



City of Yonkers

NYRCCR Public Engagement Meeting #1

Thursday, July 24, 2014

6:00 PM, Grinton I. Will Library



Welcome

Planning Team

- **State Representatives**

- Suzanne Barclay, GOSR Regional Lead
- Kate Dineen, GOSR Regional Director
- Dan Berkovits, GOSR Policy Manager
- Alex Breinin, GOSR Policy Analyst

- **Planning Committee**

- Steven Brown, Stephen Force, Kathy Graves, Rick Magder, Jagdish Mistry, Leon Nanton, Gail O'Rourke, Tom Ryan, Barbara Smith, Kerry Smith, Paul Summerfield, Renee Toback, Bob Walters

- **Consultant Team**

- Project Management: Nanette Bourne and Jim Finegan (AKRF)
- Engineering: Jaclyn Hakes, Michael Pianka (MJE)
- Risk Assessment: Bill Cesanek and Maggie Hopkins (CDM)
- Public Engagement: James Duffy (ACS)



Agenda

- Overview of NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program (NYRCR)
- Project Timeline
- Report on Progress to Date
 - Geographic Scope
 - Vision & Goals
 - Community Asset Inventory
 - Critical Issues
- Community Input Stations





Overview of NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program (NYRCR)

NYRCR Program

The NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program (NYRCR), developed under Governor Cuomo's leadership, is a community-driven initiative that will empower localities severely damaged by Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, or Tropical Storm Lee to develop comprehensive and innovative recovery plans.



NYRCR Program

Culminates in a community-driven recovery plan for Yonkers that:

- Identifies vulnerable areas of the City
- Develops strategies to protect the City from future flooding
- Recommends resilient and innovative reconstruction projects



Funding

Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

- \$4.4 billion throughout NY State
- \$664 million to NYRCR Program
- \$3 million of NYRCR funds to Yonkers

Funds used for recovery efforts involving

- Community Planning and Capacity Building
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Infrastructure Systems
- Health and Social Services
- Natural and Cultural Resources



NY Rising Community Reconstruction Plan

- The NYRCR Plan must be prepared by December 2014
- The plan will be developed by a committee comprised of Yonkers residents
- Regular input from the public will be sought
- Existing plans and studies are used as the foundation for the plan
- Assistance from State officials and a team of planning consultants



Overview of the Process

Goal: Identify innovative, transformative projects and actions that enhance resilience and economic development

- Determine Geographic Scope
- Establish Vision and Goals
- Describe Storm Damage and Risk Areas
- Identify Assets
- Assess Risk to Assets
- Assemble Needs and Opportunities
- Coordinate regionally
- Develop Resiliency Strategies, Projects and Actions
- Formulate projects with a focus on CDBG-DR funding
- Prepare cost estimates and finalize “Project” list
- Generate Draft and Final NYRCR Reconstruction Plan



Elements of the Final Plan

- Community Overview, Geographic Scope, Storm Damage, Critical Issues, Community Vision, Relationship to Regional Plans
- Description of Assets, Risk Assessment, Needs and Opportunities
- Resiliency Strategies
- Project Profiles
- Additional Resiliency Recommendations



Role of the Community

- 10 Planning Committee Meetings
- 4 Public Engagement Events
- Rationale
 - Community oriented approach
 - Ensure the Plan meets community needs
 - Shape and inform the Plan
 - Inform and educate residents and stakeholders
- Roles
 - Meeting planning, logistics and facilitation (AKRF)
 - Communication with the public (Committee)





Public Engagement

Public Engagement Timeline

- Four Public Meetings
 1. Community input on vision and goals, geographic scope, critical issues, and community assets
 2. Community input on needs and opportunities, strategies, and projects and actions
 3. Community input on proposed projects, draft plan components presented
 4. Share Final Plan and next steps
- Final NYRCR Plan due December 5, 2014



Staying Involved

- Opportunities for Public Participation

- Committee Meetings

- Public Meetings

- Live participation

- Feedback forms (after meeting/take-home)

- NY Rising Yonkers Website

- <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/community/city-yonkers>



Goals For Today

- Sharing the Planning Committee's progress to date
 - Geographic Scope
 - Draft Vision & Goals
 - Draft Community Asset Inventory
 - Draft Critical Issues
- Getting your input
 - How were you affected by the storms?
 - What is your vision for Yonkers?
 - What are Yonkers's most important assets?





