

**COUNTY OF ACCOMACK**

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**



**APPENDIX C - DRAFT**

**June 13, 2018**

**FOR PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING**

**ON AUGUST 22, 2018 @ 7:00 P.M.**

**AT SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDING – CONFERENCE/TRAINING ROOM  
AT 22554 CENTER PARKWAY, ACCOMAC, VIRGINIA**

**Vision for the Future (Executive Summary)**

*Accomack County is a rural place, consisting of a mixture of agricultural, forestal, coastal, commercial, residential and industrial land uses. We desire economic development that is compatible with and adds value to our rural economy. Economic growth is market appropriate for the Eastern Shore and is located along Lankford Highway (Route 13) and Chincoteague Road (Route 175) so that the undeveloped agricultural, forestal and coastal areas of Accomack County are preserved. The areas surrounding existing towns and villages are appropriate locations for a traditional development pattern of residential and light commercial growth in a manner consistent with the existing character of each town or village.*

*Our history, culture, geography, location, and people define who we are and what we value.*

**Demographics (Chapter 6)**

The 2010 census data revealed a population of 33,164 people in Accomack County, which is lower compared to the population of 38,305 people recorded in the 2000 census data. **The U.S. Census QuickFacts for Accomack County, which contains updated estimates through July 2017, can be viewed at the following link:**

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/dashboard/acomackcountyvirginia,US/PST045217>

In July 2017, the Weldon Cooper Center (WCC) released population projections for the Commonwealth of Virginia and information specific to Accomack County was provided, which are shown below. The WCC data shows the population remaining relatively static except in the year 2040, where it projected a decline of over 20% from its prior projections in November 2012.

2010 Census	2020 (WCC)	2030 (WCC)	2040 (WCC)
33,164	33,775	30,369	26,615

The following is a comparison between the 2030 population projections in the 2008 Comprehensive Plan, the Weldon Cooper projections that were released in November 2012 and were adopted as part of the 2014 Amendment to the Comp Plan, and the Weldon Cooper projections that were released in July 2017.

2030 Population Projections (2008 Comprehensive Plan)	2030 Population Projections (Weldon Cooper Center – November 2012)	2030 Population Projections (Weldon Cooper Center – July 2017)
46,500	33,568	30,369

Other noteworthy information from the 2010 census and 2012 and 2017 Weldon Cooper population projections are as follows:

- A percentage increase of residents age 55 or over and a slightly declining birth rate in the coming decades indicates that Accomack County has an aging population.
- The Hispanic population in Accomack County is increasing.
- On a percentage basis, the White and Black populations in Accomack County are decreasing while other race populations are increasing.

The Weldon Cooper Center population projection data can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.coopercenter.org/demographics/virginia-population-projections>

Based on the 2010 Census and the 2012 and 2017 Weldon Cooper Center population projections indicating a consistent projection for the next 20 plus years, no adjustments to the Future Land Use Plan Map are necessary.

## **Education (NEW SECTION)**

### **Accomack County Public Schools**

**Our Mission:** The Mission of Accomack County Public Schools is to provide a safe, engaging student-centered environment where all learners are challenged, encouraged, and supported to maximize growth and be prepared for further education, citizenship and work.

**Our Vision:** Accomack County Public Schools will be a community of diverse learners where all members are valued, challenged, and expected to grow.

### **Our Goals**

**Goal 1:** Ensure students graduate with the knowledge and skills to be successful in further education and the workforce.

#### **Key Strategies:**

Engage all students in authentic, rigorous work.

Expand opportunities for students to explore and pursue career opportunities.

Ensure students enter the 9<sup>th</sup> grade with the knowledge, skills, necessary support, guidance, and a plan to succeed in a course of study leading to further education and entry into the workforce.

Ensure students connect what they have learned with new learning by aligning the curriculum vertically.

**Goal 2:** Close gaps in achievement.

#### **Key Strategies:**

Use observational and student growth data to improve teaching and learning for all membership groups.

Implement a learning community model to improve collaboration, effectiveness, and student outcomes.

Ensure inclusion model and English-language learner support structures are effectively implemented.

Respond to instructional audit recommendations, ensuring identified practices are in place.

**Goal 3:** Recruit, develop, and retain high quality teachers, administrators, and support staff.

**Key Strategies:**

Expand and enhance recruiting efforts.

Develop, implement and refine a three-year induction program for novice teachers.

Identify professional development priorities, aligning processes and resources.

Research, identify, and implement additional strategies to improve retention in critical need areas.

Implement performance-based evaluation systems for all employees.

**Goal 4:** Institute a continuous improvement process to ensure effectiveness and competitive performance.

**Key Strategies:**

Establish and implement a well-defined process for universal strategic planning at the division, department and school levels, including performance measures.

Conduct program and department audits.

**Goal 5:** Establish efficient, transparent systems for the allocation and alignment of resources to support the division's vision, mission, and goals.

**Key Strategies:**

Develop and implement division-wide staffing formulas for all departments.

Benchmark, analyze, develop, and implement revised compensation model.

Plan use and allocation of operational and grant funds in an integrated manner.

