

**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in the 100 Year Floodplain  
Mitigation and Resiliency Project for Union Avenue  
New Haven, CT**

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To: All Interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals:

This is to give notice that the state of Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH) has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, (as amended by Executive Order 13690) and/or 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for making Determinations on Floodplain Management, for the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) State of Connecticut Disaster Recovery Program activities under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383) to determine the potential effect that its activity in the floodplain will have on the human environment.

Total cost for the Mitigation and Resiliency Project for Union Avenue is \$5,333,334 subsidized with \$4,000,000 from the CDBG-DR Program funded by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and \$1,333,334 from the City of New Haven. .

The Mitigation and Resiliency Project for Union Avenue will address the flooding that occurs downtown along Union Avenue and other locations during intense rain events. There are two discrete efforts underway as part of this project, namely the Downtown Green Infrastructure Project and the Downtown Storm Sewer Infrastructure Improvements Plan. The Downtown Green Infrastructure Project will begin to address flooding within the 600-acre downtown drainage area by reducing the volume of surface runoff entering the drainage system. Green infrastructure will be used to mitigate the impacts of storm water runoff on the City's storm sewer system. Green infrastructure is an approach to water management that protects, restores, or mimics the natural water cycle using vegetation and soil to infiltrate stormwater at its source. Bioswales are a type of green infrastructure installed within the sidewalk right-of-way. Bioswales prevent stormwater from entering the sewer system by capturing stormwater through a curb cut as it flows down the street during rain events thereby mitigating flooding due to overcapacity of the storm sewer system. A typical bioswale is 15 feet long by 5 feet wide surrounded by a 21-inch high decorative fence. The goal of the Project is to install at least 200 bioswales within public right-of-ways throughout the downtown area.

Improvements to increase the capacity of the underground storm sewer infrastructure will be designed under the Downtown Storm Sewer Infrastructure Improvements Plan. The City has a study underway to assess the performance of the existing storm sewer system through the development of a Storm Water Management Model (SWMM). This model will be used to evaluate alternative solutions to mitigate flooding downtown. The most effective conceptual design from this study will be further developed into construction drawings and specifications as a part of the Downtown Storm Sewer Infrastructure Improvements Plan.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplains and wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the State of Connecticut Department of Housing (CT-DOH) on or

before May 15, 2016. DOH encourages electronic submittal of comments to [CTHousingPlans@ct.gov](mailto:CTHousingPlans@ct.gov). In the alternative, comments may be submitted on paper to: Hermia Delaire, Program Manager, Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery, CT Department of Housing, 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT. 06106, by May 15, 2016, where a full description of the project may also be reviewed during the hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Evonne M. Klein, Commissioner, DOH