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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES DESIGN APPROVAL TO UPGRADE FLOOD DRAINAGE IN TOWN OF AMSTERDAM

*In Partnership with Montgomery County and Town Officials, GOSR Expedites
Plans to Repair Essential Storm-Damaged Infrastructure*

Montgomery, NY (July 14, 2016) – The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced design approval by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to repair the underground drainage system damaged from Hurricane Irene. This culvert, located beneath Miami Avenue, is an underground tunnel built to control storm waters. Effective drainage will provide a safe evacuation route to Amsterdam High School in the event of an emergency in the Town of Amsterdam.

"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."

During Hurricane Irene, the existing culvert on Miami Avenue was severely damaged by stormwater flooding that exceeded its capacity. As part of the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Plan, the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery in partnership with Montgomery County and the Town of Amsterdam worked together to expedite the design phase and repair the culvert. Additional projects, including the installation of new emergency generators at the Town Hall and Amsterdam High School, will also be constructed to better enable the community to respond to extreme weather power outages and flooding.

Montgomery County has received bids for the fabrication of the pipe and is currently accepting bids from contractors. Construction is estimated to take four to six weeks to complete and estimated to cost \$770,000.

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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