

## Virginia Beach Receives More than \$30 Million in Army Corps Funding for Major Infrastructure Projects

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (June 13, 2018) — Four major infrastructure projects in Virginia Beach received funding through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' approved work plan. The City's congressional delegation, Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine and Congressman Scott Taylor, were instrumental in securing the funding that represents the largest single award in the country and one of only two new-start projects.

"Each project will have substantial positive impacts on the City of Virginia Beach, its businesses and residents," said Mayor Louis Jones. "We appreciate Senator Kaine, Senator Warner and Congressman Taylor advocating so effectively for these projects in our city."

The funding provides \$17.6 million for re-nourishment of the Resort Area beach from Rudee Inlet to 89<sup>th</sup> St.; \$10 million for a new start for the Lynnhaven River Basin Ecosystem Restoration project; \$925,000 for dredging at Lynnhaven Inlet and \$720,000 for dredging at Rudee Inlet by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The City of Virginia Beach and the Corps of Engineers have a partnership agreement for re-nourishing the resort beach as needed. The funded project provides for the maintenance of a high, wide beach that, in combination with the boardwalk and seawall, protects the resort area from significant damages during extreme coastal storm events.

"Our congressional delegation understands the importance of the resort area to our tourism industry, the hundreds of businesses located there and the thousands of residents who live there," said City Manager Dave Hansen. "Protecting our investments there is extremely important and having this funding will help us do that."

The beach was last re-nourished in 2013 using money Congress provided for Hurricane Sandy relief.

The Lynnhaven River project is a partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Virginia Beach that will restore aquatic resources in the Lynnhaven River basin, including wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation, and create new oyster reefs. Collectively, these restoration activities will enhance habitat and water quality in the basin. The initial \$10 million approved in this work plan funds the first phases of the project. The total estimated cost of the project is approximately \$34 million.

"Many years of work have gone into developing the Ecosystem Restoration plan for the Lynnhaven River," said Lynnhaven River Now Executive Director Karen Forget. "The first phase alone will have a positive impact on the health of the whole estuary and will build on work that has already been done by LRNow and others with the support of the community and the City."

Dredging the Lynnhaven and Rudee Inlets will ensure ships can safely travel both waterways. Baltimore and Norfolk harbor pilots operate through the Lynnhaven Inlet and both commercial ships and private boats access the Atlantic Ocean through the Rudee Inlet. It also supports the training the Navy conducts in the area

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