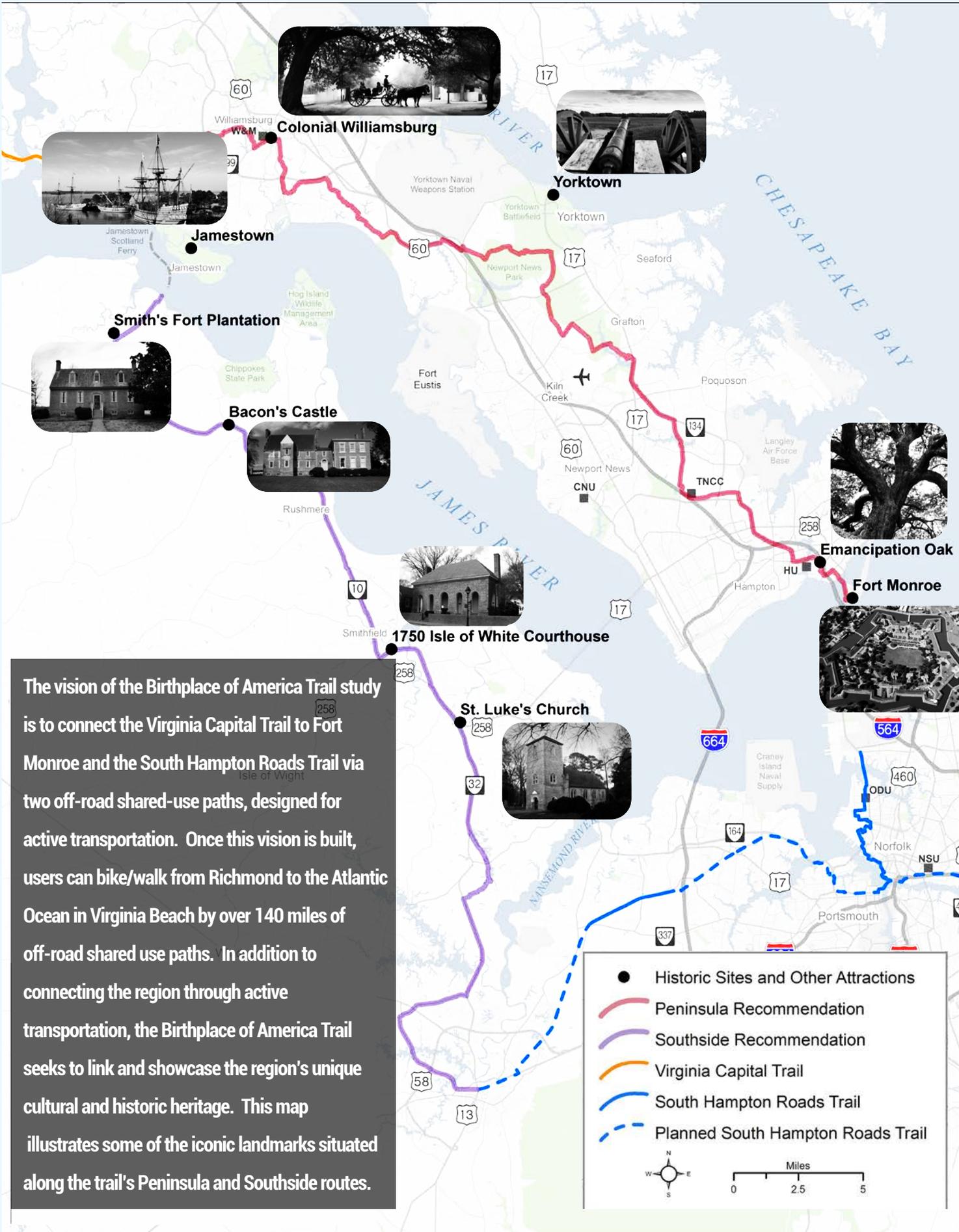


Birthplace of America Trail

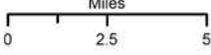
Connecting The
Hampton Roads Region





The vision of the Birthplace of America Trail study is to connect the Virginia Capital Trail to Fort Monroe and the South Hampton Roads Trail via two off-road shared-use paths, designed for active transportation. Once this vision is built, users can bike/walk from Richmond to the Atlantic Ocean in Virginia Beach by over 140 miles of off-road shared use paths. In addition to connecting the region through active transportation, the Birthplace of America Trail seeks to link and showcase the region's unique cultural and historic heritage. This map illustrates some of the iconic landmarks situated along the trail's Peninsula and Southside routes.

- Historic Sites and Other Attractions
- Peninsula Recommendation
- Southside Recommendation
- Virginia Capital Trail
- South Hampton Roads Trail
- - - Planned South Hampton Roads Trail

The Peninsula Route

The Birthplace of America Trail would begin near Jamestown (1607), the first permanent English settlement in the United States. From Jamestown, the trail would meander through the College of William & Mary (founded 1693) before entering Colonial Williamsburg – Virginia’s former capital (1699-1780) and now a symbol of the preservation and interpretation of American History. Departing Williamsburg, the trail would traverse Newport News Park and enter Yorktown Battlefield, the site of the last major engagement (1781) of the Revolutionary War. The Peninsula Route continues south, passing parks, schools, and colleges, such as Thomas Nelson Community College, and ultimately enters the City of Hampton. In Hampton, the trail would enter the campus of Hampton University and the VA Medical Center, passing by the Emancipation Oak, the site of the first Southern reading of President Lincoln’s *Emancipation Proclamation*. The trail would continue through downtown Phoebus, crossing Mill Creek and entering historic Fort Monroe (1834), the terminus of the Birthplace of America Trail’s Peninsula Route.

The Southside Route

After traveling by ferry from Jamestown to the Scotland Landing in Surry County, the trail would continue through a picturesque section of Southside, passing historic homes like Smith’s Fort Plantation (1761), the site of one of Captain John Smith’s planned forts and also a piece of land that was given by Chief Powhatan as a dowry for his daughter, Pocahontas, upon her marriage to John Rolfe. The trail would continue through the Town of Surry and travel southeast, passing Bacon’s Castle (1665) and the Isle of Wight Courthouse (1750). Next, the trail would journey to historic Smithfield (1634), home to Colonial, Federal, and Victorian architecture, and known as the “ham capital of the world”. The route departs through Smithfield’s charming Historic District and travels south, passing St. Luke’s Church (1682), Virginia’s oldest church. The trail would end in the City of Suffolk, a community whose historic rail beds now provide life to the South Hampton Roads Trail, a regionally significant trail that, when complete, will connect Suffolk and Virginia Beach.

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