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Results of the Public Scoping Process

Draft Concept Screening Criteria Matrix

KEY EVENTS IN AUGUST

Executive Steering Committee Meeting: August 8, 2016

CAG Meeting: August 11, 2016

Final Public Scoping Document available

Final Public Scoping Summary Report available

UPCOMING EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

CAG Meeting #4: September 20, 2016, Concept Component Development

CAG Meeting #5: October 24, 2016, Concept Development and Screening

Work on the following by the Project Team continues:

- **Concept Component Development**
- **Draft Concept Screening Criteria Matrix**
- **Data Collection**
- **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Preparation**

Please visit www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov to obtain current project information and data, including confirmation of the above meeting dates.

REPORT FROM THE CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #3

Active participation in the public scoping process by engaged citizens, local elected officials, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) was highlighted again during the recent Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting #3 for the Rebuild By Design Meadowlands Flood Protection Project. This meeting was held at the Port Authority Building Conference Room at Teterboro Airport on August 11, 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the results of the public scoping process to date and to review in a workshop format the Draft Concept Screening Criteria Matrix developed for the Proposed Project.



CAG Meeting #3

Participants were provided a meeting packet that included a PowerPoint presentation and the Draft Concept Screening Criteria Matrix for the Proposed Project. The NJDEP Project Team began the meeting with a presentation that included a project status update, a summary of the public scoping results, and an overview of the Draft Concept Screening Criteria Matrix. During the meeting, attendees were encouraged to ask questions and provide comments on the provided materials.

Public Scoping Results

The Public Scoping period for the Proposed Project occurred from June 20 to July 21, 2016. During this time, the Draft Public Scoping Document was available for public comment on www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov. The Draft Public Scoping Document outlines the Proposed Project actions, and provides a description of areas of potential impact to be analyzed in the EIS, as well as proposed methodologies to assess impacts.

During the Public Scoping period, comments were received from a diverse range of commenters, which included federal agencies, local organizations, private citizens, and universities. Public comments focused on the following sections of the Draft Public Scoping Document: Technical Resource Areas, Build Alternatives, the Proposed Action, Public Scoping/Outreach, Purpose and Need, and Cumulative Effects. A majority of the Technical Resource Area comments addressed biological resource concerns, including wetlands, special status species, and fish and wildlife habitats. Other comments addressed Water Resources, Water Quality, and Waters of the United States; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Flooding; Recreation; Cultural and Historic Resources; and Visual Quality/Aesthetics concerns.



West Riser Tide Gate in Moonachie identified by the CAG as a Potential Project Concept Location

NJDEP and its Project Team appreciate the public feedback. We have prepared the Final Public Scoping Document and Final Public Scoping Summary Report based on the comments received. Both of these documents will be available to the public on www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

Get involved!

- ✓ If you would like to become a member of the CAG, please contact Alexis Taylor at rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov. The NJDEP welcomes your participation and input into this process!
- ✓ Share information from this newsletter with friends and neighbors.
- ✓ Educate your friends and colleagues on the Project and NEPA process.
- ✓ Continue to build interest in the Project.
- ✓ Subscribe to receive email updates on the Project at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

Draft Concept Screening Criteria Matrix

The Draft Concept Screening Criteria Matrix was created to evaluate concepts leading to the identification of the Build Alternatives analysis in the EIS. The Matrix groups criteria based on the Project's Purpose and Need and includes the following categories:

- Flood Risk Reduction Criteria
- Built Environment/Human Environment Criteria
- Construction Maintenance and Operation Criteria
- Natural Environment Criteria
- Costs and Benefits Criteria

Each project concept will be evaluated by reviewing the concept against the detailed screening criteria and assigning "Good", "Fair", "Poor", or "Potential Fatal Flaw" ratings for each criterion. Based on the analysis using these criteria-based ratings, a concept will either be advanced for further design development, or discarded due to the inability of the concept to meet the Proposed Project's Purpose and Need.

