



MAKE CAMBRIDGE RESILIENT STAKEHOLDER MEETING NOTES

February 18, 2025
1:30- 3:00 PM

The Make Cambridge Initiative serves as an umbrella for multiple common efforts & grants:

- Flood Mitigation Plan & Concept Design
- Flood Mitigation Project (Phase 1 Design)
- Community Development

Visit: www.makecambridgeresilient.org

Virtual Meeting conducted. Stakeholders and invited guests in attendance:

Name	Organization/Department
Larry White	Strategic Programs Development, LLC
Bucky Jackson	City of Cambridge DPW- City Engineer
LaJan Cephas	City of Cambridge - Mayor
Glenn Steckman	City of Cambridge - Manager
Andrew Koslow	City of Cambridge DPW- Environmental Program Manager
Brian Herrmann	City of Cambridge – Planning Director
Holly Baldwin	City of Cambridge - Planner I & Historic Preservation
Jimmy Windsor	DC Planning and Zoning Director
Susan Webb	Dorchester Emergency Management
Dr. Ming Li	UMCES - Horn Point
Dr. Kenny Rose	UMCES – Horn Point
Josh Patterson	Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Matt Smith	Maryland Department of the Environment
Rob D’Amato	Maryland Department of the Environment
Bryan Bay	Maryland Department of the Environment
Debbie Herr Cornwell	Maryland Department of Planning
Stacey M. Underwood	USACE Baltimore District
Carrie Decker	Chesapeake and Coastal Service, DNR
Colin Vissering	Vissering Group
Amanda Pollack	Center for Watershed Protection
Megan Barniea	BayLand Consultants
Anna Johnson	BayLand Consultants
Sepehr Baharlou	BayLand Consultants
Virginia Smith	SP&D

Welcome and Overview

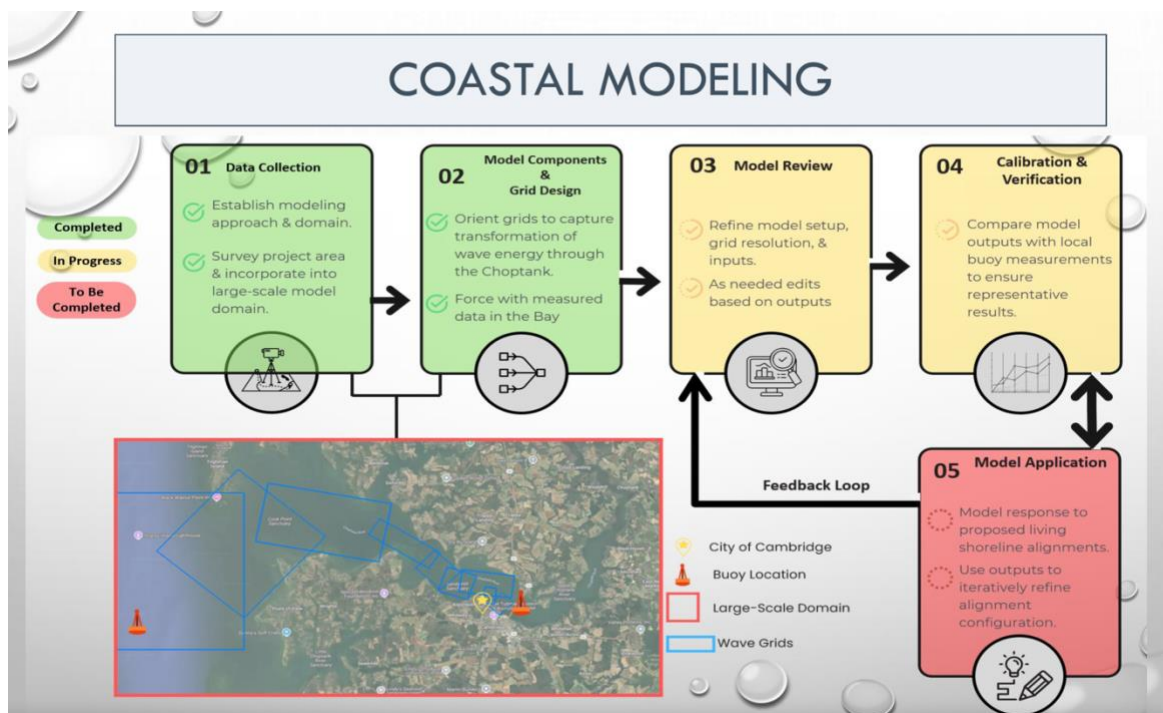
- Larry White, Project Manager, welcomed attendees to the meeting.
- In review, the \$18M *Flood Mitigation and Stormwater Project* will be made available in two phases, with \$1.7 allocated for **design** and the remaining balance for the construction portion of the project pending benefit-cost analysis using detailed project design.
- Larry White provided an update on the overall Make Cambridge Initiative, including a new grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for habitat restoration and green stormwater management. Mr. White indicated that more information on these topics will be covered at the March 2025 Stakeholder Group Meeting.
- BayLand Consultants & Designers, Inc., Megan Barniea and Anna Johnson were the main presenters.

