

Surfside Drainage Improvement & Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan

Community Value

Project Value

In 2019, Florida's Chief Resilience Officer identified Surfside as one of the 10 communities statewide that are most vulnerable to impacts of hurricanes, flooding and climate change. Residents have long experienced rainfall-induced flooding on major residential streets, particularly Abbott Avenue, where two 25-year storms in six months damaged cars, homes and garages, costing residents hundreds to thousands of dollars apiece. Drainage enhancement serving vulnerable areas on the town's eastern side will lessen the flooding residents already experience from everyday rainfall. It will also help future-proof the town against growing flood risk from natural disasters such as extreme rain events, tropical storms and hurricanes. Drainage enhancement is particularly important because sea-level rise is raising Surfside's groundwater table, lessening the space available for drainage after storms and swelling the risk of damage from king tides. Additionally, enhanced drainage that reduces flood risk will be factored into Surfside's CRS score, decreasing the premiums paid by residents. If the Town takes steps to reduce flood risk, it will not only reduce the amount residents have to pay for flood insurance, but also assist in safeguarding their property values and homes.

Lifelines Served

Drainage enhancement will serve the following community lifelines: safety and security; food, water, shelter; health and medical; energy; communications; transportation; and hazardous materials. Enhanced drainage reduces risks from heavy rainfall, storm surge and King Tides, which result in flooding that jeopardizes the safety and security of Surfside residents and may force them to evacuate from their primary sources of shelter. Reduction of flooding will help safeguard transportation and ensure residents have access to food, water, gas and medical services; improved drainage will mitigate health risks from coming in contact with potentially contaminated flood water. Better drainage will also reduce the risk of interruptions to energy services and communications infrastructure. Finally, decreased flooding and improvements to key drainage infrastructure such as pumps and baffle boxes will help ensure containment of hazardous materials that might otherwise contaminate the environment, including entering Biscayne Bay.

Community Involvement

The project team will seek public input through two surveys and by providing an email address where the public can submit questions, comments and concerns. The public comment email address will be active throughout the entirety of the project. The first survey will be released during Outreach Phase II to collect public priorities for hazard mitigation; the second survey will be released in Outreach Phase III to seek feedback on the draft plan. Additionally, four public events will educate the public on the drainage enhancement process, and to collect input on key hazards and the draft plan. These public events may be held virtually if necessitated by the coronavirus, and will be scheduled: prior to the issuance of an RFQ or scope of work for design and engineering services; as part of the design and engineering process; after the draft plan is released; and after the final plan is released. The final plan will be posted to the Town of

Surfside website, www.townofsurfsidefl.gov in the resilience and flooding sections. It will also be shared with residents through the “Town Gazette” newsletter and resident email list. Data and maps used to develop the plan will be made publicly available on the Town’s website, along with recordings of the public workshops, survey results and other materials used for public outreach.