Looking West from Waterfront Pier Behind Sinatra Park

7.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The extensive consultation and coordination that was undertaken as part of the project began with the initiation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process in June of 2015. The publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will itself represent a significant public outreach effort, with a 45-day public comment period and a public hearing. This section will be updated in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to reflect comments received during that period.

To date, the Project has involved significant local, state, and federal coordination, as well as collaboration with the public, to build an understanding among stakeholders in the Study Area. This coordination has taken place to satisfy NEPA and agency regulatory requirements, as well as to make sure that the public remains well informed and engaged throughout the Project. Public involvement occurred throughout the Project and focused on major milestones, which were:

- Purpose and Need
- Scoping
- Concept development
- Concept screening
- Introduction of the Build Alternatives
- Urban design
- Coastal storm surge modeling
- Rainfall modeling and alternatives analysis
- Selection of the Preferred Alternative

Public feedback during key project milestones was critical in developing a Project that provides flood risk reduction and community amenities, while respecting the existing urban environment. This section describes the plans that established the Project's public and agency outreach; the groups that were developed to help foster communication between the community, agencies, and the project team (which includes the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection [NJDEP] and the Dewberry team); and a summary of the meetings held for the Project.

While this section focuses on the outreach conducted during the NEPA and Feasibility stage of the Project, it is important to recognize the significant public outreach that occurred during the Rebuild by Design (RBD) competition in 2013 and 2014. The City of Hoboken partnered with neighboring communities to hold community meetings, workshops, and charrettes that helped develop the Project to recognize the need for flood resiliency, while considering the dense and diverse urban character of the community.

7.1 Consultation and Coordination Framework

As described in Section 1, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) has assumed environmental compliance responsibilities for the Superstorm Sandy Community Development Block

Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) programs on behalf of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). NJDCA has designated NJDEP to assist with the environmental review. The public and agency coordination for the Project was developed and established by NJDCA and NJDEP in the two documents described in the following sections (7.1.1 and 7.1.2).

7.1.1 Citizen Participation Plan

The primary goal of NJDCA's Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) is to provide all New Jersey citizens with an opportunity to participate in the planning, implementation, and assessment of the State's CDBG-DR Sandy recovery program(s). The CPP sets forth policies and procedures for citizen participation, which are designed to maximize the opportunity for citizen involvement in the community development process. The state provides all citizens with the opportunity to participate, with emphasis on low- and moderate-income individuals, access by non-English speaking people or those individuals requiring special options due to disabilities, and in CDBG-DR targeted communities. A link to the CPP is available on the project website at www.rbd-hudsonriver.nj.gov.

7.1.2 Citizen Outreach Plan

The CPP required that a Citizen Outreach Plan (COP) specific to the Project be developed to serve as a supplement to NJDCA's existing CPP. The Rebuild by Design Hudson River Project: Resist, Delay, Store, Discharge COP provides a transparent and inclusive community outreach and public participation plan allowing all citizens and stakeholders in the Project's Study Area and adjoining areas to participate in the planning, design, and implementation of the Project. The COP provided the framework for public outreach for the entire Project, including the current NEPA phase and future phases, as it moves through final design into construction.

The COP establishes the framework for the interaction between the primary public and agency coordination groups that will meet throughout the Project. These included the Citizen Advisory Group (CAG), the Technical Coordination Team (TCT), and the Executive Steering Committee (ESC). The CAG was established to be the primary link between the project team and the overall community; the TCT was established by HUD's Sandy Recovery Task Force to support regional resilience across federal infrastructure investments in the region impacted by Superstorm Sandy and to facilitate planning, development, and implementation of infrastructure projects funded through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013; and the ESC was established as a project advisory committee. These groups are discussed in greater detail in Section 7.2. The coordination groups interacted with the project team throughout the project schedule to develop a project that met the overarching resiliency needs, while considering community and regulatory requirements.

A link to the COP is available on the project website at www.rbd-hudsonriver.nj.gov.

7.1.3 Community Outreach

Community involvement has been an integral part of the entire project process. In order to facilitate communication with the community, NJDEP made extensive use of the project website to upload materials presented at meetings such as presentations, handouts, video recordings, and meeting summaries. NJDEP also utilized an electronic mailing list (listserv) to facilitate ongoing contact with the community, transfer information, and invite people to public meetings. The database contained the names and addresses of Study Area representatives, media organizations, and representatives from the business community, as well as other interested stakeholders who signed up to receive updates via the website. At meetings, members of the public were encouraged to add their email address to the listserv so that they could be notified of project updates and schedules for upcoming meetings.

In addition to participation at public meetings (discussed in Section 7.3), public participation was encouraged and facilitated by:

- Project Website: The project website (www.rbd-hudsonriver.nj.gov) is an important tool used to communicate with the public by serving as a repository for documentation and information related to the project. The website features resources such as presentations, videos, public notices, and documents for public review, which

Photograph 7.1 CAG Meeting at the Multi-Service Center

Photograph 7.2 CAG Meeting at the Multi-Service Center

were made available for download within a few days following public meetings. The website also features a link allowing individuals to subscribe to the project's listserv. The website will continue to function as a valuable resource for the community as the Project moves forward through construction.

- Fact Sheets and FAQs: The project team has recognized that as the Project progresses, people that may not have been involved in earlier phases may become aware of the project and want to get involved. To bring people up to speed, as well as answer questions that had been raised by members of the public at previous meetings or through email, Fact Sheets and FAQ documents were developed at project milestones, such as during scoping and the introduction of the three Build Alternatives. Copies of these materials and handouts are provided in Appendix D.
- Drop-In Sessions: NJDEP and its partners provided additional opportunities for input, comment, and participation at key project milestones such as concept screening, urban design, or at the request of Executive Steering Committee members. These drop-in sessions were not formal public hearings, but rather forums for an exchange of information between the public and the project team. Subject matter experts were available to field specific questions or provide additional explanations related to their technical expertise. Project team members provided status updates and presentations and the public was given an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns.
- Spanish Language Translation: All notifications published to inform the public of an upcoming public meeting were published in both English and Spanish. In addition, at public meetings (scoping, concept screening, and DEIS public hearing), a Spanish translator was available to help Spanish-speaking individuals.

