

## **New Bern Resiliency Public Meeting 2 Q&A**

- 1. Is the flood vulnerability assessment being funded from a grant or federal funds?**  
The planning process is funded through grants. The City of New Bern's Resiliency landing page describes the grants that fund this work, along with a timeline.
- 2. During the flood vulnerability assessment presentation as part of Public Meeting 2, many maps were shown at the study-wide scale. Is the analysis available at a more detailed scale, perhaps at a neighborhood or block scale?**  
The assessment is performed at the level of scale presented. The City is able to evaluate parcel-level data.
- 3. The survey appears to emphasize voluntary efforts to mitigate risk. What about other sources of financial assistance being identified sooner than later, that is, before the next flooding event?**  
The options for funding flood mitigation strategies will be analyzed in the next phase of the plan. Emphasizing with hazard mitigation at the community level requires many types of mitigation techniques to create flooding problem solutions. Individual property owner solutions and funds are available through State of North Carolina and federal government agencies such as FEMA, EPA, and NOAA. We will be looking at the most appropriate funding options across a diverse range of sources.
- 4. Is this the first time a flood vulnerability assessment study been done for New Bern?**  
Yes, this is the first time the City of New Bern has conducted such a study.
- 5. Will there be a future partnership between City and County officials to comprehensively address mitigation in the future?**  
As shown in the presentation's total survey area, flooding does not stop at municipal boundaries. It is the City's hope to provide this plan as a model to the County and to other communities.
- 6. As part of the next steps, are there plans to include educating local government and stakeholders regarding climate science and how it effects planning and policy?**  
Our upcoming stakeholder meeting at the end of February will provide additional insight and contributions to the project that will build upon public meetings. All input will be incorporated into the plan document and mitigation solutions. We are looking for ways to make this a more meaningful process for all participants.
- 7. Has the planning team worked in collaboration with state-level agencies to evaluate the feasibility of solutions? For example, NC Emergency Management, NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency?**

The State recently released the NC Climate Risk and Resilience Plan in 2020. Members of the team provided potential mitigation solutions. State of North Carolina has in place a program for local hazard mitigation planning process. As we look at mitigation projects, we will make sure they are consistent with local, regional, and state priorities.

**8. What are the special considerations regarding historic structures?**

We are encouraging the use of the National Park Service's guidelines to minimize damage and as sources of targeted assistance for retrofitting historic buildings.

**9. How can a homeowner get more information on pre-disaster funding?**

FEMA funding has a current program called Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC). For homeowners, typical projects include elevating the home, utilities, and similar mitigation projects. Homeowners work with local government to express an interest in a type of project, such as relocation or participation in volunteer acquisition. Homeowners can coordinate with the City of New Bern to submit an application to the State of North Carolina. Additional resources can be provided as needed. A dedicated email can be used to email questions to the City of New Bern Resiliency Email: [resiliency@newbernnc.gov](mailto:resiliency@newbernnc.gov)

**10. Where can we locate the information presented at Public Meeting 2 on flood vulnerability assessment?**

The City of New Bern Resiliency

Webpage: [https://www.newbernnc.gov/departments/development\\_services/resiliency.php](https://www.newbernnc.gov/departments/development_services/resiliency.php) will have all public facing resources available.

There was a comment at the end of the Q&A session. Georgina Sanchez stated this is a really interesting, comprehensive study. Thank you for sharing your preliminary results. She is a researcher with the Center for Geospatial Analytics at NCSU. Her team conducts extensive research to understand and anticipate increasing flood risk due to extreme precipitation and urban development. She would love to have a follow up conversation regarding the planned next phases (to identify solutions) for the City of New Bern.