



Appendix C

Environmental Desktop Review Summary

Eastern Shore Rail to Trail Environmental Desktop Review Summary August 2020

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

Introduction

VHB conducted a desktop review in August 2020 to identify possible threatened and endangered (T & E) species on the federal and/or state level that may occur within the vicinity of the proposed alignment. VHB searched the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service (VAFWIS) database to identify potential T & E species that may occur within the vicinity of the proposed new trail alignment. In the DWR VAFWIS database search results, VHB considered T & E species with confirmed or potential occurrences within Accomack and Northampton Counties for which potential habitat may occur within the vicinity of the proposed rail to trail project area. The following summarizes these DWR VAFWIS search results for the full alignment as well as for individual segments of the full alignment. Additional review of the project area should be conducted as the project moves forward to determine the potential for any effects to occur on these T & E species.

Full Alignment

Along the entire alignment proposed for the Eastern Shore Rail to Trail project, the following T & E species from the DWR VAFWIS database may have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the alignment:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*
roseate tern	<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>	FE SE
northeastern beach tiger beetle	<i>Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis</i>	FT ST
red knot	<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	FT ST
eastern black rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis</i>	SE
peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	ST
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Centronyx henslowii</i>	ST
gull-billed tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	ST
Arctic peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i>	ST
loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	ST

*FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened

Individual Segments

Three segments of the overall alignment were further considered, including the Accomack Segment, the Cape Charles Segment, and the Onley Segment. DWR VAFWIS search results for these three segments are summarized below.

Accomack Segment

Along the Accomack Segment of the proposed trail alignment, including the Eastern Shore Community College (ESCC) Entrance Connection, the following T & E species from the DWR VAFWIS database may have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the alignment:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*
roseate tern	<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>	FE SE

northeastern beach tiger beetle	<i>Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis</i>	FT ST
eastern black rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis</i>	SE
peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	ST
Henslow's sparrow	<i>Centronyx henslowii</i>	ST
gull-billed tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	ST

*FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened

Cape Charles Segment

Along the Cape Charles Segment of the proposed trail alignment, the following T & E species from the DWR VAFWIS database may have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the alignment:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*
northeastern beach tiger beetle	<i>Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis</i>	FT ST

*FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened

Onley Segment

Along the Onley Segment of the proposed trail alignment, the following T & E species from the DWR VAFWIS database may have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the alignment:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*
gull-billed tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	ST

*FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened

Onley Segment Alternatives

Within the Onley Segment, several alternatives were considered for connections to local destinations on the northern and southern end of the segment. A preliminary desktop review of the DWR VAFWIS database showed no differences in the potential for T & E species to occur within the vicinity of the three proposed alternative alignments.

Cultural Resources

Introduction

VHB conducted a desktop review in August 2020 to identify possible historic or archeological resources within the vicinity of the proposed alignment. VHB searched the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) archives database, Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (VCRIS) to identify potential resources within 50 feet of the proposed new trail alignment. In the VCRIS search results, VHB identified resources that have been previously surveyed and were determined to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), eligible for listing in the NRHP, or have not yet been evaluated for eligibility by DHR. Properties in the VCRIS database that are determined to be not eligible for listing in the NRHP are not considered historic and were therefore excluded from this survey. Individual resources contributing to a historic district were considered as part of the overall historic district. No archeological resources were identified through the VCRIS archives search. The following summarizes the VCRIS archives search results for the full alignment as well as for individual segments of the full alignment.

Full Alignment

Along the entire alignment proposed for the Eastern Shore Rail to Trail project, 8 resources are listed in the NRHP and the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) or are considered eligible for listing in the NRHP and VLR, including 6 historic districts and 2 individual properties. Additionally, there are 19 resources that have not been evaluated by DHR and would require further survey to determine whether or not they are eligible for listing in the NRHP, including 3 historic districts and 16 individual properties. These resources are listed in the table below:

DHR ID	Property Name	Property Type	Evaluation Status
214-0040	Eastville/Eastville Station Historic District	Historic District	NRHP, VLR Listed
267-5005	Northampton Lumber Company Historic District	Historic District	NRHP, VLR Listed
217-5001	Exmore Commercial Historic District	Historic District	Eligible
246-0027	Keller Historic District	Historic District	Eligible
169-5001	Bloxom Historic District	Historic District	Eligible
274-5001	Town of Onley Historic District	Historic District	Eligible
065-0091	Holmes Presbyterian Church	Individual	Eligible
214-0038	Brown Hotel, 6138 James Street	Individual	Eligible
276-5002	Painter Historic District	Historic District	none
278-0003	Parksley Historic District	Historic District	none
188-0024	Cheriton Historic District	Historic District	none
001-5240	House, 16329 Hopeton Road	Individual	none
001-5241	Store, 25181 Dennis Drive	Individual	none
001-5331	House, 18060 Hopeton Road	Individual	none
169-0001	Bloxom Railroad Depot Complex	Individual	none
276-5001	Abandoned Houses, 17160 Elmore Farm Lane	Individual	none
065-0017	Eastville Station, Penn Central Railroad Depot	Individual	none
065-0242	C.F. Wilson House, Holmes Presbyterian Church	Individual	none
065-0243	Bayview Railroad Station	Individual	none
065-0297	House, Casey Lane	Individual	none
065-0416	Bracey House	Individual	none
065-5091	House, 14070 Jordan Road	Individual	none

DHR ID	Property Name	Property Type	Evaluation Status
065-5097	House, 11179 Parallel Road	Individual	none
065-5098	House, 11257 Parallel Road	Individual	none
188-0005	Station, Northampton County	Individual	none
188-0007	House, Route 639	Individual	none
217-0004	Exmore Station	Individual	none

Individual Segments

Three segments of the overall alignment were further considered, including the Accomack Segment, the Cape Charles Segment, and the Onley Segment. VCRIS archives search results for these three segments are summarized below.

Accomack Segment

Along the Accomack Segment of the proposed trail alignment, including the ESCC Entrance Connection, 2 resources are considered eligible for listing in the NRHP, including 2 historic districts. Additionally, there are 6 resources that have not been evaluated by DHR and would require further survey to determine whether or not they are eligible for listing in the NRHP, including 1 historic district and 5 individual properties. These resources are listed in the table below:

DHR ID	Resource Name	Property Type	Evaluation Status
169-5001	Bloxom Historic District	Historic District	Eligible
274-5001	Town of Onley Historic District	Historic District	Eligible
278-0003	Parksley Historic District	Historic District	none
001-5240	House, 16329 Hopeton Road	Individual	none
001-5331	House, 18060 Hopeton Road	Individual	none
169-0001	Bloxom Railroad Depot Complex	Individual	none
001-5241	Store, 25181 Dennis Drive	Individual	none
001-5330	House, 17188 Hopeton Road	Individual	none

Cape Charles Segment

Along the Cape Charles Segment of the proposed trail alignment, 1 resource is listed in the NRHP, a historic district. Additionally, there are 2 resources that have not been evaluated by DHR and would require further survey to determine whether or not they are eligible for listing in the NRHP, including 2 individual properties. These resources are listed in the table below:

DHR ID	Resource Name	Property Type	Evaluation Status
182-0002	Cape Charles Historic District	Historic District	NRHP, VLR Listed
065-5085	Warehouse, 22435 Junction Lane	Individual	none
065-5078	Gas Station, 3255 Stone Road	Individual	none

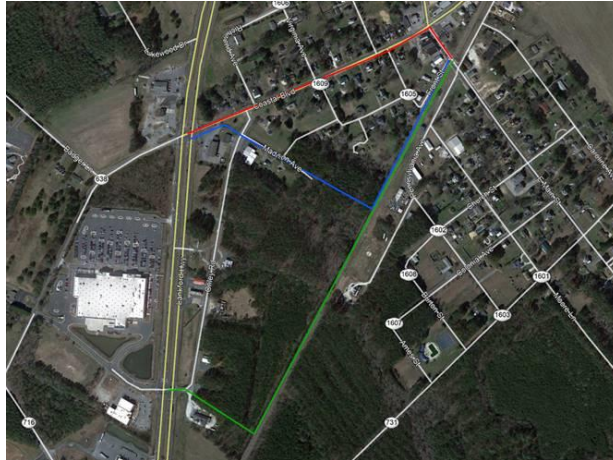
Onley Segment

Along the Onley Segment of the proposed trail alignment, 1 resource is listed in the NRHP, a historic district. No additional resources were identified by the VCRIS archives search that would require further survey within the vicinity of this segment. The eligible resource is listed in the table below:

DHR ID	Resource Name	Property Type	Evaluation Status
274-5001	Town of Onley Historic District	Historic District	Eligible

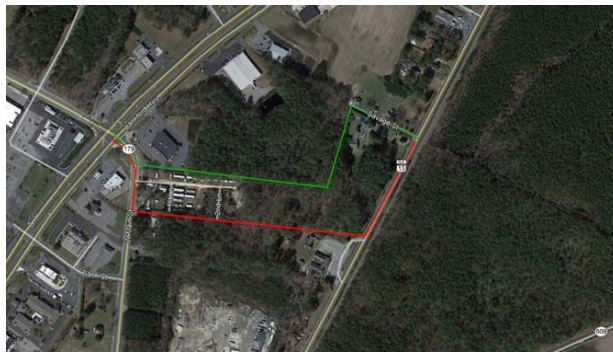
Southern Alternatives

Within the Onley Segment, several alternatives were considered for connections to local destinations. On the southern end of the Onley Segment, three alternatives were considered, shown below. All three alternatives (green, blue, and red) travel through the Town of Onley Historic District. The green and blue alternatives travel the same route within the historic district, which is limited to the existing railroad right-of-way. The red alternative, however, travels outside of the existing railroad right-of-way and for a longer distance than either the green or blue alternative. Therefore, the red alternative may have a greater potential for impacts on the historic district than does either the green or blue alternative.



Northern Alternatives

On the northern end of the Onley Segment, two alternatives were considered, shown below. However, no resources were identified by the VCRIS archives search within the vicinity of either the green or the red alternative; therefore, there may be no difference in the potential for impacts on historic resources for either alternative.



Wetlands and Streams

Introduction

VHB conducted a desktop review in September 2020 to identify possible wetlands and streams that may occur within the vicinity of the proposed Eastern Shore rails to trails project alignment. VHB used the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Geographic Information System (GIS) data to identify potential wetlands and streams that may occur within a 30-foot corridor of the proposed trail alignment (15 feet on each side of the proposed trail centerline). The following summarizes the results of this analysis for the full alignment as well as for three individual segments of the trail. Additional review of the project area should be conducted as the project moves forward to determine the potential for any impacts to occur.

Full Alignment

Along the entire alignment proposed for the Eastern Shore Rail to Trail project, NWI indicated that palustrine emergent marsh (PEM) and palustrine forested/shrub wetland (PFO/PSS) occur within the proposed trail corridor. Approximate acreages of each are provided in the following table:

Wetland Type	Acreage (ac.)
Palustrine emergent marsh (PEM)	1.6
Palustrine forested/shrub wetland (PFO/PSS)	3.4

NWI also indicated that streams occur within the proposed alignment of the trail. The approximate length of streams occurring within the 30-foot corridor totals 4,316 linear feet.

Individual Segments

Three segments of the overall alignment were further considered, including the Accomack Segment, the Cape Charles Segment, and the Onley Segment. Wetlands and streams, as indicated by NWI, present within the 30-foot corridor for these three segments are summarized below.

Accomack Segment

Along the Accomack Segment of the proposed trail alignment, including the ESCC Entrance Connection, the NWI indicated PEM and PFO/PSS wetlands present within trail corridor as follows:

Wetland Type	Acreage (ac.)
Palustrine emergent marsh (PEM)	0.8
Palustrine forested/shrub wetland (PFO/PSS)	4.4

NWI also indicates approximately 1,917 linear feet of stream occur within the corridor of the trail segment.

Cape Charles Segment

According to the NWI, no wetlands or streams occur within the corridor of the Cape Charles Segment.

Onley Segment

Along the Onley Segment of the proposed trail alignment, the NWI indicated the following wetlands present within the proposed trail corridor:

Wetland Type	Acreage (ac.)
Palustrine forested/shrub wetland (PFO/PSS)	0.5

Also, approximately 39 linear feet of stream occur within the trail corridor along the Onley Segment.

Onley Segment Alternatives

Five alternatives are proposed for the Onley segment including two at the north end of the segment and three at the south end. The NWI data indicated there is no difference in wetland presence between the alternatives, and therefore, none of the alternatives provides a greater likelihood for wetland and stream impacts.