

CAMBRIDGE SHORELINE RESILIENCE PLAN

OPEN HOUSE & LISTENING SESSION – AUGUST 10, 2021

To engage project stakeholders, an open house and listening session was held on August 10, 2021, at the Dorchester Center for the Arts. The open house, held in the gallery area, included graphic displays, informational brochures, and a flood modeling station. The listening session, held in the upstairs Performance Hall, included a brief project overview and then a series of discussion questions that participants discussed amongst those within their table group. Each table group selected a spokesperson who gave a report out to the larger group. The listening session was a great opportunity to hear public concerns specific to flooding and ideas for flood risk reduction solutions for both current and future conditions.



LISTENING SESSION- ICE BREAKER

What do you think is the best thing about living in the City of Cambridge?

The following items were listed by participants and are not presented in any particular order or prioritization.

-The friendly giving people; -Laid back environment, peaceful; -Small town atmosphere; -The waterfront-Choptank River; -Neighbors; -Sense of Community; -Activities, especially water-related; -Walkability from West End to Downtown; Culture & Heritage; -Seafood (Rockfish); -Architecture; -Yacht Club; -Sailing; -Events; -Location is far enough away from congestion, but not too far away from more urban areas; -Great Marsh Park; -Volunteerism/participation in local events and politics; -Walkability & biking; Access to water and boating; Water access to other areas around Eastern Shore and the Chesapeake Bay.

LISTENING SESSION- FLOODING ISSUES

#1 Who in the community is most at-risk to flooding?

The following items were listed by participants and are not presented in any particular order or prioritization.

-Those within the floodplain area; -Area between Choptank River and Hambrooks, also area along Water Street up to the 100 block; Residents in the West End; -Business owners & employees; -Waterfront homes in low lying area; -Residents in the West End (Choptank, Water, Mill, West End, Oakley, Willis, Belvedere); -People along Water Street & Hambrooks Blvd.; -Eldery & Infirm; -Public Schools; -First responder stations.

CAMBRIDGE SHORELINE RESILIENCE PLAN

LISTENING SESSION- FLOODING ISSUES

#2 What in the community is most at-risk to flooding?

The following items were listed by participants and are not presented in any particular order or prioritization.

-City sewer system; -Personal & commercial property in the West End; -First responder stations and vehicles; -Yacht Club; -Park between Mill & Choptank; -Marina; -Great Marsh Park; -Radio Broadcasting Building on Queen Anne; -Roads, Sewers- storm & sanitary; -Long Wharf; -Marina; Waterfront; -Non-shoreline area drainage ditch systems; -Public Health (when sewer system is impacted); -Residential homes-sewer backup; -Great Marsh Park (public recreation); -Seafood industry; -Marina; -Public health and safety (sanitation and floodwaters); -Mobility due to standing floodwaters

LISTENING SESSION- FLOODING ISSUES

#3 What could be done to solve these flooding problems?

The following items were listed by participants and are not presented in order or prioritization. Rather than a running listing of comments from all table groups, the following comments are presented per table group.

- Upgrade/replace wastewater system and add pumping stations; -Find mechanism to clean out storm drains; -Enforce City Code to keep yard waste off street and out of storm drains; -Street constructions to address runoff issues by need; -Increase infrastructure to avoid runoff; -Add breakwaters along Hambrooks/Water; -Restore Rooster Island;*
- One-way valves built into seawalls; -Improve flood walls and use design compatible with historic residential neighborhood; -Incorporate living shorelines; -Dredge and add fill to Great Marsh Park area and park area between Choptank Avenue and Yacht Club Drive; -Solutions for private property need to be considered with plans for public land.*
- Upgrade sewer (storm & sanitary); Strategic Plan so work is not piecemeal; -Integrated water management plan; -Retreat: property buyouts of zero block;*
- West End- large seawall with pedestrian access on top, connecting entire West End of Town; -Piping system that allows water to go out, but not come back in (at the end of streets that already have seawalls; -Collection system in low areas (Water Street & Hambrooks Blvd.) bringing water to Water Treatment Plant, which would need additional capacity; -Replace sewer lines; -Combination of detention and retention.*
- Control duck valves installation; -Extend pipes that end at roads edge; -Need service & maintenance; -Review and upgrade pump and pipe size for increased flow; -Dredge problem areas and use fill in low lying areas; Increase elevation of Park and install living shoreline; -Make solutions that available for public land available to private property, as well; -Consistent floodwall along entire shoreline with access gates for private property; -Lack of budgeting by the City for road construction and dealing with flooding issues such as blocked drains and ongoing maintenance.*
- Collect stormwater and return to river; update sewer and drainage system; -Improved maintenance.*
- Immediate: stop high tide flooding from backing up in the streets; -Urgent: separate/manage storm water and sanitary sewer system addressing both issues concurrently; -Pump systems to get storm water out and get water to treatment plant.*

LISTENING SESSION- FLOODING ISSUES

#3 What could be done to solve these flooding problems? (Continued from previous page.)

The following items were listed by participants and are not presented in order or prioritization. Rather than a running listing of comments from all table groups, the following comments are presented per table group.

-Combination of hightide with heavy rain results in water coming from both directions and the storm pipe drain between Mill and Choptank Avenues has valves that do not work due to clogging and maintenance issues. Repair the valves to prevent high tide flooding impacts; -No systematic approach to assessing and managing issues relating to unplanned sewage discharge.

Storm check valves in all storm drains and seawall drains due to high tide issues; -Build and reconstruct/extend seawalls; more pumps on sewer system.