### **Eastern Shore Community College**

Eastern Shore Community College (ESCC) is a member of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and serves the residents of Accomack and Northampton Counties as a two-year institution of higher education. Originally a branch of the University of Virginia, the institution joined the Virginia Community College System in 1971. The college was accredited and granted membership in the Southern Association of College Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in 1973 and moved to its current location in Melfa on approximately 115 acres in 1974.

The current academic and administration building includes classrooms, laboratories, a bookstore, a lecture hall, administrative offices, a student lounge, and a Learning Resources Center/Library. However, space is limited and the ability to expand course offerings is restricted; therefore, ESCC broke ground on a new \$20 million academic and administration building in fall 2017. This project will allow the ESCC to expand its program offerings and provide for a Technical Programs Innovation Lab to better meet the changing demands of local business needs for training and certifying individuals in technical fields.

The Business Development and Workforce Training Center opened in January, 2009 and houses Workforce Development Services including: occupational trade areas, allied health programs,

industrial technology programs and employer training programs. The Workforce Development Program is able to develop customized contracted training for an organization or business; offers classes in general business basics (computer program usage, bookkeeping), and provides classes or on-line access to classes that are required to obtain state certifications in the building trades which otherwise would require travel to the Hampton Roads region over multiple weeks for this certification.

Eastern Shore Community College offers associate degree programs, certificate programs and career study certificate programs. Currently, there are (5) associate of applied science degrees (AAS), (5) associate of arts and sciences degrees (AA&S), these degrees are commonly referred to as the “transfer degree” programs, (5) certificate programs and (9) career studies certificate programs (CSC) from which to choose a field of study.

Below is the enrollment for 2010 – 2016 by program and indicating participation by each academic year by Full Time Participants (FTE) as well as all part-time or casual participants (HC). This information supports the need for maintaining the ESCC as an option for continuing education for our residents and provides the ability for our residents to pursue certification and employment goals in fields that require supplemental training and certification, particularly in the building and trades industry and the medical support industry.

**ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM TYPE: CURRICULUM ENROLLMENT**

CURRICULUM	FALL 2016		FALL 2015		FALL 2014		FALL 2013		FALL 2012		FALL 2011		FALL 2010	
	HC	FTE	HC	FTE	HC	FTE	HC	FTE	HC	FTE	HC	FTE	HC	FTE
<b>AA &amp; S</b>														
Business Admin	28	17	33	23	44	31	43	29	40	28	60	38	45	35
Education	24	16	21	14	32	21	29	18	40	25	40	28	36	27
General Studies	70	43	67	46	84	52	99	60	118	72	132	82	154	104
Liberal Arts	65	45	74	53	69	45	71	49	85	62	100	77	66	53
Science	82	47	93	52	108	69	131	79	110	66	126	77	139	83
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>302</b>
<b>AAS</b>														
Info. Systems Tech.	2	1	2	1	6	2	6	3	4	2	7	5	3	1
Management	26	13	29	15	32	18	40	25	33	21	34	22	42	29
Management-IST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Early Childhood Ed	27	16	29	17	37	19	55	32	65	37	57	35	44	31
Electronics Tech	20	14	23	15	21	14	18	12	33	20	26	18	22	17
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>CERTIFICATES</b>														
Electronics	1	0	2	1	5	4	4	3	2	1	1	0	3	2
Industrial Main.Tech	11	7	12	7	16	11	16	12	16	11	10	8	8	5

Medical Assisting	33	24	34	26	30	18	34	18	51	32	45	31	61	42
Practical Nursing	30	16	38	22	58	31	58	29	47	30	69	44	60	35
Welding	9	5	9	5	16	8	18	12	11	6	11	7	15	8
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>CAREER STUDIES CERTIFICATES (CSC)</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>HC</b>	<b>FTE</b>
Early Childhood Dev.	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	0	7	2	3	1
Electricity (new 2014)	3	2	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HVAC	4	2	3	1	9	5	7	3	8	3	18	7	16	6
Long-Term Care Assistant	7	4	11	5	16	7	13	4	12	5	15	6	10	4
Med. Admin. Office Specialist	1	0	-	-	-	-	2	1	5	3	4	2	-	-
Med. Code.& Bill Specialist	3	1	14	6	2	0	5	2	1	0	3	1	2	1
Small Business Manage.	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Welding	3	1	4	2	4	2	10	6	8	4	4	3	3	1
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>15</b>

ESCC also partners with the local secondary school systems on the Eastern Shore to offer high school students who are college-bound to enroll in selected courses for college credit; this category is known as dual enrollment and the participation rate is provided below for 2010-2016. The level of students accessing this program has remained relatively consistent and is funded as part of the operating costs of the local school system.