In addition to outreach performed by the project team, the municipalities themselves conducted their own outreach efforts to inform communities of project status, updates, and gather community feedback. The City of Hoboken provided regular project updates on their website at www.hobokennj.gov.

7.2 Agency and Stakeholder Groups

Following is a description of the primary stakeholder groups (including public and private groups) that were established by the outreach framework documents or HUD Sandy Recovery Task Force coordination and who met throughout the course of the Project.

7.2.1 Executive Steering Committee

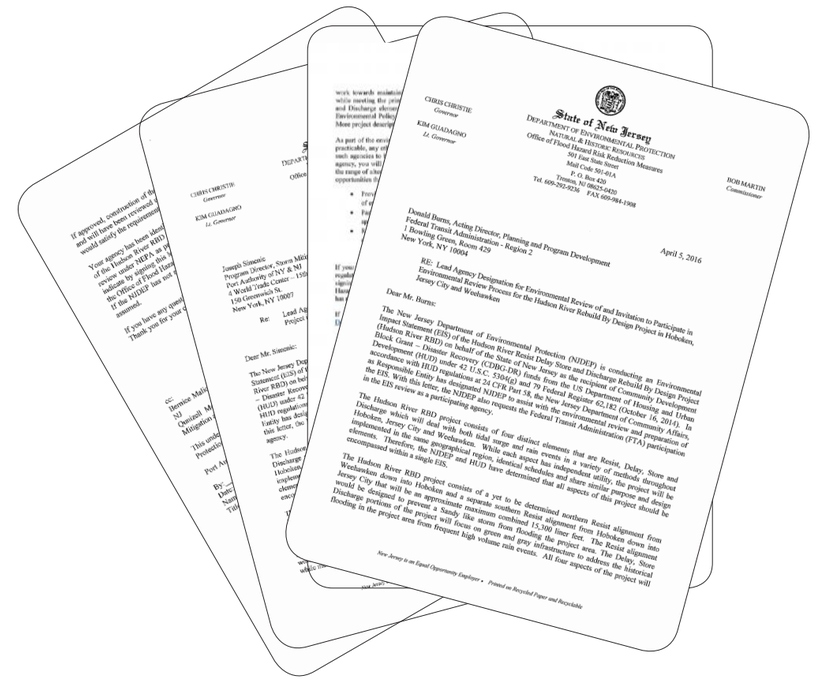
As stated in NJDEP's Hudson River Project COP, the role of the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) is to collaborate, exchange information, and provide a forum for committee members to provide input to NJDEP throughout all phases of the Project, from NEPA and feasibility through construction. The ESC discusses and provides an understanding of the direction of the Project, project schedule, project related policy issues, and concerns raised to the mayors and NJDEP by the public. A list and description of ESC meetings is included in Section 7.4.1.

The ESC is chaired by the NJDEP Commissioner and/or his delegates and includes the NJDEP project team members; the mayors and their staff from Hoboken, Weehawken, and Jersey City; and HUD. Other critical entities were periodically incorporated into the ESC, as needed.

The ESC is an advisory board. All final project decisions rest with the Commissioner of NJDEP as the sub-recipient of CDBG-DR funds and the agency responsible for implementation of the Project.

7.2.1.1 ESC Working Group

Periodically during critical phases of the Project, such as concept development, urban design, etc., a subset of the ESC met in person or via online web conferencing to check on project status and develop consensus on project issues. This was known as the Executive Steering Committee Working Group (ESCWG) and consisted of task and discipline leads with the planning team, as well as representatives


State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES
Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures
501 East State Street
Mail Code 501-01A
P. O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
Tel. 609-292-9236 FAX 609-984-1908
CHRIS CHRISTIE Governor
KIM GUADAGNO Lt. Governor
BOB MARTIN Commissioner
Donald Burns, Acting Director, Planning and Program Development
Federal Transit Administration - Region 2
1 Bowling Green, Room 429
New York, NY 10004
April 5, 2016
RE: Lead Agency Designation for Environmental Review of and Invitation to Participate in Environmental Review Process for the Hudson River Rebuild By Design Project in Hoboken, Jersey City and Weehawken
Dear Mr. Burns:
The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is conducting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the Hudson River Resist Delay Store and Discharge Rebuild By Design Project (Hudson River RBD) on behalf of the State of New Jersey, as the recipient of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under 42 U.S.C. 5304(g) and 79 Federal Register 62,182 (October 16, 2014). In accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, as Responsible Entity, has designated NJDEP to assist with the environmental review and preparation of the EIS. With this letter, the NJDEP also requests the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) participation in the EIS review as a participating agency.
The Hudson River RBD project consists of four distinct elements that are Resist, Delay, Store and Discharge which will deal with both tidal surge and rain events in a variety of methods throughout Hoboken, Jersey City and Weehawken. While each aspect has independent utility, the project will be implemented in the same geographical region, identical schedules and share similar purpose and design elements. Therefore, the NJDEP and HUD have determined that all aspects of this project should be encompassed within a single EIS.
The Hudson River RBD project consists of a yet to be determined northern Resist alignment from Weehawken down into Hoboken and a separate southern Resist alignment from Hoboken down into Jersey City that will be an approximate maximum combined 15,300 liner feet. The Resist alignment would be designed to prevent a Sandy like storm from flooding the project area. The Delay, Store Discharge portions of the project will focus on green and grey infrastructure to address the historical flooding in the project area from frequent high volume rain events. All four aspects of the project will
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from NJDEP, HUD, mayors' offices, and other members of the ESC as needed. A list of ESCWG meeting dates is included in Section 7.4.1.1.

7.2.2 Federal Review and Permitting

The Sandy Regional Infrastructure Resilience Coordination (SRIRC) Federal Review and Permitting (FRP) Team members are federal officials with responsibility for federal review and permitting of complex Sandy infrastructure projects. The mission of this interagency team is to facilitate expeditious and efficient reviews of the most complex projects funded by the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 through early engagement and identification of

issues, studies, and overall development needs of the projects.

7.2.3 Technical Coordination Team

The Coastal Hudson County Technical Coordination Team (TCT) is comprised of federal, state, and local officials with subject matter expertise in resilience, planning, environmental review, and permitting in the Study Area. It was formed by the federally convened SRIRC Group and includes members from NJDEP, HUD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), North Hudson Sewerage Authority (NHSA), Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), NJ TRANSIT, and representatives from the local municipalities.

