

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Application

To: All interested Federal and State Agencies, Local Groups, and Individuals – Public Notice

POSTED ON: July 31, 2025

The City of Charleston Police Department has applied for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Funding for this grant was made available by Disaster Declaration DR-4829-SC, Hurricane Helene. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) will act as the pass-through entity for the administration of these grant funds. Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, flood plain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, and 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 and 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.

Applicant: City of Charleston

Project: DR-4829-SC Charleston Police Department: Flood Monitoring Cameras

Project Description: The proposed project aims to enhance situational awareness during flood events and severe weather by installing flood monitoring cameras at flood-prone roads. The cameras would function by placing a sensor (which holds all of the hardware for the cameras) on an existing utility pole at the chosen project sites. The utility pole will power the cameras, and CPD will receive the video feed via radio-to-radio signals or cellular signal. No ground disturbance is required for this project. The Charleston Police Department will be responsible for facilitating and monitoring the proposed project.

Location of Proposed Project Sites:

High Priority Locations: Sites that are deemed “most likely to be successful” based on their history of recurring flooding and the potential strength of communication signals at that location.

- Morrison Dr / Jackson St
- N Nassau St / Romney St
- Hagood Ave @ Fishburne St
- Rutledge Ave / Septima P. Clark Pkwy
- Meeting St / I-26 Exit Ramp
- Lockwood Blvd / Broad St
- East Bay St / Reid St
- President St / Septima P. Clark Pkwy
- Lockwood Blvd / Spring St
- Cannon St / Septima P. Clark Pkwy
- Hagood Ave between Allway St/Spring St

Alternate Locations: If logistical constraints prevent cameras from being installed at one of the High Priority sites, CPD will consider installation at sites deemed “likely to be successful” (Medium Priority) or “least likely to be successful” (Low Priority).

- Jonathan Lucas St (Medium)
- Broad St & Ashley Ave (Medium)

- Calhoun St / Ashley Ave (Medium)
- E Battery St / S Battery St (Medium)
- US 17 / Briarcliff Dr (Low)
- Meeting St / Cunningham St (Low)

Alternatives Considered:

Alternative #1: The “no action” alternative

Alternative 1 is not viable because it will leave motorists vulnerable and unprepared for flooded streets generated by excessive rainfall and high tides.

Alternative #2: Depend on police officers to monitor flooded roads

When preparing for a severe weather event, it is not feasible to assign officers to conduct routine status checks in flood-prone areas, especially when the department’s primary focus is to close roads and redirect traffic.

Alternative #3: Depend on the public to report flooded roads

Though reports from the public are valuable, Alternative 3 has been rejected because citizens may not consistently provide timely and accurate observations about flooding.

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. Interested persons may submit comments and obtain more detailed information about the proposed action by emailing speaktocpd@charleston-sc.gov. **All comments are due within 30 days of this notice.** The City of Charleston will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed.

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100 Year Floodplain