

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Charleston has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding through the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) as a sub-grantee.

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: City of Charleston

Project Title: 4241-S200 City of Charleston – City of Charleston Urban Flood Detection and Alert Project

Location of Proposed Work: All areas affected by this project where we propose to place cameras, flood sensors, and signage are within the community's Special Flood Hazard Area (Zone AE), except for one sign noted below, which is in Zone X.

Each camera unit comprises three connected cameras, which will be positioned in different directions for maximum utility, operating from utility poles at or near the following four (4) locations, with their Flood Hazard Areas noted:

- King Street at Huger Street (Zone AE)
- Saint Andrews Boulevard Ramp (Zone AE)
- Calhoun Street at Courtenay Drive (Zone AE)
- Calhoun Street at Ogier Street (Zone AE)

We plan to place four (4) flood sensors and nine (9) signs at the following locations:

- King Street and Huger Street sensor (Zone AE) accompanied by the:
 - King Street at Moultrie Street sign (Zone AE)
 - Huger Street at Housing Authority sign (Zone AE)
 - King Street at Congress Street sign (Zone X)
 - Huger at Shand Street sign (Zone AE)
- Saint Andrews Boulevard Ramp sensor accompanied by the:
 - Saint Andrews Boulevard Ramp sign (Zone AE)
- Calhoun Street sensor (Zone AE) accompanied by the:
 - Calhoun at Courtenay Drive sign (Zone AE)
 - Calhoun at Ogier Street sign (Zone AE)

- Morrison Drive sensor (Zone AE) accompanied by the:
 - Morrison Drive at Blake Street sign (Zone AE)
 - Morrison Drive at Huger Street sign (Zone AE)

Proposed work and purpose:

The City of Charleston intends to place cameras, flood sensors, and signage at the locations noted above in order to help the City more quickly detect flooding at key locations and more rapidly warn the motoring public to avoid those areas. As noted above, all locations are within the Special Flood Hazard Area (Zone AE), except one location in Zone X. Other benefits are possible, such as assisting the National Weather Service in Charleston with “ground-truthing” forecasts and current conditions.

The City of Charleston will ensure that all applicable codes and regulations are adhered to during construction, providing documentation as required to SCEMD and FEMA.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are: 1) the no action alternative, 2) depending on police officers for warning, and 3) depending on the public for warning. Alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1, motorists will continue to be vulnerable to and surprised by flooded streets generated by excessive rainfall and excessive high tides. Under Alternative 2, police resources are inadequate to fully staff observation of and barricading of areas that traditionally flood. Under Alternative 3, information from the public is useful but cannot be depended upon to provide timely and consistently precise flood data.

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 South Carolina Emergency Management Division. All comments are due within 15 days of this notice. 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:

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