7.2.4 Citizens Advisory Group

The cities of Hoboken, Weehawken, and Jersey City created separate Citizen Advisory Groups (CAGs) to foster constructive dialogue with affected citizens. At project milestones, these groups held meetings together as one Regional CAG throughout the NEPA process. The purpose of the Regional CAG was to foster working relationships, to conduct the necessary public outreach to keep the affected communities apprised, and to make sure that the public provided input into each phase of the Project.

Furthermore, the CAG is responsible for raising issues and concerns, as well as sharing information from the ESC and NJDEP with their constituents including members of vulnerable populations. The CAG members provide additional knowledge of the Study Areas, as well as input on ideas, problems, observations, and solutions. The CAG consists of approximately 40-50 elected officials and community representatives from Hoboken, Jersey City, and Weehawken and were recommended by the three municipalities. The CAG included members from the following organizations:

- Hoboken Housing Authority
- Union Dry Dock
- The Shipyard Marina
- Hoboken Homeless Shelter
- Hoboken Sign/Brainwaze Studio
- Hoboken Historical Museum
- HOPES
- Community Church of Hoboken
- Church of Saints Peter and Paul
- Hoboken CERT Team
- American Legion
- Green Team
- Hoboken Chamber of Commerce
- Hoboken Board of Education
- Hoboken Family Alliance
- Hoboken University Medical Center
- Fund for a Better Waterfront
- Hudson Tea Building Condo Association
- Resilience Adventures
- Connors School
- Battaglia's Home

Each CAG meeting was open to the public. At first, CAG meetings were primarily attended by CAG members, but as the Project progressed, non-CAG individuals residing in the community increasingly attended CAG meetings. The first three CAG meetings were noticed to the CAG via email, but subsequent CAG meetings were noticed to the CAG via email and the general public via the project's email listserv. Due to the high level of attendance from non-CAG members, these meetings became known as "Community Meetings" with the CAG. These meetings are discussed further in Section 7.3.

7.3 Community Involvement

A chronological summary of community meetings is provided in Table 7.1. This section provides summaries of the individual public meetings, grouped into project milestones. In the summaries below, meeting dates are underlined. Other dates (publication dates, comment period dates, etc.) are not underlined. A chronological series of community meeting sumamaries are provided in Appendix A.

A main goal of the community and public meetings was to provide updates on the status of the Project as it moved forward. Another primary goal was to seek active participation and solicit input from the public on their thoughts and opinions of the Project. Comments were accepted throughout the entire duration of the Project via the project website, but comments came primarily during the public outreach periods following major project milestones that involved meetings with the public (see **Table 7.1**)

In addition to public outreach by the project team, the City of Hoboken also held 30 separate meetings from December 2015 through September 2016 with local stakeholder groups, property owners, homeowners associations, and community groups.

7.3.1 Purpose and Need Meeting

A meeting to present and discuss the project Purpose and Need was held with the CAG on August 6, 2015 at the Multi-Service Center in Hoboken. The objective of the meeting was to provide an explanation to the CAG of what "purpose and need" means in the context of NEPA and to solicit the community's feedback on what they felt the Project's Purpose and Need should be, as well as what specific goals and objectives the Project should seek to meet. The CAG was informed that the Purpose and Need statement was the cornerstone of the Project and would be used to guide the Scoping Document in the coming weeks (see Section 7.3.2).

A breakout session was held following the presentation. The CAG members were divided into

Table 7.1 List of Community Meetings

DATE	LOCATION	MEETING PURPOSE
August 6, 2015	Multi-Service Center (Hoboken)	Discuss Purpose and Need with the CAG
September 10, 2015	Jubilee Center (Hoboken)	Discuss the draft Scoping Document with the CAG
September 24, 2015	Multi-Service Center (Hoboken)	Review the draft Scoping Document with the public
October 8, 2015	Jubilee Center (Hoboken)	Recap draft Scoping Document and discuss Criteria and Metrics with the CAG
October 29, 2015	City Hall (Hoboken)	Review draft Concept Screening Matrix with the CAG
November 23, 2015	Multi-Service Center (Hoboken)	Provide overview of the five concepts to the CAG
December 3, 2015	Multi-Service Center (Hoboken)	Review the draft evaluations of the concepts as identified in the draft Concept Screening Matrix with the CAG
December 10, 2015	Multi-Service Center (Hoboken)	Review the evaluations of the concepts as identified in the Concept Screening Matrix with the public and solicit feedback
December 14, 2015	Hoboken Historical Museum	Drop-in session on concept screening for the public
December 15, 2015	St. Lawrence Church (Weehawken)	Drop-in session on concept screening for the public
December 17, 2015	Hoboken Housing Authority Senior Building	Drop-in session on concept screening for the public
February 18, 2016	Wallace Elementary School (Hoboken)	Recap of the concept screening process and introduce the three Build Alternatives to the community and CAG
April 7, 2016	Multi-Service Center (Hoboken)	Provide an introduction of the concepts for urban design and incorporation of amenities into the Build Alternatives to the community and CAG
April 12, 2016	Hoboken Housing Authority Senior Building	Drop-in workshop on urban design/amenities for the community
April 14, 2016	Elks Lodge (Hoboken)	Drop-in workshop on urban design/amenities for the community
April 28, 2016	St. Lawrence Church (Weehawken)	Drop-in workshop on urban design/amenities for the community
June 16, 2016	Multi-Service Center (Hoboken)	Follow up meeting on the urban design proposals for the three Build Alternatives with the community and CAG
July 12, 2016	Stevens Institute Babbio Center (Hoboken)	Introduction on coastal surge flood modeling with the community and CAG
July 28, 2016	Stevens Institute Burchard Hall (Hoboken)	Review the preliminary alternatives analysis for the three Build Alternatives with the community and CAG
September 8, 2016	Stevens Institute DeBaun Auditorium (Hoboken)	Review the recommendation of the Preferred Alternative with the public
September 13, 2016	NJCU School of Business (Jersey City)	Review the recommendation of the Preferred Alternative with the community in Jersey City

Source: Dewberry, 2015-2017

five groups, each led by a planning team moderator, and were asked to discuss amongst themselves what they believed the Purpose and Need should be and to identify what specific goals and objectives they felt were most important for the Project. This allowed the community to provide their input on how they felt the Project should be framed and what factors they felt should be considered priorities when developing concepts and alternatives. After approximately 40 minutes, the breakout sessions ended and the individual groups reported to the overall CAG with the results of their discussions, which resulted in a detailed list of the community's desires, as well as concerns for the Project. This list was provided in the meeting summary (see Appendix A), which was posted on the project website. Subsequently, the community's input was considered in the development of the Purpose and Need statement, which was included in the Scoping Document and presented at the public meetings (listed in Table 7.1).

