

# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 8, 2023

**TO:** York County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator



**SUBJECT:** Hazardous Materials Incident Preparation and Response

At the Board of Supervisors meeting on February 21, I was asked to provide information on the County's Hazardous Materials preparation and response in light of the recent incidents concerning train derailments. Chief Kopczynski prepared a memorandum that details York's incident planning, preparation, and the regional arrangements in place should a situation arise.

Schott/3326

Attachment:

- Memorandum from Chief Stephen P. Kopczynski

# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 7, 2023

**TO:** Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator

**FROM:**  Stephen P. Kopczynski, Fire Chief/Director

**SUBJECT:** Hazardous Materials Incident Preparation and Responses

As the nation has watched the rail emergency/disaster that took place in East Palestine, Ohio (February 3, 2023), it is normal to ask questions about the response and recovery of such a major incident. One never knows the level of disaster (or the extent of the effects of such) that may or could occur in any locality, region, state, or even nationwide. This is evident whether it is a major natural hazards disaster (such as a hurricane, snow/ice storm, wildfire, pandemic, or tornado, etc.) or a technological/manmade hazards disaster (such as an incident at a nuclear power station, terrorism incident, transportation emergency or a chemical/petroleum facility incident, etc.). Localities work diligently to identify the risks, hazards, and threats that exist in the locality and/or the region to develop contingency processes to address such. In 2022, the Hampton Roads Hazard Mitigation Plan was completed (and approved by each of the Hampton Roads local governing bodies), which identified the predominant natural hazards and associated mitigation actions. Through a variety of other measures, as well as information sharing among other allied agencies, the most likely technological/man-made risks, hazards, and threats are evident. Of these, there are risks of transportation incidents, such as what might occur on rail, highways, waterways, pipelines, and even by air. There are also risks associated with fixed facilities, such as the Surry Nuclear Power Station, Plains Marketing LP, and even smaller facilities that exist in various industrial parks. Our region is certainly not immune to the potential of terrorism-type incidents, civil disturbance situations, or active violence incidents, such as an active shooter.

As was mentioned in previous correspondence from your office to the Board of Supervisors, the County follows an emergency planning framework that guides our mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery for major emergencies and/or disasters. This framework is developed using an "All Hazards" approach meaning that the various risks, whether natural or man-made, are considered in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery planning. York County has a very experienced staff that is engaged locally, regionally, statewide, and even nationally, and this experience has been gained in several different ways. These include extensive training for basic recruit Firefighters. Through advanced specialized training for members of the Department of Fire and Life Safety that serve on special teams, including the department Hazardous Materials Response Team. Through participation in not only local teams but regional and federal teams that deploy to disasters across the region and nationally, our personnel bring back the benefit and experience from such deployments to the County, thus making our organization better prepared for a local response. Such teams are the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Team—VATF2, the Federal DHS Team VA1DMAT, and the Hampton Roads

Metropolitan Medical Response Strike Team. The County and our various allied agencies routinely participate in drills and exercises that are typically local or regional in nature. These have included mass casualty disaster drills, hazardous materials response drills, and evaluated facility exercises, such as the regular ongoing Surry Nuclear Power Station exercises, among many others.

Specific to transportation emergencies involving hazardous materials, (as stated earlier) there are always risks associated with the transportation of hazardous materials. However, the first step in mitigating or limiting such risk is knowing what exists within the community or is being transported within such (to the extent possible) or knowing how to identify the hazardous material(s) when an emergency occurs. Generally, emergency responders have some sense of what hazardous materials are being transported throughout the region, but we must never assume that all of the potential products are known. That is why we have mechanisms to identify products when an incident occurs, and our personnel are trained on the techniques/means to identify such using DOT placarding, shipping papers, manifests, bills of lading and container types, etc.

The Department of Fire and Life Safety is a response agency and would deal with the consequences of an incident involving the transportation of hazardous materials. The management of such an incident would involve the coordination of the various response resources, working towards isolating the incident (to the extent safe and feasible), and then taking action or assisting with the steps necessary to mitigate the incident, followed by the recovery effort (which is typically overseen by state or federal authorities with such responsibility). These actions could occur through incident management on the scene (on-scene incident commander/unified command) and/or through a combination of incident command/unified command on-scene and activation of the County's disaster coordination process (including opening the County Emergency Operations Center-EOC if/as necessary either partially or fully). Until the extent and severity of an incident are known, the possibilities of impact could vary greatly. However, the department, the region, and the state are well-positioned for an effective coordinated response. All York County Firefighters are minimally trained and certified at the Hazardous Materials Operations level. The department operates a hazardous materials response team and serves as an adjunct to the Commonwealth of Virginia's Regional Hazardous Materials Response program. This regional program includes two fully functional teams in Hampton Roads (one in Newport News and one on the Southside). York County and its state partner, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), operate the Commonwealth of Virginia's Hazardous Materials Training Facility that is located in York County. At this facility, Hazardous Materials technicians and advanced (HazMat) tactical control personnel from across the Commonwealth are trained in HazMat response techniques/control/mitigation processes. The facility's extensive hazardous materials training props include hazardous materials rail cars (including a locomotive), tractor-trailer units, as well as fixed facility equipment. Further, the expert instructors are some of the very best that can be found anywhere. Other allied local, regional, state, and federal agencies have trained at this facility (including the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality-DEQ, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency-EPA, the Virginia State Police-VSP, the Coast Guard-USCG and the Federal Bureau of Investigation-FBI, among others).

Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator  
March 7, 2023  
Page 3

As part of the coordinated response mentioned above, should a hazardous materials incident occur, whether spill, leak, fire, or discharge, the Department of Fire and Life Safety can consult with and/or request assistance through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. This could be a mere consultation with a VDEM Regional Hazardous Materials Officer for a minor incident or a response from other regional teams, should the nature and size of the incident require such coordination and response with the DEQ/EPA/USCG/FEMA/DOT/NTSB, etc., most of whom have a response as well as a regulatory authority. Finally, with the majority of Hazardous Materials incidents, there is a known "responsible party" who would likely bear responsibility for the incident and its ultimate mitigation, including recovery. The oversight of the "responsible party" is typically regulated by one or more of the state or federal regulatory agencies.

While no locality can predict every kind of hazardous materials emergency that may occur or the extent of the local response, in York County, we have prepared for the known risks and/or have mechanisms in place to request assistance when our local resources are exceeded.

I hope that you find this material informative.

Kopczynski/3612

# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 9, 2023

**TO:** York County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator



**SUBJECT:** Historical Triangle Recreational Facilities Authority (HTRFA) Update

The HTRFA met on March 8 and took two actions of interest. Our Board authorized a design and construction management agreement with the construction management firm known as MBP. The agreement envisions three years of work, first overseeing architectural and engineering design and then construction, should that be authorized. The approved motion was for a dollar amount not to exceed \$600,000. The HTRFA can exit the agreement at any time should the project not proceed.

Most significantly, we also authorized the execution of a lease between the HTRFA and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for a portion of the Visitors Center site that has long been envisioned as the future location of the sports complex. The lease establishes a due diligence period while the facility is under design and an annual rent of \$220,000 which would commence in the summer of 2024 should the due diligence be satisfactorily completed, and the elected bodies of the three communities take positive action to commit to construction and operation. Some of the more important specific terms of the lease include its length of forty years, a 3 percent annual inflation provision to be calculated every five years, a defined land area for the initial facility of 13.84 acres, a provision for a joint design review committee with CWF, and an optional mechanism should the HTRFA and our localities identify other opportunities for the site over the long-term.

Following up on the recent successful negotiation and action to authorize MEB to proceed with thirty-five percent plans for the initial indoor sports complex, these additional actions will allow the design work to proceed more efficiently. The HTRFA envisions the plans reaching the thirty-five percent stage within the next six months.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**  
Neil A. Morgan



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
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Sheila S. Noll  
District 2  
W. Chad Green  
District 3  
G. Stephen Roane, Jr.  
District 4  
Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.  
District 5

March 6, 2023

The Honorable Robert Wittman  
United States House of Representatives  
2055 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wittman:

York County supports James City County's request and submission for funding for the project below which will impact the Historic Triangle region. The request, if approved, will enhance both the employment base and residential quality of life for the area.

Williamsburg Area Transit Authority's (WATA) Northern Transfer Hub is currently in the design phase and needs an additional \$2.0 million to fully fund. The project will serve the entire region and provides a solution to the gap in coverage for the area. Once the Hub has been completed, it will continue to provide safe and accessible transit for the residents and visitors in the Historic Triangle.

We appreciate your ongoing support and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Neil A. Morgan  
County Administrator

NAM:hls

Copy to: York County Board of Supervisors  
Scott Stevens, James City County Administrator

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**  
Neil A. Morgan



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March 6, 2023

The Honorable Timothy Kaine  
United States Senate  
231 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kaine:

York County supports James City County's request and submission for funding for the project below which will impact the Historic Triangle region. The request, if approved, will enhance both the employment base and residential quality of life for the area.

Williamsburg Area Transit Authority's (WATA) Northern Transfer Hub is currently in the design phase and needs an additional \$2.0 million to fully fund. The project will serve the entire region and provides a solution to the gap in coverage for the area. Once the Hub has been completed, it will continue to provide safe and accessible transit for the residents and visitors in the Historic Triangle.

We appreciate your ongoing support and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Neil A. Morgan  
County Administrator

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Copy to: York County Board of Supervisors  
Scott Stevens, James City County Administrator

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Neil A. Morgan



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March 6, 2023

The Honorable Mark R. Warner  
United States Senate  
703 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warner:

York County supports James City County's request and submission for funding for the project below which will impact the Historic Triangle region. The request, if approved, will enhance both the employment base and residential quality of life for the area.

Williamsburg Area Transit Authority's (WATA) Northern Transfer Hub is currently in the design phase and needs an additional \$2.0 million to fully fund. The project will serve the entire region and provides a solution to the gap in coverage for the area. Once the Hub has been completed, it will continue to provide safe and accessible transit for the residents and visitors in the Historic Triangle.

