

# City of Norfolk Coastal Flood Mitigation Program

*March 13, 2013*





# Topics

- Brief overview of Norfolk's Coastal Flood Program
- Data-driven analysis and decision making
- City-wide vulnerability, project concepts, scoring and ranking
- Use of hydrodynamic modeling and GIS technology
- Acknowledgments



# Norfolk City-wide Coastal Flooding Study



- Ongoing since 2008; precursors since 1990s
- Prioritize public works expenditures
- Increase ability to communicate risks and decisions to public
- Develop long-term adaptation approach

<http://norfolk.gov/flooding>



# Norfolk City-wide Coastal Flooding Study



## Broad Task Categories

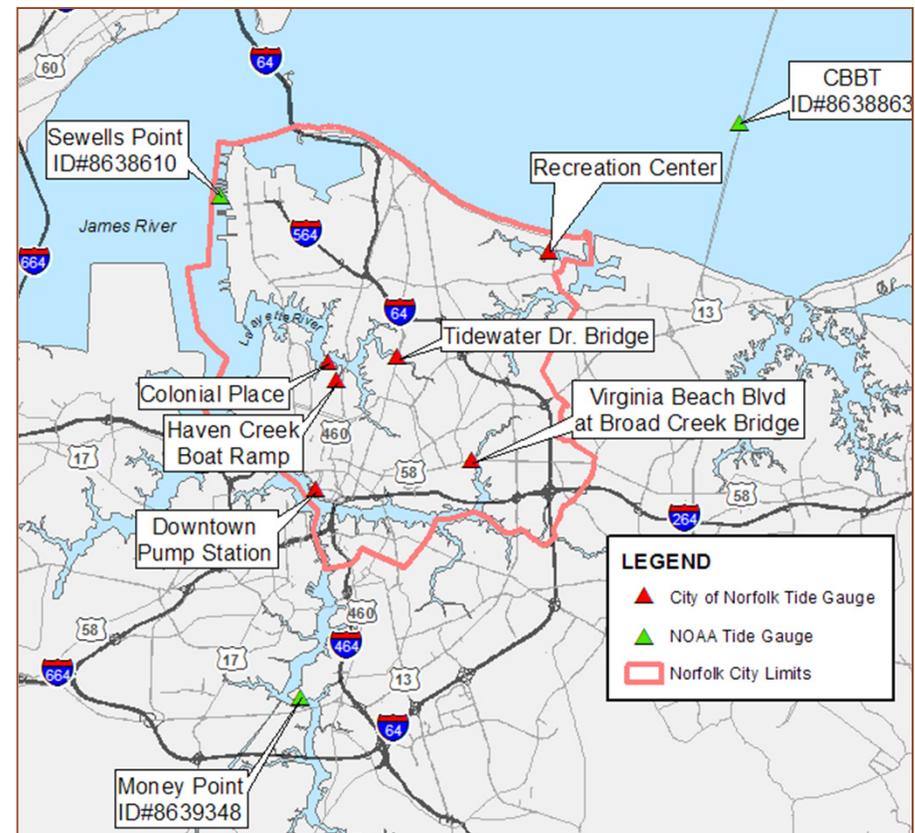
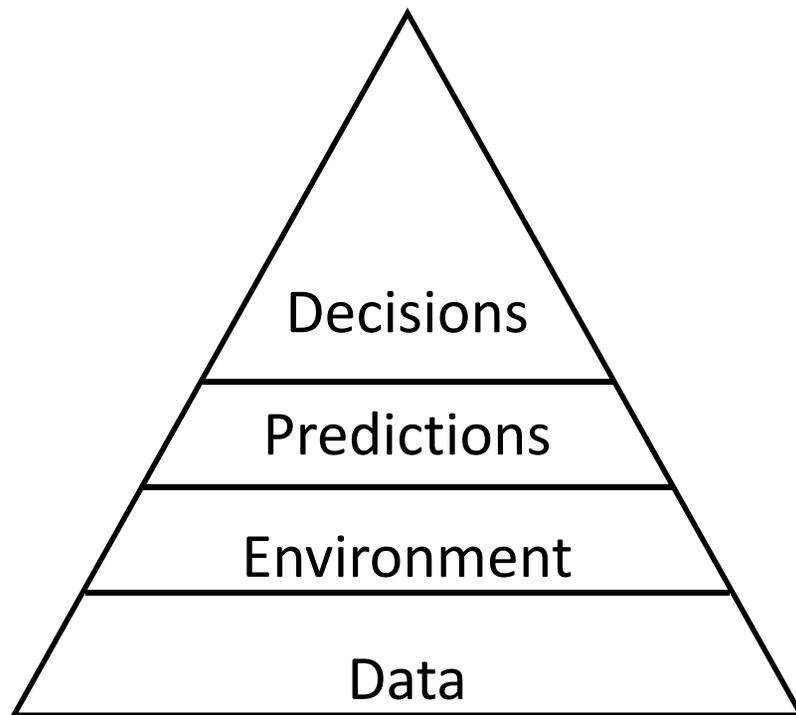
- Measurement of tide levels in City, relate to Sewells Point
- Predictive flooding models of tidal/surge flooding, with effects of storm drainage network & rainfall flooding
- Evaluation of design criteria and mitigation alternatives
- Conceptual project design, total design life Benefit-Cost Analysis for selected local projects
- Initial stages of City-wide Coastal Flooding Mitigation Master Plan (with long-term adaptation vision)





# Data-Driven Analysis and Decision Making

- 2009-2010 Initial phase of tide gauge program
- Define physical environment and how water levels vary in City, with storm conditions



