

# WELCOME

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Welcome to the City of Newport News, Department of Public Works Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) WEB page. I am grateful for the positive contributions that our very dedicated group of citizens has made to the Public Works Department. Through their efforts, I believe we as a department are better informed about the wants and needs of our citizens.

The Newport News CAC was formed in 2003 at the request of the Director of Public Works and was approved by the City Manager. As an American Public Works Association (APWA) accredited agency, the Newport News Department of Public Works must seek the public's input in a variety of ways. In fact, the department must have an established policy to seek public participation in our programs and projects.

Section 6.5 of the APWA Public Works Management Practices Manual states:

*"A policy is established on public participation in agency programs and projects."*

Success of an agency's projects depends on an understanding of community needs. Agencies should seek and encourage public participation through a process that includes scheduled public meetings and public hearings on major programs or projects.

Source: Public Works Management Practices Manual  
Fifth Edition

The committee consists of citizens who demonstrate civic interest and responsibility. They represent the city's four solid waste districts and three voting districts. There are also two members who are selected at large and are not representative of any particular district.

The goal of the CAC is to:

- Help the Director of Public Works understand citizen concerns better by increasing understanding of public attitudes
- Advise the Director of Public Works concerning major policy decisions
- Offer the Director of Public Works an opportunity to explain complex issues to our citizens in a setting that fosters openness
- Provide an opportunity for dialogue about future projects, review/advise on existing programs, suggest new programs and generate ideas
- Build trust between Public Works and the community; establish cooperation rather than adversarial relations which will result in better planning, decision-making and program development

I am confident that as you browse the CAC pages on our site, you will find that their work has already made a positive impact on many important Department of Public Works policies and programs.

H. Reed Fowler, Jr.  
Director of Public Works