

## **The Hampton Roads Intergovernmental Planning Pilot Project: An Overview**

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Hampton Roads, Virginia, is a region highly vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal storms, which leads to the risk of extreme flooding as well as frequent road closures, overwhelmed storm drains and compromised infrastructure associated with nuisance flooding. To address flood risk and promote collaboration across a diversity of sectors, the Hampton Roads Intergovernmental Pilot Project (IPP) was initiated in 2014. Designed as a two– year project to engage all major stakeholders in a region with 17 municipalities and 16 federal agencies, participants in the IPP were drawn from multiple government agencies, private industry, universities and non–profits. A steering committee was formed, led by regional and commonwealth government staff, with the participation of other government staff and federal liaisons representing military operations based in the region. Legal, Infrastructure and Citizen Engagement Working Groups focused on specific aspects of the IPP. Old Dominion University served as a convener in support of both large public meetings and many of the steering and working group activities.

In this session we will focus on the lessons learned from the two–year project, and share experiences from key leaders of the working groups. The first year of the IPP was launched through a series of public events that built on scientific research from Virginia universities and the recognition from elected leadership that efforts should be made at all levels of government to respond to the risk posed by sea level rise. Participation in the IPP was completely voluntary including steering committee, working group and other committee members. While some organizations, agencies, and localities tasked staff members with participation, others volunteered their time and expertise. The IPP leadership chose to adopt a “whole of community” approach in recognition of the important role that non–governmental entities play in resilience planning. The Legal Working Group (LWG) addressed legal and policy issues that arose during the course of IPP. To assist with understanding the legal context, the LWG developed a Legal Primer in the first year to serve as a reference. In the second year, the LWG worked closely with the Steering Committee to develop a suggested structure for the next step of regional sea level rise and resilience planning.

In the second year, working groups developed case studies and developed recommendations for a path forward in the regional resilience planning process for Hampton Roads. The Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) and the Citizen Engagement Working Group (CEWG) chose the Little Creek Amphibious Base in Norfolk Virginia as a case study for coastal resiliency in the face of sea level rise, storm surge and coastal flooding. The case study examines public and private infrastructure at risk in the watersheds, the infrastructure interdependencies, and mechanisms that can be implemented to provide collaborative solutions to the risk of sea level rise. The CEWG examined the methodologies, opportunities and barriers to the engagement of the residents of this mixed income area in the sea level rise resilience planning process.