and County destinations in the vicinity of the railroad alignment.

Learn More: The study team has received a great deal of public input related to this study. This virtual presentation will include a summary of the public input along with the final alignment concept and related feasibility study information. In addition, the virtual presentation area includes a Frequently Asked Questions document, typical cross-sections, road crossings and an online comment form for submitting public feedback. VDOT is inviting the public to learn about the study and its progress by accessing the virtual presentation and study materials located at Virginiadot.org/EasternShoreTrail. A transcript and alternate recording of the virtual presentation is available online in Spanish and Haitian Creole.

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Virtual presentation materials and additional study information located at https://www.virginiadot.org/EasternShoreTrail