



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## Office of Recovery and Resiliency

Roy Cooper, Governor

Cassandra Skinner Hoekstra, Interim Secretary

Laura H. Hogshead, Director

### EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

#### WEST LUMBERTON FLOOD GATE AT VFW ROAD AND RAILROAD UNDERPASS WEST OF INTERSTATE 95 (I-95) NEAR COX ROAD, VFW ROAD, HACKETT STREET, AND THE CSX RAILROAD CROSSING IN THE CITY OF LUMBERTON ROBESON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA OCTOBER 30, 2021

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) has received an application from the City of Lumberton to use Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding from the Infrastructure Recovery Program to implement the West Lumberton Flood Gate at VFW Road and Railroad Underpass (hereinafter, the “Proposed Activity”) and is conducting an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations (24 CFR Part 55). There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, the public is provided an opportunity to express their concerns and share information about the Proposed Activity, including alternative locations outside of the floodplain. Second, adequate public notice is an important public education tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains facilitates and enhances governmental efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk. Funding for the Proposed Activity will be provided in part by the HUD CDBG-DR program for Hurricane Matthew storm recovery activities in North Carolina.

The Proposed Activity is needed to prevent future flood occurrences through the CSX railroad penetration under I-95, an area of south and west Lumberton that has suffered devastation from extreme river flooding. During Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and Hurricane Florence in 2018, flood waters entered the protected side of the levee and disrupted City-wide services such as the potable water supply and electric utility grid for several days. The City of Lumberton proposes to install a mechanical flood gate system and related drainage/flood improvements that will mitigate against 100-year flood events flowing through the west side of the I-95 overpass at this location. The proposed project area is approximately 3.5 acres in size and located west of I-95 in the vicinity of Cox Road, VFW Road, Hackett Street, and the CSX railroad crossing in the City of Lumberton.

The Proposed Activity will impose minimal ground disturbance and include constructing an approximately 35-foot flood gate to swing over the CSX tracks. Concrete wing walls will extend out from either side of the gate and connect to an earthen berm that ties the system into the I-95 road bed. An approximately 800 linear foot earthen levee extension will be constructed from the existing I-95 bridge abutment to the flood gate.

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Sheet piling will be installed approximately 15 feet below existing grade for the earthen levee and concrete wing wall sections. Portions of VFW Road and Hackett Street will be realigned to accommodate the flood gate, and miscellaneous appurtenances and pavement repair will be performed.

The majority of the Proposed Activity is located within Zone AE - Special Flood Hazard Area (100-year floodplain) of the Lumber River with Base Flood Elevation of 123.5 feet. However, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) map depicts the areas immediately surrounding the I-95 corridor as located within Zone X – Area of Minimal Flood Hazard and Zone X – Area with Reduced Flood Risk Due to Levee. The Proposed Activity will result in approximately 3.5 acres of temporary impacts and approximately 1.6 acres of permanent impacts to the 100-Year Floodplain. The Proposed Activity is not located within wetlands according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Wetland Inventory.

The Proposed Activity will be located on the west side of I-95 where there will be minimal impacts to the floodplain because the design has been reviewed and considered for safety such that no overtopping will occur. Since the Proposed Activity will be generally contained within previously disturbed railroad and roadway easements, with a minimal increase in the current footprint, only short-term impacts to previously disturbed areas would result. No substantive short-or long-term change to the natural and beneficial values of floodplains would occur, and there would be no impacts to wetlands. Potential adverse impacts from construction would be temporary and mitigated through detailed construction staging plans developed in partnership with CSX and NCDOT to minimize disturbance throughout the construction period. The Proposed Activity would result in a beneficial outcome for businesses and residents in south and west Lumberton, as well as residents City-wide, by preventing future flood occurrences during storm events.

FEMA FIRM floodplain maps are available for review at <https://www.rebuild.nc.gov/about/plans-policies-reports/environmental-reviews>. A description of the Proposed Activity and FIRM may also be reviewed from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at City of Lumberton Department of Public Works, 500 North Cedar Street, Lumberton, NC 28358.

Written comments must be received by NCORR at the following address on or before November 15, 2021: Matt Arlyn, Chief Policy and Planning Officer, NCORR, ATTN: W. Lumberton Flood Gate, P.O. Box 110465, Durham, NC 27709 or via email at [publiccomments@rebuild.nc.gov](mailto:publiccomments@rebuild.nc.gov) with “ATTN: W. Lumberton Flood Gate Comments” in the subject line.