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## Lancaster County joins localities seeking Norris Bridge replacement

by Audrey Thomasson

LANCASTER—Supervisors last week added Lancaster County to the growing list of local governments supporting replacement of the Robert O. Norris Jr. Memorial Bridge.

On a 5-0 vote, supervisors joined the towns of Kilmarnock and White Stone adopting a resolution in support of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission submitting an application to the Commonwealth Transportation Board to have the bridge replacement included in the Virginia Department of Transportation's fiscal year 2018 Six-Year Improvement Program.

Supervisors noted the 1957 bridge has had a number of substantial repairs and is in need of additional major work. They said the bridge is "vitaly important to the Northern Neck region" in terms of economic development and as a connection for citizens. It serves as "access to current businesses and industries, to all of the industrial sites and buildings and to tourist attractions" and is a link to jobs in and outside the region.

"Our state senator and delegate have gone overboard on this issue," said District 5 supervisor Wally Beauchamp. "We need to get this process started."

District 3 supervisor Jason Bellows commented on the failing infrastructure nationwide. He also noted there are still a number of questions surrounding the Norris Bridge.

"I believe this process will bring some clarity," he said.

In other business, supervisors approved supplemental funding of \$14,000 for emergency management services, mostly for overtime pay; and \$140,000 for the sheriff's department for overspending in the 2015-16 fiscal year that ended June 30.

Also, county administrator Frank Pleva was designated the Freedom of Information officer for Lancaster.

