



CITY OF HAMPTON

West JBLE-Langley AFB ECF AA Stormwater and Environmental Due-Diligence

Project Title: West JBLE-Langley ECF Stormwater and Environmental Due-Diligence

Background and Project Description:

The intent of the project and this supplemental task are directly related to recommendations from the *Hampton-Langley Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)* completed in August 2010 and *Hampton-Langley Air Force Base Joint Land Use Study Addendum* completed in August 2018. These studies identified the need for a new route to a new Entry Control Facility (ECF) (e.g., Transportation Implementation Action 24 – “Add a new route to a new base entry gate”). The new route is not only intended to provide a new means of access to/from the installation but also designed to be flood-secure, and thus enhancing the installation’s resiliency to the potential impact of significant rainfall or flooding events.

In addition to the focus on resiliency to naturally occurring events that could impact operations and/or the mission, JBLE-Langley is anticipating a significant level of development and increases in personnel on the north side of the base (i.e., North Base Planning District Area) in the next five (5) to seven (7) years. This expected growth will have a notable impact on traffic operations at the existing West Gate located along N Armistead Avenue, as well as internally to the base along select roadways and intersections not currently designed to support the anticipated increase in traffic volumes. The issue of introducing more traffic at the West Gate is further magnified by the fact that the gate is located within the runway clear zone (CZ).

With the expected increase in traffic volume demand traveling to/from the North Base area combined with the fact that the existing West Gate facility is located within the CZ, a key component of the JBLE-Langley ECF Alternatives Analysis project included an evaluation and identification of a new and/or improved alternate route as well as a preferred new ECF concept to best serve future operations, accessibility, and safety.

As a result of the JBLE-Langley ECF Alternatives Analysis project, JBLE-Langley, the City of Hampton, and other project stakeholders have begun to strongly consider a site located along Commander Shepard Boulevard and north of the airfield. Based on several conversations with City of Hampton, JBLE-Langley, and NASA LaRC staff, it was determined that the subject site has a relatively complex and integrated stormwater drainage system that is of interest to all parties. It was also noted that this system extends across Commander Shepard Boulevard to the west and as far south at the Southwest Branch of the Back River. This supplemental stormwater and environmental due diligence task will provide the opportunity to assess the existing system as well as investigate preliminary stormwater treatment technique alternatives.



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Additionally, based on a preliminary review of background environmental material it is anticipated that wetlands and waters (e.g., streams, creeks, etc.) are likely present on the subject site. To address this potential concern and/or to pre-emptively verify the extent of these environmental considerations, this task will involve conducting a wetland delineation of the site that will be confirmed with the USACE to accurately identify the boundaries, extents and types of wetlands and waters on the potential future ECF location. Utilizing the results of the wetland delineation, the project team will develop an updated Course of Action (COA) concept. The updated concept will focus on avoiding and minimizing wetland impacts to the maximum extent practicable while still supporting all defined mission essential functions of the proposed ECF, in order to reduce the required permitting effort, time/regulatory review duration, and compensatory mitigation costs. This information will be taken into account as a part of the JBLE-Langley ECF preferred COA evaluation and refinement process.

As a part of JBLE-Langley ECF Alternatives Analysis project, this supplemental task will continue the involvement of a working group of project stakeholders (e.g., JBLE-Langley, City of Hampton, NASA LaRC, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), York County, City of Poquoson, etc.). These stakeholders are expected serve as liaisons to their respective agencies by sharing general and technical information about the findings, potential refinements/modifications to the preferred COA, as well as general status updates over the life of the project.

The primary end goal of the JBLE-Langley ECF Alternatives Analysis Stormwater and Environmental Due Diligence task is to significantly enhance the level of confidence in the site being considered for the preferred COA alternative (i.e., new route to a new ECF) can be permitted by the approving regulatory agencies and can still retain the amount of developable area necessary to support the required facilities, functions, and mission of the new ECF.

It is anticipated that the supplemental *West JBLE-Langley ECF Stormwater and Environmental Due-Diligence* task will be performed under the existing City of Hampton Civil Engineering Design and Related Architectural, Environmental, and Consultation Studies and Services Contract.