



# NYRCR Fulton & Blenheim

NY Rising Communities Reconstruction Program  
Public Engagement Meeting #3  
November 6, 2014, 6:00 – 8:00PM  
West Fulton Fire Department

*Working Together to  
Build Back Better*

# Agenda

- Purpose of Tonight's Meeting
- Overview of the Program
  - Where we are in the Planning Process
- Public Open House
  - Materials on Display for Review & Comment

# Understanding the NYRCR Program

- NYRCR Program Goal:

*“ ... to empower the State’s most impacted communities with the technical expertise needed to develop thorough and implementable reconstruction plans to build physically, socially, and economically resilient and sustainable communities so as to rebuild New York’s communities in a way that will mitigate against future risks and build increased resilience.”*

[http://](http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyr-cr/faq)

[stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyr-cr/faq](http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyr-cr/faq)

- Implementation Focused

# Qualifying for CDBG-DR

- New York State and Governor Andrew Cuomo providing \$650M + planning/implementation for hard-hit communities (by Sandy, Lee, Irene, 2013 floods)
  - Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds
  - Round 1: 102 communities; Round 2: 22 communities
  - Amounts based on federally-assessed storm damage
  - NYRCR Town of Blenheim: Up to \$3M
  - NYRCR Town of Fulton: Up to \$3M

# Qualifying for CDBG-DR

- Is the project eligible under traditional CDBG?
  - » Public facilities and improvements and privately-owned utilities
  - » Relocation planning and capacity building
  - » Acquisition of real property
  - » Clearance, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and construction of buildings
  - » Economic development assistance
- Is there a direct link between the project and the disaster?
  - » Does it address damage caused or exacerbated by a storm?
  - » Does it address emerging issues that have been exposed and identified as a result of the storm?
  - » Does it create greater resiliency against future storms?

# The Planning Process



# The Planning Process (*cont'd*)

- Biweekly Committee Meetings
- Public Engagement Meeting #1 – July 31, 2014
- Needs and Opportunities
- Asset Inventory, Risk Assessment, On Site Hydrological Assessment
- Public Engagement Meeting #2 – September 11, 2014



# Where Are We Now – Project Identification and Analysis

- **Proposed Projects** - proposed for funding through a community's allocation of CDBG-DR funding.
- **Featured Projects** - projects that the Planning Committee has identified as important resiliency recommendations and has analyzed in depth that are not proposed for funding by the community's CDBG-DR allocation.
- **Additional Resiliency Recommendations** - resiliency projects and actions the Committee would like to highlight and are not categorized as Proposed or Featured Projects.

# Draft Proposed Projects

- Emergency management preparedness and planning
- Community emergency alert and warning systems and support for vulnerable populations
- Construct an Emergency Operations Center (EOC)/Shelter/Fire Department/Town Hall, and Highway Department outside the floodplain in Blenheim
- Rebuild Fulton Town Hall to more effectively operate as the Town Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- West Fulton Fire Department Improvements



# Draft Proposed Projects (*cont'd*)

- Undertake a detailed hydrology and engineering study of the Schoharie Creek and its tributaries, including identification of streambank restoration needs
- Replacement of undersized culverts
- Incorporate resiliency measures for the Bridge Schoolhouse Museum
- Incorporate resiliency measures for the New Community Center



# Relationship to the Storm

**Problem:** Hurricane Irene Tested The Limits Of Resiliency And Capabilities Of Emergency Response And Disaster Relief Response



- Damage Was Extensive And Most Roads Were Closed
- Residents Were Trapped Until Roads Could Be Reopened
- Lessons Were Learned That Can Be Used To Help Guide Emergency Response To Future Storms

**Solution:** Emergency Management Preparedness And Planning

# Relationship to the Storm

**Problem:** Early Warnings Were Not Adequate



- The Verbal Warning System In The Community Did Not Cover The Entirety Of The Planning Area
- Gauges And Monitoring Equipment Is Limited To Areas Along The Schoharie Creek
- Much Of The Water Causing The Problem Came From The Unmonitored Hillside Creeks And Streams

**Solution:** Community Emergency Alert And Warning Systems And Support For Vulnerable Populations

# Relationship to the Storm

**Problem:** The Blenheim Town Hall/Fire Department/Post Office Was Flooded During Hurricane Irene



- The Town Hall Was Inoperative During Hurricane Irene
- Nearly 4 Feet Of Water Inundated The Structure
- The Current Structure Does Not Have Room To Provide Shelter And Could Not Do So In A Major Flooding Event

**Solution:** Construct An Emergency Operations Center (EOC)/ Shelter/Fire Department/Town Hall And Highway Department Outside The Floodplain In Blenheim

# Relationship to the Storm

**Problem:** The Existing Fulton Town Hall Is Not Designed To Accommodate An EOC And Emergency Response Functions



- Dozens Of Town Staff, Emergency Responders, And Disaster Relief Workers Crammed Into The Administrative Space
- The Structure Has A Single Bathroom, No Shower And Little Privacy
- By Some Estimates The Structure Is Beyond Its Useful Life



**Solution:** Rebuild Fulton Town Hall To More Effectively Operate As The Town Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

# Relationship to the Storm

**Problem:** The Fire Department Performs Multiple Functions During An Emergency And Needs Upgrades To Meet Future Demands

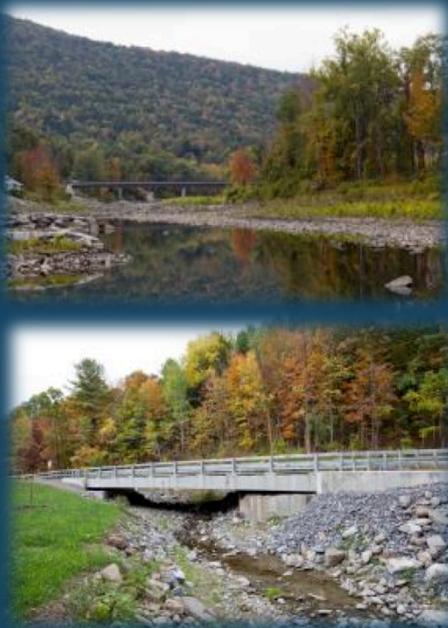
- As A Red Cross Certified Shelter, It Provides A Level Of Care Unavailable At Many Other Locations
- Upgrades To The Heating And Emergency Lighting Are Needed
- To Handle Future Large-scale Emergencies The Structure Needs Additional Space And Basic Necessities Such As Backup Power



**Solution:** West Fulton Fire Department Improvements

# Relationship to the Storm

**Problem:** Hurricane Irene Flood Waters Profoundly Changed The Characteristics Of The Schoharie Creek And Its Tributaries



- The Cu. Ft/Sec Flow Of The Creek Was Unlike Any In Recorded History
- The Water Was Able To Move Trees, Rocks, Boulders, Vehicles, Roads And Houses
- The Results Of The Storm Are Still Evident - Large Boulders, Trees Lining The Shoreline

**Solution:** Undertake A Detailed Hydrology And Engineering Study Of The Schoharie Creek And Its Tributaries, Including Identification Of Streambank Restoration Needs

# Relationship to the Storm

**Problem:** Undersized Culverts In Both Fulton And Blenheim Caused Significant Flooding Issues



- Even Culverts That Were Properly Sized Become Plugged With Cobble In Some Locations
- Undersized Culverts Created Significant Property Damage
- Six Culverts Have Been Identified As Flood-related Problem Locations During Hurricane Irene



**Solution:** Replacement Of Undersized Culverts

# Relationship to the Storm

**Problem:** Floodwater Entered The Structure And Damaged An Addition To The Original Structure



- The First Four Feet Of Drywall Had To Be Removed And Replaced
- Incorporating Hardening Measures Could Hold-back Future Floodwaters
- Protecting Rehabilitation Efforts Will Reduce Potential Future Repair Costs In The Event Of A Future Flooding Event

**Solution:** Incorporate Resiliency Measures For The Bridge Schoolhouse Museum

# Relationship to the Storm

**Problem:** Floodwaters From Hurricane Irene Surrounded The Structure But Did Not Enter The First Floor



- The Property Is Located In An Area Designated As High Risk
- Incorporating Hardening Measures Will Increase Resiliency To Future Flooding
- Protecting Rehabilitation Efforts Will Reduce Potential Future Repair Costs In The Event Of A Future Flooding Event

**Solution:** Incorporate Resiliency Measures For The New Community Center

# Draft Featured Projects

- Become a destination corridor between the Catskills and the Adirondacks
- Undertake slope stabilization and rock slide stabilization
- Develop a local stream management and maintenance plan



# Relationship to the Storm

**Problem:** The Area Has Never Been Significantly Touted As A Tourism Destination And Hurricane Irene Severely Impacted Businesses



- Businesses Were Inundated By Floodwaters And Damaged
- Many Were Knocked Offline For Days
- Damage Resulted In Downtime Ranging From Days To Weeks And Months
- Some Businesses Have Yet To Fully Recover

**Solution:** Become A Destination Corridor Between The Catskills And The Adirondacks

# Relationship to the Storm

**Problem:** Heavy Rains And Flooding From Hurricane Irene And Tropical Storm Lee Caused Rock And Slope Slides



- This Is A Dangerous Situation When It Occurs
- Slides Can Exacerbate Issues Caused By Flooding
- Two Locations Have Been Identified As Concerns For Stabilization

**Solution:** Undertake Slope Stabilization And Rock Slide Stabilization

# Relationship to the Storm

**Problem:** Floodwaters From Hurricane Irene Overtook Each And Every Creek, Stream, And Drainage Channel



- Some Creeks, Streams, Drainage Channels And Associated Infrastructure Worked As Designed
- Many Creeks And Streams Suffered Significant Damage
- Hurricane Irene-related Flooding Has Multiplied And Magnified The Scope And Scale Of Management And Maintenance Needs



**Solution:** Develop A Local Stream Management And Maintenance Plan

# Draft Additional Resiliency Recommendations

- Purchase a payloader to assist in debris removal during storm events
- Create a local Farmers and Artisans Market
- Determine the feasibility of increased water-flow in the Schoharie Creek to support recreation
- Assess the potential to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System
- Investigate the potential for low-cost power from NYPA
- Elevate a section of State Route 30

# Draft Additional Resiliency Recommendations (*cont'd*)

- Cell tower and high-speed internet infrastructure improvements
- Assessment and hardening of the gas pipeline
- Undertake development of a regional parks and recreation master plan
- Implement alternative energy projects
- Establish a small business incubator to support existing businesses, especially agri-business

# Upcoming Schedule

December 2014

- Final CR Plan

January 2015

- By January 16 – Public Engagement Meeting #4

# Open House

Please Provide Comments & Thoughts on the  
Materials Presented



*Thank you for your input!*