



**VIRGINIA COASTAL
RESILIENCE
MASTER PLAN**
2021



**Norfolk Underserved Community Meeting #2
Summary Report**

Meeting Date: September 14, 2021
Meeting Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Location: Old Dominion University
Attendance: 12 in person; 14 via Zoom
Commonwealth Staff: Josh Saks; Meryem Karad

Overview: Josh Saks welcomed everyone and conducted a power point presentation. He addressed participants' questions. Participants made notes about flooding challenges on the map and circled where they lived. There were several questions and comments posted in the Zoom chat that were read by Meryem.

Participant Comments and Questions

- Regular flooding is seen once a week in certain neighborhoods
- Concerns regarding the possibility of roads being washed away and not usable; or the flooding never going away
- Flooding concerns by those who live fairly close to Hampton Blvd.
- Would like a direct partnership with the government (both local and state) due to significant impacts on the Lafayette River
- The cost of flood insurance: concerns regarding what is covered by flood insurance as well as being able to afford the cost
- The bridges in the flooding, effecting people's ability to get to work and services, as well as evacuation routes when there is a storm
- The cost of not having enough resources available to communities of color as well as communities of middle and lower income

- Is there even enough road space for victims to evacuate if need be?
- Water does not get diverted easily in the area
- Has the state started funding resilience projects? If so, where are they? How does the state or locality decide which projects?
- What city department is actually responsible for applying for state funding?
- Are the proposed projects public when submitted? (Re Flood Preparedness Fund)
- How are seniors and people with disabilities supposed to evacuate? Are there plans for seniors or people with disabilities?
- Low-income communities are at risk of being completely destroyed by constant flooding. Kids possibly getting harmed from the danger of the flooding when the flooding is close to their schools and neighborhoods. People are not able to get to school on normal routes. Money was donated (over 30 million) but has not been put to use. More flooding now than before these issues began. (Re: Ohio Creek project – Grandy Village resident)
- What is needed from citizens in order for something to be done? “It seems that this is a meeting of you all telling us what you all plan to do, but citizens are expressing city related concerns.”
- Bring everyone to the meetings to make decisions on behalf of the city of Norfolk. Many people are unaware of what is going on within their community or what the city is planning. Citizens are suffering from this and need somewhere to go to express these concerns and find information.