Phase 1 Design - Preliminary Alignment

“**Preliminary Alignment**” in a design project refers to the **initial stage** of establishing the basic layout and positioning of key elements within the design. Examples include the extent and placement of the living shoreline and embankment. This step in the design process allows for easy adjustments and iterations as the design evolves based on feedback and further analysis.

As part of this initial stage in the Flood Mitigation Project – Phase 1 Design, the preliminary alignment was shared with the Stakeholder Group comprised of local, state, and federal partners and subject matter experts.

- Megan Barniea explained that prior to developing an initial preliminary alignment Bayland needed to complete surveying (topographic and hydrographic) for base mapping, obtain geotechnical borings from private property locations (landside), and existing conditions modeling. Keep in mind that the geotechnical investigation, boring site survey work (landside) was completed, however, the in-water borings have not been completed. This survey work is scheduled for next month, March 2025.
- Megan Barniea discussed stormwater - Existing conditions modeling showed areas of flooding during the replace with 1% annual chance storm event.
- Proposed stormwater upgrades to maximize gravity flow and storage, minimize pumping, and utilize extended detention wetland ponds.
- Anna Johnson reviewed coastal modeling and status of the five-steps in process. As shown below, two of the five-steps have been completed, with another two in process, and the final step shown in red indicates “to be completed.”



- Focused on wave interaction with the project, evaluating different configurations of the living shoreline and embankment.
- Identified areas of stronger wave energy and calmer areas for potential habitat enhancement.
- Anna Johnson continued the meeting by showing a series of slides specific to the preliminary alignment which included the basic layout and positioning of key elements within the design.
 - o Proposed a rock-filled embankment in most areas where properties are close to the shoreline which can be constructed in a smaller footprint, is resistant to overtopping, and can be designed to look like a dune. (design elevation of +7 ft NAVD88).
 - o Embankment is an engineered structure integrated with a living shoreline that provides flood protection, protecting people and property, which is the core goal of the project.
 - o This approach lends itself to an aesthetically pleasing shoreline look, making embankments look like a dune, by adding sand over the rock structure, offering more of a dune-like appearance. We are anticipating this will prove more pleasing for the property owners. This along with other options is the point of the upcoming individual meetings we're planning in March with each targeted property owner. At these meetings, the design team will share the preliminary alignment and will ask: What are

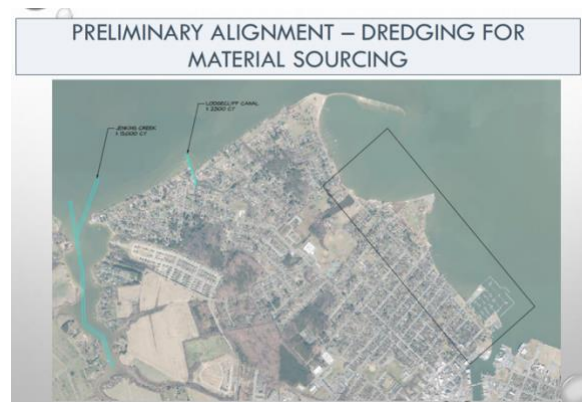
your issues? What would you like to see? Meetings will include the City of Cambridge targeted property owners as well as five property owners within Dorchester County, just outside of the City limits. Feedback will be incorporated into the preliminary alignment.

- Included in preliminary alignment is the raising of roadway sections to function as part of the embankment. These raised sections of roadway will not be akin to speedbumps, but rather gentle gradual slopes on either side.
- Preliminary alignment – adjustments to key features based upon location and needs.
- Tailored the living shoreline design to existing conditions, such as beaches, piers, and structures.
- Proposed enhancements to existing living shorelines and creating new living shoreline areas.
- Living shoreline including high and low marsh followed by stone break wall.
- Integrated the living shoreline design to protect the embankment from coastal impacts.
- Exploring opportunities for habitat features, such as tidal pools, nesting islands, and reef structures, within the living shoreline and stormwater design.
- Coordinating with the University of Maryland on modeling the performance of living shoreline.
- Ms. Johnson requested feedback from the group on the project alignment, embankment design, living shoreline, stormwater, and habitat enhancement.

**PowerPoint slides are included with meeting notes distributed to Stakeholder Group members. For more information on the bulleted items above, refer to slides. Please keep in mind that information herein is subject to change as meetings with targeted property owners and the public have not been conducted. Input is being sought on the preliminary alignment using a three-prong outreach and engagement approach. February and March 2025 have been set aside for presentation of and feedback to the preliminary alignment.*

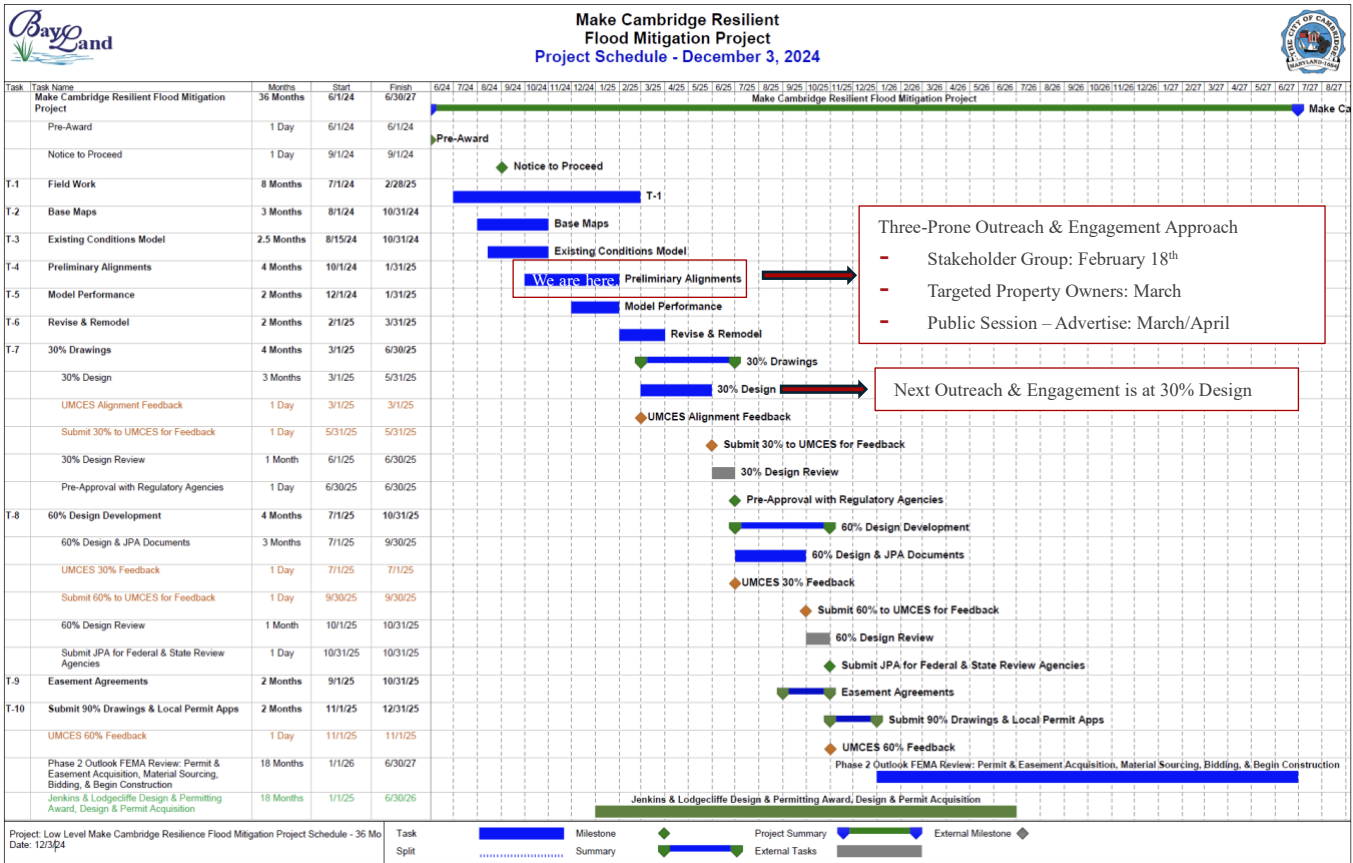
Beneficial Use of Dredge Material

- Sourcing local dredge material is the most cost-effective approach considering the large amount of material needed for this project. Grant funding has been obtained, and the design process is underway. Locations include:
 - Jenkins Creek at ~15,00 yd³
 - Lodgecliff Canal at ~2,500 yd³



Review of Phase 1 Design Project Timeline

- As indicated on the timeline, we are in the initial stages of the Phase 1 Project Design.
- While the previous multi-year planning effort resulted in the Flood Mitigation Plan and concept design. The Flood Mitigation Project Phase 1 Design builds from previous efforts, however a new project timeline and key project milestones specific to design process is now underway. The official start of the Flood Mitigation Project Phase 1 Design was September 1, 2024, following the official execution of the FEMA grant award to the City of Cambridge. As such, the first project deliverable for review and comment under Phase 1 Design is the **Preliminary Alignment**.



Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan – A Component of the Community Development Grant Project

- The draft GI Plan developed along with Appendix 1 Preferred Stormwater Practice were introduced during this meeting. Both documents are attached for review and comment and serve as “read ahead” for the March 2025 Stakeholder Group Meeting.

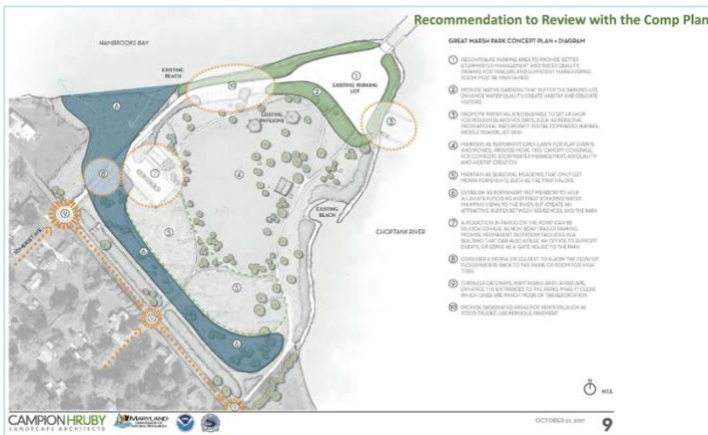
Next Steps

- Distribution of Stakeholder Meeting Notes, Meeting Slide Deck, Draft GI Plan & Appendix
- Sign-Up Form For Workgroups & Preliminary Alignment Comment Fillable Form
- Preliminary Alignment Targeted Property Owner Meetings
- Preliminary Alignment Public Meeting
- March 2025 Stakeholder Group Meeting
 - o NFWF Project Description & Scope Of Work
 - o FEMA BRIC Grant – Flood Protection Against Major Storms
 - o Green Infrastructure Plan, Appendix, & Priority Projects
 - o City of Cambridge Comprehensive Plan Update
- 30% Design – Summer 2025

Additional comments provided by Stakeholder Group members included:

- Offer of presenter to discuss sea level rise and present maps made by MD DNR.
- A simplified presentation with an overall project timeline would be helpful. Key project milestones coinciding outreach efforts and opportunities.
- Photos of representative project areas may assist in communicating the project outcomes.
- Glenn Steckman, Cambridge City Manager requested a presentation for Monday’s City Council meeting.
- Idea was proposed by Mayor Cephas to host a joint meeting with both the City of Cambridge City Council and Dorchester County Council to discuss the project.

- Questions pertaining to changes to and use of Gerry Boyle Park arose. The concept design for developing Gerry Boyle Park is consistent with the Great Marsh Park Working Waterfront Concept Plan. Suggestions were made for communicating this to the public, specifically changes to park usage and amenities.



Great Marsh Park Working Waterfront Concept Plan



Draft Make Cambridge Resilient Concept Design for Gerry Boyle Park.