

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPENS FOR RECREATIONAL BEACH RELOCATION ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ASSATEAGUE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and Federal Highway Administration have prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzes the site design plan for parking and access to the new recreational beach. The relocation of the recreational beach to a new location 1.5 miles north of the current recreational beach was identified in the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (CCP/EIS) for the Chincoteague and Wallops Island National Wildlife Refuges and approved in a Record of Decision signed in November of 2015. A preferred alternative for the new beach parking areas and access has been developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service through a collaborative process involving local stakeholders including the Town of Chincoteague and Accomack County, Virginia.

You are invited to review the EA, which is available on the project website: <https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/va/chin-10/>. Hard copies of the EA are available for review at the Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center and Chincoteague Island Library, located at 4077 Main Street, Chincoteague, VA 23336.

A public information meeting will be held on Monday, August 27, 2018 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm in the Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center Classroom. Graphics of the proposed recreational beach parking and access, entrance fee booth queue lanes, and South Pony Corral parking area will be displayed, and the project team will be available to answer questions. All displays from the public information meeting will be uploaded to project website after the meeting.

You are invited to submit comments on the EA via email to NorthChincoteagueBeach@dot.gov. Comments can also be mailed to: Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, ATTN: North Chincoteague Beach, P.O. Box 62, Chincoteague, VA 23336. To ensure that your comments are included in the EA process, please enter or mail comments by September 13, 2018.