



Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

Governor's Office of Storm Recovery Announces Completion of Drainage Improvement Project on Route 56 in Windham

Upgrades to Drainage Infrastructure Will Mitigate Flooding and Improve Access Along Important Thoroughfare During Future Storm Events

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the completion of the Windham Drainage Improvements Project, a \$952,000 effort to replace and strengthen critical culverts along Greene County Route 56 in Windham. The project, which was carried out in partnership with the Town of Windham, will mitigate flooding and improve emergency access during future storm events. During Hurricane Irene, the road— which travels along Batavia Kill— was overwhelmed by flood waters and became impassable, stranding nearby residents in their homes and restricting the access of emergency vehicles.

“Maintaining our roads is important 365-days a year, but the objective is even more vital during and immediately after severe weather events,” **said Alana Agosto, executive director of the community reconstruction and infrastructure programs for GOSR.** “We are thrilled to join the town of Windham in marking the completion of this locally-devised project that will reduce flooding events and secure Route 56 for the Hamlet of Maplecrest. The lessons we've learned from recent storms allow us to continue to fund projects that address the concerns of affected communities and potentially save lives.”

The Route 56 project, funded through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction program (NYRCR), enlarged three existing culverts and facilitated an array of other resiliency enhancements, including the extension of a drainage channel, the installation of rip-rap armoring and modifications to the flow of an unnamed tributary.

As part of the undertaking, two culverts on Big Hollow Road and one on Charbonneau Way were replaced and enlarged. Additionally, temporary bypasses were constructed, along with the addition of a bridge approach guiderail, full-depth roadway reconstruction, channel improvements and landscaping.

“The Town of Windham is fortunate and thankful to receive funding from the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery,” **said Town of Windham Highway Superintendent, Gary D. Thorington.** “Recently completed was the (second of three) selected CR 56 Drainage Improvement Projects. This project combined the efforts of several government agencies. There was great

reward at the time of completion for the residents, recreationists, and all agencies who made this project happen.

“The Town of Windham was hit particularly hard by Hurricane Irene,” **said Senator George Amedore**. “This critical infrastructure project is an important upgrade to the drainage systems that will ensure better public safety and less damage in the case of future storm events, and I’m happy to see it completed.”

“I am happy to hear that the Windham Drainage Improvements Project is completed,” **said Assemblymember Chris Tague**. “Our residents of Windham will now be able to safely travel along Route 56 during all types of weather. They no longer have to fear for their well-being during future storms.”

Altogether, more than 650 New Yorkers served on 66 NYRCR planning committees across the State and have together proposed hundreds of projects inspired by 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.

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

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 (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/>.

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