

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
United States Coast Guard
Fifth Coast Guard District

431 Crawford Street
Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004
Staff Symbol: (dpb)
Phone: (571) 607-6762
Fax: (757) 398-6227
Email: Jack.H.Williams2@uscg.mil
or CGDFiveBridges@uscg.mil

16591
02 JAN 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE D05PN-01-2025

All interested parties are notified that an application was received on October 15, 2024, from the Virginia Department of Transportation by the Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District, for approval of the location and plans for modification of the bridge protective system of an existing highway drawbridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: James River, mile 65.0, between Charles City County and Prince George County, near Hopewell, VA.

CHARACTER OF WORK: The proposed project consists of replacing the existing bridge fender system and the installation eight (8) protective dolphins of the existing Benjamin Harrison Memorial Bridge. Any temporary and existing pilings that cannot safely be removed in their entirety shall be cut off at the mudline to minimize risk to marine navigation safety. Existing pilings can remain in place if those pilings remain within and/or behind the new proposed fender system. The purpose of the project is to provide an overall improved bridge protection system that meets current standards for current and future navigation traffic.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Vertical Clearance:	Vertical Clearance:
Open – 145 feet above mean high water	Open - 145 feet above mean high water
Closed - 50 feet above mean high water	Closed - 50 feet above mean high water
Horizontal Clearance: (normal to axis of the channel)	Horizontal Clearance: (normal to axis of the channel)
300 feet between the bridge protective system	300 feet between the bridge protective system

North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The United States Army Corps. of Engineers (USACE) is the lead Federal agency for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The USACE is acting on behalf of the U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) for all applicable environmental control laws and Executive Orders. The USACE approved a Categorical Exclusion (CE) on June 6, 2023. The USCG has tentatively determined that the environmental documentation approved by the USACE is adequate for USCG bridge permitting purposes.

The bridge is not located in the floodplain. The James River in the vicinity of the bridge is classified as Open Water, and therefore, has no elevation listed for the base (100-year) event. Low steel of the bridge in the navigation span is +50.76 feet from datum.

A water quality certificate was issued by the Virginia Marine Resource Commission via Permit 23-4012 dated April 19, 2023, and the USACE through their Nationwide Permit 3 (NWP-3) (Regional conditions permit) dated June 6, 2023.

The bridge construction site lies inside of a designated Coastal Zone Management area. The applicant provided the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the USACE Norfolk District with the project location information and certification of consistency. The USACE Norfolk District issued a finding via issuance of an NWP-3 (Regional Conditions permit) dated June 6, 2023, that the project is consistent with the state's Coastal Zone Management Plan.

Comments received in response to this notice concerning environmental control laws and Executive Orders will be forwarded to USACE Norfolk District as Lead Federal Agency.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Mariners 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. Mariners are requested to comment on the proposed modified bridge protective system. This public notice is issued for 15 days in lieu of 30 days since there is no change in the navigational clearances of the bridge and the bridge protective system will not encroach within the navigational span of the bridge. Please submit the attached response form or email.

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 office of Commander (dpb), Fifth Coast Guard District, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004 via .pdf email attachment to CGDFiveBridges@uscg.mil through **January 17, 2025**.

HAL R. PITTS
Bridge Program Manager
By direction

Attachments: (1) Response Form
(2) Location/Vicinity Maps and Plan Sheets

Benjamin Harrison Memorial Bridge
 James River, mile 65.0,
 between Charles City County and Prince George County, near Hopewell, VA.
Public Notice D05PN-01-2025
 Response Form

It is requested that anyone having an interest in this proposed project, from the standpoint of navigation, submit vessel information, comments, and recommendations on this form to the office of Commander (dpb), Fifth Coast Guard District, 431 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704-5004 via .pdf email attachment to CGDFiveBridges@uscg.mil through **January 17, 2025**.

Vessel Information	Please provide all requested information:
Vessel Type	
Use – <i>Commercial and/or Recreational</i>	
Vessel Height	
Draft	
Length	
Beam	
Tonnage	
Mooring Location	

Name (Optional): _____

Address (Optional): _____

Phone (Optional): _____

Comments and Recommendations: _____