#### **UNDUPLICATED DUAL ENROLLMENT BY HIGH SCHOOL: ANNUAL**

<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
Arcadia HS	78	89	105	54	77	127	100	71
Chincoteague HS	29	11	18	5	23	5	42	3
Nandua HS	99	108	92	74	75	78	65	77
Tangier Combined	3	6	-	3	-	8	0	4
<b>Sub Total: ACCOMACK County</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>152</b>
Northampton HS	20	12	38	34	36	41	42	38
Broadwater Academy (private)	30	30	39	37	42	80	82	76
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>266</b>

For 2016/2017, there were 929 students enrolled at ESCC. Of that total, 325 were enrolled in transfer programs (AA&S), 269 were enrolled in Career and Technical programs (AAS) or the certificate programs and the career studies certificate programs (CSC), and 334 students were

enrolled as unclassified. Additionally, there were 259 high school students (unduplicated) enrolled in the dual enrollment program. Below is the enrollment for the last ten years between those seeking an associate’s degree (Annual FTES) versus all other part-time or casual participants. There has been some decline of participants in both categories, which may be reflective of the declining population of the Eastern Shore or could be attributable to other causes such as cost or interest. The county will need to work closely with the ESCC to monitor and understand the participation rates and ensure that the ESCC remains viable to the community.

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Unduplicated Headcount</b>	<b>Annual FTES</b>
2016-2017	929	382
2015-2016	987	417
2014-2015	1,131	489
2013-2014	1,142	511
2012-2013	1,338	591
2011-2012	1,381	640
2010-2011	1,461	688
2009-2010	1,446	662
2008-2009	1,332	577
2007-2008	1,215	542
2006-2007	1,106	486
2005-2006	1,103	444

The breakdown of the type of student is useful in examining how best to approach and ensure the ESCC is meeting the needs of our community. The table below shows an increasing participation from individuals with military service and a consistent option for first time college participants.

**STUDENT TYPE**

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>Fall 2016</b>	<b>Fall 2015</b>	<b>Fall 2014</b>	<b>Fall 2013</b>	<b>Fall 2012</b>	<b>Fall 2011</b>	<b>Fall 2010</b>
Returning	443	542	562	626	681	721	705
New	243	186	248	192	265	250	300
Transfer	19	17	29	39	44	51	47
First Time in College	136	131	146	157	167	205	195
Military	50	68	79	77	84	25	29

ESCC is an essential component of the county’s educational system, providing first-time entry into college for some as well as increasing preparedness for those looking at a four-year degree program. It also develops workforce training, dependent upon the needs of the business community and employment needs of our residents. The county needs to continue working with the ESCC to determine the effectiveness of its program offerings and assist as a conduit to its business community to determine what skills, certification or training are needed to ensure the employee base is available for growth and expansion of our businesses.

## **Trends in Agriculture/Rural Counties (NEW SECTION)**

We have looked nationally and statewide and are not seeing any obvious trends that have not already been identified by the County and considered as part of the County's future development. There are several areas that the County has been actively engaged in the planning, development, and execution of either directly by a government entity or through approval of a third party proposal; these areas are still growing and reacting to the needs of the community.

### **Broadband Service:**

In terms of future trends, the expansion of high-speed broadband services is essential to every community in the United States in order to remain competitive economically and provide the quality of life services that is becoming the expected norm in terms of high-capacity, 24/7 availability to the internet for shopping and entertainment purposes as well as for business purposes which include entrepreneur and home-based businesses.

The role of technology and its deployment throughout the county should be detailed further since it will play a role in the economic development, education, health care and housing issues of the county.

### **Health Care Services:**

The expansion of broadband services to all areas of the county will also be critical in meeting the health care needs of its community since the future and face of health care delivery is in rapid flux due to the restructuring of the health care system at the federal level. Many rural localities have been faced with the closure of their local hospital due to ever-increasing operational costs against a declining population service area. While a new hospital has relocated to Accomack County, the challenges facing the continuation of that service are still the same challenges facing all rural hospitals – declining population base, loss of funding from federal and state government thru the health care system, and increased costs in providing more technologically driven health-care.

The County's demographic projections for the 50 and older population segment remains consistent at about 15,700 people for the next thirty years; however, this age group becomes a larger percentage of the total population during this same projection time frame, projected at 31.7% of the total population in 2020, 47% of the total population in 2030, and at 46.9% of the total population in 2040. There is currently one private assisted living facility, the Hermitage on the Eastern Shore in Onancock with 35 beds, and one publicly-assisted facility, Shore Health & Rehab Center in Parksley with 136 beds. However, in 2017, the Arcadia Nursing Home & Rehab Center closed, thereby removing 60 beds that had previously served this market. The county may be adequately served by the medical facilities currently available but it will require monitoring by the County and its health care professionals to continue to assess the demand and need for assisted living care facilities.

One area that has not been fully tapped is residential development and services targeted at the 50 and older age bracket. The establishment of Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital in Accomack County provides an opportunity to ensure the Comp Plan supports the growth of medical industries that complement the operations of the hospital and also encourages housing development and associated amenities that meets the need of this type of consumer who is physically active but may have need for access to medical services in the near future.

### Alternative Energy Sectors:

There are growth opportunities in certain sectors; however, they may conflict with other values and community priorities. These areas are in the green energy sectors for wind and solar farms.

The County has approved two solar farm projects: Eastern Shore Solar (shown to the right), a 2,859 acre property comprised of 44 parcels on Withams Road in Oak Hall with the developed project acre of 965 of an 80 megawatt solar farm; and Sun Tech, a 600 acre property near Tasley for a 20 megawatt solar farm. These large utility scale solar farms are allowed by special use permit by the County, are governed by Permit by Rule by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and are desirable by the traditional energy sector companies to assist in diversification of their energy portfolio. The County will need to evaluate the dedication of formerly active agricultural land to a 30 year lease for solar farm development against other community priorities to determine its position on additional utility scale solar projects.