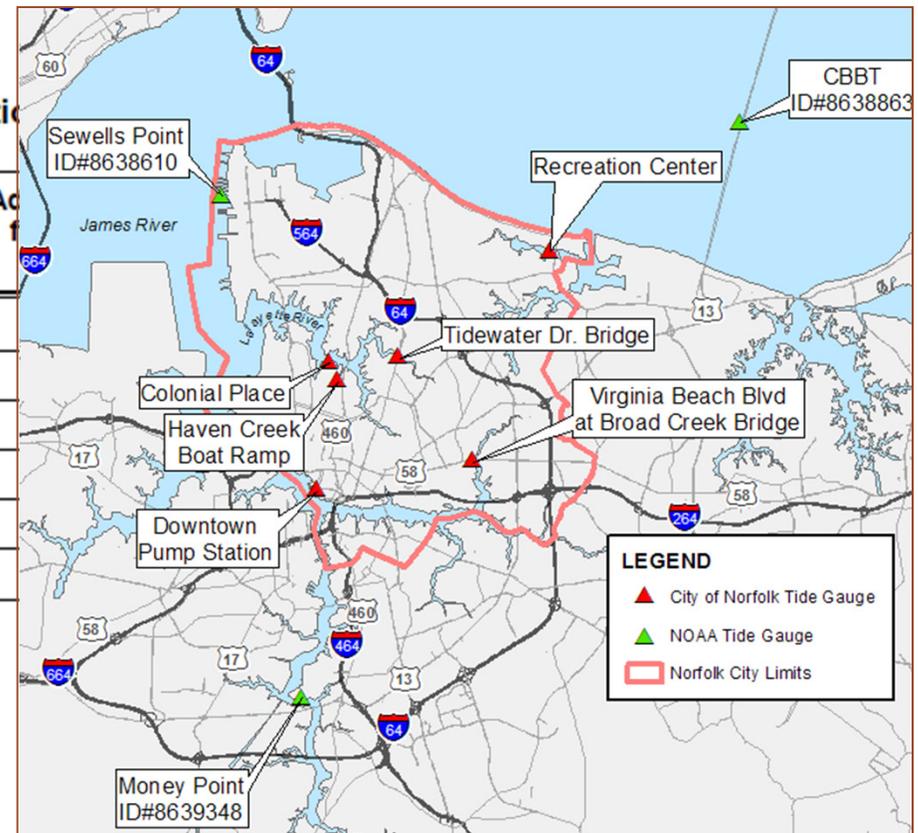
# Data-Driven Analysis and Decision Making



- Variation in high water levels within the City; relationship to Sewells Point for studies and real-time flood information

Table 1. Summary of Statistical Water Level Relations

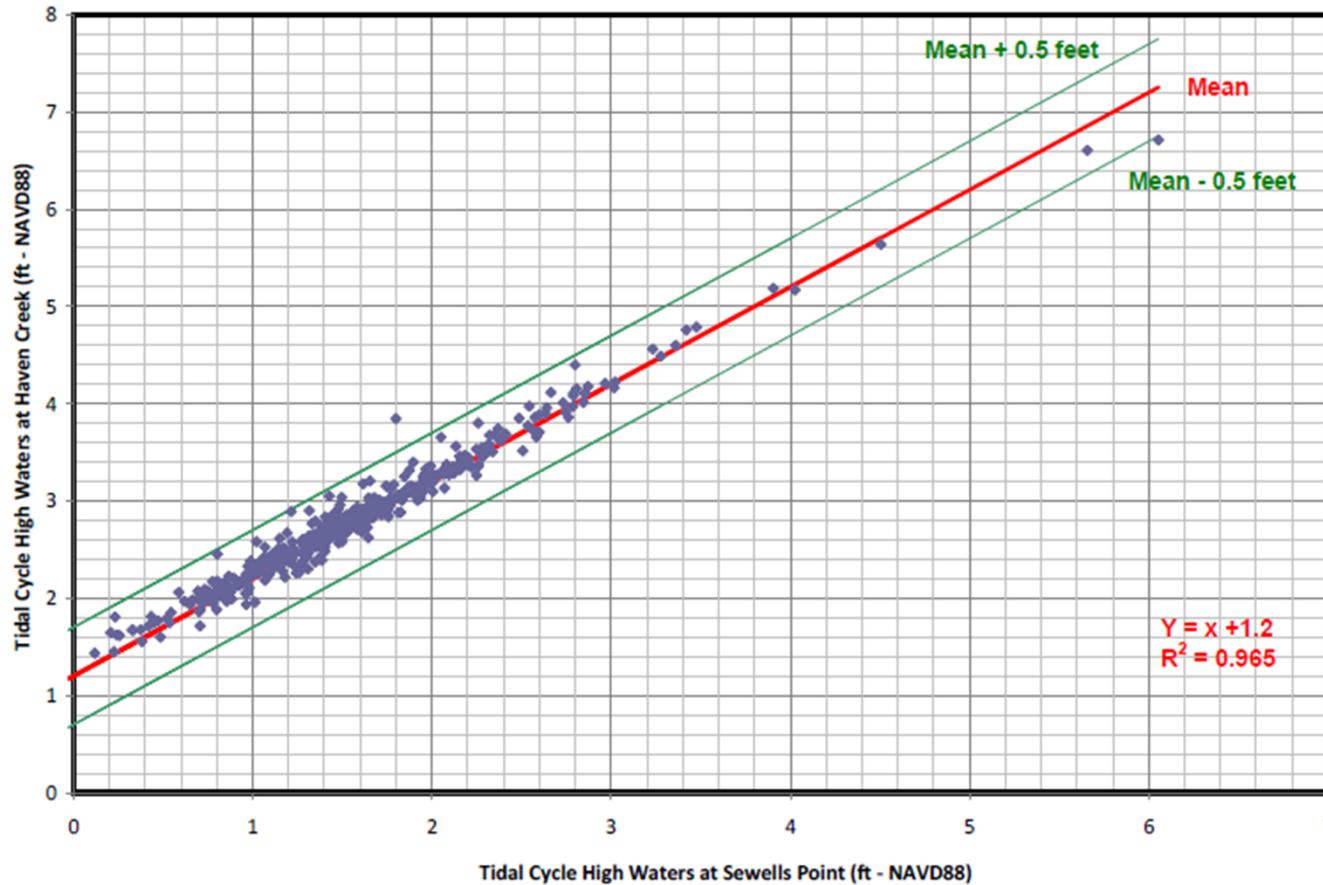
Tide Gauge	Average Water Level, feet	Difference compared to Sewells Point, feet	Accuracy
Sewells Point	0.3	--	
Recreation Center	0.3	-0.1	
Havens Creek	1.5	1.2	
Tidewater Bridge	0.9	0.5	
Downtown Pump Station	0.8	0.4	
Broad Creek	0.6	0.2	



Notes: Statistical analyses are shown on Figures 2 through 6. All values have been rounded to the nearest tenth of a foot. All elevations are re: NAVD88.



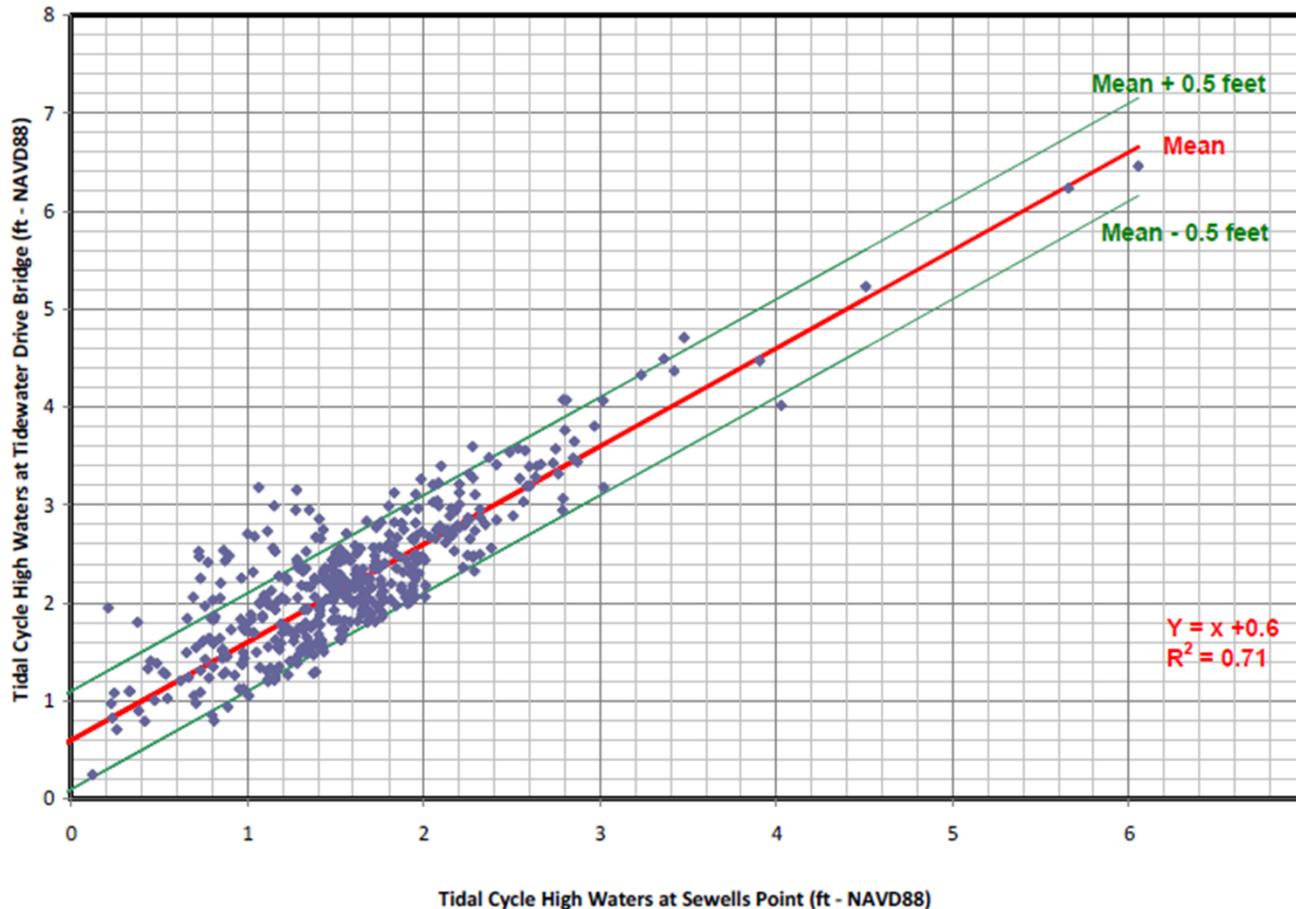
# Tide gauges: Haven Creek vs. Sewells Point



COMPARISON OF TIDE GAUGE MEASUREMENTS AND SEWELLS POINT  
Lafayette River – Haven Creek Boat Ramp (P13HC)



# Tide gauges: Tidewater Drive Br. vs. Sewells Point



COMPARISON OF TIDE GAUGE MEASUREMENTS AND SEWELLS POINT  
Lafayette River – Wayne Creek at Tidewater Drive Bridge (P13TW)





# Coastal Flooding Evaluation Methods

- High-level City-wide evaluation of tide/surge driven inundation
- For each Planning Districts
  - Number of parcels and buildings
  - Assessed value of improvements
  - Historic losses
  - Miles of roadways

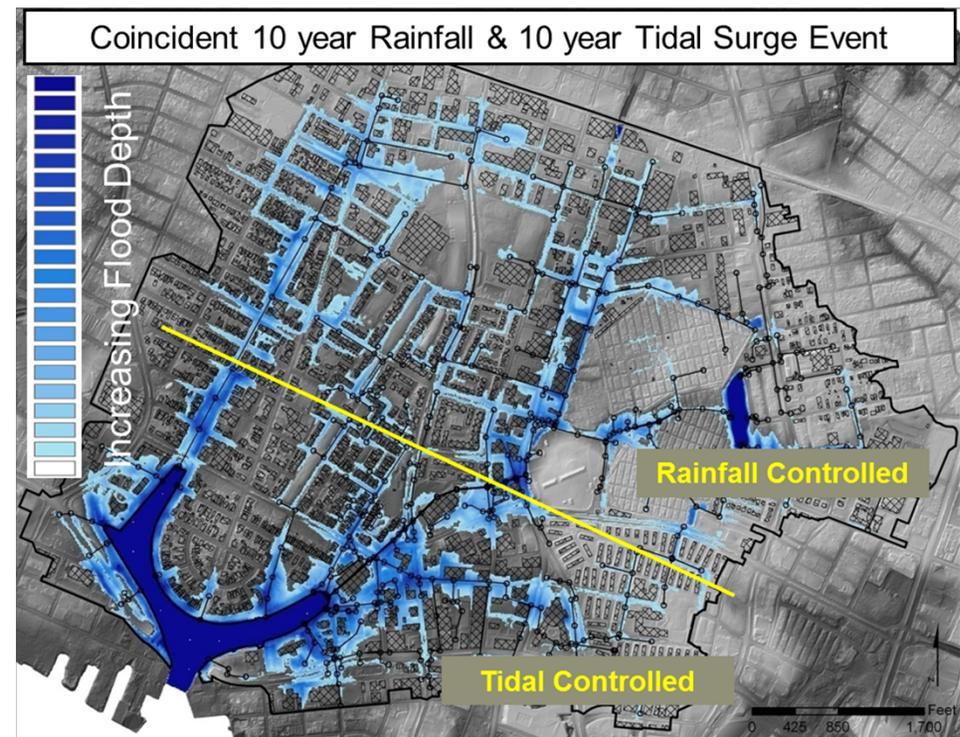




# Coastal Flooding Evaluation Methods



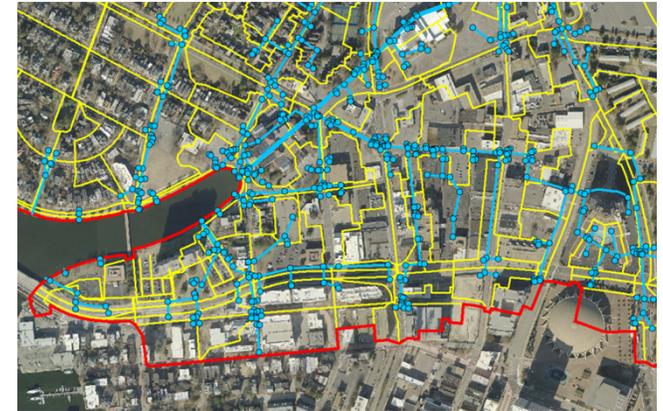
- Local project-scale detailed hydrology / hydraulics modeling
  - Based on present topography and storm drain system
  - Detailed, unsteady-state hydraulics of both tide/surge and rainfall-runoff
  - Estimate extent, depth, and duration of flooding for baseline vulnerability, with-project evaluation
  - Compute reduction in flood damage with mitigation projects





# Coastal Flooding Evaluation Methods: Technology

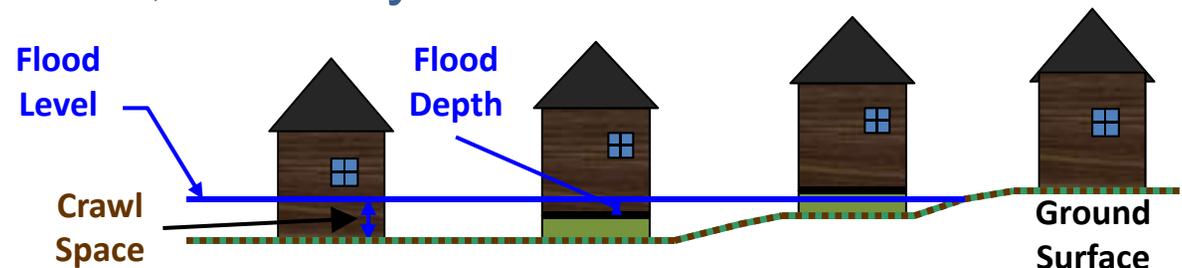
- Computer model of present-day flood hydrology / hydraulics
- 1-D/2-D linked model in *XP-SWMM*
  - More accurate representation of ponding areas and flow along streets
  - Detailed grid of depth in each grid cell, to relate to property within each grid cell
  - Saves on labor costs (for same level of accuracy); prepared for long run times



# Coastal Flooding Evaluation Methods: Technology



- GIS-based approach using FEMA and USACE procedures
  - Flood depths at each structure from *XP-SWMM* models; depth-damage curves applied in GIS
  - Semi-automated setup is scalable from small project areas to City-wide analysis
- Damage analysis includes structures & contents utilizing the City parcel database, with limited field verification
- Additional factors: ancillary structures, vehicles, displacement, loss of use, and City infrastructure considered



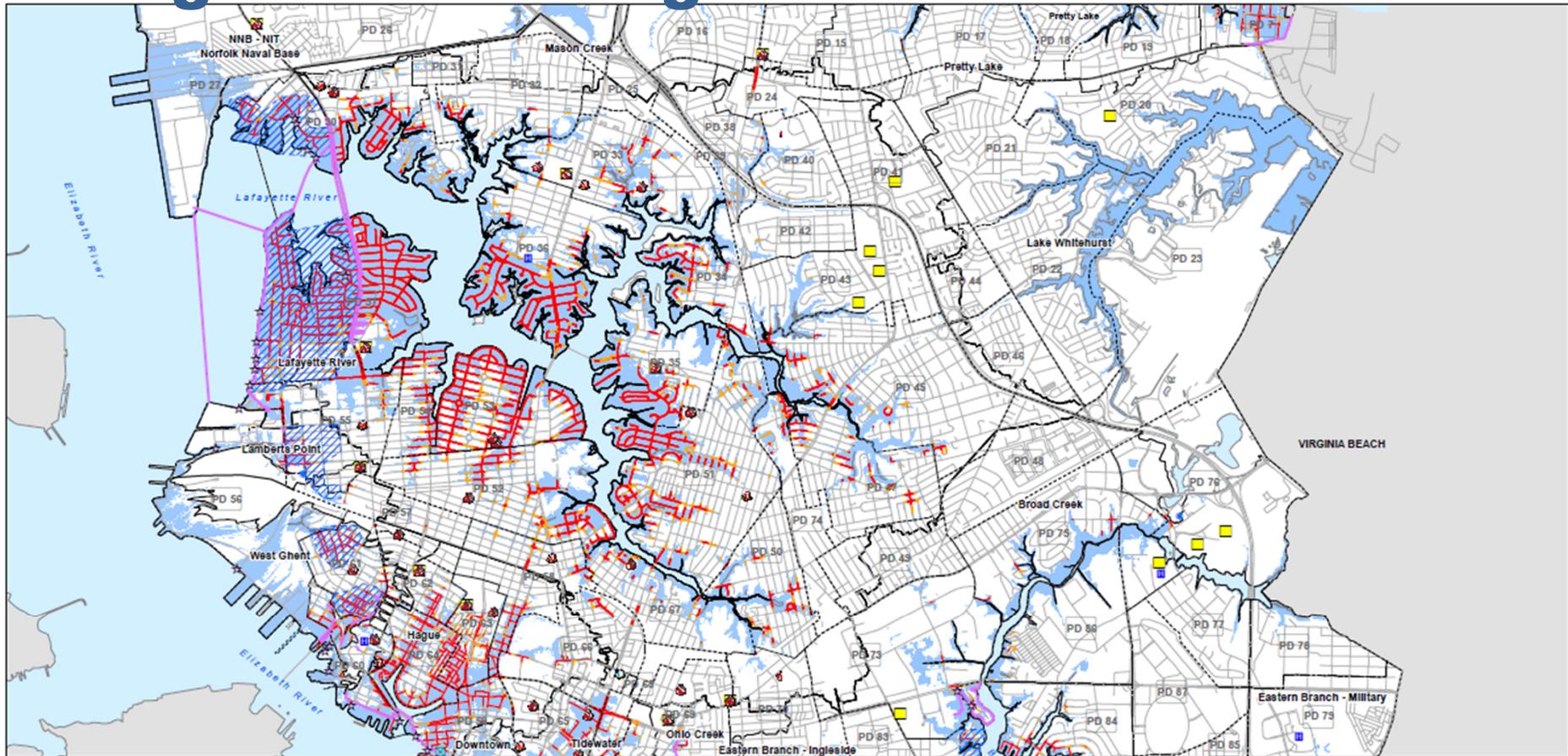
# City-wide Vulnerability and Mitigation Planning



- May 2012: *Preliminary City-wide Coastal Flooding Mitigation Concept Evaluation and Master Plan Development*
- Infrastructure and property vulnerability
  - Transportation corridors, routes to critical facilities



# City-wide Vulnerability and Mitigation Planning



## LEGEND

- Planning District Boundary
- Street Centerline
- Road Accessibility**
- Emergency Only (1.0 - 1.5 feet of water)
- Impassable (Greater than 1.5 feet of water)
- Approximate Coastal Flooding**  
Does not include precipitation.
- 1% Annual Chance Coastal Flood Extent

## Mitigation Options

- Potential Mitigation Option
- Existing Topography
- Outfall Flap Valve
- Pump Station
- House Raising

## Critical and Essential Facilities

- Emergency Shelters
- Fire Station
- Hospitals
- Police Station
- School
- Water Treatment Facilities

Eastern Branch

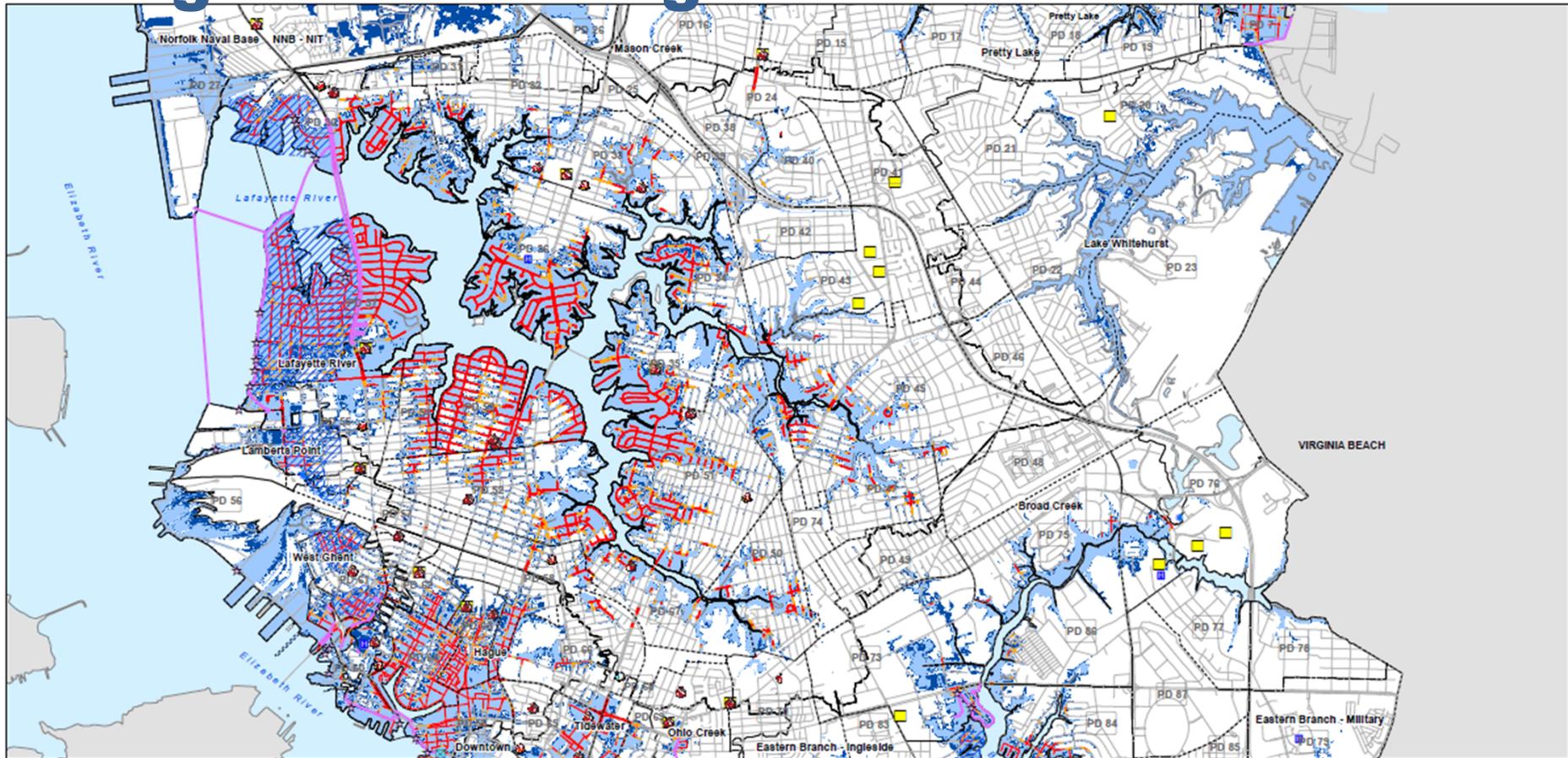


**CURRENT CONDITIONS IMPASSABLE ROADS**  
**Central Map**  
 City-wide Coastal Flooding Study  
 Norfolk, Virginia

FIGURE 3-12b



# City-wide Vulnerability and Mitigation Planning



## LEGEND

- Planning District Boundary
- Street Centerline
- Road Accessibility**
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- Impassable (Greater than 1.5 feet of water)
- Approximate Coastal Flooding**  
Does not include precipitation.
- 1% Annual Chance Coastal Flood Extent
- 1% Annual Chance Coastal Flood Extent with 1-Foot Sea Level Rise (SLR)

## Mitigation Options

- Potential Mitigation Option
- Existing Topography
- Outfall Flap Valve
- Pump Station
- House Raising

## Critical and Essential Facilities

- Emergency Shelters
- Fire Station
- Hospitals
- Police Station
- School
- Water Treatment Facilities

