Chelsea Heights, Atlantic City Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study Public Workshop

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Public Workshop Overview

- Introduce Study
- Introduce Study Team
- Describe USACE Planning Process
- Early Public Participation
- Collect Data from Stakeholders
- Answer Stakeholder Questions

Study Description

- 50/50 cost-shared study between USACE and NJDEP
- Primary goal is Flood Risk Management (FRM)
- Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)
- Typical study timeline is 18 to 24 months
- Estimated study completion in Summer 2017

Study Team

- USACE
  - Adrian Leary, Project Manager
  - Regina Kukola, Planner
  - Jake Helminiak, Hydraulic Engineer
  - Preston Oakley, Economist
  - Steve Allen, Biologist
  - Steve Rochette, Public Affairs

- NJDEP
  - David Rosenblatt, Assistant Commissioner, Engineering & Construction
  - Megan Rutkowski, Bureau of Coastal Engineering

Feasibility Study Process

Study Goal and Objectives

- Goal: Improve flood risk management in ways that that are technically feasible and financially prudent for the safety of the citizens of Chelsea Heights.

- Objectives
  - Incorporates needs/desires of Chelsea Heights (Atlantic City) for FRM as much as possible
  - Examine a full suite of alternatives
  - Minimize risk to the community
  - Minimize environmental impacts

Considerations of Study

- Benefits and Costs of Potential FRM Plans
- Environmental and Cultural Impacts of Plans
- Social Effects (health and safety, recreation)
- Real estate requirements
- Applicable regulatory requirements
- Sea Level Rise
- Planning by other agencies (NJDOT)

Note: This is not a comprehensive list

Measures and Plans

- Measures are single features or activities which address the planning objectives.

- Plans are combinations of one or more measures functioning together to address one or more objectives.

Standard Categories for Measures

- USACE Policy and Guidance dictates that the project team consider measures under two specific categories as defined below:

  - **Structural Measures**: Plan features physically limit flooding of the flood prone area (levee, floodwall, etc.).

  - **Non-Structural Measures**: Reduce flood damages without significantly altering the nature or extent of flooding (elevation of structures, floodproofing, etc.).

Array of Measures

Structural

- Bulkhead
- Floodwall
- Deployable Floodwall
- Levee
- Seawall
- Revetment
- Storm Surge Barrier
- Breakwater

Natural and Nature-Based

- Beach fill
- Living Shoreline
- Reefs
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
- Wetland

Non-Structural

- Building retrofit (elevate)
- Acquisition/relocation
- Flood warning/evacuation
- Land use/zoning

Public Input and Information Gathering

Description of flooding problem

- Frequency
- Severity
- Duration
- Where is water coming from?
- Damages
- Most recent events (Sandy, 2016 Nor'easter)

Thoughts on potential solutions

- Structural (i.e. bulkheads)
- Non-structural (raising structures)

Other Concerns/Thoughts

- Environmental Concerns
- Public Safety
- Recreation

Next Steps

- Utilize data gathered from public input to clarify problems and opportunities
- Fill in the data gaps for establishment of existing conditions (survey work, structure inventory)
- Modeling
- Screen measures
- 6-Step Planning Process
- Future public engagement
  - Tentatively selected plan (meeting?)
  - Feasibility Report Public Review and Comment

Questions