On January 5, 2017, Accomack County removed utility scale solar and wind projects from consideration in the Agricultural Zoning District. There were several reasons for this action; however, one of the primary reasons was the local tax revenue implications caused by Virginia Code §58.1-3660 which has exempted 80% of the assessed value of utility scale “certified pollution control equipment facilities” greater than 20 megawatts ; solar energy equipment and facilities are included in the definition of “certified pollution control equipment facilities”. This law does have a sunset clause for the 20 megawatt or greater projects with the exemption ending for projects that have not begun construction as of 1/1/2024.

### Agriculture

Accomack County has an extensive history with agriculture including the large-scale production of poultry and crops.

The 2018 Annual Poultry report contains information concerning the number of poultry houses, the economic contributions of the poultry industry to the general economy of the County and addresses the environmental components of the poultry industry to the County. Said report can be viewed at: <https://www.co.accomack.va.us/home/showdocument?id=9090>.

Large scale crop industries farmed in Accomack County include tomato production, soybean production, and corn as feeder crop. According to Agriculture Census Data 2012, the Crops Sale in Accomack County totaled \$59,778,000 or 35% of all agricultural sales with livestock sales making up the rest at \$112,419,000.

The Poultry Industry has transitioned from smaller grower operations to larger-scale, high density growing operations and this was experienced in Accomack County starting in July 2014 through December 31, 2017 where 240 new larger poultry houses were approved. This information is detailed in the Annual Poultry Report, referenced above. Most of the broiler chickens produced in Accomack County are processed in the Perdue and Tyson processing plants located in the county.

Smaller, family farms are declining and their land and operations are being absorbed by larger, national farming corporations. The 2012 Agriculture Census Data shows that the number of farms declined from 248 farms in 2007 to 226 farms in 2012, a decline of 9% which is greater than the national average which saw a decline of only 4% during this same time frame.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### **Economy & Economic Growth**

The Top 10 employers for Accomack County as of the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) for the third quarter (July, August, September) 2017 are the following:

1. Perdue Products
2. Tyson Farms
3. Accomack County School Board
4. Riverside Regional Medical Center
5. County of Accomack
6. National Aeronautics & Space Administration
7. LJT Associates, Inc.
8. Wal Mart
9. Eastern Shore Community Services
10. Eastern Shore Rural Health System

### **Wallops Governmental Complex & Wallops Related Private Sector Businesses:**

The Wallops Governmental Complex: includes NASA Wallops (including contractors), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”), NAVY Surface Combat Systems Center (“NAVY SCSC”), Coast Guard, Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority (“Virginia Space”) and Wallops Research Park – The Wallops Governmental Complex is a major employer in Accomack County with an estimated 1,725 employees. NASA Wallops, NAVY SCSC, NOAA, and the Coast Guard are US Government entities with facilities on the NASA Main Base and Wallops Island. Their websites are listed below.

NASA Wallops: <https://www.nasa.gov/centers/wallops/home>

NAVY SCSC: <http://www.navsea.navy.mil/Home/SCSC.aspx>

NOAA: <https://www.wcda.noaa.gov/>

Coast Guard: <https://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/District-5/District-Units/>

As part of the \$4.094 Trillion 2018 Federal Budget, military spending is increasing by 9%, with some of that increased military spending coming to Accomack County through NAVY SCSC who is adding over 60 new personnel.

Virginia Space is located near the NASA Main Base gate on Atlantic Road. Locally, Virginia Space manages and operates the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) on the southern portion of Wallops Island and the UAS runway and facilities located on the north end of Wallops Island.

After many years of planning and discussion, the Wallops Research Park construction began in 2014 and was completed in 2016. The park is open for business. For more information about the Wallops Research Park, visit <https://www.co.accomack.va.us/businesses/wallops-research-park-information>.

Wallops Related Private Sector Businesses: Over the past 10 years or so, there has been an ebb and flow with the number of business that have located in the County with ties and/or support for the Wallops Governmental Complex or that locate in the County due to the proximity and opportunity of the Wallops Governmental Complex. Companies like Orbital, SRS and others have located in Northern Accomack County due the Wallops Complex.

There has been significant Federal, State, and Local government investment in the Wallops Complex over the past 10 years. It is anticipated that the government investment will create Wallops' related, private sector investment and job creation.

**4 - Corners Area – Hospital/Retail & Commercial center** – expect growth here, especially for national names.

Within a part of the Town of Onley and the County is an area locally referred to as the “4-Corners” area. The traffic signal on Rte. 13 and Market and Main St is the center of the 4-Corners area. The 4-Corners area is the largest retail and commercial hub in the County. Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital and its 300 employees relocated to this area and the hospital opened in February 2017. Numerous local businesses and nationally recognized chain stores and restaurants are located along Rte. 13 here.

Municipal sewer and limited water service is available in this area. A planned ‘northern spur’ will serve the Chesapeake Square shopping center and nearby properties. Discussion about expanded water service is currently underway.