Eastern Branch



0 3,000 6,000 Feet

Eastern Branch - Military

**1-FOOT SEA LEVEL RISE  
IMPASSABLE ROADS**  
Central Map  
City-wide Coastal Flooding Study  
Norfolk, Virginia

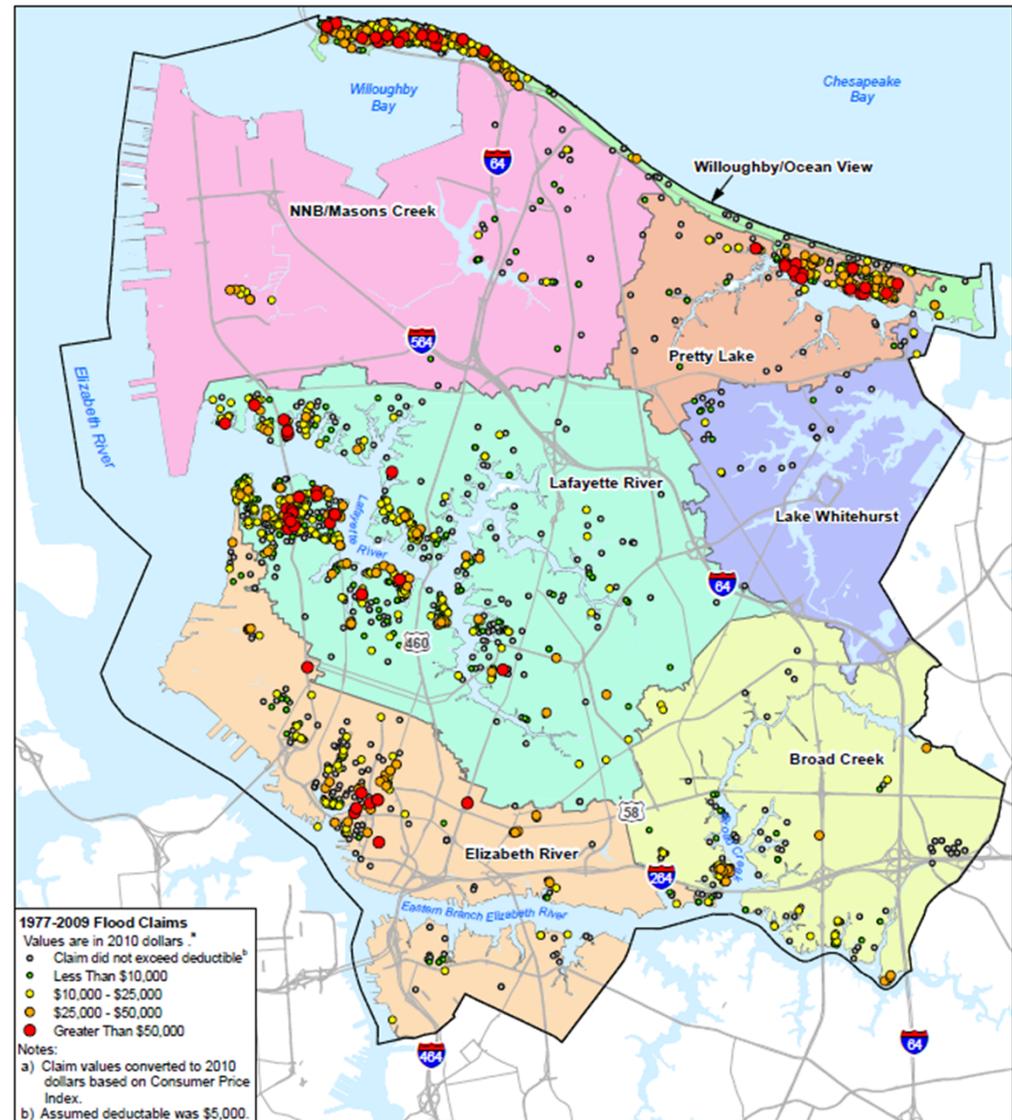
FIGURE 3-13b



# City-wide Vulnerability and Mitigation Planning



- Infrastructure and property vulnerability
  - FEMA claims
  - Depth-damage curves on GIS-based grid analysis
  - HAZUS-style analysis for detailed looks at local areas

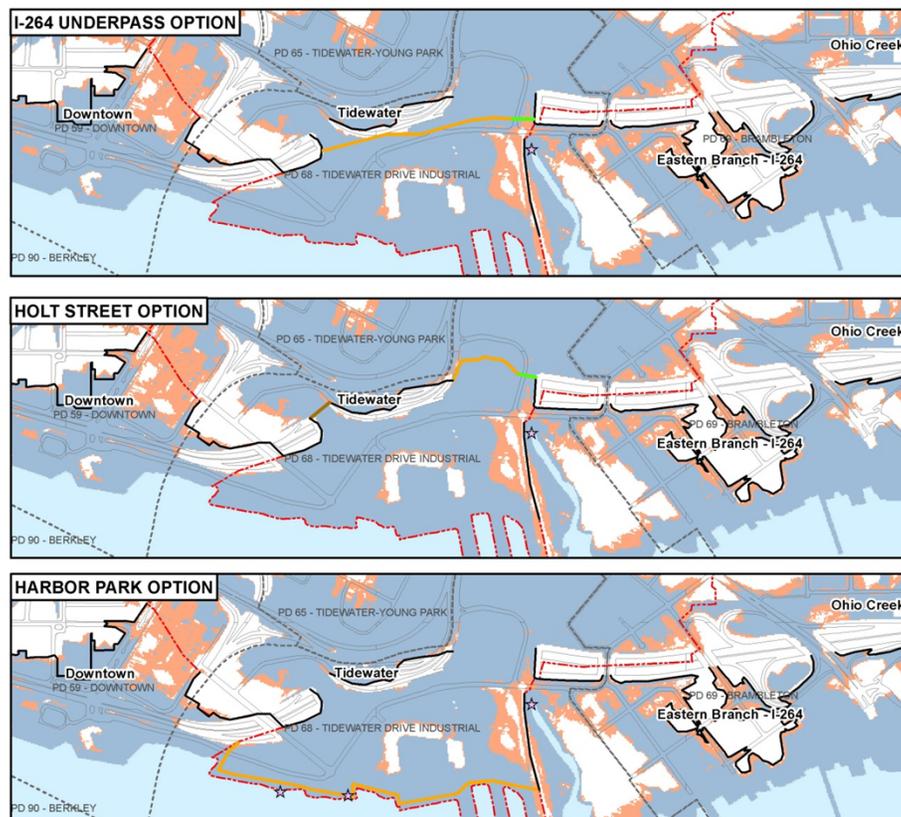




# City-wide Vulnerability and Mitigation Planning



- Various mitigation types considered (with and without additional built infrastructure)



## LEGEND

- Project Area
- Planning District Boundary
- Approximate Coastal Flooding  
Does not include precipitation.
- 1% Annual Chance Coastal Flood Extent
- 1% Annual Chance Coastal Flood Extent with 1-Foot Sea Level Rise

## Mitigation Options

- Road Raise
- Berm
- Flood Gate
- Floodwall
- Culvert
- Existing Floodwall
- Existing Topography
- Feature with Yellow Highlight Required for 1-foot of Sea Level Rise
- House Raising
- Outfall Flap Valve
- Pump Station