7.3.2 Scoping Meetings

On September 10, 2015, the CAG met at the Jubilee Center in Hoboken to discuss the draft Scoping Document, which had been made publicly available on September 4, 2015 following the publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI), which was published in the Federal Register (80 FR 53555, September 4, 2015), as well as in local newspapers (El Especial and Star Ledger, September 8, 2015). This notification initiated the public comment period for the Scoping Document, which began on September 4, 2015 and

closed on October 9, 2015. The Scoping Document provided the framework for the environmental analysis that was to be conducted in the EIS. The main focus of the meeting was to inform the CAG about the methodologies that would be used for environmental analysis in the DEIS and to review the Feasibility approach for the Project. The meeting was organized so that the CAG members were free to flow around the room and visit eight stations. Each station included information about the various Scoping Document subject areas and was staffed by at least one subject matter expert and one note taker. Participants were invited to learn about the subject and provide input. Their feedback was recorded for compilation into the final Scoping Document after the conclusion of the public comment period. The eight stations were:

- Flood Risk 101
- Overview of Project Background/NEPA/Purpose and Need
- Infrastructure/Concept Development/Alternatives Analysis Process
- Air Quality/Noise/Vibration
- Hazardous Waste
- Cultural Resources/Section 106
- Natural Ecosystem
- Socioeconomics/Land Use/Zoning/Environmental Justice/Visual

On September 24, 2015, a public scoping meeting was held at the Multi-Service Center in Hoboken. The notification for this meeting had been included in the NOI publication, as well as through placement of fliers in grocery stores and libraries in the days leading up to the scoping meeting. A panel of subject matter experts was available following a presentation to answer questions that members of the public had on the contents of the Scoping Document. The public was further encouraged to provide comment on the document through the conclusion of the comment period, which ended on October 9, 2015. Comments were addressed and the final Scoping Document and response to comments document was published on November 19, 2015.

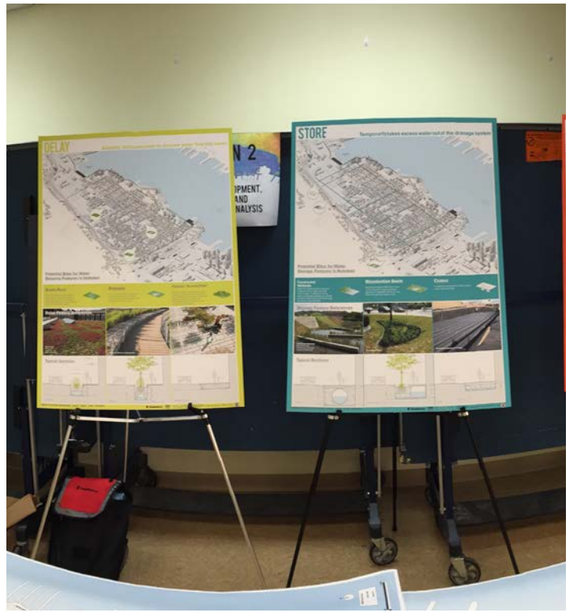
During the comment period, approximately 150 comments were received (individual commenters posed multiple comments each (see Appendix C). The majority of comments submitted on the draft Scoping Document were from members of the CAG, although members of the general public and municipalities also submitted comments. Comment topics varied widely, covering almost all topics of the Scoping Document. The largest category that received comment was the concept development process, which received 51 comments.

Similar comments were grouped into themes and topics based on the relevant sections of the Scoping Document and a comment response document was prepared to address each. This document was included as an appendix of the final Scoping Document, which was published on the project website on November 19, 2015.

7.3.3 Concept Development Meetings

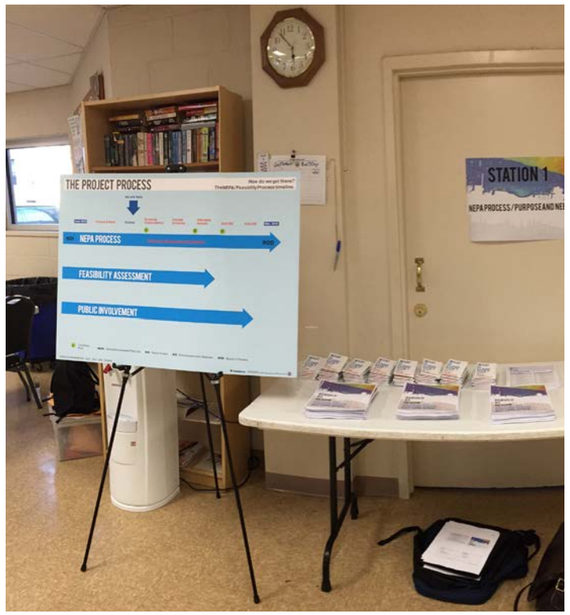
Three meetings were held with the CAG in the Fall of 2015 to treview the concept development process. The first meeting was held on October 8, 2015 at the Jubilee Center in Hoboken. The first part of this meeting included a recap of the draft Scoping Document, which was still in the public comment period. The remaining portion of the meeting was used to facilitate a discussion about the criteria and metrics used to evaluate the concepts that were in development (see Section 3.1 through Section 3.3). This evaluation was presented in a matrix (the concept screening matrix, see Section 3), which was used to screen the concepts and refine them into the Build Alternatives. An overview of coastal surge flood modeling was also provided at the meeting, which explained how modeling would be used to simulate the surge flooding that occurred during Superstorm Sandy. Additionally, it was explained that the Superstorm modeling would be used to validate the model for other types of surge flood events.

The second concept development meeting was held on October 29, 2015 at Hoboken City Hall. This meeting provided the CAG with a discussion focusing on the draft version of the concept screening matrix that the project team had developed after the previous presentation to the CAG. The CAG members then broke out into various stations to discuss the criteria and metrics with subject matter experts who were also in attendance.



Photograph 7.3 CAG Meeting at the Multi-Service Center

Photograph 7.4 CAG Meeting at the Multi-Service Center



Photograph 7.5 CAG Meeting at the Multi-Service Center

Photograph 7.6 CAG Meeting at the Multi-Service Center

The third concept development meeting was held on November 23, 2015 at the Multi-Service Center in Hoboken. A presentation was given to the CAG on five concepts that the project team developed. The location of the Resist components varied among the five concepts, from in-water and waterfront to upland, but the Delay, Store, Discharge components were the same for all concepts. The CAG members were separated into three groups for breakout sessions that were facilitated by the Project team. At each station, the project team provided details on the alignments of the proposed Resist concepts, as well as possible urban amenities that could be incorporated at various locations. For this meeting, the concepts were not screened using the matrix presented at the October 29 meeting, but the CAG was informed that this was the next step that would be taken and that the results of that screening would be presented at the next CAG meeting.

7.3.4 Concept Screening Meetings

The draft screening results were first presented to the CAG at a meeting on December 3, 2015 at the Multi-Service Center in Hoboken. The purpose of this meeting was to show how each of the five concepts were evaluated in the context of the concept screening matrix, using environmental and engineering information collected up to that date. During the question and answer session, the CAG was asked to provide their thoughts on the results of the screening.

The five concepts were then presented to the public on December 10, 2015 at the Multi-Service Center in Hoboken. The meeting was publicly noticed in the Spanish newspaper El Especial on November 20, 2015 and in the Star Ledger on November 22, 2015. Fliers were placed in libraries and grocery stores throughout the Study Area in the days leading up to the meeting. The meeting presented the public with the screening criteria that were being used to compare the five concepts. The goal of the meeting was to arrive at a general consensus on the three concepts to advance further into Build Alternatives in the DEIS. Following this meeting, additional opportunities were offered in the form of drop-in open house meetings on December 15, 2015 at the St. Lawrence Church in Weehawken and on December 17, 2015 at the Hoboken Housing Authority Senior Building in Hoboken. A walk-in meeting was also hosted by the City of Hoboken on December 14, 2015 at the Hoboken Historical Museum. Throughout the month of December, the public provided comments in person and through electronic and postal mail on the five concepts and the screening process. A summary document of the comments received by the project team was made available on the project website, along with a FAQs document to help address some of the more commonly asked questions.

Comments on the screening of Concepts A through E were provided from December 10 through December 31, 2015. Over 250 comments were received in person at the various public meetings or were submitted to the Project email (see Appendix C). The majority of comments were submitted by residents in northern Hoboken– 33 percent were from residents residing along the waterfront (primarily at Maxwell Place or the Hudson Tea Building); 30 percent were from inland areas (primarily Garden, Bloomfield, and Washington Streets); 11 percent of the commenters either simply stated that they reside in Hoboken or that they reside elsewhere (primarily Jersey City or Weehawken); and the remaining 26 percent did not indicate their place of residence.

The primary opinion expressed by commenters was that they opposed the concepts that impacted the waterfront and residential areas. More specifically, concerns were raised regarding impacts to waterfront views, waterfront access, and the idea of “Berlin type walls” in the Study Area. The following is a general breakdown of broad opinions (note: percentages overlap because the opinions were not mutually exclusive - commenters frequently expressed more than one opinion):

- 41 percent expressed opposition to Concepts C and D
- 36 percent expressed opposition to Concept A

Based on the results of the concept screening criteria and metrics and input provided by the community, the project team excluded Concepts C and D from further analysis.

- 28 percent expressed opposition to Concept B
- 20 percent did not express specific opposition or support to individual concepts. Many of these commenters were asking questions about the concepts, such as potential impacts/benefits that each would have.

Based on the results of the concept screening criteria and metrics, and input provided by the community, the project team excluded Concepts C and D from further analysis. The remaining concepts (A, B and E) were modified in response to the community's input (see Section 3.5).

7.3.5 Introduction of the Three Build Alternatives

The three Build Alternatives were presented to the community during a CAG meeting on February 18, 2016 at the Wallace Elementary School in Hoboken. These are the alternatives that resulted from the refinement of the five concepts during the concept screening process (see Section 3). The team also provided a brief demonstration of the flood modeling that was in progress and explained how the modeling helped to shape the build alternatives. The team also presented the potential urban amenities that could be incorporated into the design of the Build Alternatives. The meeting ended with a question and answer session, followed by an open house where the public was encouraged to interact with subject matter experts.

7.3.6 Urban Design Meetings

On April 7, 2016, a community meeting was held to present urban design ideas that could be applied to the build alternatives under development and to solicit input on what types of amenities the community wanted, as well as how best to fit the Project into the existing urban environment. Architects, engineers, and subject matter experts from the team were available to answer questions and work with the public to gauge interest in different types of amenities. A toolkit of amenities was made available for the public to review. This toolkit provided descriptions of various themes of amenities and explained how a structure can function as a flood barrier while performing in an urban sense (providing amenities). Examples provided in the toolkit included types of material; various color treatments; art/mural examples; texture; activation (including usage of seating, lighting, etc.); and plantings. In addition, three dimensional models of some of the concept locations, including Cove Park and Washington Street, were used to demonstrate various design themes.

Three additional drop-in sessions were held in order to provide further outreach in the community and gather input from citizens on potential design ideas. The drop-in sessions were held in Hoboken on April 12, 2016 and April 14, 2016, as well as in Weehawken on April 28, 2016. During this time, the team learned which views and recreation locations were favored by local residents and how the community would like to see them preserved and/or enhanced through the development of the Build Alternatives. Community members provided input on the different urban design concepts that the team developed by informing the team of what types of amenities they felt were needed and what types of measures should be taken to make the Project blend into the fabric of the community.

