



Gravesend & Bensonhurst NY Rising Community Public Workshop

September 16, 2014



Agenda for Tonight

1. Introduction and Welcome

2. Brief Presentation

- NYRCR Program Overview
- Tonight's Objectives

3. Coffee Break

4. Roundtable Discussions

- Input on Reconstruction Strategies and Project Ideas

5. Reporting Back and Next Steps

6. Wrap Up



NY Rising Team Members

Gravesend and Bensonhurst Planning Committee

Marnee Elias-Pavia (co-chair)
Ligia Gualpa (co-chair)
Scott L. Barkin
Rocco Brescia
Alex Budnitsky
Peter Consolo
Butch Moran
Mel Wolfson
Dr. Tim Law
Pamela Pettyjohn

Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR)

GOSR Executive Director:
Jamie Rubin

NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program

Policy Director:
Kate Dineen

NYRCR NYC Regional Lead:
Alex Zablocki

NYRCR NYC Planner:
Christopher Gorman

Consultant Team

Perkins Eastman / BFJ Planning / Louis Berger Group / PACO Group



What is the **NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program**?

- Announced by Governor Cuomo in April 2013 to provide rebuilding and resiliency assistance to communities most impacted by **Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee**
- Goal: to develop **implementable** reconstruction plans to mitigate future risks and build more physically, socially, and economically resilient communities
- Provides technical assistance to allow communities to direct how Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds are spent



