



# Blackstone River at Cumberland, Rhode Island

## Flood Risk Mitigation Feasibility Study Kickoff Meeting

US Army Corps of Engineers  
New England District  
Concord, Massachusetts

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## Kickoff Meeting Agenda:

- Introduce the Corps study team
- Describe the purpose of the feasibility study
- Overview of Corps planning and feasibility study process
- Schedule/budget
- Next steps
- General discussion and Q&A

This afternoon at 1 pm the study team will visit the Berkeley Industrial Park to meet impacted business and to tour the study area.



## **Purpose of the Feasibility study:**

Purpose. The purpose of the feasibility study is to identify, evaluate and recommend to decision makers an appropriate, coordinated, implementable solution to the flooding problems in Cumberland, RI. The resulting report will be a complete decision document, referred to as a feasibility report. The report will:

- (1) Provide a complete presentation of study results and findings, including those developed in the reconnaissance phase so that readers can reach independent conclusions regarding the reasonableness of recommendation;
- (2) Indicate compliance with applicable statutes, executive orders and policies; and
- (3) Provide a sound and documented basis for decision makers at all levels to judge the recommended solutions(s).



## **Six-Step Corps Planning Process:**

1. Specification of water and related land resources, problems, and opportunities
2. Inventory, forecast, and analysis of water and related land resource conditions within the planning area relevant to the identified problems and opportunities
3. Formulation of alternative plans
4. Evaluation of the effects of the alternative plans
5. Comparison of alternative plans
6. Selection of a recommended plan



## **Corps Planning Process: Major Study Components:**

1. Economic Analyses
2. Environmental Studies, NEPA Documents, Agency/public Coordination
3. Cultural Resources Studies
4. Hydraulic and Hydrologic Analyses
5. Geotechnical (subsurface) Investigation
6. Civil Engineering /Design
7. Structural Engineering/Design
8. Mechanical and Electrical Engineering/Design
9. Cost Estimates
10. Real Estate Investigations





## **Sample of alternatives to be analyzed:**

### Structural:

- Levees
- Floodwalls
- Channel modifications

### Nonstructural:

- Flood proofing
- Relocation
- Elevating
- No action



## **Study Schedule/ Budget:**

- Budget:

- \$600,000 study:

- Project is funded 50/50 Federal/non-Federal

- All funding is in place – agreement formally signed on October 4th

- First installment of funds received from RI on November 10th

- Schedule:

- Similar Feasibility Studies typically take 18-24 months

- Aggressive schedule to complete a draft feasibility study report by December 2012

- Review Process could take 3-6 additional months depending on complexity of preferred alternative



## **Near term activities: (next three months)**

- Establish existing conditions
- Coordinated site visit/ NEPA Scoping activities
- Geotechnical investigation (site sampling)
- Feasibility scoping meeting (USACE HQ requirement)





## **Path forward, implementation:**

### **1) Corps Agency Technical Review (ATR)**

- ATR team – technical review conducted outside of the New England District
- Larger projects may be require an Independent External Peer Review
- Project submitted to HQ in D.C. for approval
- Decision made at that point on how to move forward with Implementation

### **2) Specifically Authorized Projects**

- Larger, More Complex Projects
- Requires Congressional Authorization for construction in a Water Resources Development Act

### **3) Continuing Authorities Program**

- Section 205 Authority Delegated to Corps
- Smaller, Less Expensive Projects
- Federal expenditure limit for this program is \$7,000,000
- Local sponsor required to contribute 35% of the of the cost of plans, specs, and construction (total cost of project ~ \$11,000,000)



Questions?

Final Comments

Site visit logistics...



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