It is anticipated that this area of the County will continue to grow and expand incrementally over time.

**Tourism:**

Tourism has played a significant role in the County’s economy for decades, especially in the northern end of the County. The county, by its geographic location, has been able to lay claim to several assets that tourism benefits from: beach access, water access, fishing access, and wildlife access. Due to the limited transportation access to the Eastern Shore, development has not been rampant similar to other coastal locations. In particular, Chincoteague Island and Assateague Island have a naturalized coastal location which has developed a localized economy geared toward servicing a tourism clientele. There is a strong partnership with the U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Department of Natural Resources who oversee Assateague Island which offers visitors to the region access to an expansive beach, wildlife, dunes, and wetlands for public outdoor recreational use and enjoyment. Chincoteague is home to many campgrounds, rental properties, several hotels, restaurants and shops that cater to the seasonal visitor.

The growth of Wallops/NASA has led to an ancillary branch of tourism – those interested in learning about and observing rocket launches – and is allowing growth of the tourism season beyond the naturally warmer spring, summer and fall months to fall throughout the year.

The County is a member of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Tourism Commission which is focused on developing, promoting and marketing the tourism resources and advantages of the two counties (Accomack and Northampton). This authority provides several regional marketing resources and guides and is gaining strength in providing a social media presence.

Traveler spending as reported by the Virginia Tourism Corporation continues to increase for Accomack County. From 2012 to 2016, the number of individuals employed in a tourism related position increased by 17% with a greater increase on actual payroll expenditures by almost 28% during that same time frame.

<b>Travel Economic Impacts</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Employment<sup>(1)</sup></b>	1,892	1,968	2,043	2,103	2,214
<b>Expenditures<sup>(2)</sup></b>	\$163,393,774	\$169,903,203	\$180,681,609	\$185,206,622	\$196,143,807
<b>Payroll<sup>(3)</sup></b>	\$33,302,816	\$35,458,230	\$37,480,566	\$39,355,082	\$42,552,965

Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation

NOTES:

<sup>(1)</sup>Employment represents the estimates of direct travel-related employment in the locality.

<sup>(2)</sup>Expenditures represents the direct spending by domestic travelers including food, accommodations, auto transportation, public transportation, incidental purchases, entertainment/recreation and travel generated tax receipts.

<sup>(3)</sup> Payroll represents the direct wages, salaries and tips corresponding to the direct travel-related employment.

Continued efforts need to be made to ensure sufficient guest services are provided to meet the demand and growth of the tourism industry for Accomack County, include lodging, dining, and entertainment opportunities. Chincoteague Island is home to the area’s first water park which is opening June 2018 and will be monitored to determine if this type of manufactured entertainment venue achieves support from the seasonal as well as the year-round residential marketplace.

**Agriculture** – Agriculture has a major presence in Accomack County. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, approximately 77,389 acres of land, which is 26.57% of the total land in the County, is actively farmed. The County’s major crops produced are Corn and Soybeans. For 2017, the County is the top producer in the state for crop for grain, soybeans, and winter wheat, according to the 2017 Virginia Agricultural Statistics Annual Bulletin. The value of each crop, based upon the cost per bushel at time of harvest is shown below:

TYPE	# of Bushels	Cost Per Bushel	TOTAL VALUE
Crop for grain	2,803,000	\$4.00	\$11,212,000
Soybeans	1,205,000	\$9.40	\$11,327,000
Winter Wheat	772,000	\$4.75	\$ 3,667,000

As reported in the 2012 Census of Agriculture, the number of farms in the County is 226, a decrease of 9% from the 2007 Census of Agriculture and the average farm size in the County is 342 acres, a decrease of 10%. However, the total market value of products sold, as reported in the 2012 Census of Agriculture, is \$172,197,000 which is split between crop sales constituting 35% of sales and livestock sales constituting 65% of sales. The market value of products sold increased by 13%, or \$19,157,000, from the 2007 Census of Agriculture. The number of people employed as seasonal farm workers for 2012 is 791.

Large scale agriculture, especially given its symbiotic relationship with the poultry industry in the County, looks to continue to be a primary economic driver for the County for the future.

Significant portions of the County are forested, with many areas managed for pine production. Local demand for forest products is not strong at the present time. A custom sawmill is operating outside Wachapreague, and efforts to attract additional sawmills are underway. It is hoped that a sizable sawmill in the County will better utilize the forest resource and benefit forest landowners.

It is possible that forest land assessment values may start to decline if market demand for local forest products does not increase.

**Aquaculture:**

The marine industry has always had a strong role in the economy and life of Accomack County. However, it is a transitioning industry with the expansion of aquaculture. Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms such as fish, crustaceans, and mollusks through the cultivation of freshwater and saltwater populations under controlled conditions.

Although a respectively smaller group of the employed population work in fishing and aquaculture, it is a culturally invaluable trade. In the year 2000, there were 599 commercial licenses and zero aquaculture permits issued by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC). In 2010 VMRC issued 475 commercial licenses, but also 153 oyster aquaculture permits and 116 clam aquaculture permits, revealing an increase in the number of individuals who make their living working on the waterways of the Eastern Shore.