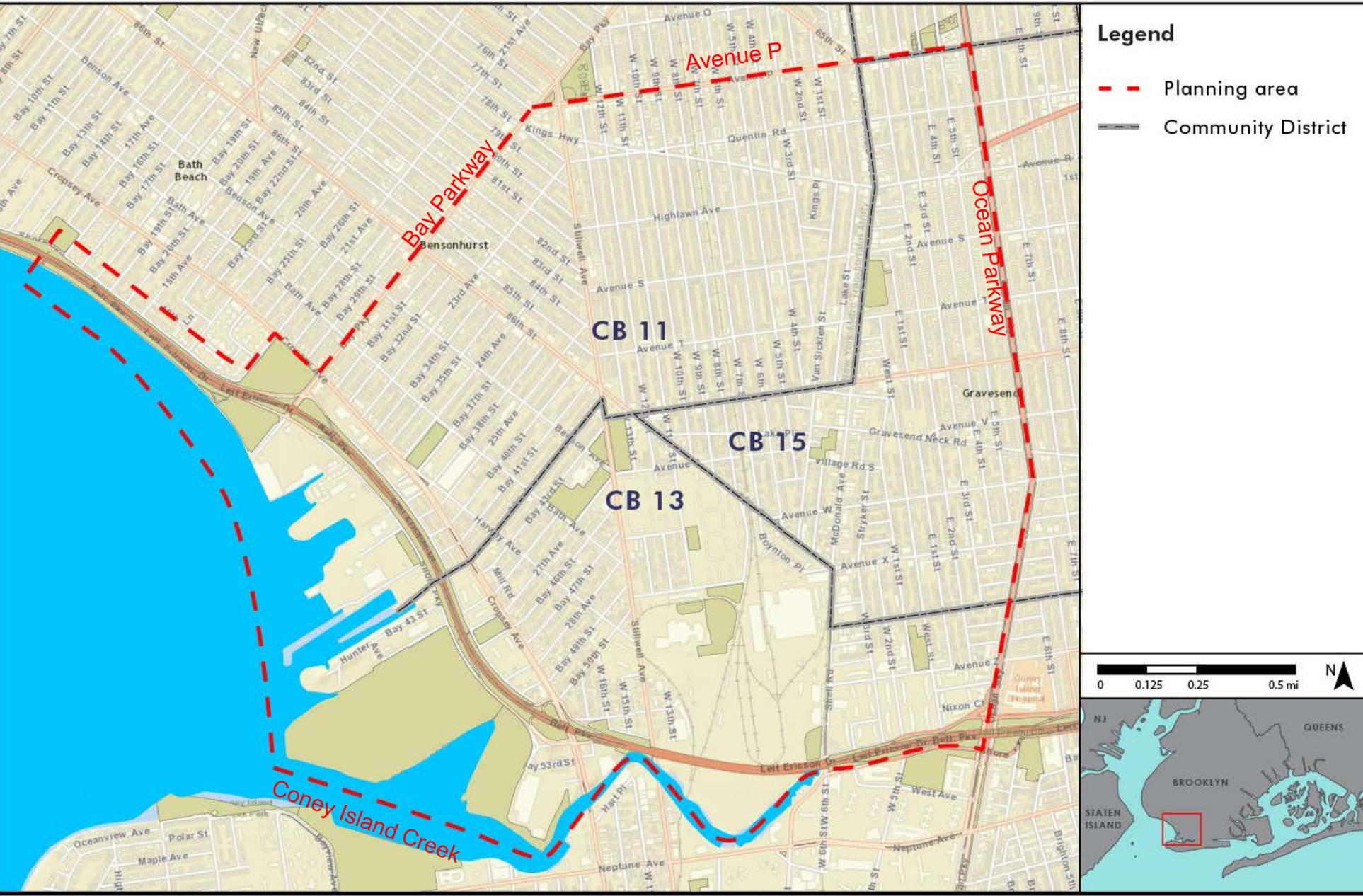
NYRCR Program: Funding

- Up to **\$3 million** allocated for projects in Gravesend and Bensonhurst.

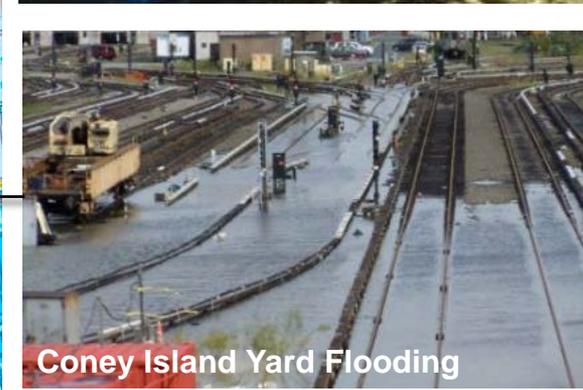
- Potential to receive additional funds through the **Governor's Rising to the Top Competition** – up to **\$3.5 million** for the following 3 Categories:
 - Inclusion of Vulnerable Populations
 - Use of Green Infrastructure
 - Regional Approach



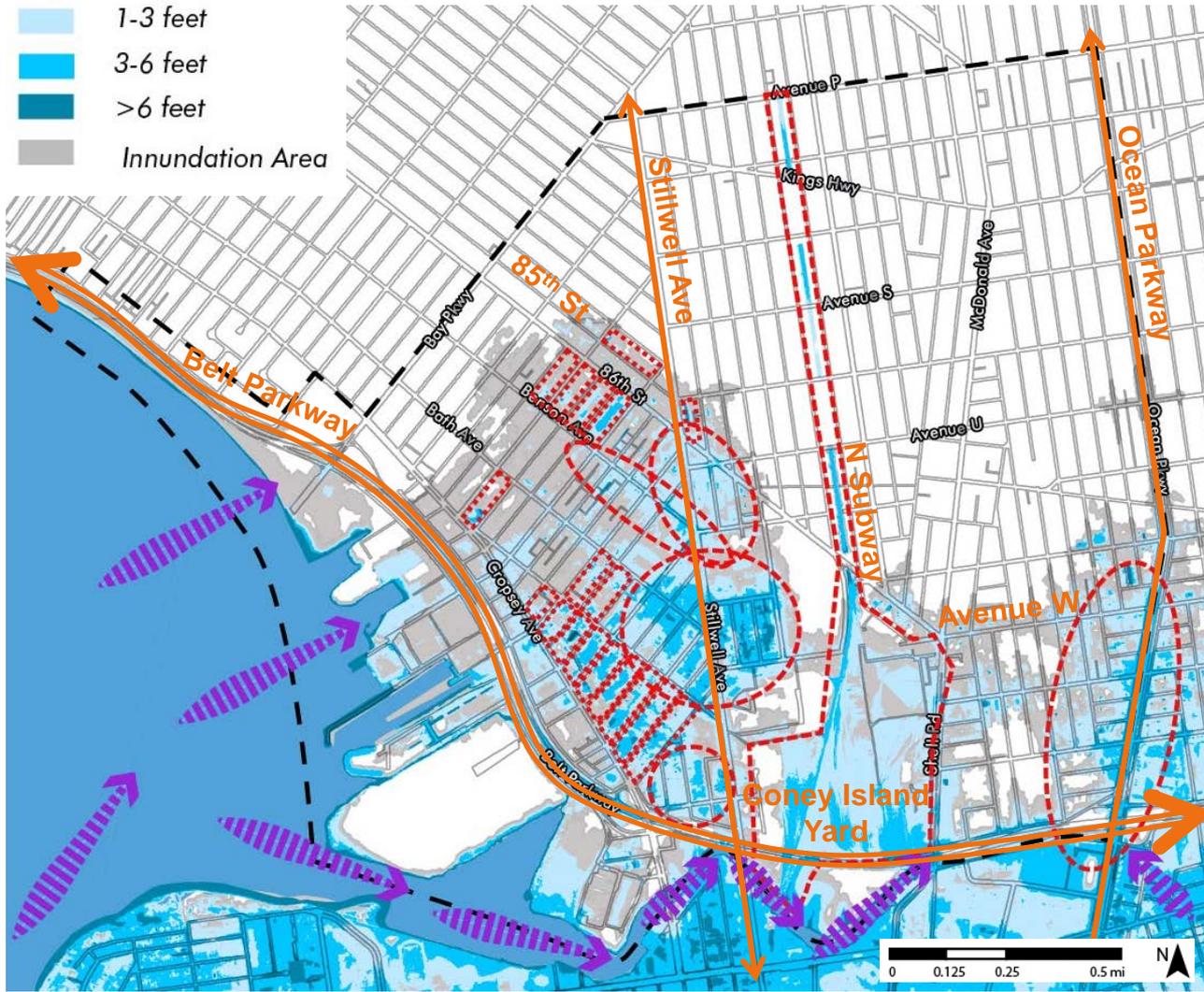
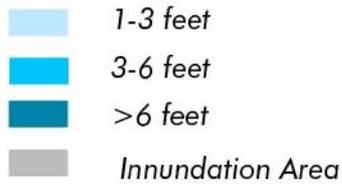
NYRCR Gravesend & Bensonhurst: Geographic Scope