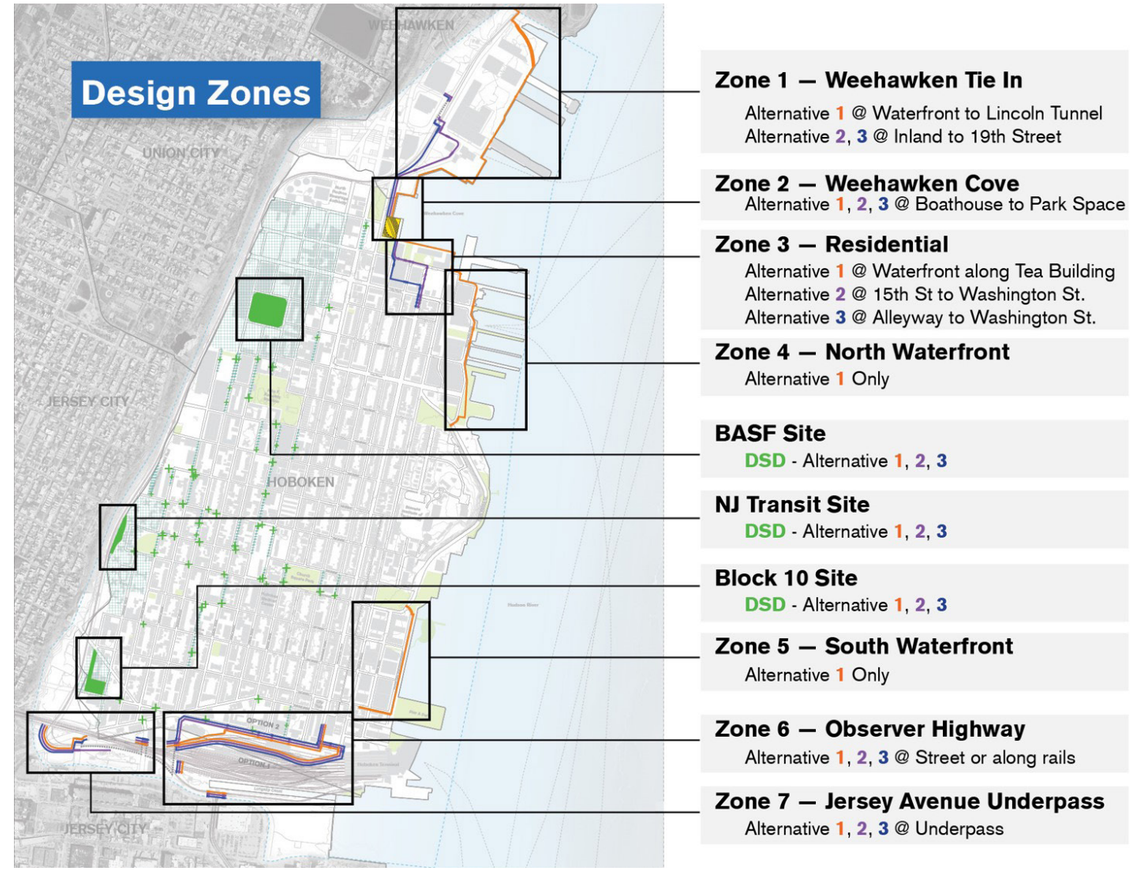


Figure 7.1 Design Zones

On June 16, 2016 a meeting was held to update the community on the application of the urban design ideas that were previously presented in April. Based on the feedback provided in April at the community meeting and drop-in sessions, the team presented their recommendations to the attendees for their consideration of what types of selected design ideas were feasible in certain locations.

Comments on the urban design component were primarily received verbally at the April 7, 2016 Community Meeting or the three drop-in sessions held in the following weeks. To facilitate the discussion of amenities and urban design, the Study Area was divided into neighborhood-scale design zones. This

Community members provided input on the different urban design concepts that the team developed, informing the team of what types of amenities they felt the community needed and what types of measures should be taken to make the Project blend into the fabric of the community.

allowed for a neighborhood-focused approach to urban design considerations. Questions to the public were framed by design zone (see **Figure 7.1**), asking the following questions:

- What are the important features in this zone?
- What locations are important within this zone?
- What proposed concepts do you like for this zone?
- What are your concerns regarding the concepts proposed in this zone?
- What elements are missing from the design concept for this zone?

The majority of comments (see Appendix C) that the project team received were focused on Zones 2 and 3, which were located in northern Hoboken along Weehawken Cove and Washington Street. Comments focused on concerns regarding viewshed impacts, as well as a preference for incorporating passive recreation options as opposed to active recreation. Residents also expressed a preference for routing the Resist structure along the sidewalk on Washington Street (Alternatives 2 and 3) instead of placing it within the center of the street in order to reduce impacts to the flow of traffic. Concerns were also expressed regarding Alternative 3's alleyway alignment and possible impacts to accessibility that various design elements could have to the rear entrances of buildings along the alleyway. Comments on the proposed options for the DSD parks were favorable, with residents expressing the desire for increased green space that the proposed parks would create.

7.3.7 Coastal Storm Surge Modeling Meeting

On July 12, 2016 the Dewberry team along with Dr. Alan Blumberg of Stevens Institute, gave a presentation at the Stevens Institute's Babbio Center in Hoboken to explain how the coastal flood model was developed and to describe the results of the flood modeling. The team showed the public model runs for different coastal events including 10-year, 50-year, and 100-year storm surges. The results were shown for the No Action Alternative, as well as for each of the three Build Alternatives. The public was then invited to ask questions regarding the presentation.

7.3.8 Alternatives Analysis Meeting

The alternatives analysis community meeting was held on July 28, 2016 in Burchard Hall at Stevens Institute in Hoboken. The meeting began with a review of the stormwater rainfall model, and then included a review of the preliminary alternatives analysis matrix, which identified the impacts and benefits that result from each of the three Build Alternatives. The alternatives analysis matrix used the concept screening matrix as a starting point and brought the level of analysis into greater detail because a greater degree of engineering and environmental impact analysis had been conducted by this time. Specifically, the community was provided information from the following criteria: flood risk reduction benefits, socioeconomic benefits, urban design and community impacts, environmental impacts, environmental mitigation requirements, maintenance and operations, and benefit-cost ratio information. The public was informed that this matrix would be used by the NJDEP to compare each of the three Build Alternatives, as well as the No Action Alternative, and would guide NJDEP in its selection of the Preferred Alternative. The public was asked to provide their comments on the matrix analysis at the meeting or in writing by August 18, 2016.

