RBDM Project Review -
What is the Proposed Project?

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated $150 million towards the design and construction of a solution that will reduce coastal and/or stormwater flooding risks and enhance resiliency in the Meadowlands District near Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, Teterboro, and South Hackensack.

RBDM Project Review - Community Involvement

Throughout the development of the RBDM Project, the Project Team has actively engaged public stakeholders to solicit and consider their input on topics relevant to the Proposed Project. Two of the important stakeholder groups have been the Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) and the Executive Steering Committee (ESC). These groups generally meet monthly and provide a forum for the exchange of information between the NJDEP and the communities within the Project Area, including local citizens, mayors, and representatives of Bergen County and the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority.

The first two CAG meetings, held in early 2016, as well as corresponding ESC meetings, played a vital role in shaping the foundation of the Proposed Project. These meetings provided the CAG and ESC with an opportunity to not only comment on the three broad flood reduction alternatives, but to also provide additional local knowledge of the Project Area, including crucial factors like areas prone to chronic flooding, potential flood reduction methods, and important natural resources.

The Project Team incorporated this meaningful, early input into the Public Scoping Meeting held in July 2016, which formally presented the Proposed Project to the greater community. Together with the additional comments received at that scoping meeting regarding the Proposed Project and specific resource areas, this input influenced the basis of the ensuing alternative development and screening processes.

The alternative development and screening processes have been ongoing since that time. As part of this process, the Project Team developed a draft Screening Criteria Matrix, reviewed by the CAG and ESC in August 2016, to identify the best concept for each Build Alternative; this matrix was further refined based on their input.

Using the “Kit of Parts,” which was originally reviewed by the CAG and ESC in September 2016, the Project Team assembled numerous concepts for each Build Alternative and presented them periodically for review and comment. This input substantially informed and directed the continued development and refinement of considered concepts, each of which was further evaluated through the Screening Criteria Matrix.
Concurrently, the Project Team developed hydrological models to measure flooding; conducted biological, topographic, and other resource surveys; and performed various field-based data collections and assessments to further inform the alternative development process. Based on this body of work, these concepts have been refined, screened, and combined to produce three Build Alternatives. These Build Alternatives, which were presented at the October 2017 CAG meeting, will be carried forward for analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In parallel with the monthly CAG and ESC meetings, the Project Team has worked closely with Federal officials and regulators through Federal Review and Permitting meetings, Technical Coordination Team meetings, Meadowlands Interagency Mitigation Advisory Committee meetings, Environmental Protection Agency and Berry’s Creek Study Area Group meetings, and other stakeholder meetings. These meetings have occurred at critical points of the Proposed Project’s development.

By engaging relevant and concerned stakeholders early and often throughout the Proposed Project, the Project Team has produced Build Alternatives that alleviate flooding with available funding, while minimizing impacts to important physical, natural, cultural, and socioeconomic resources within the Project Area.

Get involved!

- If you would like to become a member of the CAG, please contact Alexis Taylor at rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov. NJDEP welcomes your participation and input into this process!
- Share information from this newsletter with friends and neighbors.
- Educate your friends and colleagues on the Proposed Project and NEPA process.
- Continue to build interest in the Proposed Project.
- Subscribe to receive email updates on the Proposed Project at: www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov