



Governor's Office of
Storm Recovery

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Governor's Office of Storm Recovery Announces Completion of \$3.4 Million Infrastructure Hardening and Road Raising Project in Oakdale/West Sayville

Part of GOSR's \$4.3 Million Three-Phase Initiative in Oakdale

New York is Leading the Fight to Adapt to Changing Climate on Long Island

Oakdale, N.Y. - The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the completion of a \$3.4 million infrastructure project to elevate and strengthen a key access and evacuation route for the Oakdale and West Sayville communities in Suffolk County. The project also marks the end of a three-phase initiative to improve resiliency and emergency response in Oakdale.

"Unfortunately, Oakdale and West Sayville are no strangers to flooding events, but this project will go a long way in protecting residents during astronomical high tides and in heavy storms," said **Katie Brennan, Executive Director of GOSR**. "As New York continues to adapt to our changing climate and rising sea levels, these types of projects help to both build the community's resilience and to protect homes. When the next major storm strikes, the community will be better able to withstand, respond, and recover."

During Superstorm Sandy, the residents of Shore Drive in Oakdale experienced strong winds and a storm surge that coincided with high tides, which led to extensive flooding and caused many trees and power lines in the area to fall. As a result, roads were left impassable for residents and emergency responders, hindering evacuation and recovery efforts.

The Oakdale/West Sayville project included raising a 1,000-foot section of Shore Drive and repaving the road to elevate the surface up to 18 inches high. Additionally, the most critical flood-prone areas of Shore Drive received drainage enhancements such as new subsurface drainage pipes, manholes, and catch basins. These measures are already improving stormwater drainage and helping to block incoming coastal tide waters from flooding the streets. The updates will also ensure roadway access for first responders, improving emergency response and evacuation efforts in the event of future storms.

As part of its three-phase initiative in Oakdale, GOSR previously completed a project to install backflow check valves and catch basins in existing storm drains at various locations in Oakdale

and West Sayville. This prevents tidal waters from entering the drainage system and flooding the area. The agency also installed an emergency backup generator and transfer switch to provide continuous power to the community center and housing units at Islip Housing Authority's Ockers Gardens.

The project was implemented in partnership with the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY).

"We are proud to collaborate with GOSR on the Oakdale/West Sayville project, as well as those around the state that are critical for protecting and rebuilding areas impacted by severe weather. We're grateful to Governor Hochul for her continued support of this important initiative and her commitment to strengthening communities all across New York," said **DASNY President and CEO Reuben R. McDaniel, III**.

"The completion of this project is great news for our communities, which history has shown are very susceptible to storm surges and flooding," said **Assemblyman Jarett Gandolfo**. "With these much-needed improvements, Oakdale and West Sayville will be safer and more resilient in the face of future storms. I'd like to thank the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery for their efforts to harden our local coastal infrastructure."

"Superstorm Sandy wreaked havoc across Long Island and highlighted the vulnerabilities of our south shore to extreme weather," said **Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone**. "It is no longer if another extreme weather event will impact our region, but rather when. With the completion of this critical infrastructure project, these two communities will be better protected from dangerous weather conditions."

"Maintaining our infrastructure is essential to the health, safety and well-being of our residents. We are grateful to Governor Kathy Hochul for championing this project, and for improving the integrity of our roadways," said **Islip Town Supervisor, Angie Carpenter**.

"This project was made possible by the tenacity and teamwork between the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, Town of Islip Department of Public Works, and all of our wonderful neighbors," said **Richard Remmer**, President of Friends of Pickman-Remmer Wetlands and Co-Chair of GOSR's NY Rising Oakdale Planning Committee.

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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