7.3.9 Preferred Alternative Meeting

A public meeting was held in the DeBaun Auditorium at Stevens Institute on September 8, 2016. This meeting was publicly noticed 15 days in advance in the Star Ledger (notice published on August 21, 2016) and in El Especial (notice published August 19 through August 25, 2016). The purpose of this meeting was to identify the alternative that was recommended by NJDEP to be the Preferred Alternative. The recommendation of this alternative was based on the preliminary analysis conducted and presented in the preliminary alternatives analysis matrix. A presentation was given that recapped the alternatives analysis and provided additional context to explain why Alternative 3, which was recommended as the Preferred Alternative, was chosen over the other Build Alternatives. After the presentation, the community was invited to ask the project team questions. A Q&A panel was led by the project team and the mayors of Hoboken and Weehawken.

Additionally, a community meeting was held at the New Jersey City University (NJCU) School of Business in Jersey City on September 13, 2016. This meeting focused on the southern sections of Alternative 3 located in Jersey City.

7.3.10 Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held to solicit community feedback on the content of the DEIS and related matters that fall within the purview of NEPA. The focus of this hearing will be to explain to the public why Alternative 3 was selected as the Preferred Alternative and enable the public to provide their comments on the Preferred Alternative.

Comments will be submitted at the public hearing, via email to the project website, or in writing to the NJDEP Bureau of Flood Resilience. The purpose of this comment period will be for the public to provide

Table 7.2 List of Executive Steering Committee Working Group Meetings

DATE	MEETING PURPOSE
October 6, 2015	Discuss screening criteria and concept screening matrix
November 5, 2015	Review project concepts
November 10, 2015	Review project concepts
November 12, 2015	Review project concepts
January 12, 2016	Discuss concept screening and public input on the concept screening matrix/revision of concepts and selection of Build Alternatives
January 19, 2016	Discuss concept screening and public input on the concept screening matrix/revision of concepts and selection of Build Alternatives
February 9, 2016	Discuss selection of Build Alternatives
March 3, 2016	Discuss Build Alternatives and urban design/amenities
March 10, 2016	Discuss Build Alternatives and urban design/amenities
March 22, 2016	Discuss Build Alternatives and urban design/amenities
April 6, 2016	Discuss Build Alternatives and urban design/amenities
May 11, 2016	Discuss Build Alternatives, urban design/amenities and alternatives analysis
June 13, 2016	Discuss recommendation of urban design/amenities and alternatives analysis
August 23, 2016	Review Preferred Alternative

Source: Dewberry, 2015-2017

feedback on the Project's alternatives analysis that led to the recommendation of the Preferred Alternative. Comments collected during this stage will be reviewed and addressed during the preparation of the FEIS, which will be published after updates (if appropriate) are made to the DEIS at the close of the comment period.

7.4 Agency Coordination Meetings

7.4.1 Executive Steering Committee Meetings

The ESC met once every month from the start of the EIS and feasibility phase of the Project. The ESC meetings were held at alternating locations in Trenton, Hoboken, Weehawken, or Jersey City. At each ESC meeting, the project team provided an update on the Project's overall schedule, as well as an update on short-term schedule items including upcoming project milestones and deliverables. The ESC meetings provided guidance on the direction of the Project and allowed the project team to communicate directly with the public officials involved in project implementation.

7.4.1.1 Executive Steering Committee Working Group Meetings

The ESCWG met in person or via online web conferencing to check on project status, plan for meetings, and develop consensus on project issues. The ESCWG was attended by staff from the mayors' offices, HUD, NJDEP, and the project team. The ESCWG met throughout the Project, most frequently in the weeks before important project milestones. **Table 7.2** presents a chronological list of meeting dates and topics for ESCWG meetings.

7.4.2 Technical Coordination Team Meetings

The TCT group met with the project team on June 18, 2015 for an initial project kickoff meeting, which included background on the Project, an overview of the proposed project schedule, and review of project milestones. The TCT and project team met again on October 8, 2015 to review the project schedule, draft Scoping Document, and discuss the preliminary concept screening criteria that the project team had begun to develop and would present to the CAG (see Section 7.3.1.3). The TCT also met with the project team on September 27, 2016 for a review of the project schedule, introduction of the Preferred Alternative, and overview of the project benefits and environmental impacts that had been identified.

7.4.3 Federal Review and Permitting Meeting

The project team met with the FRP committee on August 18, 2015 at HUD's offices at 26 Federal Plaza in Manhattan to provide the FRP with an overview of the Project's timeline, discuss the Project's draft Purpose and Need, and discuss the upcoming publication of the draft Scoping Document. The project team also provided an overview of initial conceptual Resist and DSD features to provide examples to the regulatory agencies of the various alignments and types of structures that the project team was considering, in an early effort to identify issues that may be associated with particular strategies.

7.5 Individual Stakeholder Meetings

In addition to public and community meetings (see Section 7.3) and regulatory agency groups (Section 7.4), the project team met with individual stakeholder groups - both public and private - at various stages of the Project. These meetings were usually held during project milestones such as concept development and urban design and were meant to provide detailed explanations of proposed elements of the Project or specific impacts that the Project would have on these stakeholder groups. **Table 7.3** provides a chronological list of these meetings.

