



PUBLIC NOTICE

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

PECONIC CROSSING

APRIL 18, 2016

Name of Responsible Entity and Recipient: New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), 38-40 State Street, Hampton Plaza, Albany, NY 12207, in cooperation with the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), of the same address. Contact: Lori A. Shirley (518) 474-0755.

Pursuant to 24 CFR Section 58.43, this combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (FONSI/NOIRROF) satisfies two separate procedural requirements for Project activities proposed to be undertaken by HCR.

Project Description: The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), an office of HCR's HTFC, is responsible for the direct administration of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program in New York State. GOSR proposes to provide CDBG-DR funding to carry out the Peconic Crossing Project (the Project), located at 11 West Main Street, Riverhead, Suffolk County, New York.

On August 28, 2011, Hurricane Irene caused flooding, fallen trees, property damage, and power outages in Suffolk County. A little over one year later, Hurricane Sandy made landfall over the New York coast on October 29, 2012, causing substantial damage in communities throughout Suffolk County. In the wake of such devastation, the importance of building more resilient structures in less vulnerable locations is vital to establishing a more storm-resistant Long Island. Creation of new affordable housing in eastern Long Island is an important component of Suffolk County's overall recovery and it makes sense to construct new housing away from areas of the county that are more susceptible to storm damage. The Town of Riverhead was not as hard hit as communities on the South Shore.

The 0.51-acre Project site is currently completely developed with two connected commercial buildings currently occupied by the Long Island Science Center. The remainder of the property consists of asphalt paved parking area. Peconic Crossing, LLC is proposing to demolish the existing structures and construct a new five-story building consisting of a four-story wood frame structure built over a single-story masonry parking structure. The Science Center would relocate down Main Street to a larger facility in Riverhead. The new Project would include 45 residential units (16 one-bedroom units and 29 two-bedroom units), a parking garage with 33 spaces (2 handicap spaces), a fitness room, community room, on-site

laundry, and an on-site management office. The exterior of the building would consist of brick and cast stone. Access would be from West Main Street. The Project would create housing for 74-119 residents. Five of the 45 units would be set aside for households earning up to 50 percent of the area median income (AMI); 35 units would be set aside for those earning up to 60 percent AMI, and 5 units for those earning up to 90 percent AMI.

The Project site is zoned “DC”-Downtown Center, which allows multi-family housing. Adjacent and nearby land uses include a mix of commercial/industrial and residential uses: north across Main Street are restaurants and retail stores, to the east is a bank, to the south the Peconic River, and to the west commercial retail stores.

While the new building would be partially within the 100-year floodplain, the first floor of the new building will consist of a parking structure made of flood resistant materials. Other resiliency measures would include residential units and equipment located in the second through fifth floors above the base flood elevation. Where stormwater is not able to be directed to landscaped filter strips, it will be directed to leaching galleys/chambers beneath the parking areas using a system of catch basins and piping.

The estimated total Project cost is \$17,650,928, funded with up to \$5,440,000 from the CDBG-DR program.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Project has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and HUD environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 58. The EA is incorporated by reference into this FONSI. Subject to public comments, no further review of the Proposed Project is anticipated. HCR has determined that the EA for the project identified herein complies with the requirements of HUD environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 58. HCR has determined that the Project would have no significant impact on the natural or human environment and therefore does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement under NEPA.

Public Review: Public viewing of the EA is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs> and is also available in person Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM at the following address: Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery NYS Homes & Community Renewal, 38-40 State Street, Albany, New York 12207. Contact: Lori A. Shirley (518) 474-0755.

Further information may be requested by writing to the above address, emailing NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org or by calling (518) 474-0755. This combined notice is being sent to individuals and groups known to be interested in these activities, local news media, appropriate local, state and federal agencies, the regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency having jurisdiction, and the HUD Field Office and is being published in “*Newsday*,” a newspaper of general circulation in the affected community.

Public Comments on FONSI and/or NOIRROF: Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the Project. The public is hereby advised to specify their comments with

“notice” and their address. Comments should be submitted via email, in the proper format, on or before Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org. Written comments may also be submitted at the following address, or by mail, in the proper format, to be received on or before Tuesday, May 3 2016: Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery, 38-40 State, Albany, New York 12207, Attention: Lori A. Shirley. Comments may be received by telephone by contacting Lori A. Shirley at (518) 474-0755. All comments must be received on or before 5pm on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 or they will not be considered. If modifications result from public comment, these will be made prior to proceeding with the expenditure of funds.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS AND CERTIFICATION

On or about Wednesday, May 4, 2106, the HCR certifying officer will submit a request and certification to HUD for the release of CDBG-DR funds as authorized by related laws and policies for the purpose of implementing this part of the New York CDBG-DR program.

HCR certifies to HUD that Lori A. Shirley, in her capacity as Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the U.S. federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows GOSR to use CDBG-DR program funds.

Objection to Release of Funds: HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and GOSR’s certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later). Potential objectors may contact HUD or the GOSR Certifying Officer to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

The only permissible grounds for objections claiming a responsible entity’s non-compliance with 24 CFR Part 58 are: (a) Certification was not executed by HCR’s Certifying Officer; (b) the responsible entity has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the responsible entity has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before release of funds and approval of environmental certification; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to Tennille Smith Parker, Director, Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division, Office of Block Grant Assistance, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410, Phone: (202) 402-4649.

Lori A. Shirley
Certifying Officer
April 18, 2016