**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**(Date)**

**DRAFT**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Division of Emergency Management have received the following application for Federal grant funding.  Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) consideration to provide funding in the form of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Funds will be provided in accordance with Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

**Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.**

**Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.**

**Applicant:**

*Town of Longboat Key*

**Project Title:**

4673-(444) Town of Longboat Key, Sleepy Lagoon-Norton Street, Flood Risk Reduction (TB)

**Location of Proposed Work:**

The area affected by this project consists of homes in the following locations:

The Project includes Norton Street in the Sleepy Lagoon Subdivision.

**Proposed Work and Purpose:**

Norton Street Flood Reduction

Reconstruction

Norton Street has an existing 25-foot-wide right-of-way.  In the Sleepy Lagoon Stormwater Analysis report, Norton Street was identified as the street in project area with the lowest elevation and highest susceptibility to Sea Level Rise (SLR), King Tide flooding, and standing water during rainfall events that are concurrent with a high tide.  The lowest elevation on Norton Street is at 1.1 ft NAVD88. The reconstruction project will elevate the road up to an additional 1.3 feet at the edge of pavement. Elevation of the road will vary depending on existing grade. A stormwater management system of inlets, pipes, and check valves will be designed to provide an efficient, positive outfall for the roadway.

During the design phase careful attention to the finished floor elevations of adjacent homes was critical to set the final grade of the road.  Considerable coordination will be necessary with each property owner to ensure the elevation change does not adversely impact the private properties.  The elevation of the roadway will create a greater head differential to improve the function of check valves.  While the road elevation projects will provide relief from sunny day flooding (King Tides), the improvements will have limited benefits during extreme weather events, storm surge, and hurricanes.  Engineering plans will be developed and contractor procured to raise the roadway and associated stormwater drains and inlets, and the proposed improvements will tie into existing terrain/higher ground.

With the 25-foot-wide right-of-way constraints, the projects will require temporary construction easements from every bordering property to allow for grading needed to tie back to existing elevations. The activities that will be required in the temporary construction easements include driveway reconstruction, grading, and landscaping. In addition, utility adjustments and other property specific activities may be necessary in the temporary construction easements.

Elevation improvement will primarily aid in roadway access during high tides, however, as part of the roadway improvement, the roadway drainage system will be upgraded and have added capacity to convey runoff more effectively from the roadway and surrounding homes and area by adding an engineered stormwater management system with additional inlets and piping.

In addition to the temporary construction easements along the road right-of-way, additional permanent utility and drainage easements may be required at some locations, to be determined, during design (parallel to side lot lines and possibly adjacent to the roadside for inlets or utilities) to optimize the stormwater management system and provide future access to maintain the system.  Full commitment by all the property owners along each road will be necessary to construct the roadway elevation projects.

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide flood mitigation elements to the area of the Town most prone to regular flooding events. The project will provide emergency access (health, safety, and welfare) to the residents and visitors, reduce damages, increase resiliency from Sea Level Rise, and reduce damages to homes, contents, and displacement costs associated with flooding events.

From a basic qualitative benefit standpoint, there are up to 46 homes/residences that will benefit from an elevated roadway with an engineered stormwater management system for improved ingress/egress during higher tide and storm events.  The project will provide a higher level of service for emergency access and response.  Current appraised value of these homes on Longboat Key is significant, and mitigating vulnerability / improving resiliency of access and drainage will provide direct property value and health, safety, and welfare benefits.

**Project Alternatives:**

**The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) Raising each existing home on stilts. With a low-end cost of $450,000 to elevate homes (plus permitting), with 49 existing homes needing to be elevated would total $22,785,000*.* These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1 With no action, the flooding will continue to occur and will negatively affect the runoff into the Gulf of Mexico and canals running into the Sarasota Bay. Residents will continue to experience flooding events, which will continue to provide barriers to emergency access (health, safety, and welfare), continuance of damages, decrease resiliency efforts pertaining to Sea Level Rise, and potentially increase the amount of damage to homes, contents, and displacement costs associated with flooding events. and Alternative 2) could not be accomplished within a reasonable time and is cost prohibitive, and therefore not practicable*.***

**Comment Period:**

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project.  The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100.  These are due within 30 days of this notice (***or the actual date***).  The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed.  Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

Charles Mopps, Assistant Public Works Director (941) 316-1988

Town of Longboat Key cmopps@longboatkey.org

Kayla Born, State Lead Environmental Specialist (850) 273-9289

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