Attendees were given the opportunity to comment on the draft matrix through a whiteboard review led by the Project Team during the second half of CAG Meeting #3. Specifically, CAG members were asked to identify if each criterion was applicable, if any criteria were missing, and if the metrics for each criterion were accurate. Additionally, CAG members were provided until August 19, 2016 to submit comments on the Draft Concept Screening Criteria Matrix. NJDEP and its Project Team will revise and refine the draft matrix based on public feedback before the matrix is applied to evaluate project concepts.

Next Steps

Since CAG Meeting #3, the Project Team has continued to develop initial concepts during team planning meetings, prepare the Final Public Scoping Document, produce the Final Public Scoping Summary Report, advance the Preliminary Draft EIS, and update and refine the Draft Concept Screening Criteria Matrix.

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES												
PURPOSE & COMPONENT	SCREENING CRITERION	COMPARATIVE CONCEPT SCREENING METRICS			PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A DRAFT. WORK IN PROGRESS that will evolve as planning evolves. Not meant for public circulation beyond the ESCAG.							
		GOOD	FAIR	POOR		POTENTIAL FATAL FLAW						
FLOOD RISK REDUCTION	Reduce Flood Risk from Coastal Storm Surge (Stormwater Run-off)	Protects the greatest amount of the Project Area located within the 100-year floodplain from coastal storm surge risk.	Protects a moderate amount of the Project Area located within the 100-year floodplain from coastal storm surge risk.	Protects the least amount of the Project Area located within the 100-year floodplain from coastal storm surge risk.	Plan induces increased flooding from coastal storm surge in the Project Area or elsewhere.							
	Reduce Flood Risk from Natural Inflow Storage Challenges (Inflow from Tributaries)	Provides improved discharge corridors and/or natural storm water storage for most high priority inflow locations/localized flooding areas in the Project Area.	Provides improved discharge corridors and/or natural storm water storage for most high priority inflow locations/localized flooding areas in the Project Area.	Provides improved discharge corridors and/or natural storm water storage for most high priority inflow locations/localized flooding areas in the Project Area.	Plan may induce increased flooding from interior rainfall in the Project Area or elsewhere.							
	Provides Protection to Vulnerable and Underserved Populations	Protects the greatest number of vulnerable and underserved populations as compared to other concepts.	Protects a moderate number of vulnerable and underserved populations as compared to other concepts.	Protects few number of vulnerable and underserved populations as compared to other concepts.	Plan provides to improve protection to vulnerable or underserved populations, and/or increases the risk to these populations.							
BUILT ENVIRONMENT/HUMAN ENVIRONMENT	Provides Protection to Critical Infrastructure (Emergency Services, Healthcare, Transit, Facilities)	Protects the greatest amount of critical infrastructure as compared to other concepts.	Protects a moderate amount of critical infrastructure as compared to other concepts.	Protects the least amount of critical infrastructure as compared to other concepts.	N/A							
	Effects to Existing Utilities & Utility Infrastructure	Requires no or only limited relocations of existing utility infrastructure.	Requires a moderate amount of relocations of existing utility infrastructure.	Requires a large amount of relocations of existing utility infrastructure. However, these impacts could be mitigated in concert with Project Implementation.	N/A							
	Effects to Existing Transportation Network, Local Traffic, and Connectivity	Includes features to improve connectivity (vehicles, bike, pedestrians) of the street system that would improve connectivity and traffic circulation. Would result in long-term benefits to transportation infrastructure, with no or only limited adverse impacts to transportation infrastructure.	Does not include features to improve connectivity (vehicles, bike, pedestrians) of the street system that would improve connectivity and traffic circulation. Would result in long-term adverse impacts to transportation infrastructure. Would not result in any long-term transportation improvements.	May decrease connectivity or traffic circulation at some locations and/or conflict with future opportunities to improve connectivity (vehicles, bike, pedestrians). Would result in significant adverse impacts to transportation infrastructure. Would not result in any long-term transportation improvements.	N/A							
CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS	Effects on Land Acquisition/Resettling/Displacements	May result in land use improvements over the long term. Would not require acquisition/resettlement or other demolition of housing and permanent relocations.	Would not result in land use improvements over the long term. Would require acquisition/resettlement and/or demolition of housing and permanent relocations.	Would require numerous acquisition/resettlements and/or demolition of housing and permanent relocations.	Would result in extensive land acquisition/resettlement and/or demolition of housing and permanent relocations.							
	Potential to Provide Increased Waterfront Access	Includes features that would improve waterfront access within the Project Area.	Does not include features that would improve waterfront access within the Project Area.	Would decrease waterfront access within the Project Area.	Would eliminate waterfront access within the Project Area and/or provide fewer waterfront access within the Project Area.							
	Effects to Recreational, Civic, and Cultural Amenities and Uses	Incorporates new and/or improved amenities to support recreational, commercial, and cultural activities.	Incorporates few and/or improved amenities to support recreational, commercial, and cultural activities.	Incorporates no new and/or improved amenities to support recreational, commercial, and cultural activities.	N/A							
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	Effects to Viewshed and Local Visual Quality	Includes features that would enhance views of water and other natural areas.	Does not include features that would enhance views of water and other natural areas.	Includes features that would eliminate or reduce views of water and natural areas.	N/A							
	Connectivity	No need to relocate major infrastructure and no need to relocate to business/operational/public access during construction.	Some need to relocate major infrastructure and/or some need to relocate to business/operational/public access during construction.	Need to relocate major infrastructure and/or would need to relocate to business/operational/public access during construction.	Construction could not be completed within the scope and budget of the Project.							
	Minimize Long-Term Maintenance & Operation Requirements for Coastal System	Features include a large proportion of permanent, self-sustaining structures, with minor disposable or high maintenance structures, that require a low long-term operations and maintenance commitment. Few or no features with potential for human error are included.	Features include a moderate proportion of permanent, self-sustaining structures, with minor disposable or high maintenance structures, that require a moderate, long-term operations and maintenance commitment. Features with potential for human error are included.	Features include a small proportion of permanent, self-sustaining structures, with a greater number of disposable or high maintenance structures, that require a high long-term operations and maintenance commitment. Features with potential for human error are included.	N/A							
COSTS & BENEFITS	Potential to Complete by 2022	High probability that construction would meet Project budget requirements. Funds required pose no risk to project schedule.	Modest probability that construction would meet Project budget requirements. Funds required pose a moderate risk to project schedule.	Low probability that construction would meet Project budget requirements. Funds required pose a significant risk to project schedule.	Construction and initial operation condition could not be achieved by 2022.							
	Effects to Existing Hazardous Waste Sites	Features include the implementation of remedial investigation and remedial actions or other measures to prevent construction, a long-term beneficial effect.	Features are primarily compatible with ongoing remedial investigations and remedial actions.	Features would interfere with ongoing remedial investigations or remedial actions, or other measures to prevent construction.	Significant impacts to hazardous waste sites, remedial investigations, and/or remedial actions, and/or results to prevent construction, continuation in the environment.							
	Effects to Berry's Creek Remediation	No potential for physical, hydrologic, or hydraulic impacts to Berry's Creek Study Area that may impact remediation plan.	Potential physical, hydrologic, or hydraulic impacts to Berry's Creek Study Area that may impact remediation plan.	Physical, hydrologic, or hydraulic impacts to Berry's Creek Study Area that may impact remediation plan.	Would result in significant impacts to Berry's Creek remedial actions, and/or results to prevent construction in the environment.							
