



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Matt.Monahan@stormrecovery.ny.gov

**GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY
ANNOUNCES MIAMI AVENUE CULVERT COMPLETION
IN THE TOWN OF AMSTERDAM**

In Partnership with Montgomery County and Town Officials, Repairs to Essential Storm-Damaged Infrastructure Have Been Completed

Montgomery, NY (October 14, 2016) – The Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the completion of construction to replace the culvert that carries Bunn Creek under Miami Avenue. The new 170-foot long, 10-foot diameter culvert was installed 30 feet below the road surface. This underground tunnel was damaged during Hurricane Irene and completely failed earlier this year forcing the closure of Miami Avenue. Miami Avenue is the primary access route to Amsterdam High School from State Route 30 and plays a key role in emergency response and evacuation activities.

“It is essential that we not only continue to provide communities’ devastated from past storms the tools to recover, but also prepare them for the future with more resilient infrastructure,” **said Executive Director of GOSR, Lisa Bova-Hiatt.** “I am pleased to work with Montgomery County and the Town of Amsterdam on this project to reduce the impact of future flood waters and allow residents a quick escape route in the event of an emergency.”

The State partnered with Montgomery County and the Town of Amsterdam to utilize \$550,000 of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery funds. Construction started in August.

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During Hurricane Irene, the existing culvert on Miami Avenue was severely damaged by storm water flooding that exceeded its capacity. GOSR worked with Montgomery County and the Town of Amsterdam to expedite the use of NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) funds for an emergency repair when the culvert failed.

These project partners also are utilizing NYRCR funds to install emergency generators at the Town Hall and Amsterdam High School. These project will better enable the community to respond to power outages and flooding after extreme weather events.

“I would publicly like to thank all of those whose efforts helped this project come to completion,” said **Montgomery County Executive Matthew L. Ossenfort**. “The goal from the beginning was to limit the impact of this expensive project on local taxpayers. Thankfully, by working expeditiously the county was able to fully utilize state and federal resources and not have the cost come down on local taxpayers. I would like to thank the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery for securing the funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. I want to pass along my appreciation to local residents for their patience, which allowed us to ensure this project was completed thoroughly and correctly.”

NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program

Announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in April 2013, the NYRCR Program seeks to empower storm-impacted communities throughout the State, helping them to build back better and stronger than before. Altogether, more than 650 New Yorkers served on 66 NYRCR Committees, which have collectively proposed approximately 700 locally-oriented projects. Throughout the eight-month planning process, the program has held more than 650 Planning Committee meetings and more than 250 large scale Public Engagement Events. Funding for both planning and project implementation comes from HUD’s CDBG-DR Program.

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates Statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NYRCR Program– as well as its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business and Infrastructure programs– GOSR invests \$4.4 billion made available through HUD’s CDBG-DR Program to better prepare New York for future extreme weather events. *More information about GOSR and its programs is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.*

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