



Rebuild By Design Hudson River Project Update

May 2015

In June 2014, the State of New Jersey was awarded \$380 million to implement two flood mitigation projects through the Rebuild by Design competition, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). New Jersey was awarded \$230 million to implement a comprehensive urban water strategy in the Hudson River region and \$150 million to implement a storm resiliency project called the New Meadowlands.

This is an update on the Hudson River project, which includes Weehawken, Hoboken and Jersey City.

DEP is the lead State agency to plan, design and construct the project. In addition to gathering public input through public meetings, DEP is hosting regular Executive Steering Committee meetings with mayors of the towns within the project areas and HUD officials for coordination. DEP is working with public officials in the project area to schedule the first public meeting on the project in June. More information will be provided once the meeting is scheduled.

Other steps taken to engage the public on the Hudson River project include the development of a website providing general information and the project's next steps. An electronic mailing list has also been established so residents and interested parties can receive future project updates from DEP; register at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/floodhazard/rbd-hudsonriver.htm>. DEP continues to work with mayors and stakeholders to identify additional opportunities for outreach.

Part of Phase One of the Hudson River project is a Feasibility Study and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). At a public meeting on May 13, the New Jersey Transit Board of Directors approved the use of an existing New Jersey Transit contract with Dewberry Engineering, Inc. for the State to have Dewberry perform that work.

The existing New Jersey Transit Environmental Consulting Services Task Order Contract has been available for use on Superstorm Sandy Recovery projects. Approval by New Jersey Transit to use this contract for the Feasibility Study and EIS enabled the procurement process to be accelerated, allowing feasibility work to begin this summer. The contract will be managed by DEP, in consultation with New Jersey Transit.

Dewberry has been involved with the RBD process from the outset. As part of a design competition team, Dewberry provided small businesses with engineered building mitigation solutions, storm preparedness planning and neighborhood redevelopment designs to increase storm resiliency in neighborhoods of Asbury Park, NJ, Red Hook, NY and Rockaway Park, NY. Dewberry previously has been involved with other Sandy recovery work for DEP.

The Hudson River flood risk reduction project, “Resist, Delay, Store, Discharge”, conceptually consists of a comprehensive urban water strategy to provide protection along all of the Hoboken waterfront and parts of Weehawken and Jersey City. It would use hard infrastructure and soft landscape for coastal defense (resist); policy recommendations, guidelines, and urban infrastructure to slow rainwater runoff (delay); a circuit of interconnected green infrastructure to store and direct excess rainwater (store); and water pumps and alternative routes to support drainage (discharge).

The Rebuild by Design competition was created in the summer of 2013 by the federal Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force as a way to develop ideas capable of dramatically improving the physical, ecological, and economic resilience of the Sandy-affected region. HUD conducted and administered the competition in partnership with philanthropic, academic, and nonprofit organizations. During the competition, ten interdisciplinary teams comprised of scientists, engineers, designers, and architects spent months understanding the major vulnerabilities of the region and collaborating with local and regional stakeholders to develop locally responsive proposals to improve the resilience of waterfront communities.

For more information on the Hudson River Rebuild by Design project, visit <http://www.nj.gov/dep/floodhazard/rbd-hudsonriver.htm>.

###