

Happy Holidays!

As 2024 winds down, we wanted to provide the group with a briefing for the last quarter of 2024 and an outlook for the first quarter of 2025.

This past quarter, the focus of the Flood Mitigation Project - Phase 1 Design has been developing the preliminary design. We are currently working on a preliminary alignment of the project and modeling of design details. This work has been based on project management team member experience with similar projects, as well as data we have collected. This data includes site elevation and hydrographic survey, and the results of geotechnical borings collected to date. Members of the project management team, including Bayland Consulting, our engineering support contractor, are also sharing the results of discussions and field data with UMCES, who is setting-up their more advanced modeling of our living shoreline. Our goal is to complete the preliminary alignment and design in the February timeframe. Thereafter we plan to meet with this group to present, discuss, and solicit feedback before we meet with residents for their input. All of this outreach will be accomplished prior to producing the 30 percent design drawings for pre-approval for permitting by regulatory agencies.

One of our challenges has been in obtaining residents' approval for property access on private property to conduct our geotechnical borings. As the collection of boring site data has taken a little longer than anticipated, slight modifications were made to the Phase 1 design project timeline. We now anticipate that our contractor, Bayland Consulting, will have the final 30 percent design drawings completed with pre-approval by regulatory agencies by the end of June 2025.

In other news, two green infrastructure design charrettes were held with property owners in the Mill Street area. Both design charrettes resulted in a community design for the potential Mill Street Nature Way Extended project. While the Mill Street Nature Way project, which is on public property, is slated for completion, the Mill Street Nature Way Extended project, which would be entirely on private property was explored as an opportunity. If you would like to learn more about the community design charrettes held this past October, including the resulting community concept design, please see the attached notes.

The draft city-wide Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan that we are developing under our FEMA Community Development Grant will be completed by the end of this quarter and will be ready for review and comment during the first quarter of 2025. As you may recall, the Cambridge, Maryland Preferred Practices for Green Infrastructure document, developed by Andrew Koslow, Environmental Program Director for the City of Cambridge, was completed earlier in 2024. Both the GI Plan and the Preferred Practices will be used by the City as a guide. These two documents will be presented at the next meeting of this group. We plan to request that members of this group review and provide comments on both draft documents during the first quarter of 2025.

As previously reported to this group, the Make Cambridge Resilient Initiative continues to seek further grant funding opportunities. We are pleased to report that one such effort has achieved success. The Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has approved \$2.2M for the City of Cambridge Habitat Restoration and Green Stormwater Management project. While the FEMA Flood Mitigation project is being designed primarily for flood risk reduction purposes, this new NFWF project will maximize the ecological (habitat, water quality) and recreational co-benefits of the living shoreline. Additionally, the NFWF project will provide for the design of a nature-based stormwater storage site at Gerry Boyle Park, reducing reliance on gray infrastructure. Public feedback from previous outreach efforts, which include the 2024 Make

Cambridge Resilient online public survey indicated that habitat restoration, water quality, and public use/recreation are all important to the community, and as such, we listened. This grant, as part of the scope of work, includes engaging stakeholders in the design of the ecological, environmental and recreational features. The goal of the Make Cambridge Initiative is that the result of our flood risk reduction and resilience actions and projects are responsive to and reflective of community needs and continue to build off the City's previous efforts.

Please note that habitat enhancements included in the NFWF project scope of work are not included in the FEMA project scope of work. These two grants complement one another, they do not duplicate.

We look forward to meeting as a group in February 2025, during the first quarter of the year. The focus of the meeting will be on the Flood Mitigation Project – Phase I Preliminary Design, and presentation of the draft city-wide Green Infrastructure Plan. We anticipate the next quarterly meeting of this group, April-June 2025 to focus on the status of permitting the flood mitigation project .

Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

The Make Cambridge Resilient Project Team