### **Poultry:**

Poultry is a major industry in Accomack County. The Perdue Processing plant in Accomack and employs approximately 1,850 people. The Tyson Complex in Temperanceville employs approximately 1,430 people. Valley Proteins is located at the Perdue plant. The combined direct employment at the processing plants creates the employment sector on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. There are numerous other indirect jobs such as, truck drivers, contractors, and others that are supported by the poultry processing plants.

The County saw a surge in the number of poultry houses between 2014 to the present time (2018). County Planning staff estimates that there were 284 poultry houses in Accomack County prior to 2014. As of January 1, 2018, 194 new Poultry Houses had been constructed since 2014 and there are 28 poultry houses still under construction.

County Planning Staff has been developing Annual Poultry Reports since 2016. The 2018 report is the most comprehensive yet and covers a wide variety of topics and can be found at the following link: <https://www.co.accomack.va.us/home/showdocument?id=9090> or by visiting the County website (Planning Department page) at [www.co.accomack.va.us](http://www.co.accomack.va.us).

### **Airport & Industrial Park:**

In Melfa, the County owns and operates a municipal airport and an industrial park.

The Accomack County Airport covers an area of 100 acres which contains one runway designated 3/21 with a 5,000 x 100 ft. (1,524 x 30 m) asphalt surface. For the 12-month period ending September 30, 2009, the airport had 14,056 aircraft operations, an average of 38 per day: 84% general aviation and 8% air taxi and 9% military. At that time, there were 23 aircraft based at this airport: 22 single-engine and 1 multi-engine. According to the 2011 Virginia Airport System Economic Impact Study, the Accomack County Airport generated \$2.3 million in aviation-generated economic spending impact in the county along with 32 aviation-related jobs.

The adjacent 360 acre industrial park has over 120 acres that have been improved with streets, centralized water and sewer and is currently home to the following companies: Truss-Tech, Inc., Blue Crab Bay Company, Shore Ice, Luminary Air Group, Lucas Underground, and the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce. Adjacent to the park at the northern end of the airport runway is the Eastern Shore Farmer's Market and the Robert S. Bloxom Eastern Shore Agricultural Complex. The park is continuing to seek additional tenants and recently connected the Industrial Park with a new road connection from within the park to the adjacent Eastern Shore Community College and the Workforce Development Center.

### **Other Areas in County Where Growth is Anticipated:**

In the New Church area, two companies have located: KmX Chemical Corporation and Coastline Chemicals. KmX recently invest \$2.075 million to expand its solvent reclamation facility. Coastline Chemicals blends and packages antifreeze and recently completed the expansion of a rail spur to the site as well as the installation of a distillation tower & equipment and additional storage tanks.

With the addition of this rail spur to the area and easy access to Route 13, this area is positioned to offer ancillary services to complement these recent industry expansions.

### **Rte. 13 & Natural Gas**

The Delmarva Pipeline Company reiterated its intent to construct a natural gas pipeline that would serve parts of Maryland and Accomack County. As currently proposed the natural gas pipeline would extend south from the Maryland/Virginia State line to the Perdue plant on Rte.13 in Accomac.

The availability of natural gas via pipeline provides a reliable and affordable energy source for large industrial type users of energy such as the Commonwealth Chesapeake energy facility, Tyson Processing plant and Perdue & Valley Protein plants.

In the event that the gas pipeline is constructed and operational along Rte. 13, it is anticipated that new processing/manufacturing facilities will locate in this area as there is ample developable land and good transportation access for truck traffic.

Once the pipeline timetable and construction become certain, the Planning Commission should review the Future Land Use Plan to ensure that it recognizes the potential economic growth that could occur once the natural gas pipeline becomes a reality.

### **T's Corner:**

The area of Accomack County located at the juncture of Route 13 and Route 175 (Chincoteague Road), known as T's Corner, is a commercial growth center for the County in providing services for the traveling public, seasonal visitors and year-round residents. There are currently the following businesses: grocery store, several fast-food restaurants including chain brands, gas station/convenience store, banks, laundromat, and storage units. The area is zoned as General Business which stretches as far north as Oak Hall and as far south just before Temperanceville.

T's Corner has several vacant parcels that could be developed for commercial interests based upon market demand of the varied nature of the clientele of this region.

