

Congressman
J. Randy Forbes
Fourth District of Virginia



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Forbes announces \$10.8 million in funding for Chesapeake
House passes 2004 Energy & Water Appropriations Conference Report

Washington, D.C. – Congressman J. Randy Forbes (VA-04) announced that the City of Chesapeake would receive **\$10.8 million** in federal funding for three transportation and infrastructure projects: **the Great Bridge Bridge, Deep Creek Bridge, and the Great Dismal Swamp Canal**. These projects will be funded as part of the 2004 Energy & Water Appropriations conference report, which passed the House of Representatives today.

On behalf of the City of Chesapeake, Forbes requested funding for all three projects from the House Appropriations Committee.

“Funding for these three projects is wonderful news for Chesapeake and for the entire Fourth District of Virginia, especially during the tough times we are in as a nation and amidst tight budgetary constraints across the Commonwealth,” Forbes said.

Funding in the amount of **\$9.7 million** would be appropriated to continue construction of Chesapeake’s **Great Bridge Bridge** and approach roadways. The Army Corps of Engineers is replacing the current two-lane bridge with a five-lane, bascule-type bridge that can accommodate the increased traffic on this structure. Furthermore, the plans call for a faster lift mechanism that will reduce both vehicular and maritime congestion. Upon completion of the bridge, the City will assume operation of the bridge from the federal government.

Deep Creek Bridge passes over the Dismal Swamp Canal at U.S. Route 17 Business. A vital connector within the City of Chesapeake, the bridge is in need of replacement. Funding in the amount of **\$1 million** would be appropriated for the Army Corps of Engineers to complete the design of a replacement bridge to help ease the significant traffic congestion on U.S. Route 17 Business between North Carolina and Southern Chesapeake.

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Last year the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure passed a resolution authorizing the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a reconnaissance study of the Great Dismal Swamp Canal. The Army Corps considers this project an important priority as the remnants of Hurricane Floyd caused significant flooding in the City of Chesapeake and the surrounding region. The Army Corps would receive **\$100,000** to complete the reconnaissance study and initiate a feasibility study of the **Great Dismal Swamp Canal**.

“Congressman Forbes has been most successful in securing on-going funding for these projects that will serve to alleviate major chokepoints at the Great Bridge and Deep Creek Bridges,” Chesapeake Mayor, William E. Ward stated. “We are all looking forward to the opening of the new Great Bridge Bridge next December and replacement of the Deep Creek Bridge in the future. City Council and the citizens of Chesapeake join me in expressing our appreciation to Congressman Forbes in advancing over \$13 million in transportation improvements in the city, particularly during these fiscally austere times”

Forbes: “Whether by car or by ship, the Great Bridge Bridge and the Deep Creek Bridge serve as major links within the city’s transportation system. Funding for these projects would ultimately enable both bridges to operate to their fullest capacities, serving residents and those who travel through Chesapeake.”

“In addition, funding for the Great Dismal Swamp Canal will enable the Army Corps of Engineers to determine the best way to strengthen the canal to prevent future flooding,” Forbes continued.

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