

**New York City Office of Management and Budget (OMB)**  
**Community Development Block Grant – National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR)**  
**Brooklyn Bridge – Montgomery Coastal Resilience (BMCR) Project**  
**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of New York (the City) is proposing to undertake activities within the 100-year floodplain relating to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – National Disaster Resilience (CDBG-NDR) program. Pursuant to the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-2) and competitively awarded under a Notice of Funding Availability (#1-R-5800-N-29A2) the New York City Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is acting as a recipient of funding allocated via the National Disaster Resilience Competition. This notice is required by Section 2(a)(4) of Executive Order (EO) 11988 for Floodplain Management and is implemented by HUD Regulations found at 24 CFR 55.20(b) for the HUD action that is within and/or affects a floodplain.

Since the proposed project is federally funded and requires approvals from various City, State and Federal agencies, an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to examine the potential environmental and social impacts of the project. HUD has allocated CDBG-NDR funds, which would be dispersed through OMB as the Responsible Entity (RE) for the proposed project; therefore, OMB is the Lead Agency for the NEPA review. The lead city agency under New York City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) is the Office of the Mayor of the City of New York (OOM), and the applicant is the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains 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. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternate methods to serve the same project purpose and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains 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, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

In October 2012, Hurricane Sandy made landfall, greatly impacting the Lower East Side of Manhattan between the Brooklyn Bridge and Montgomery Street highlighting existing deficiencies in the City's ability to adequately protect vulnerable populations and critical infrastructure during major storm events. Hurricane Sandy, a presidentially declared disaster, caused extensive inland flooding, resulting in significant damage to residential and commercial property, transportation, power, parklands and water and sewer infrastructure, which in turn affected medical and other critical services. To address the vulnerability of this area, the City is proposing to install and operate a flood protection system between the Brooklyn Bridge and Montgomery Street as part of the Brooklyn Bridge-Montgomery Coastal Resilience (BMCR) Project. Proposed flood control system elements include fixed walls, flip-up barriers, roller gates, intermediate posts, and tie-ins to the existing floodplain boundary. In the undeployed position, the flip-up barriers would lay flat against the ground, and roller gates would be situated behind 18.5 feet high fixed walls. The alignment between Brooklyn Bridge and Pier 35 along the waterfront esplanade, would consist primarily of flip-up gates in order to preserve waterfront views and access and provide space for recreational and community amenities to the greatest extent possible. From Pier 35 to Montgomery Street, the flood control system alignment would be located between South Street and the

Pier 36 parking lot. This section of the alignment consists primarily of fixed structures, with roller gates located to provide entry and egress to the parking lot. At both the Brooklyn Bridge and Montgomery Street ends of the project area, the alignment crosses South Street and runs inland to tie to high ground. The alignment crosses South Street with a flip-up gate embedded in the roadway to allow unimpeded traffic flow before and after deployment events. In the fully deployed position, all flood control system elements combine to form a linear wall across the entire project alignment between the Brooklyn Bridge and Montgomery Street.

Under a coastal surge scenario, the capacity of the existing Combined Sewer System (CSS) is reduced, because it cannot discharge combined sewer overflow (CSO) to the receiving waters. The BMCR Project would update the existing stormwater management system. The drainage improvement structures would sit below ground and provide a connection between the existing combined sewer and interceptor sewer that would be necessary during the design storm scenario. Their purpose is to mitigate the reduction of overflow capacity at the five project area outfalls during the design event by diverting storm water flow to the interceptor upstream of the five outfalls.

Based on review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 2015 Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (PFIRM) the Proposed Activity is within the 100-year floodplain (FEMA flood map 3604970203F). Specifically, 12.8 acres of the 14.0 acre project area for the Proposed Activity would occur in an area classified as Zone AE and Zone VE. Zone AE is defined as an area subject to the one-percent-annual-chance flood event, for which Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) have been determined. Zone VE is defined as an area subject to the one-percent-annual-chance flood event with velocity hazard.

All interested persons, groups, and agencies are invited to submit comments regarding the proposed use of federal funds to support the construction of the proposed project in a floodplain. The City is interested in alternatives and public perceptions of possible adverse impacts that could result from the project as well as potential mitigation measures. Maps of the proposed project area, and maps of the proposed location of activities within a 100-year floodplain are available at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/cdbgdr/documents/environmental-records.page>.

Written comments should be sent to OMB via email at [CDBGDR-Enviro@omb.nyc.gov](mailto:CDBGDR-Enviro@omb.nyc.gov). The minimum 15 calendar day comment period will begin the day after publication and end on the 16th day after publication. Such comments should be received by OMB on or before December 21, 2020.

City of New York: Bill de Blasio, Mayor

City of New York, Office of Management and Budget, Jacques Jiha, Director

Date: December 4, 2020