### **Growth in Exmore along Rte. 13/Belle Haven**

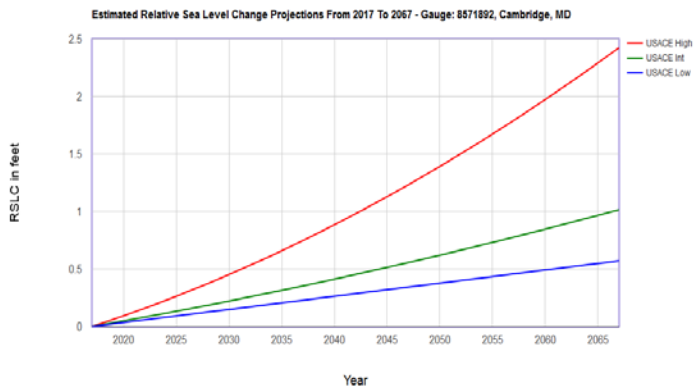
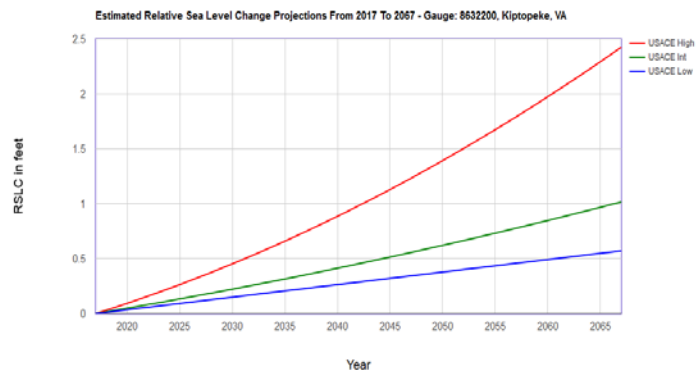
Commercial growth along Rte. 13 has occurred in the Town of Exmore within Northampton County, notably Family Dollar and Dollar General in the past few years. The Accomack County line and that portion of the Town of Belle Haven in the County have land available that is suited for additional commercial growth. Lack of municipal sewer and market support for additional commercial growth in this part of Accomack County are key factors regarding growth along Rte. 13 in this area.

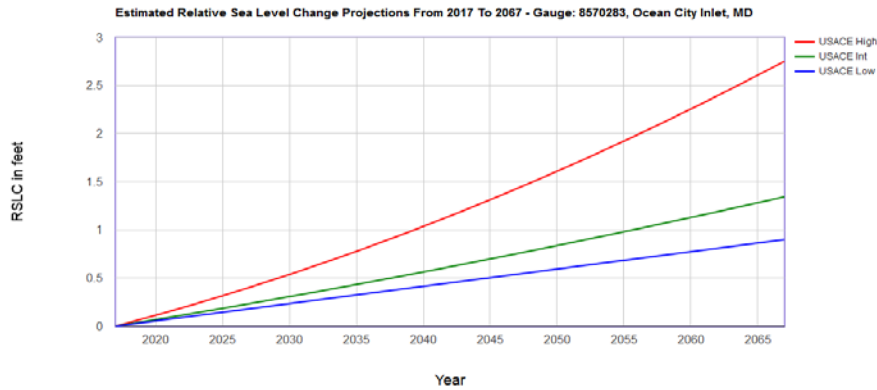
## Coastal Resiliency – (ALL OF THIS SECTION IS NEW)

As a locality that is adjacent to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay, examination of the impact of sea level rise to our locality and the implementation of various waterfront management land tools is essential to developing a proactive position to help reduce any coastal erosion/loss of land/loss of marshland/loss of wetlands.

There are numerous agencies that are studying this issue and developing projections for coastal communities. While there may not be a direct reporting site in Accomack County, there are several nearby reporting sites that examination of their data will allow the county to extrapolate certain projected conclusions to assist in determining how the County should proceed.

From National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the three data sets to examine are: For Kiptopeke State Park (located at the southern end of Northampton County near the beginning of the Chesapeake Bay), Cambridge, Maryland (located to the north of the county on the inner reaches of the Chesapeake Bay) and Ocean City Inlet (located to the north of the county in Maryland on the Atlantic Ocean). These three data sets with a projected impact from current year of 2017 to 2067 and using both the low, intermediate and high projection estimates, show a consistent estimated relative sea level rise (RSLC) in the low level of .5 feet to a high level of 2.5 feet on the Chesapeake Bay side to a slightly higher projection of .9 feet up to 2.75 feet for the Atlantic Ocean side.

