

	Agenda Title:	Agenda Date:
	Eastern Shore Rail Trail Ordinance	August 19, 2026
	Subject/Proposal/Request:	
	Consideration of Ordinance No. 20260819 to add a new section to the Cape Charles Town Code to designate the Eastern Shore Rail Trail as a public nonmotorized transportation facility and recreational shared use path, and establishing rules governing use	
Town of Cape Charles	Attachments:	For Council:
	Ordinance 20260819	Action: X Information:
	Staff Contact(s):	Reviewed by:
	Libby Hume, Town Clerk	Rick Keuroglan, Town Manager

Background:

The Eastern Shore Rail Trail (ESRT) is a multipurpose public path created along the historic Eastern Shore railroad corridor. Upon completion it will cover 49 miles for walking and biking to be used as a public nonmotorized transportation facility and recreational shared-use path.

The first phase of construction is from Cape Charles to Cheriton and is expected to be completed by mid-August.

Item Specifics:

Section 46.2-904.1 of the Code of Virginia authorizes localities to adopt ordinances prohibiting the operation of certain electric power-assisted bicycles on shared-use paths if it finds that such a restriction is necessary for public safety or compliance with other laws. The ordinance may be adopted after proper notice and the scheduling of a public hearing.

The Northampton County Board of Supervisors adopted their Ordinance 2026-003 at their July 14, 2026 meeting. The Ordinance designated the ESRT as a public nonmotorized transportation facility and recreational shared-use path, prohibited the use of the ESRT by the majority of motorized vehicles, established rules governing the use of the ESRT and provided civil penalties for violations.

It was advised that the Town also adopt an ordinance to establish similar rules and penalties for violation. An ordinance and Town Code language has been drafted and is attached for Council review. A public hearing was held earlier this evening.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council review Ordinance 20260819 and proposed Town Code language, and if deemed appropriate, adoption of the Ordinance by roll call vote.