

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 31, 2023

TO: CIP Project Submitters

FROM: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator 

SUBJECT: Capital Improvements Program Development – FY 2025 through FY 2030

Although the ink is barely dry on the recently adopted six-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for FY 2024 through FY 2029, it's time to start working on the CIP for FY25-FY30. The process begins with the submittal of capital improvement project proposals for consideration. Again this year I am asking agencies to review projects in the adopted CIP for which they are responsible and identify whatever adjustments are needed to project funding and/or schedules to account for changes that have occurred in the past year. Please use the project forms sent out by the Finance Department to request any changes, either to the funding amount(s) or to the year(s) in which funds are programmed. The project forms should also include any logical extensions of existing projects to FY 2030. (For example, this might include funding that is programmed on an annual basis that would be expected to continue into FY30, or funding needed to adhere to maintenance/replacement schedules for equipment included in the CIP.)

With regard to new projects that are not in the adopted CIP, I am asking that any such project requests be limited to year six of the CIP – FY 2030. This guidance applies only to General Fund projects and not to Enterprise Fund or Internal Service Fund projects.

All CIP requests will be reviewed by the CIP Review Committee, which will provide me with its recommendations as I work with a smaller CIP staff team to prepare my preliminary recommended CIP to present to the Board of Supervisors.

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COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 1, 2023

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator 

SUBJECT: Update – Citizen Questions Regarding Princess Cruises

As a follow-up and in response to correspondence received and citizen comments made at recent BOS meetings, we have drafted responses to address key areas of concern that fall under York County's purview. Please know that staff has spent many hours researching, planning, anticipating questions, and soliciting/acquiring input from the partners that need to come together to execute such a major project. Many of the questions and concerns are best addressed by the experts at Princess Cruises, and we have every expectation that they will do so during their upcoming informational meetings with Historic Yorktown residents and other stakeholders. In the meantime, here are the facts as we know them today after spending months investigating the feasibility and the logistics for this unique opportunity.

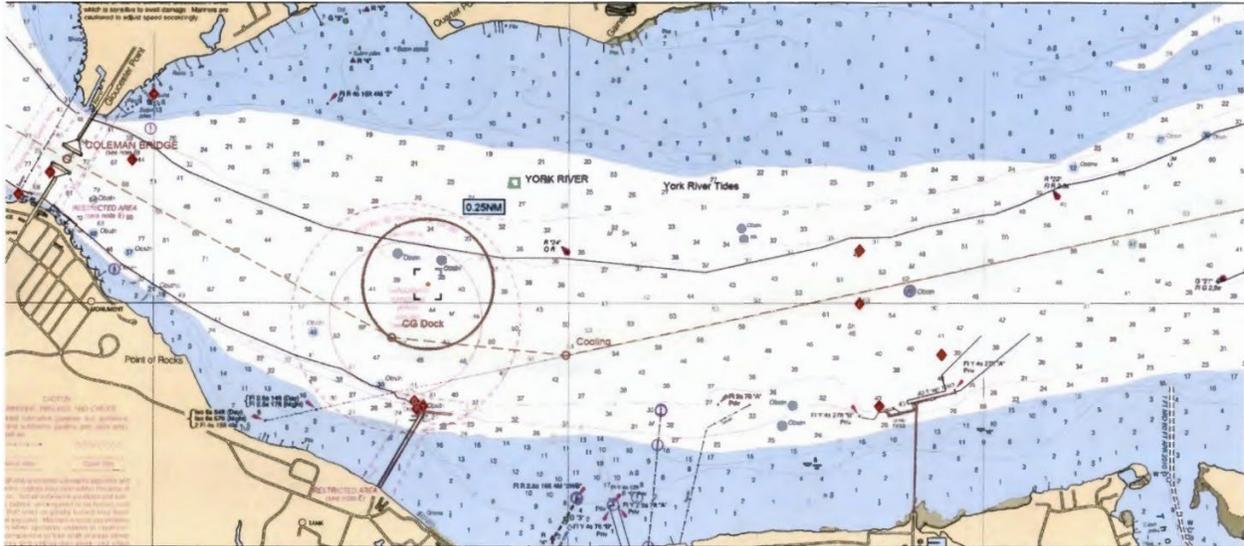
Sustainability:

While the ships coming for the pilot program are large, they are similar in size to the Navy ships that pass through the York River on occasion. Princess Cruises has shared with us its commitment to sustainability and the environment. They have a relationship with renowned Biologist and Wildlife Conservationist Jeff Corwin and have produced several videos that offer more information and a behind-the-scenes look at their sustainability efforts onboard the ships. The links can be found here:

- [Energy Efficiency & Shore Power](#)
- [Advanced Wastewater Treatment](#)
- [Biodigesting Food Waste](#)
- [Crew Commitment](#)

Docking at the Watermen's Museum:

When approached by Princess Cruises and the Watermen's Museum about the addition of Yorktown as a port of call, a lot of research and legwork was conducted. If the pilot program proves successful – and until such time as resources would be available to construct a pier adjacent to Watermen's Museum property – there is only one approved location for anchoring: approximately 1.75 miles east of Yorktown Beach, in the York River.