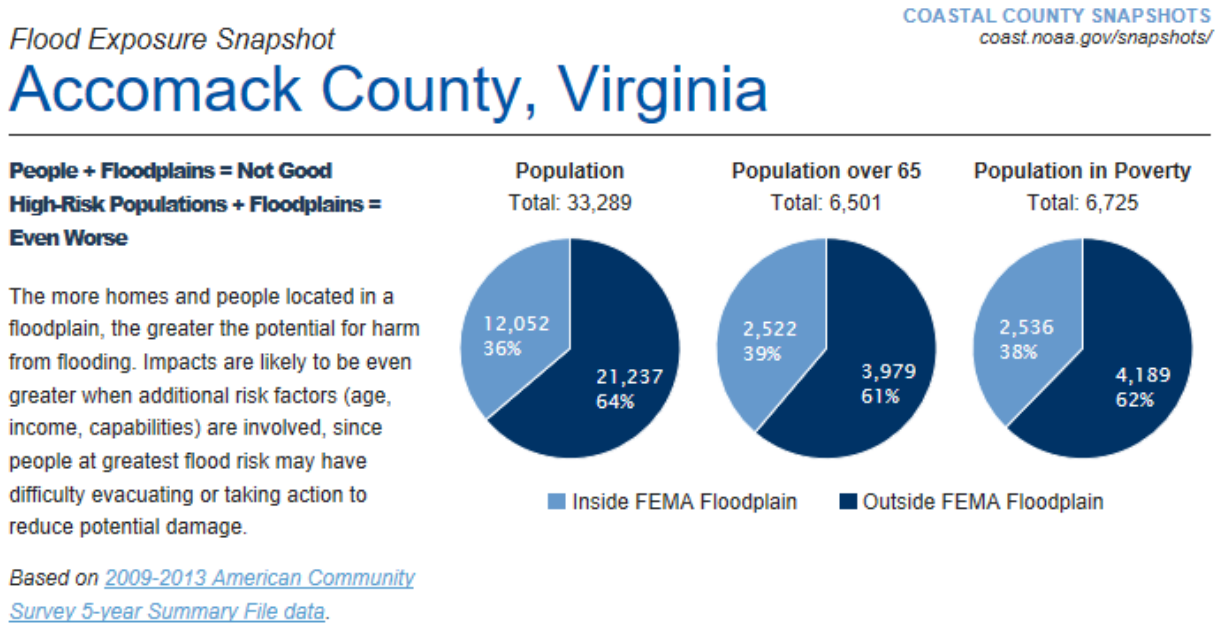




Beyond the sheer consideration of sea-level rise to Accomack County, it is also relevant to look at wave attenuation and its impact on marshland which may have a greater impact to our coastline preservation.

The County needs to be mindful of the impact of sea level rise on various facets of the county, including loss of developed land, loss of environmentally buffering land, loss of revenue from a tax base perspective as well as from an economy perspective. Based upon the above projections from NOAA using a low to high range of estimated relative sea level change, several other agencies have done projections on tax base and economy.

For Accomack County, NOAA offers the following flood exposure snapshots based upon the listed data sources.

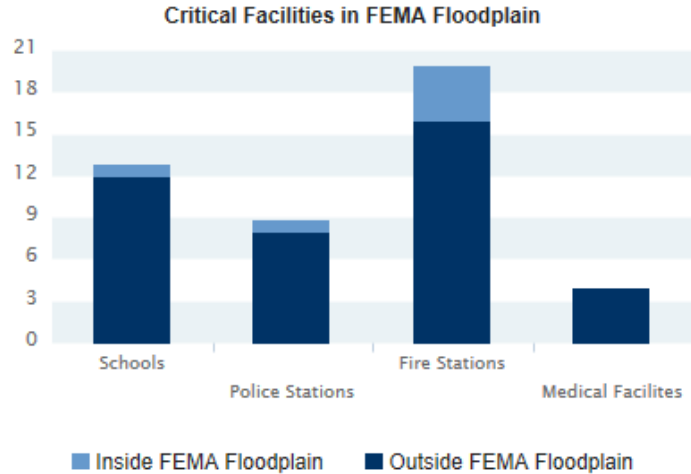


**Community Infrastructure + Floodplains = Bad News**

13% of critical facilities in Accomack County, Virginia, are within the floodplain.

Hospitals. Roads. Schools. Shelters. These facilities play a central role in disaster response and recovery. Understanding which facilities are exposed, and the degree of that exposure, can help reduce or eliminate service interruptions and costly redevelopment. Incorporating this information into development planning helps communities get back on their feet faster.

Based on [USGS Structures Database](#).




The Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS) has developed several tools for use to determine site specific solutions and are to be utilized by the County in analyzing a specific area of the County and implementing best management practices to address shoreline conditions. These are listed in the box below as a hyperlink.

**Undefended Shorelines & Failed Defense Structures**


- [Undefended Shoreline Decision Tool User Manual – 2010](#)
- [Undefended Shoreline Decision Tool Diagram](#)

**Currently Defended Shorelines**


- [Currently Defended Shoreline Definitions](#)
- [Structural Integrity Guidance](#)




**Existing Bulkheads**




**Existing Marsh Sills**



**Existing Revetments**



**Existing Offshore Breakwaters**



**Existing Groins**

For shorelines with multiple structure types – refer to each structure type decision tool, consider the shoreline condition, structural integrity and remaining life expectancy, and the level of protection provided by each type.

VIMS has also completed the [Accomack County Shoreline Situation Report](#) which is intended to be utilized as an element of our GIS program and intended to be the interactive mapping tool to be used in conjunction with the tool box above to develop the best management practices on a site specific basis for our locality.

### **Coastal Resiliency Planning & Next Steps**

It is now generally accepted that water levels are increasing relative to ground level on the Eastern Shore. Given the sizeable land mass of the County, particularly on the Bayside of Accomack County that is less than 10 feet above sea level, additional review and analysis of data is warranted. Staff has data based on modeling that shows recurrent flooding due to water level rise, under a number of scenarios.

The recommended next step is to review the modeled data and identify the number of structures and properties affected. After appropriate review, action items are a likely outcome. Examples of such action items are advisory statements for new construction and planning for voluntary relocation of residents.

### **Review of Future Land Use Map (FLUM)**

There are no proposed alterations to the Future Land Use Map as part of this review & update of the Comprehensive Plan. There have been areas identified that shall be examined and considered for the next update in five years. The Planning Commission and staff will develop a workplan, including a timeframe, for the following areas:

- Wattsville Village Development
- Route 13 Corridor Overlay District
- Mappsville
- Tasley
- Captain's Cove
- Trail's End
- Land Use designation changes under the APZs and clear zones identified in the Joint Land Use Study