Agenda

1. Introduction and Welcome (6:00 pm)
2. Schedule and Project Boundary (6:05 pm)
3. Presentation (6:10 pm)
   1. What Happened and Why
   2. Future Risk
   3. Ongoing Plans and Project Summary
-----Discussion Items-----
4. Community Assets and Risks (6:50 pm)
5. Vision Questions (7:10 pm)
6. Public Outreach Strategy (7:25 pm)
7. Next Steps and Q&A (7:45 pm)
8. Wrap-up (8:00 pm)
NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program Schedule

30 week Schedule

- Planning Committee Meeting
- Public Meeting
- Deliverable Due Date

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- Community Vision Understanding Assets
- Assessing Risk Identifying Strategies to Increase Resiliency
- Producing the Final Plan

NYCRN Gravesend & Bensonhurst
Preparing the NYRCR Plan

Planning Committee Meeting 1
Intro & Listening

Planning Committee Meeting 2
What Happened, Assets, and Vision
TODAY

Public Engagement Event 1
Vision, Needs and Opportunities
Sunday, July 20, 2014

Planning Committee Meeting 3
Needs & Opportunities
TBD

Planning Committee Meeting 4
Reviewing Projects
TBD
Geographic Scope
Sandy Superstorm Impact

• Bensonhurst Park recorded a peak storm tide elevation of 11.50 feet (NAVD88) above sea level.

• Sea Gate recorded a peak storm tide elevation of 13.32 feet (NAVD88) above sea level.
What Happened: Sandy Surge

- The storm’s landfall coincided with a “spring” tide, which translated into higher storm tides.

- Storm surge came through the New York Harbor to Gravesend Bay and flowed through Coney Island Creek.

- Rain less than 1”
Sandy Inundation

- Inundation was estimated at 5.4 feet above ground level in low-lying areas of Gravesend and Bensonhurst.

- Flooding extended from Gravesend Bay past 85th Street, and from Coney Island Creek north to approximately Avenue W.

- Key corridors such as Belt Parkway, Stillwell Avenue and Ocean Parkway were flooded.

- Coney Island Yard was flooded, as well as N line.
Low Lying Areas Susceptible to Flooding

- 1-3 feet
- 3-6 feet
- >6 feet

Inundation Area

NYCR Gravensend & Bensonhurst
What Happened: Breaching of Belt Parkway

Belt Parkway Flooding

Belt Parkway Looking West
What Happened: Surge Flowed to Low Lying Areas

Flooding at Stillwell Ave and Ave W
86th Street Station Flooding
Coney Island Yard Flooding
What Happened: Summary of Damage (Sandy)

- Flooding up to 3 to 5 Feet in low lying areas.
- Flooding main cause of damage.
- Stormwater system back-up in low lying areas due to “backwater flooding”
- Sewage backups in low-lying areas (75 complaints)
- Flooding of backyards and basements
- Damage due to surge and wave action in area adjacent to the bay and Coney Island Creek
- Damage to electrical, mechanical and HVAC reported
- Tree uprooting or damages due to high wind gust
What Happened: Summary of Damage (Irene)

- In comparison to Superstorm Sandy, the impacts from Hurricane Irene were largely a result of precipitation and wind

- Greater than three times the amount of rainfall as Superstorm Sandy (7-10”)

- Wind gusts in excess of hurricane force (60-70 mph), New York City escaped severe wind-related damage because Irene’s strongest winds were over water east of the path’s center

- Storm surge in coastal areas (3 – 6’ storm tides)

- Hurricane Irene followed a summer of high participation and saturated soils, which exacerbated stormwater runoff and brought down trees

- Power outages were widespread in the Borough of Brooklyn, estimated at 35,000
Nuisance Flooding (assumed sources)

- High tide with a large rain event
- Low elevation
- Drainage characteristics of soil (impermeable surfaces)
Community Asset Inventory

Economic
• Downtown center, Businesses, Employment Hub, Lodging, Industrial, Warehousing, Manufacturing, Tourism, Grocery, and Restaurants

Health and Social Services
• Schools, Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities, Daycare and Eldercare, Government, Public Works, and Emergency Response / Operations

Housing
• Single Family, Multi-Family, Mixed-use, Supportive, Senior, and Affordable Housing

