



# THE CRANEY ISLAND CONNECTION

CRANEY ISLAND EASTWARD EXPANSION NEWS AND INFORMATION

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## CRANEY ISLAND EASTWARD EXPANSION

# CONTRACTOR OPEN HOUSE

THE CRANEY ISLAND CONNECTION IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE VIRGINIA PORT AUTHORITY AND THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TO PROVIDE READERS WITH REPORTS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTWARD EXPANSION OF CRANEY ISLAND. ARTICLES PRINTED HEREIN ARE FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. WE INVITE READERS TO COMMENT ON ARTICLES AND SUGGEST FUTURE TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION.

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On July 22nd, 2010, the Virginia Port Authority (VPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosted more than 130 contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers for the Craney Island Eastward Expansion Open House. Held at the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel & Waterfront Conference Center, the event brought together representatives from numerous Hampton Roads firms and even those from as far away as Florida, Massachusetts, and Colorado.

As the project team looks to initiate construction, open house attendees were provided with an overview of the project design and specifications as well as the anticipated contracting and procurement method.

The Craney Island Eastward Expansion project team has engaged the maritime engineering and construction industry since the project's inception. The multi-million dollar eastward expansion construction project calls for the expertise and cooperation of firms specializing in



*More than 130 contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers attended the Craney Island Eastward Expansion Open House.*



*Norfolk District Commander Col. Andrew Backus provided opening remarks during the event, citing the strong partnership with the VPA.*

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dredging, earthwork, and port construction, as well as aggregate suppliers of rock and sand. Accordingly, the Contractor Open House event provides attendees with a unique opportunity to network and learn about the project.

The event began with opening remarks from J.J. Keever, the VPA's Senior Deputy Executive Director for External Affairs, who welcomed the guests and introduced Norfolk District Commander Colonel Andrew W. Backus. Colonel Backus assumed Command of the Norfolk District, US Army Corps of Engineers on June 12, 2009. As District Commander, he manages the Corps' water resources development and navigable waterways operations for five river basins in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In his remarks, Colonel Backus stressed the importance of the Craney Island Eastward Expansion to the region and the Nation, noting the strength of the project partnership. In May 2009, the Craney Island Eastward Expansion became one of only five new projects included in the Norfolk District budget. Today, it is the third largest civil works project in the nation.

Jeffrey Florin, VPA's Deputy Executive Director, Operations and Chief Operating Officer, provided information about significant project milestones that have occurred since the last open house event, held in 2008. Significant milestones include the approval of the project's Joint Permit Application (JPA), which authorizes the expansion, the mitigation construction, and the recent submittal of the 100% design documentation report.

Florin reiterated the importance and strength of the partnership between the Corps and the VPA that will allow the expansion to be constructed under a 50/50 federal-state cost-share. In 2009, Congress appropriated \$100,000 dollars towards dike construction. Allocation of these funds allows the VPA to issue a bond to initiate the construction. Under the Project Partnership Agreement, the VPA will fund the construction start, and the Corps will fund the second half of construction. Additionally, the Corps will manage the final design acceptance as well as the final construction acceptance.

Next, project representatives provided project updates, including an overview of the selected design, material quantities, permits, project schedule, and contract and procurement method. Contracts for the 522-acre expansion project will be bid in phases to match project funding. The initial project contracts will include construction of the containment cell cross dikes and the first environmental mitigation projects. Main dike construction, completion of the cross dikes, and additional mitigation projects will be bid over the course of the next several years.



*Attendees register for the Craney Island Eastward Expansion Contractor Open House and network with local and national contractors, sub-contractors, and suppliers.*



*Kevin Abt, VPA Chief Engineer, discusses the Craney Island Eastward Expansion with a contractor.*



*USACE Craney Island Eastward Expansion Project Manager Doug Martin and VPA Engineer Andy Kondysar speak with a local contractor.*

# EXPLORE MARITIME CAREERS

Virginia Port Authority (VPA) Develops Valuable Resource for Hampton Roads Citizens

The Craney Island Eastward Expansion will create tremendous economic benefits for the Hampton Roads area. Central to such benefits is local job creation, as the project is set to create 54,000 jobs. The Port of Virginia and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have engaged local civic leagues and workforce development organizations on these benefits and feedback has revolved around a central emerging theme: citizens want to know where to obtain a maritime or port-related jobs.

To meet this demand, VPA has prepared *The Port of Virginia Maritime Careers Guide* and its online companion *Maritime Careers* online.

The maritime industry is a dynamic source for numerous emerging job opportunities in a high growth, high demand, and economically vital sector of the Hampton Roads economy. As The Port of Virginia and the Hampton Roads maritime industry grows and expands, thousands of jobs will be created. As a result, citizens want to know where and how to obtain maritime careers, and industry leaders want to know how they will find qualified staff as regional business and investment grows.

The Virginia Port Authority (VPA) has produced the *Maritime Careers Guide* to introduce some of the exciting



careers available in the maritime industry, including those in the port operations, transportation, logistics, and distribution sectors. The purpose of the tool is to help individuals explore career paths in the maritime industry and outline opportunities to utilize special skills.



In particular, the guide looks at trained laborers, skilled technicians, professional and administrative support positions that are key to helping move cargo throughout Hampton Roads and around the world.

The guide will help individuals learn about the skills and training required for various maritime career paths as well as regional training venues and resources. They can also read what a few people working in the maritime industry have to say about their career experiences.

The guide is intended for: students and those entering the workforce for the first time; individuals reentering the workforce or transitioning from other fields; and individuals simply interested in learning about maritime career opportunities.



To obtain a copy of the *Maritime Career Catalog* and learn more, contact Jodie Love, Community Relations Coordinator, External Affairs, for the Virginia Port Authority at (757) 683-2130 or [jllove@portofvirginia.com](mailto:jllove@portofvirginia.com).

# SPOTLIGHT ON NORFOLK & PORTSMOUTH BELT LINE RAILROAD

The Norfolk & Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad, "Belt Line," headquartered in Portsmouth, VA, began business in 1898 after having been formed by eight "line-haul" railroads. Today, after mergers and consolidations of the original owners, Norfolk Southern Corporation owns fifty-seven percent of the company and CSX Corporation owns forty-three percent. The Belt Line interchanges with both of the owners as well as the Bay Coast Railroad and the Chesapeake and Albemarle Railroad. Industries on the Belt Line enjoy good competitive transportation links to the world. The Belt Line is a terminal switching company that owns 36 miles of track, (plus 27 miles of trackage rights) and links commerce around the deepwater port from Sewells Point to Portsmouth Marine Terminal and including the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River.



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