



**Governor's Office of
Storm Recovery**

For Immediate Release
March 14, 2022

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**Governor's Office of Storm Recovery Announces Completion of \$1.7 Million Emergency Response
Project in Orange County**

*Investment Improves Blooming Grove Emergency Vehicle Maintenance Facility; Helps Town
Protect Residents During Future Storms*

Blooming Grove, N.Y. - The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the completion of a \$1.7 million infrastructure project to improve emergency response and protect residents of the town of Blooming Grove in Orange County. The investment included updating the Town's vehicle maintenance facility for emergency response equipment and relocating it to an area outside the floodplain.

Executive Director of GOSR Katie Brennan said, "Emergency responders are a critical lifeline for the Blooming Grove community and this project will ensure they can continue to support the community, especially at times when they're needed most. We are proud that our grassroots and neighborhood-driven process is continuing to strengthen resiliency and help communities adapt to our changing climate."

During both Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, floodwaters inundated the town's central garage facility, which stores and services the Town's emergency response and highway maintenance vehicles. The damage done to vehicles, tools, and other critical systems severely hampered the emergency responders' capability to help the community recover.

The new town facility has full maintenance bays, equipment storage, and office space. And relocating the building will improve the community's emergency response and resiliency during future storms by ensuring first responders can operate safely and efficiently outside of the town's floodplain.

Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus said, "Orange County is very proactive about emergency preparedness and has developed comprehensive plans designed to protect our residents when an emergency occurs. We are always appreciative when the State can fund projects that enhance the ability of our first responders and municipalities to respond safely to emergencies. I thank Governor Hochul and the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery for making this important investment into public safety."

Senator James Skoufis said, "As local storms become more unpredictable and intense, we have a responsibility to Hudson Valley communities to evaluate the strength and soundness of our emergency response operations. I applaud the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery for recognizing this critical need in Blooming Grove and acting to get ahead of any future flooding."

Assemblymember Colin J. Schmitt stated, "It is welcome news for our community that these storm resiliency improvements in Blooming Grove have been completed. With improved emergency response infrastructure, the Town will be even better equipped to perform life-preserving measures for the community in the event of future extreme weather emergencies."

Blooming Grove Town Supervisor Robert Jeroloman said, "The Town of Blooming Grove is very grateful and appreciate to the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery program that has allowed the town to relocate our Central Maintenance Garage to a new site that is outside of the prior flood prone location. Our new Town Central Maintenance Garage will be able to continue to maintain our emergency services and essential workers' vehicles during future storm events. The new Central Maintenance Garage will secure our future that it will be able to operate in a safe and efficient manner without interruption."

About GOSR

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business, Community Reconstruction, Infrastructure, and Rebuild by Design programs, GOSR invests \$4.5 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funding to better prepare New York for extreme weather events. More information about GOSR and its programs is available at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.

Through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) and Infrastructure Programs, the State takes on a variety of initiatives developed during its bottom-up community planning process to improve resiliency, protect critical infrastructure, mitigate the risks of loss and damage associated with future disasters, and reduce hardship.

Now in the implementation stage, GOSR works with a variety of municipal, county, and non-profit partners to bring hundreds of locally devised proposals to fruition.

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