What Happened: Sandy Surge



Sandy Inundation



- Inundation was estimated at 5.4 feet above ground level in low-lying areas of Gravesend and Bensonhurst.
- Flooding extended from Gravesend Bay past 85th Street, and from Coney Island Creek north to approximately Avenue W.
- Key corridors such as Belt Parkway, Stillwell Avenue and Ocean Parkway were flooded.
- Coney Island Rail Yard was flooded, as well as N line.



Existing and Proposed Projects:



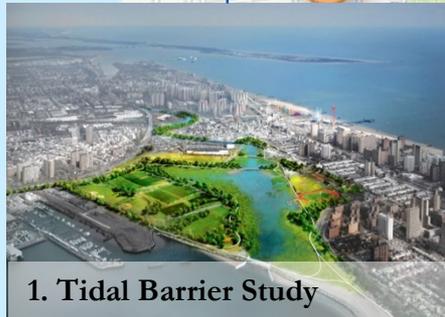
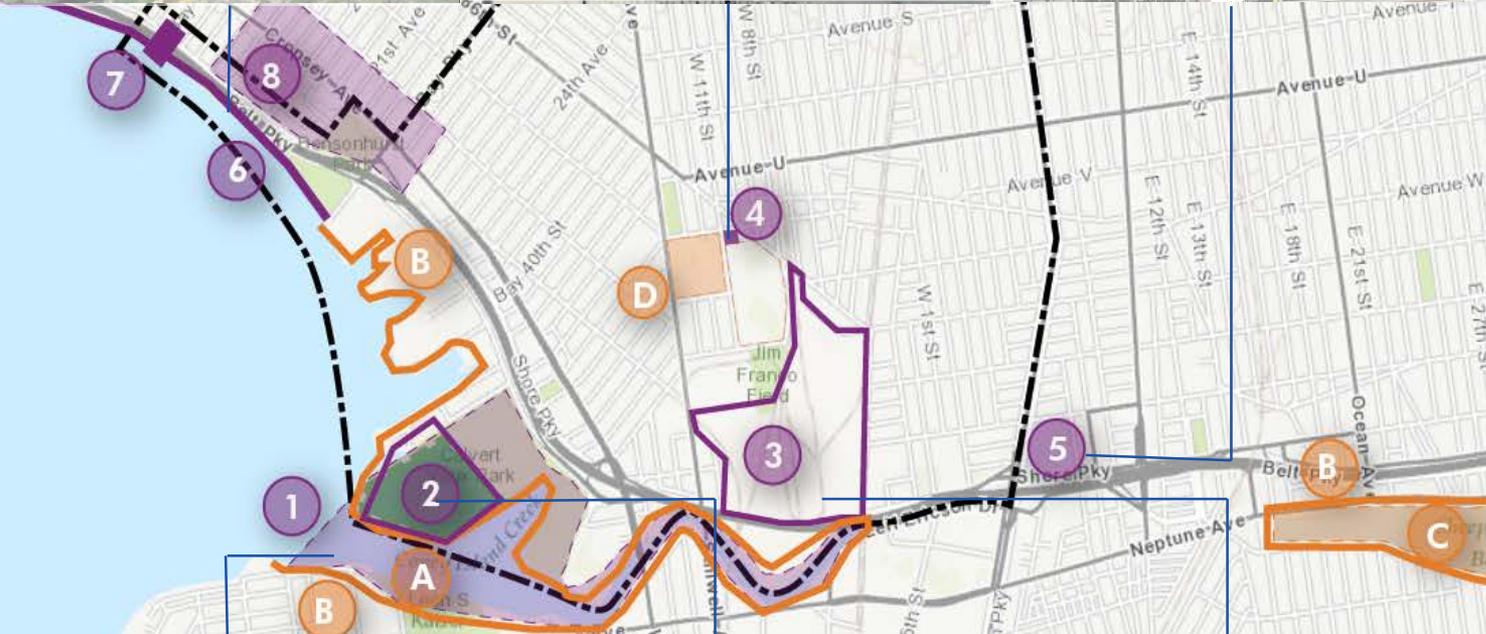
6. Bulkhead Repair



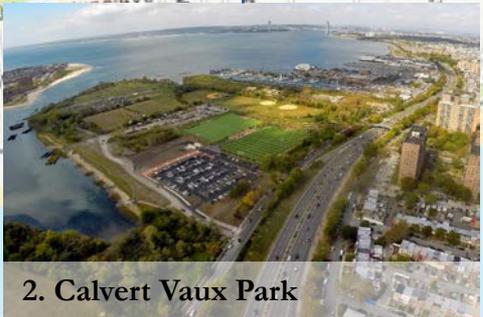
4. Ave V Pumping Station Expansion



5. Coney Island Hospital



1. Tidal Barrier Study



2. Calvert Vaux Park



3. MTA Yard Flood Mitigation

Projects Funded/Completed Post Sandy

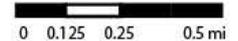
- 1 Implementation plan for new Coney Island Creek wetlands and tidal barrier (2015)
- 2 Improvements at Calvert Vaux Park
- 3 Flood mitigation design at MTA's Coney Island complex (Planning Stage)
- 4 Pumping station and force mains expansion(2014)
- 5 Coney Island Hospital improvements
- 6 Bulkhead repairs (Completed)
- 7 17th Ave pedestrian bridge replacement (Design)
- 8 High level storm sewer drainage plan (2015)

Recommended Projects Post Sandy

- A Install armored stone shoreline protection (revetments) at Coney Island Creek to prevent "back-door" flooding (SIRR)
- B Raise bulkheads in low-lying neighborhoods (SIRR)
- C Reconnaissance Study for Storm Surge Reduction and Flood Barrier Systems (Gerritsen Beach and Sheepshead Bay/Coney Island NYRCR Plan)
- D Retrofit public housing units damaged by Sandy and increase future resiliency if public housing

Coney Island NYRCR Relevant Proposed Projects (not mapped)

- Southern Brooklyn emergency Response Plan (NYRCR Coney Island)
- Public Emergency Preparedness Outreach Campaign
- Designation of Emergency Response and recovery centers
- Increase resiliency of small businesses throughout peninsula
- Vocational Training Program
- Funding for microgrid study for NYCHA and Mitchell-Lama Properties



Community Vision

Gravesend and Bensonhurst are culturally and generationally diverse communities, home to safe and stable residential neighborhoods with access to transportation, shopping and the waterfront.