COSTS & BENEFITS	Effects on the Transport of Sediment and Contaminants during Flood Events	In affected areas, would prevent the unaided transport of unexcused hazardous materials during flooding. Contaminated sediments would not be transported. No increase in impacts in unaffected areas.	In affected areas, would reduce the unaided transport of unexcused hazardous materials during flooding. The unexcused of contaminated sediments may occur, but effects would be of short duration and could be mitigated using best management practices. No increase in impacts in unaffected areas.	In affected areas, unexcused hazardous materials would continue to be subject to transport by floodwaters as under current conditions. The unexcused of contaminated sediments would occur, as would the continued transport of some throughout the environment similar to existing levels.	Would result in significant adverse impacts to contaminated and/or contaminated sediments during flood events as compared to current conditions.							
	Effects to Ecological Resources including Wetlands, "Waters of the US," and "Waters Quality"	Includes features that protect and/or enhance ecological and water resources in the Project Area. Would result in long-term ecological resource improvements.	Does not include features that protect and/or enhance ecological and water resources in the Project Area. Would result in no potential for long-term ecological resource improvements. Overall neutral or minor adverse effects would be expected.	Includes features that would result in adverse impacts to ecological and water resources over the long term. Concept does not include features that would protect and/or enhance water resources in the Project Area.	Would result in significant adverse impacts to ecological and water resources in the Project Area or elsewhere, and/or would result in existing wetland mitigation banks and ongoing wetlands restoration activities.							
	Effects to Fisheries and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)	Includes features that protect and/or enhance connectivity of fisheries habitats and/or facilitate fish migration. No adverse impacts to EFH.	Does not include features that protect and/or enhance connectivity of fisheries habitats and/or facilitate fish migration. Adverse impacts to EFH.	Does not include features that protect and/or enhance connectivity of fisheries habitats and/or facilitate fish migration. Adverse impacts to EFH.	Would result in significant adverse impacts to connectivity of fisheries habitats and/or facilitate fish migration, including adverse impacts to EFH.							
COSTS & BENEFITS	Effects to Other Sensitive Ecological Resources (e.g. Protected Species)	Includes features that protect and/or enhance protected species habitats. No adverse effects to protected species.	Does not include features that protect and/or enhance protected species habitats, but may offer opportunities for further habitat enhancements. No adverse effects to protected species.	Does not include features that protect and/or enhance protected species habitats, and does not offer opportunities for further habitat enhancements. Potential adverse effects to protected species.	Would result in significant adverse effects to protected species.							
	Effects to Historic and Prehistoric Cultural Resources	Includes features that protect and/or enhance cultural resource management in the Project Area. Would result in no adverse effects to cultural resources listed on or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.	Does not include features that protect and/or enhance cultural resource management in the Project Area. Would result in no adverse effects to cultural resources listed on or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.	Does not include features that protect and/or enhance cultural resource management in the Project Area. Would result in adverse effects to cultural resources listed on or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.	Would result in significant adverse impacts to cultural resources in the Project Area or elsewhere.							
	Provides Benefits to the Project Area and Community	High potential to achieve maximum monetary benefits, including flood risk reduction, co-benefits, and others.	Modest potential to achieve monetary benefits, including flood risk reduction, co-benefits, and others.	Low potential to achieve monetary benefits, including flood risk reduction, co-benefits, and others.	Not possible to achieve monetary benefits, including flood risk reduction, co-benefits, and others.							
PURPOSE & COMPONENT	Can be Implemented within Available Funding Limits	Concept could be implemented within available funding limits.	N/A	Concept would not be implementable within available or other identified funding limits.	Concept could not be implemented within available or other identified funding limits.							
	Has a Positive Benefit/Cost Ratio (BCR)	Concept has a high potential to have a BCR > 1.0.	Concept has a moderate potential to have a BCR > 1.0.	Concept has a low potential to have a BCR > 1.0.	Concept has a low potential to have a BCR > 1.0.							
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The Draft Concept Screening Criteria Matrix is available for full view at www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov.