## Critical and Essential Facilities

- Emergency Shelters
- Fire Station
- Hospitals
- Police Station
- School
- Water Treatment Facilities



# City-wide Vulnerability and Mitigation Planning



- Project development, scoring and ranking
  - Present and future risk (to property, infrastructure, etc.)
  - Investment (cost) vs. Benefit of mitigation (not just flood damage avoidance); multiple options examined for most project areas [  $\text{Score} = \text{Reduced Damage} / \text{Cost} \times 100$  ]
  - Additional points scored for mitigation risk to critical or essential facilities
- Lafayette River watershed contributes nearly half of the economic damage risk within the City
- City-wide economics for 100-year return period coastal flood magnitude



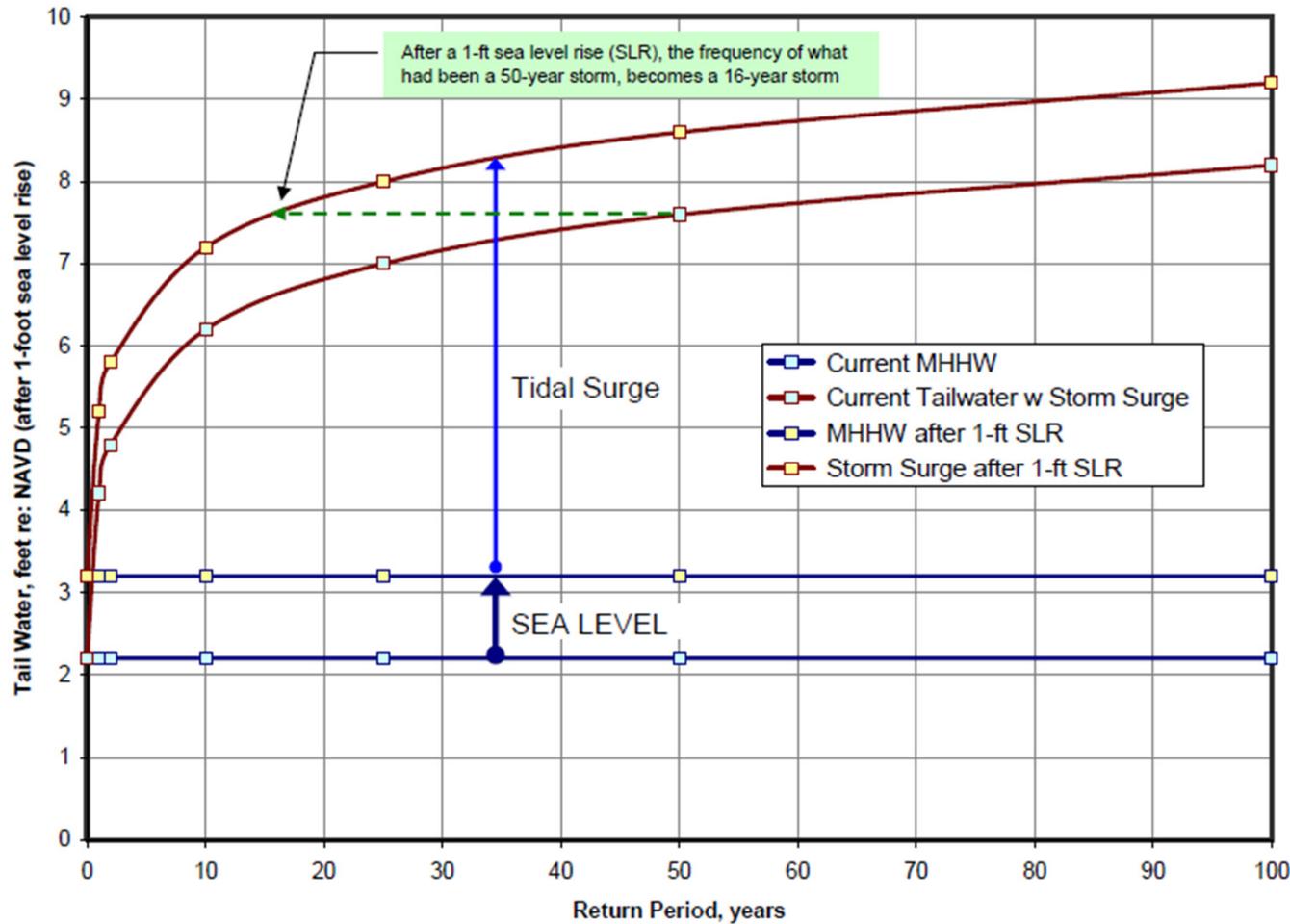


# How Does Sea Level Rise Play Into All This?

- NOAA: relative mean sea level has risen ...
  - +3.76 mm/year (1.23 ft/100 yrs) at Portsmouth (shipyard)
  - +4.44 mm/year (1.46 ft/100 yrs) at Sewells Point
  - +6.05 mm/yr (1.98 ft/100 yrs) at Ches. Bay Bridge-Tunnel
  - Acceleration scenarios
- Flooding problems and vulnerabilities exist today
- Relative sea level rise becomes a design parameter, depending on mitigation strategy design life
  - Influences project lateral extents; a couple of feet can make a big difference
  - Modifies “return period” of design water levels



# How Does Sea Level Rise Play Into All This?





## Next Steps

- Continue to develop tools to inform public
- Bring additional areas of the City to conceptual mitigation design stage
- Promote local and regional benefits of coastal flood mitigation within Norfolk
- Share “what’s worked” for the Norfolk process with other localities and regions



# Questions?

