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
NYRKR Gravesend & Bensonhurst

NY Rising Team Members

Gravesend and Bensonhurst Planning Committee
- Marnee Elias-Pavia (co-chair)
- Ligia Guallpa (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

Legend
- Planning area
- Community District

Map showing the geographic scope of the NYRCR Gravesend & Bensonhurst area.
What Happened: Sandy Surge

- Flooding at Stillwell Ave and Ave W
- Costal Surge along Belt Parkway
- Coney Island Yard Flooding
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:

1. Tidal Barrier Study
2. Calvert Vaux Park
3. MTA Yard Flood Mitigation
4. Ave V Pumping Station Expansion
5. Coney Island Hospital
6. Bulkhead Repair

Recommended Projects Post Sandy
A. Install armored stone shoreline protection (revetments) of 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 NYCR Plan)
D. Retrofit public housing units damaged by Sandy and increase future resiliency if public housing

Coney Island NYCR Relevant Proposed Projects (not mapped):
- Southern Brooklyn emergency Response Plan (NYCR Coney Island)
- Public Emergency Preparedness Outreach
- Designation of Emergency Response and recovery centers
- Increase resiliency of small businesses throughout peninsula
- Vocational Training Program
- Funding for rezoned 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
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.
Develop a Comprehensive Resiliency Approach to the Waterfront

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

- DOT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
- IMPROVEMENTS TO BENSONHURST PARK
- POSSIBLE STORMWATER STORAGE
- SHORE PARKWAY BIKEWAY ($20 MILLION)
- POTENTIAL TO REUSE TENNIS CENTER
- CALVERT VAUX PARK MASTER PLAN ($40 MILLION)
- EDGE/WETLAND RESTORATION
- TRAIL ALONG THE WATERFRONT
Project Idea Brainstorming

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

Other Project Ideas

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STRATEGY B

Protect the Community from Flooding During Typical Rain Events

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Legend:
- Contours (5' Intervals)
- Sandy inundation per FEMA
- Inundation Area
  - 1-3 feet
  - 3-6 feet
  - >6 feet
- Water Flow (High Points to Low Points)
- Pumping Station
- Sewer Oultalls

Project Sites:
- Avenue U Pumping Station
- Avenue V Pumping Station

Planning Area in 1891 and 2014

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Belt Parkway Flooding
Share Parkway Flooding
Potential for Green Street Along Cropsey Avenue
Project Idea Brainstorming

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

Other Project Ideas

Legend
- Expanded area of preliminary flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs released in 2013)
- Prior FIRM 100-year floodplain

3,066 Single Family
2,802 2-4 Family
3,056 Multi-Family
459 Mixed Use

9,383 Units Added to Special Flood Hazard Area

36% of Community in Special Flood Hazard Area 3x Area Increase

2-3 Family Homes in Gravesend
Green Haven Apartments
Housing with Lowered Yard/Garage
Develop a Coordinated Community Response Plan During Times of Extreme Weather

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

Strategies:

- Integrated disaster planning
- Multi-family elevators
- Key access roads
- Naturally occurring retirement communities (NORC)
- Sandy inundation per FEMA
- Extent of flooding from Superstorm Sandy

NYRCR Gravesend & Bensonhurst

AVENUE P
MCDONALD AVE
STEWELL AVE
KINGS AVE
17TH ST
5TH AVE

LEGEND

MULTI-FAMILY ELEVATOR
KEY ACCESS ROADS
NATURALLY OCCURRING RETIREMENT COMMUNITY (NORC)
SANDY INUNDATION PER FEMA
EXTENT OF FLOODING FROM SUPERSTORM SANDY
Upgrade, Maintain, and Strengthen Community Infrastructure

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 (back stocked)
Flooded at MTA Coney Island Facility
John Dewey High School
Coney Island Hospital
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**: 
- **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
4. Email comments to: info@stormrecovery.ny.gov
5. Attend future Public Engagement Events