Infrastructure Systems
• Telecommunications, wastewater, stormwater, water supply, hazardous materials, solid waste, transportation, liquid fuels, and power supply

Natural and Cultural Resources
• Water bodies, wetlands, parks and recreation, cultural or religious establishments, libraries, museums or stadiums, natural protective features

Socially Vulnerable Populations
• Disabled, low-income, elderly, children, non-English speaking, homeless, pet owners
Community Assets: Economic and Housing
Community Assets:
Infrastructure and Natural/Cultural Resources
Community Assets:
Health/Social Services and Socially Vulnerable Populations
Socio-economic & Labor Characteristics (Kings County)

• **Employment Stayed Strong:** Employment grew in Kings County every year between 2007 and 2012, showing growth and resilience despite the financial crisis and subsequent recession.

• **Ed’s & Med’s:** Over half of Kings County’s employed workforce works in either educational service or health care and social assistance. Health care saw greatest net job gains between 2007 and 2012, while educational services was the second highest.

• **Area is Deindustrializing:** The greatest losses were in manufacturing (nearly 5,000 jobs) and finance and insurance (3,500 jobs).

• **Big Growth Sector:** The accommodation and food service industry grew by over 50 percent, or nearly 11,000 jobs between 2007 and 2012.

• **Growing wage gap between the top and bottom industries in Kings County**
Existing Plans and Studies

Plans with recommendations specific to Planning Area:

- SIRR Report (Southern Brooklyn)
- Coney Island Creek RFP (2013)
- Coney Island Creek Waterbody/Watershed Facility Plan (NYCDEP)
- Coney Island Creek Waterbody/Watershed Facility Plan Report (NYCDEP, 2009)
- Shore Parkway Greenway Connector Master Plan (DCP, 2005)
- Coney Island/Gravesend Sustainable Development Transportation Study (NYCDOT, 2011)
- WAVES Waterfront Action Agenda
- Vision 2020 (NYCDCP, 2011)
Existing Plans and Studies

Other City-wide plans

- NYC Regional Economic Development Council Plans and Project Report
- Sustainable Communities: Climate Resilience Studies: Urban Adaptive Strategies
- Sustainable Communities: Climate Resilience Studies: Designing for Flood Risk (2013)
- NYC Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
- PlaNYC
- NYC Hurricane Sandy After Action Report (May 2013)
- Coney Island Comprehensive Rezoning Plan.
What we’ve heard from you

What qualities characterize the Gravesend-Bensonhurst Community?

• A vibrant and diverse community
• Great Parks and Parklands
• Mom & Pops are the lifeblood
• Great schools
• Low crime rate
• Access to public transportation
• Easy access to park and waterfront promenade
Are there other community strengths you would like to identify?
What are some weaknesses in the community?

- Need recovery station to provide safety and address medical needs
- Need for power/cell phone resiliency
- Communication Plan
- Transportation/traffic

Any others?

- Coordination for economic development?
- Leadership?
- Employment?
- Health care services?
What opportunities exist in the community?

- Engage community groups, churches, governmental, non-profits and community boards in planning process.
- Set up communication networks (e.g. block “captains”)
- Involve local businesses (include businesses on Shore Parkway) and encourage them to organize
- Leverage open space assets (Calvert Vaux Park, Bensonhurst Park, Shore Parkway promenade)
- Improve communication networks so neighborhood can help itself
- Increase resilience and preparedness of commercial corridors
- Address stormwater flooding through permeable pavements, native plantings and grasses, green street and sewer improvements
What would you most like to see for Gravesend & Bensonhurst in the next 10 years?

• A resilient waterfront to protect community
• Prevent flooding on Belt Parkway

Any more?

• What would be worth committing to during the next 10 years?
• What areas should be protected/developed?
Public Engagement Event #1

Sunday, July 20
Bensonhurst Park
@ Bay Parkway
(Across from Ceasars Bazaar)

• Time
• Handouts
• Outreach
• Translation
Questionnaire

1. What represents the best things about the neighborhood?

2. What most concerned you when Superstorm Sandy struck in October, 2012?

3. What would you like to see improved in the area so it can be more resilient from future severe weather?

4. Check-box questions

5. Additional comments
Next Steps

• Confirm planning committee meeting dates/locations
• Confirm public engagement meeting date/location
• Complete vision statement
• Complete overview
• Asset identification homework
• Ethics Handbook