



Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

For Immediate Release
May 13, 2022

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Governor's Office of Storm Recovery Announces Completion of \$1.4 Million Project in Hempstead Meadowmere Park Bridge Reconstruction Will Enhance Emergency Response and Improve Resiliency

Hempstead, N.Y. - The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the completion of its \$1,400,000 project to reconstruct the Meadowmere Park bridge on Long Island. The new and more resilient bridge will now accommodate small emergency vehicles while maintaining the previous bridge's character and use as a pedestrian-only bridge.

GOSR Executive Director Katie Brennan said, "This project ensures that essential infrastructure in Meadowmere Park is more resilient during flooding and major storms. The newly reconstructed bridge will keep residents safe and provide critical support for emergency response and recovery efforts."

The Meadowmere Park Bridge is a critical access point for residents as the only road between Meadowmere Park, a low-lying island in Hempstead, Nassau County to Meadowmere, in Queens. During Superstorm Sandy, the community was inundated by tidal surge that passed through Jamaica Bay, adjacent to JFK International Airport.

The original pedestrian footbridge was damaged during Tropical Storm Irene and Superstorm Sandy. In addition, it could not accommodate emergency vehicles, leaving residents vulnerable during evacuation and response efforts.

The replacement bridge is stronger and more resilient to future storm surges and sea level rise. It also protects residents by providing an emergency response and evacuation route to safe areas on the mainland.

Senator Todd Kaminsky said, "The reconstruction of the Meadowmere Park bridge allows it to serve as a vital emergency access point to this community and it will help ensure the area is protected from future storms. Thank you to Governor Hochul Office for continuing to advance this important project."

Assemblymember Ari Brown said, "I'm thrilled to see that the \$1,400,000 that was dedicated to the reconstruction of the Meadowmere Park bridge was put towards this infrastructure use and is now completed. As an old fashioned, "small town America" Deputy Mayor, and now Assemblyman, I'm glad that the community had the input as to how the new bridge should look and how it is to be used, whether foot and or vehicular traffic. I'm certain that the new bridge will add a level of safety for the community, allowing for a better and safer evacuation route."

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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