

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
United States Coast Guard
Coast Guard East District

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17 AUG 2026

PRELIMINARY PUBLIC NOTICE D05PPN-08-2026

All interested parties are notified that the Commander, Coast Guard East District has received a proposal from the Virginia Department of Transportation with plans for replacement of an existing highway, fixed bridge across a navigable waterway of the United States.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Rappahannock River, mile 8.3, at position (37.624852, -76.423496) between Middlesex County, VA, and Lancaster County, VA.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The proposed project is to replace the existing Route 3 (Robert O. Norris Jr.) Bridge with a new two-lane bridge with shoulders and higher rails. Any existing structure that cannot be safely removed in its entirety shall be cut off at the mudline to minimize risk to marine navigation safety. The purpose of the project is to replace a structurally deficient bridge experiencing substantial deterioration, due to its age.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

	Existing	Proposed
Vertical	110 feet above mean high water	110 feet above mean high water
Horizontal	300 feet between the bridge abutments	300 feet between the bridge abutments

Datum: North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) used for existing and proposed bridges.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Mariners and maritime stakeholders are requested to provide navigational information, such as the sizes and types of vessels presently owned and operated on the waterway and nature of navigation (including the extent of nighttime navigation) on the waterway. Helpful vessel information includes the following: commercial or recreational, length, width or beam, draft, height or air draft, tonnage, normal transit area, and mooring location. Mariners are requested to comment on the navigational clearances and need for bridge protective systems, clearance gauges, and navigational lighting on the proposed bridge.

Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support of, or opposition to, the proposed project. Comments will be received for the record at the address in the header or via email at D5Portsmouth-BridgesPublicNotice@uscg.mil through **September 17, 2026**.

HAL R. PITTS
Bridge Program Manager
By direction