Geographic Scope



Vision & Goals

Draft Vision Statement

The City of Yonkers is a vibrant and diverse community focused on protecting our residents, property, infrastructure and natural resources from extreme flooding and natural disasters. Our goals are to work together to safeguard the public health and safety of the City's residents, protect the natural environment, and enhance the City's economy for current and future residents.



Draft Goals

As we develop a Community Reconstruction Plan, we will strive to develop ecologically sound policies and programs to:

- **Protect** our neighborhoods from coastal and riverine flooding;
- **Preserve** the character of our neighborhoods;
- **Address** flooding as a Citywide problem – with multiple watersheds, rivers and tributaries – that requires a coordinated mitigation effort with solutions unique to each watershed;
- **Collaborate** with City, County, State, and Federal agencies regarding drainage improvements and maintenance;
- **Advance** educational outreach to ensure our residents understand natural hazards and how they can protect themselves, their homes, and their neighborhoods against future storms in an environmentally sustainable way;
- **Develop** policy, design, and construction standards to make our neighborhoods more resilient in the future.





Community Asset Inventory

Recovery Support Functions

Natural/Cultural
Resources



Infrastructure



Health/Social
Services



Socially Vulnerable
Populations



Economic
Development



Housing





Natural and Cultural Resources

Committee Suggestions:

- Hudson River
- Saw Mill River
- Grassy Sprain Brook and Bronx River (including Bronx River Reservation)
- Daylighted portion of Saw Mill River
- Tibbets Brook Park
- Beczak & Science Barge
- Hudson River Museum
- Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club
- JFK Marina
- Grassy Sprain Dam
- Yonkers Pier
- Others?





Infrastructure Systems

Committee Suggestions:

- Yonkers Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant
- North Yonkers Pump Station
- Saw Mill Parkway
- Bronx River Parkway
- Sprain Brook Parkway
- Metro North Hudson Line
- Metro North Harlem Line
- Others?





Health and Social Services

Committee Suggestions:

- Storm Shelters
- Public and Private Schools
- Public and Private Day Care Centers
- Public Libraries
- St. John's Riverside Hospital
- St. Joseph's Medical Center
- Sarah Lawrence College
- Police Services
- Fire Services
- Ambulance Services
- Nursing and Senior Care Facilities
- Nepperhan Community Center
- City Hall
- Police Athletic League
- Others?





Economic Development

Committee Suggestions:

- Getty Square
- Hudson River Waterfront
- Ridge Hill
- Executive Boulevard
- Empire City Casino & Yonkers Raceway
- Cross County Shopping Center
- iPark Hudson
- Greyston Bakery
- Kawasaki Rail Car
- Proposed Alexander Street Redevelopment
- Nepperhan Avenue Commercial Corridor
- Others?





Housing

Committee Suggestions:

- Vulnerable residential neighborhoods
- Longvale neighborhood
- Brooklands neighborhood
- Winchester neighborhood
- Sunnybrook neighborhood
- Clunie Avenue corridor
- Nepperhan Avenue corridor
- Municipal Housing Authority of Yonkers
- Waterfront development
Parcels H & I (future development)
- Others?





Critical Issues

Critical Issues

- Flooding – both riverine and coastal
- Stormwater
- Tree damage
- Infrastructure susceptible to storm damage
- Education – must ensure that Yonkers residents are aware of safe practices during storms, including evacuation routes and shelter-in-place methods
- Communication across levels of government – Federal, State, County, City
- Retaining environmental integrity of waterways and other ecosystems
- Managing the impacts of existing and future development





Community Input Stations

Break-out Stations

- Geographic Scope
- Community Vision and Goals
- Community Assets
- Story Board - tell us your storm story





Stay Connected & Stay Informed at
www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr/