

**House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban  
Development, and Related Agencies “Member Day” Remarks**

**Representative Elaine Luria, VA-02**

Thank you, Chair Price, Ranking Member Diaz-Balart, and my colleagues on the subcommittee for this opportunity. Transportation, infrastructure, and housing are the backbone of safe communities and a thriving economy. Virginia’s second district is the gateway to transport goods from the Chesapeake Bay and Port of Virginia to the rest of the United States. Annually, the Port and its related maritime industries are responsible for 530,000 jobs and \$88 billion in spending across the Commonwealth and generates 10% of our Gross State Product.

I would like to highlight several projects that are important to my constituents.

Laskin Road is a part of the National Highway System in Virginia Beach, federally identified as a road important to the nation’s economy, defense, and mobility. I request \$2 million to improve the existing alignment of Laskin Road from Red Robin Road to Oriole Drive for a length of approximately 0.6 miles, as well as minor improvements at Birdneck Road.

Improvements to Laskin Road will widen the four-lane plus frontage road facility to a traditional six-lane divided facility with a raised median as well as a sidewalk and shared-use path for bicycles and pedestrians.

I am also requesting \$3 million for the Nimmo Parkway Phase VII-B project to improve access to the Sandbridge area and provide a more resilient hurricane evacuation route for the residents.

In the event of an obstruction that blocks the road completely, to include flooding, vehicle crashes, and fallen trees, and Sandbridge Road is impassable, the only current detour is through the high-security military facility of Naval Air Station Oceana-Dam Neck Annex. The detour can only be opened with permission from the U.S. Navy. With this funding, we will bring greater transportation reliability and safety to the residents and visitors of Virginia Beach.

For many individuals in Coastal Virginia and across the nation, sidewalks and bike lanes are crucial for commutes and accessing vital services.

The Duffy's Lane Transit Transfer Center Relocation in Norfolk, Virginia needs \$500,000 to construct a Hampton Roads Transit Bus Transfer Center on W. Ocean View Avenue at a highly visible location to ensure a safer environment for the nearly 1,000 daily bus patrons.

In Virginia Beach, I am requesting \$2 million for the Virginia Beach Trail, which would connect different city centers and zones for further economic development and ease. It will also connect low- and moderate-income areas to a larger trail system.

Williamsburg, Virginia was the first municipality founded in the Commonwealth in 1632 and became the capital of the Virginia Colony in 1699. The Williamsburg African American Heritage Trail will tell a fuller story of its history by highlighting African American history and story-telling that will unite us in a shared understanding and respect for all who have come before us.

Essential investments in infrastructure cannot be forgotten for rural America. This includes projects such as expanding and modernizing our sewer systems on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

This is why I ask for your support for two projects on Virginia's Eastern Shore, the Exmore Sewage Collection System and the Wachapreague Sewer Line and Pump Station.

The Exmore Sewage Collection System project will not only serve Exmore but will impact the entire Northampton County. The \$3 million project would be used to rebuild the sanitary sewer collection system and expand the system to provide service for affordable housing.

Moving north into Accomack County, is my request for \$3,090,000 for the Wachapreague Sewer Line & Pump Station. The average age of Wachapreague township's septic tanks and drainage fields is over 50 years, exceeding by more than a decade the expected lifespan of septic systems. This situation poses a health risk to privately owned wells and an environmental risk to the Atlantic Ocean and its barrier islands that are adjacent to Wachapreague.

I would like to highlight several programs that are critical not only for Coastal Virginia, but for America.

As a 20-year Navy veteran, I appreciate the value this subcommittee's funding brings to my top two program requests, the Department of Transportation's Maritime Security Program and the Housing and Urban Development's HUD-VASH program.

I also want to thank the subcommittee on supporting the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity or RAISE grants and the predecessor programs. My district has received over \$29 million in these grants which were key in improving the ability to transport people and goods from the Port of Virginia.

*Closing*

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to highlight the importance of investing in infrastructure to our districts, our constituents, and our nation.