

Fact Sheet
Structural Measures
(Local Protection)

Option: Road Raisings

- Description:** Roadways may be elevated to form a *de facto* levee, preventing floodwaters from reaching the area behind the road.
- Example(s):** Raised roadways limiting flooding occur throughout the United States. Typically, interstate highways or major state highways function as effective levees due to their size.
- Benefits:** Generally, little additional land is required and no new flood risk management structures are required to be constructed, limiting impacts on the community or its residents. Visual impacts of a raised roadway are minimal.
- Challenges:** Roadways must exist in a location that can impact flooding through elevation. There are functional limits to how much higher existing roadways can be raised, depending on the type of road, the property uses along the road, etc., as well as any resultant safety issues for motorists. Roadway elevation impacts above and below ground utility heights and roadway drainage. Drainage system through the roadway must also be addressed to prevent backwater flooding. Depending on the height of the roadway and length raised, there may be aesthetic considerations and effects on community cohesion and continuity.