*Our vision is to rebuild and plan for a more resilient future where the safety and well-being of our community is maintained in the face of future storm events. We will work in a **unified fashion** to develop solutions that foster **strengthened infrastructure systems, economic vitality, a healthy environment, improved access to the water, and enhanced tools for communication and emergency planning.***



NYRCR Planning Process: The road to projects

Community Vision

We will work in a unified fashion to develop solutions that foster strengthened infrastructure systems, economic vitality, a healthy environment, improved access to the water, and enhanced tools for communication and emergency planning.



Critical Issue

My street floods during typical rain events due to the lack of sewers



Need

Better drainage



Opportunity

Use existing natural resources to manage storm water



Strategy

Utilize green infrastructure to manage storm water on flood prone streets



Project

Construct bioswales on Cropsey Avenue to help manage storm water



Reconstruction Strategies

A coastal scene featuring a paved walkway, a metal railing, a concrete seawall, and a rocky shoreline meeting the ocean. A person is sitting on a bench in the background. The title "Reconstruction Strategies" is overlaid in white text on a dark blue background.

Reconstruction Strategies

Strategy A:

Develop a comprehensive resiliency strategy along the waterfront.

Strategy B:

Protect the Community from flooding during typical rain events.

Strategy C:

Provide resiliency assistance and education for homeowners, renters and business owners.

Strategy D:

Develop a coordinated community response plan during times of extreme weather.





Project Idea Brainstorming

- 1 Comprehensive waterfront master plan to integrate recreation, access, economic development, and coastal defense
- 2 Belt Parkway berm construction and flood gates project
- 3 Integrated shoreline protection + bike path project
- 4 Shorefront access study
Includes traffic study of Shore Parkway
Shuttle/express bus partnerships

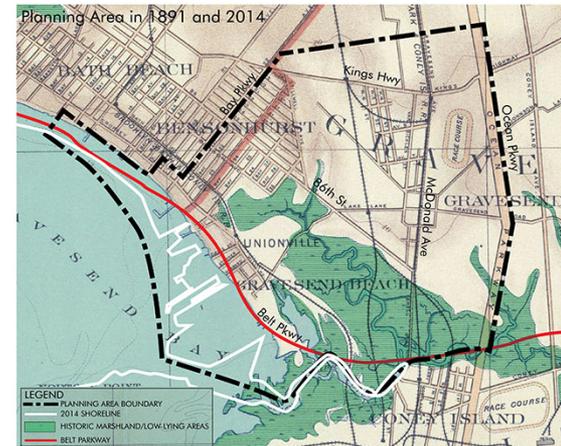
Other Project Ideas



Project Idea Brainstorming

- 1 Hydrology and Hydraulic (H&H) Study
- 2 Belt Parkway drainage improvement project
- 3 Green Streets/Infrastructure on key streets (eg. Cropsy Ave, Bath Ave, etc.)

Other Project Ideas



Provide Resiliency Assistance and Education for Homeowners, Renters & Business Owners

STRATEGY C



Project Idea Brainstorming

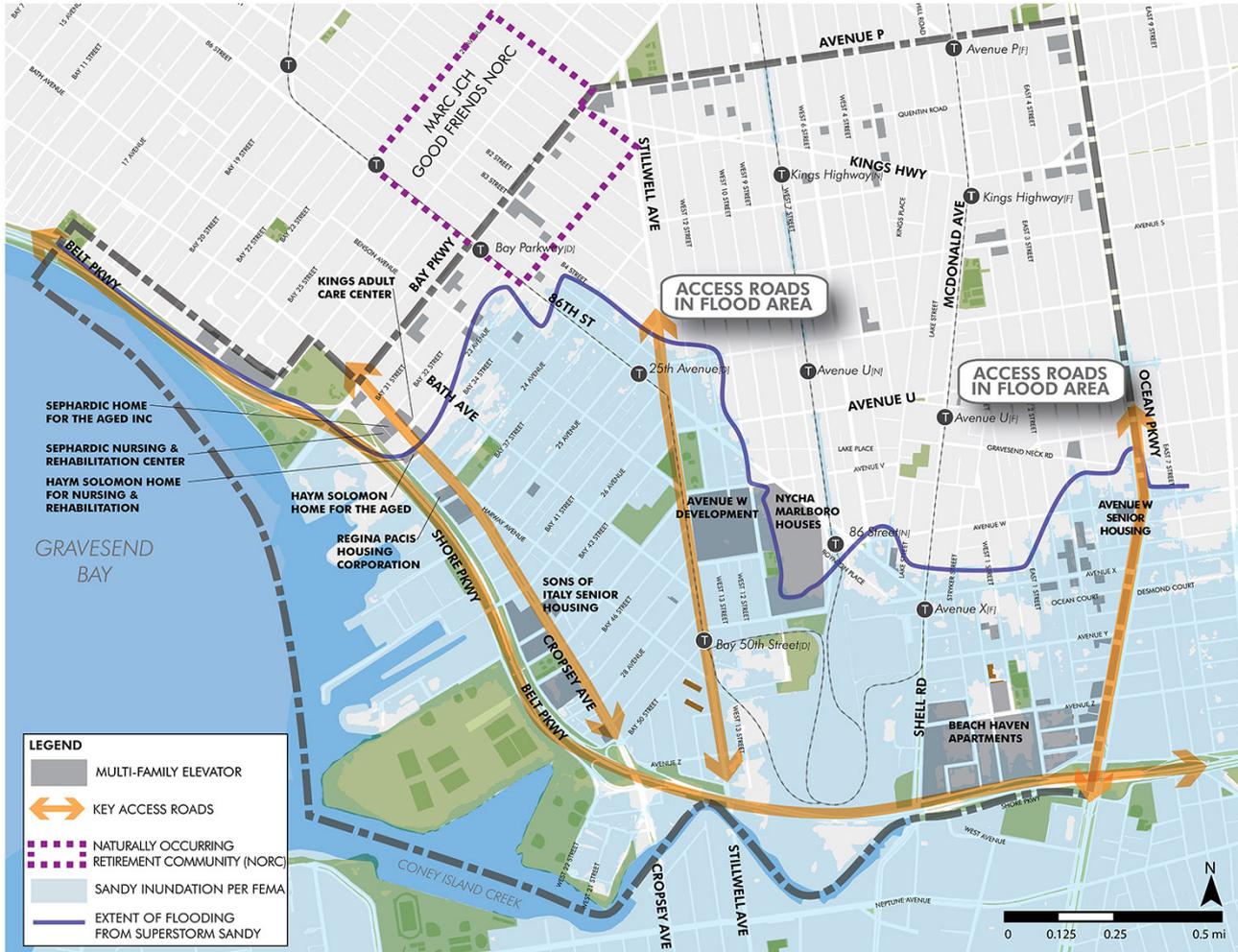
- 1 Homeowner and business owner technical assistance and education program
- 2 Housing Loan Program for resiliency retrofits/repairs

Other Project Ideas



Develop a Coordinated Community Response Plan During Times of Extreme Weather

STRATEGY D

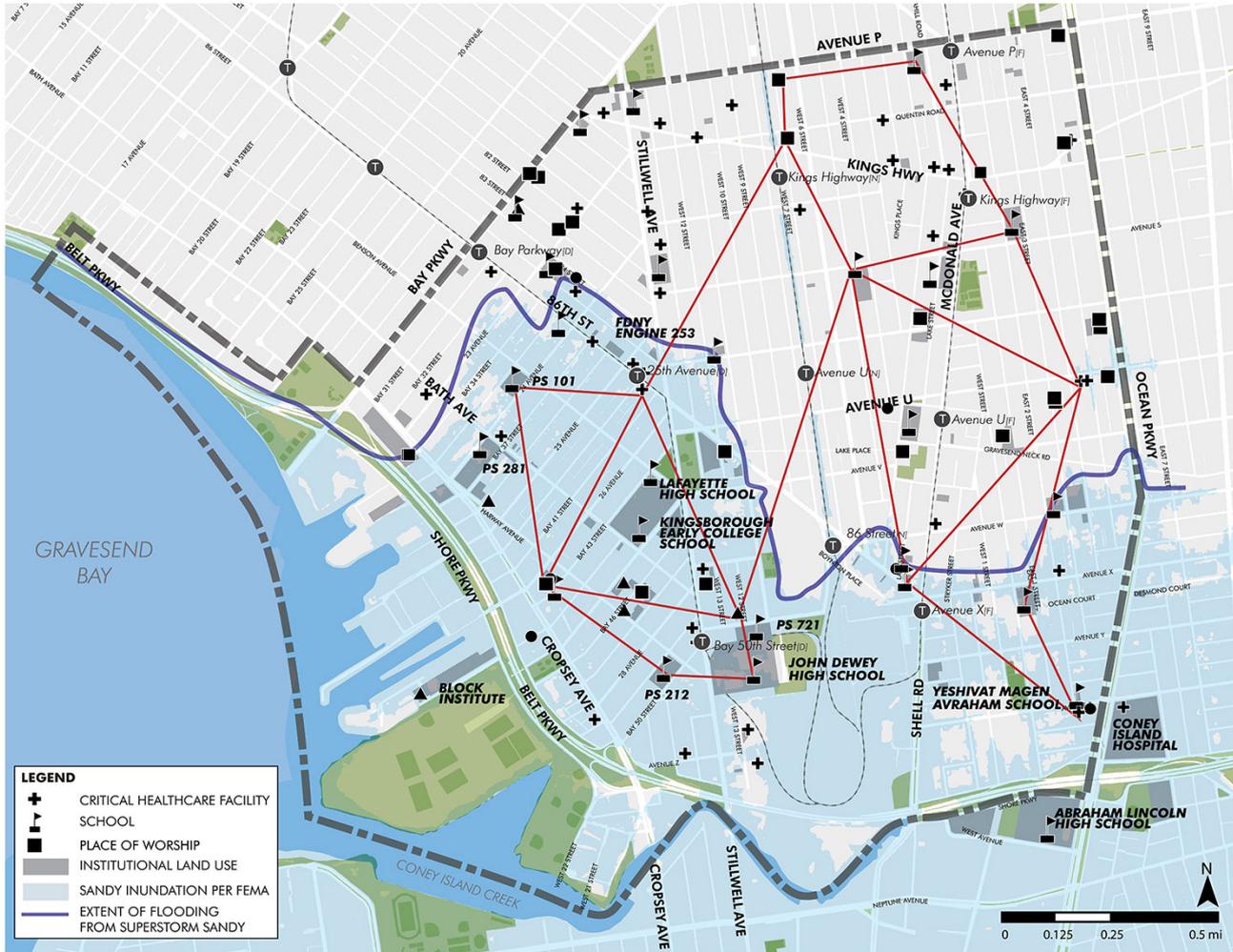


Project Idea Brainstorming

- 1 Community Emergency Response Plan
Programs for vulnerable populations
Coordination between CBOs, CERT, and government agencies
- 2 Disaster Education Program (Including Dissemination of Messages in Multiple Languages)
- 3 OEM CERT education/localization program

Other Project Ideas





Project Idea Brainstorming

- 1 Wi-Fi and safety mesh grid project (to provide connectivity during emergency situations. Includes installation of radio repeaters at identified locations)
- 2 Generators at critical facilities (critical facilities to be determined)
- 3 Sewer line maintenance project
- 4 Backup power for cell towers

Other Project Ideas



Network Node Installation (Red Hook)



Flooding at MTA Coney Island Facility



John Dewey High School



Coney Island Hospital

An aerial photograph of a city, likely New York City, showing a dense urban grid, a large river (the Hudson River), and a multi-lane highway (the George Washington Bridge approach) running parallel to the river. The scene is captured during the golden hour, with warm sunlight illuminating the buildings and casting long shadows. A semi-transparent dark blue banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "Roundtable Discussions" in white.

Roundtable Discussions

Roundtable Discussions: Brainstorm Project Ideas

1. Choose a *Reconstruction Strategy Table*
2. Discuss *Reconstruction Strategy* themes
3. Brainstorm **Project Ideas**

Each table should have:

- 1 person to take notes
- 1 person to present back to the group

Report back on project ideas after discussion



Reconstruction Strategy Tables

Strategy A
Waterfront Resiliency

Strategy B
Community Flooding Issues

Strategy C:
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Strategy D:
Coordinated Community
Response

Strategy E:
Upgrade community infrastructure.



Roundtable Discussions

1. Coffee Break (10-15 mins)
2. Roundtable Discussions (45 mins)
3. Wrap up – speakers from each table (3-5 mins per table)



We want your feedback!

1. Fill out a **Comment Form**
2. Visit the **Community Reconstruction Program** website for more information: stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr
3. Provide comments on the **Community's** website:
<http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/community/gravesend-and-bensonhurst>

Voice your opinion using NYRCR Mapping Gallery Tool

4. Email comments to: info@stormrecovery.ny.gov
5. Attend future **Public Engagement Events**