Table 7.3 Individual Stakeholder Meetings

DATE	STAKEHOLDER GROUP(S)	MEETING PURPOSE
July 1, 2015	FEMA	Technical meeting
July 14, 2015	NHSA	Technical meeting
September 1, 2015	NHSA	Review of existing sewer data for stormwater modeling effort
September 24, 2015	NHSA	Review stormwater management proposals for BASF site
October 1, 2015	FEMA	Technical Meeting
October 2, 2015	NJ TRANSIT	Overview of concept development
October 15, 2015	Hudson County Emergency Management, Jersey City	Project technical briefing for Jersey City government officials
November 20, 2015	Hartz Mountain	Review of project concepts
November 20, 2015	PANYNJ	Review of project concepts
November 30, 2015	HUD/EPA	Review of project concepts and cumulative impacts
December 4, 2015	JCMUA	Review of project concepts
December 18, 2015	NJ TRANSIT	Review of Long Slip Canal proposal
January 15, 2016	JCMUA	Field visit
January 21, 2016	Hartz Mountain	Review of revised project concepts
January 26, 2016	FEMA	Technical meeting
February 4, 2016	NJ TRANSIT	Review of preliminary flood modeling results
February 24, 2016	NHSA	Review of Build Alternatives
March 4, 2016	Hudson County	Review of Build Alternatives
March 15, 2016	NJ TRANSIT	Review of preliminary flood modeling results
March 15, 2016	Stevens Institute	Review of preliminary flood modeling results
March 22, 2016	NJ TRANSIT	Structure and design meeting
March 22, 2016	Jersey City property owners (northern Jersey City)	Review Build Alternatives, focused in the south of Study Area (Jersey City)
April 14, 2016	PANYJU	Project status update
April 26, 2016	Stevens Institute	Flood modeling update meeting
April 28, 2016	Hartz Mountain	Project status update
May 20, 2016	NHSA	Flood model update
June 9, 2016	Hudson County	Project status update
June 22, 2016	Jersey City property owners (northern Jersey City)	Project status update
July 18, 2016	NHSA	Stormwater modeling update meeting
July 19, 2016	NHSA/Hoboken	Stormwater modeling update meeting
August 22, 2016	NJ TRANSIT	Coastal flood modeling update meeting
September 1, 2016	Stevens Institute	Flood modeling update
September 27, 2016	USACE	Project status update/Preferred Alternative

Source: Dewberry, 2015-2017

7.6 Ongoing Agency Outreach

Following is a discussion of additional ongoing agency outreach including coordination for permits and approvals.

7.6.1 Section 106 Consultation

On May 2, 2016, a Project Initiation Letter (PIL) was submitted to New Jersey's Historic Preservation Office (NJHPO). The PIL introduced the Project, outlining the project background and funding sources, in addition to the Study Area and defining the Area of Potential Effects (APEs). On June 2, 2016, the NJHPO concurred with the APE, the description of efforts to involve the public and the list of consulting and interested parties, as submitted in the PIL for consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR Part 800). Consultation letters were delivered to interested and consulting parties on August 19, 2016 to solicit their input on the Project's potential to affect historic properties.

Members of the public were invited to provide comment on the Section 106 process during the CAG meetings on August 6, 2015; September 20, 2015; December 3, 2015; April 7, 2016; and July 28, 2016; as well as at public meetings on September

Table 7.4 Preferred Alternative Permitting

RESOURCE	PERMIT/APPROVAL	AGENCY
Soil	Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan	Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District
Surface Water	Nationwide Permit 7	USACE
Coastal	Individual Waterfront Development Permit	NJDEP
Floodplain	Individual Flood Hazard Area Permit	NJDEP
Wetlands	Letter of Interpretation (LOI) and Freshwater Wetland Permit GP-7 and GP-11	NJDEP
Water Quality	New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES) Individual Permit for Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)	NJDEP
Threatened and Endangered Species	Consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act	NOAA-NMFS
	Essential Fish Habitat consultation	NOAA-NMFS
Navigable Waterways	Review of navigation issues associated with in-water work	United States Coast Guard (USCG)
Coastal Resources/Tidelands	Construction in areas now or formerly flowed by the Mean High Tide, if not already granted, must be authorized by a grant, lease, or license.	NJDEP Bureau of Tidelands Management and Tidelands Resource Council
Air Quality	General Permit (GP-0005A) will need to be acquired for each of the emergency generators associated with DSD pump systems	NJDEP Air Quality Program

Source: Dewberry, 2015-2017

24, 2015; September 8, 2016; and at the DEIS public hearing. In addition, meetings were held with the NJHPO to discuss the proposed project, present concepts prior to the selection of the Project's three Build Alternatives, and to discuss the framework within which analyses under 36 CFR 800 should be conducted. These meetings were held on December 8, 2015 and April 25, 2016. A walkthrough of the Study Area was held with the NJHPO on November 15, 2016.

A complete description of the Section 106 process can be found in the Cultural Resources Report in Attachment 5 of the DEIS or in the Cultural Resources discussion of the DEIS in Section 4.

7.6.2 FEMA Outreach

During the project development there were phone calls and meetings held with FEMA (July 1, 2015; October 1, 2015; and January 26, 2016) to review various issues related to the Project including interior drainage, joint probability analysis, freeboard requirements for coastal flood protection structures, and other aspects of design necessary for accreditation in accordance with 44 CFR 65.10. The use of DHI's Mike flood models was also reviewed and accepted. Dewberry presented historical tide and rainfall data and, based on the information provided, FEMA concurred that historically less than 10-year rainfall coincided with one percent and lower coastal storm surge events. Even though it is not currently required by FEMA, it was agreed that sea level rise should be accounted for, given the life span of the flood reduction system. The accreditation process was reviewed and it was recommended to start with a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) to allow early coordination and ensure that map changes will be known prior to project construction. The Project will need to meet interier drainage analysis 44 CFR 65.10 final O&M, as-builts, certification requirements which include, Warning and Evacuation Plan, and a system exercise schedule. In addition, FEMA will require that a warning system and evacuation system be established for the Project and a certification from a design professional or federal agency is required for accreditation.

7.6.3 Permitting Coordination

Local, state, and/or federal permits and approvals would be required under all of the Build Alternatives. A preliminary permit coordination meeting was held with the USACE on September 27, 2016. A Pre-Application Meeting with the NJDEP's permitting departments was

held on November 17, 2016 for the recommended Preferred Alternative. Another meeting will be held early during the final design phase. In addition to the permits and approvals identified in Table 7.4, the Project will be reviewed and approved by the local municipalities.

7.6.4 Ongoing Public Outreach

Comments received during the DEIS comment period will be incorporated into the FEIS. The FEIS will be published for a 30-day review period. Following the close of that review period, the Record of Decision (ROD) will be issued. The ROD will designate the selection of the Preferred Alternative, as well as provide the basis for its selection. It will include an identification of environmental impacts, as well as any required mitigation measures that have been developed during the EIS process.

Following the issuance of the ROD, the next phase of the project will be final design. During final design, the project team will work with the communities to finalize the urban design considerations and amenities to be incorporated into the project's Resist component. This coordination will emphasize the usage of context sensitive designs that will be mindful of the existing urban fabric to help mitigate impacts of the structures on the community. During construction, the Project will also involve outreach and coordination with communities to help mitigate construction-related impacts as described in Section 4.0.