The guidelines for the Historic District Overlay do not encompass the York River. Any future improvements to the Watermen’s Museum will be required to go through the normal review and approval process.

Measuring Success:

We cannot speak for Princess Cruises on what constitutes success, but Yorktown’s success will be measured the same way we measure all events at the waterfront – logistics, visitor enjoyment, and the tangible impact on our businesses and residents. Note: Visitor attendance on popular concert nights and at special-themed Saturday markets is much higher and occurs with much greater frequency than the attendance we’ll see from the Princess Cruises ship.



Impact on Residents/Historic Area:

Congestion and overcrowding of the beachfront will be mitigated through a carefully curated schedule of arrival dates and a detailed plan for the movement of people in town. As for increased crime, there is no indication that such arrivals will bring increased crime; nevertheless, additional deputies will be on site for each

arrival at the expense of Princess Cruise Lines to ensure everyone is safe and secure.

The historic charm and integrity is exactly why Yorktown was selected as a port of call for what is a history-centric cruise. Great measures are being taken to not only preserve, but uplift Yorktown's rich history and small-town charm. It would be counterproductive to negatively impact the qualities that make Yorktown an attractive place to visit for such cruises.

To understand the impact, several calls were made to research the experience of ports-of-call – many similar in size. Staff gathered information about exposure and impact in communities including Bar Harbor, Maine; Sitka, Alaska; and Norfolk, Virginia. This research proved very important in understanding the opportunities, best practices, and possible challenges for Yorktown.

Visitor Experience:

Island Princess has a maximum capacity of 2,200 guests. Approximately 1/3 will stay on the ship; 1/3 will stay in town for touring, shopping, and dining; and 1/3 of the passengers will take advantage of regional excursions to area attractions and museums (including Yorktown).

Passengers will have the opportunity to tour Yorktown utilizing our free trolley transportation or choose from a variety of shore excursion options, including attractions and museums in Yorktown, Jamestown, and Williamsburg. Spending time and money in the Historic Triangle is a good thing and the region benefits as a whole from visitor spending.

Staff has suggested to the excursion operator many options for the day-long visitation. Many of those options – like museums, walking tours, and other attractions in Yorktown - don't require transportation. There will be a mix of some passengers leaving the area and some staying and we will have a better gauge of that "mix" after the pilot program.

To prevent blockage of Water Street, charter buses will be staged off-site at the Watermen's Museum where cruise passengers will embark/disembark for excursions. Only a limited number of passengers (approximately 90 per tender) will exit the ship at any given time to embark on prescheduled excursions, which will also help control the number of buses required in the waterfront area at any given time.

York County and Princess Cruise Lines have carefully selected dates to avoid weekend arrivals which should alleviate overcrowding. While cruise passengers may visit the beach, the theme of the cruise is history-centric, so they will be more likely to visit historically significant sites throughout Yorktown and surrounding localities.

York County Investments and Costs:

The pilot program involves no infrastructure investments at this time. There will be additional staff and security assigned, and these costs will be self-funded

through docking and visitation fees charged to Princess. Any future funding could come from a variety of sources.

Princess Cruise Lines and the Watermen's Museum proposed this project for private property enhancements. If this project is funded and constructed, there are many details that will need to be worked out. York County remains focused on the pilot program in the short term.

Safety Measures:

In addition to ensuring full compliance with the Maritime Transportation Security Act and its security requirements, York County has plans to schedule additional YPSO Deputies to be present at all times when ships are in port. Again, those costs will be paid by Princess Cruise Lines.

Princess Cruises and their team have already been in communication with several parties and facilities, and are committed to working closely with them to address their questions and concerns through the process. York County officials have been working diligently with the Coast Guard and State authorities as well as regional attractions.

During the pilot program and the foreseeable future, the bridge will not need to be opened. Any improvements made with monies designated in the next 5-7 years for infrastructure at the Watermen's Museum would be to support the logistics of tendering operations.

More communication will be shared as it becomes available starting with a webpage dedicated to Princess Cruises (www.visitYorktown.org/princess), which will serve as one of the primary ways to communicate information with the public in a timely fashion. Information will be provided including frequently asked questions, recordings of information sessions, and updates as available.

Olsen/3525

Attachments:

- Princess Cruises Preparations and Ports Research Memo dated April 28, 2023
- Princess Cruises Update Memo dated June 23, 2023