

**To:** Susmitha Attota, Town Planner, Town of Stratford

**From:** Patrick Carleton, MetroCOG

**Date:** August 12, 2019

**Subject:** MetroCOG 2019 Multi – Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG), the Regional Council of Governments that includes the Town of Stratford recently developed the 2019 Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) Update. The primary goal of the NHMP is to reduce the loss of life, personal injury and damage to property, infrastructure and natural, cultural and economic resources from a natural disaster. Adoption of the NHMP makes a community eligible for certain mitigation project grants administered and provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**Outreach & Community Input:** Throughout the development of the NHMP, MetroCOG worked closely with the Town of Stratford, including the Planning & Zoning, Engineering and Emergency Management Departments to identify actions and strategies that will reduce vulnerability to natural hazards. A significant number of these actions and strategies include infrastructure improvements, public outreach and property protection.

MetroCOG held two regional public meetings, January 17, 2019 and April 25, 2019 which provided guidance as well. MetroCOG also provided an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft NHMP, which was released on June 11<sup>th</sup> and available through June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Stakeholders in Stratford were also contacted to complete a survey, which served to collect information on recent emergency events. Along with the workshops and surveys, the Conservation Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC), an advisory body to MetroCOG, made up of representatives from each Greater Bridgeport Region municipality, provided comments and guidance throughout the drafting stage of the plan.

**Examples of Proposed Mitigation Actions from the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Stratford include<sup>1</sup>:**

- Develop, adopt and implement a Program for Public Information (PPI) as part of the Town’s participation in the CRS Program.
- Pursue funding to floodproof municipal buildings in the town by raising equipment and generators and installing projectile-proof windows where necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> The complete list of Mitigation Actions, as well as the process of implementing these actions can be found beginning in Section 5.5, Page 5-4 of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

- Update the evacuation plans and make these routes available on the new Regional GIS system. The evacuation routes will also be made available to the Public on the Town's website.
- Clearly define roles of the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) to optimize response functions of emergency services.

**Authority:** The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is authorized under the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA). Under DMA, communities are required to develop and submit a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan as a condition of eligibility for certain funding opportunities offered by FEMA, including the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program and post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).