We appreciate your ongoing support and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Neil A. Morgan  
County Administrator

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Copy to: York County Board of Supervisors  
Scott Stevens, James City County Administrator

# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 8, 2023

**TO:** York County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator 

**SUBJECT:** York County Head Start Grant

The York County Board of Supervisors is a Head Start grant recipient that receives funding from the Department of Health and Human Services to provide comprehensive Head Start services to 117 children and their families. A local match from the County is also provided. As a Head Start recipient agency, the Board of Supervisors is responsible for administering and overseeing the Head Start program, ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal laws and regulations. The Board of Supervisors delegates this responsibility to the Children and Family Services Division of the Department of Community Services.

Over the last few years, the Division of Children and Family Services has encountered challenges that increasingly make it more difficult to recruit income-eligible children that meet Head Start requirements for the Griffin-Yeates Center. Program data shows that the program has been under-enrolled by approximately 27 percent over the past three years. Because of this, the Division will submit an enrollment reduction request with the baseline grant application to the Office of Head Start (OHS). The enrollment reduction and grant applications will be on the consent agenda for approval at the March 21, 2023, Board of Supervisors meeting.

The County requests to reduce its funded enrollment from 117 to 87 children in the grant application. It will maintain the County's current funding of \$1,241,363 to make program improvements for the next project period beginning on July 1, 2023.

### **Proposed Program Improvements**

- Increase the duration of classroom instruction for 20 children. If approved, York County Head Start classrooms will provide a minimum of 1,020 annual hours of planned class operations for at least eight months per year, as required, for 100 percent of its classrooms.
- Make salary adjustments for staff working in part-day classrooms (4.5 hours per day) based on moving all Head Start classrooms to full-day duration (6.5 hours per day). Staff will move from working 6.5 hours a day to 8.0 hours per day.
- Eliminate one vacant teacher position and reclassify one teacher position to permanently fund the Family and Community Support Specialist (FCSS) position as an FTE position. The position was previously funded through ARP, which expired on March 31, 2023. The Family and Community Support Specialist work

closely with program staff, the program's mental health consultant, and parents, to promote children's social and emotional well-being. The Specialist assists staff in identifying signs of trauma among families, providing connections to needed resources, and integrating mental health supports and services into the program to meet identified needs.

- Fund a Work-As-Required administrative support position that performs administrative functions to support the program while the program's Administrative Assistant completes program quality improvement and data management tasks. Head Start Quality Improvement Funds have been used to fund this position since FY22.
- Coordinate summer transition activities to help children transition into or out of Head Start. The activities will provide opportunities for parents and staff to build relationships, reinforce positive parenting techniques, support children's development by minimizing summer learning loss, and create avenues that can aid the program in meeting Head Start requirements by the appropriate timeline.
- Lower the additional local (County) support provided to the Division to fund the Head Start program, which has been above the County's required non-federal share amount.

Although there is a need for Head Start services in York County, the number of potentially eligible families in York County is trending down. Child Care Aware's 2023 Child Care Needs Assessment indicates that York County's median household income is \$93,356, and 4.8 percent of York County's population is living in poverty. York County has the lowest percentage of impoverished residents compared to surrounding counties. Considering this, most families residing in the County are not income eligible to participate in the Head Start program. However, there is still a need for the County's 2,665 residents under the age of six with working parents to have early education experiences. There are only four regulated/licensed preschools in the County.

Not only are York County's demographics making it more challenging to enroll income-eligible families, but staffing challenges have also made it difficult to meet the recipient agency's funded enrollment. For FY23, the division has two teacher vacancies that still need to be filled, this is due to the lack of qualified applicants that meet credential requirements. Over the last four years, 60 percent (12/20) of staff resigned for higher compensation, with 67 percent leaving to go to a school system or another early childhood program.

Changes in the school system have impacted Head Start's enrollment and created barriers for children to be dually enrolled with Head Start and YCSD. For instance, York County School Division (YCSD) increased the duration of their Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) from half-day to full-day and from four days a week to five days a week. The School Division also changed the location of their classrooms and how they classify children enrolled in VPI to meet the 10 percent disability requirement mandated by the

Virginia Department of Education. The School Division has extended its target population also to serve three-year-olds. The changes identified inadvertently impacted Head Start and created some form of competition.

The federal government requires the Board of Supervisors to review and approve all Head Start applications and amendments to the application for funding. The mandates also stipulate that the Board of Supervisors review and approve the budget, program goals, and plans. The Division is providing information about the current state of Head Start to the Board to support the grant and reduction application and bring to the forefront the need for early education and care for York County residents.

York County has a long-standing commitment to providing services for children and families. As part of this commitment, the County will continue to operate and develop early childhood development programs that offer educational experiences, promote school readiness, and create opportunities to develop an appreciation for education and life-long learning.

While the majority of York County residents are not eligible for Head Start or the School Division's VPI program, there is a need for quality preschool services and affordable childcare for citizens. County Health Rankings and Roadmaps show that childcare costs burden 18 percent of York County families. With the support of administrative leaders, the Division of Children and Family Services plans to work towards addressing this need by keeping options open to expanding the available preschool and childcare opportunities for County residents and employees in the future, such as private, fee-based childcare.

Richey/4111