



## Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

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### **Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, Town of Nichols Announce Start of \$4.2 Million Effort to Relocate Highway Garage From Floodplain**

***Project Will Enable Uninterrupted Municipal Service and Reduce the Risk of Environmental Contamination During Storms***

***Investment Complements "Southern Tier Soaring" - The Region's Comprehensive Strategy to Revitalize Communities and Grow the Economy***

**Tioga County, N.Y. August 9, 2108** The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery and the Town of Nichols today announced the start of a \$4.2 million construction project to relocate the Town's Highway Garage, flooded during Tropical Storm Lee and Hurricane Irene, to a site outside of the floodplain. The garage stores critical highway equipment and supplies, and provides office space for Department of Public Works staff. Construction will begin in the second week of August and is expected to take a year to complete.

The garage relocation project, which is funded with \$3 million in State money and \$1.2 million from the Town, is one of hundreds moving forward thanks to the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program. In the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee and Superstorm Sandy, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo established the GOSR New York Rising Community Reconstruction program to empower residents and business owners in the recovery and resiliency process.

The new garage, which will be flood resilient, will have five truck bays, a truck lift, two bathrooms, the DPW Superintendent's office, a break room, one work bay/wash station, salt and sand storage, and space for a chipper, grader, loader, trailer, mower, rock rake, tire supplies, and fuel.

**Laurice Salamack, Regional Director, Governor's Office of Storm Recovery**, said, "Thanks to Governor Cuomo's community directed focus for storm recovery efforts, the Town was able to determine the best use of disaster recovery funding. Keeping emergency services up and running while protecting the environment from toxic runoff is essential to our economic future and will help the economy of the Southern Tier continue to soar."

On September 7, 2011, Tropical Storm Lee stalled over the Southern Tier and dropped over 11 inches of rain on Tioga County during a 24-hour period. Torrential rains, compounded by saturated soil and a swollen Susquehanna River from Hurricane Irene, which occurred the week of August 28, 2011, led to record high water levels. In Nichols, rising waters of both the Susquehanna River and Wappasening Creek caused severe flash flooding that damaged homes, businesses and infrastructure. High groundwater levels caused most of the basements and ground floors of homes, businesses and municipal facilities to flood, even though those structures were behind levees. Flooding closed many critical roads, leaving residents with no access to medical facilities, supplies or the Tioga County

emergency response team. A member of the Nichols volunteer fire department reported that respondents had to rescue several people located along NYS Route 282 using a front loader, and that during the first 24 hours of the storm, the fire department performed water rescue to save an additional 72 residents. Residents stated the flood waters rose so quickly they did not have enough warning to evacuate, or were not sure of where to go. They also stated that once the flood waters had receded, the community still did not have power or cell phone coverage and there was no way for the Town and Village to communicate with residents to let them know where to find emergency supplies, bottled water, and other essential storm recovery information.

Altogether, more than 650 New Yorkers served on 66 NYRCR planning committees across the State and have together proposed hundreds of projects inspired the unique needs and assets of their regions. Collectively, NYRCR committees have held 650 planning meetings and 250 large-scale public engagement events as they have worked to rebuild more sustainable communities, reinforce infrastructure, mitigate the risks of loss and damage associated with future disasters, and spur revitalization.

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

### **Accelerating Southern Tier Soaring**

Today's announcement complements “Southern Tier Soaring the region’s comprehensive blueprint to generate robust economic growth and community development. The State has already invested more than \$4.6 billion in the region since 2012 to lay for groundwork for the plan – attracting a talented workforce, growing business and driving innovation. Today, unemployment is down to the lowest levels since before the Great Recession; personal and corporate income taxes are down; and businesses are choosing places like Binghamton, Johnson City and Corning as a destination in which to grow and invest. Now, the region is accelerating Southern Tier Soaring with a \$500 million State investment through the Upstate Revitalization Initiative, announced by Governor Cuomo in December 2015. The State’s \$500 million investment will incentivize private business to invest well over \$2.5 billion – and the region’s plan, as submitted, projects up to 10,200 new jobs. More information is available [here](#).

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