



# **Ad Hoc Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Group**

June 7, 2023 Meeting

# Tonight's Agenda

1. Electronic meeting notice (6:00)
2. Approval of minutes from April meeting (Members) (6:05)
3. Discussion of feedback to Annual Report from Council, public, and media (Members & Staff, facilitated by Katie W) (6:10)
4. Update on Stormwater projects to-date (Staff) (6:20)
5. Update on Alexandria Flood Resiliency Plan (Dan Medina) (6:35)
6. Update of flood mitigation grants for multifamily dwellings (6:45)
7. Equity map (Janette Shew) (7:00)
8. Committee brainstorming about communications (Members & Staff, facilitated by John H) (7:10)
9. Public comment (7:30)
10. Adjourn (7:40)

# Electronic Meeting Notice

AGENDA ITEM #1

# Electronic Meeting Notice

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, this meeting is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2- 3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020 or Section 4-0.01(g) in HB29 and HB30, enacted by the 2020 Virginia General Assembly (Virginia Acts of Assembly Ch. 1283 and 1289), to undertake essential business. Members of the Advisory Group can participate from remote locations; however, a quorum of the Group must be physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location.

Note: this meeting is being recorded.

# Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

AGENDA ITEM #2

# Feedback to Annual Report from Council, public, and media

AGENDA ITEM #3

# **Update on Flood Action Alexandria Program**

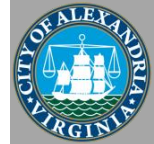
AGENDA ITEM #4

# Flood Action Progress Report:

## Schedule and Large Projects

- Large capacity projects
  - Commonwealth/ E. Glebe & Commonwealth & Ashby (est. \$50M) Survey complete. Geotechnical investigation work to begin in next couple of months. Developing 30% design.
  - Hooffs Run Culvert Bypass (est. \$60M) Project kickoff 6/2. Beginning Data Collection
- Combined sewer system (CSS) area projects
  - Pitt & Gibbon (\$11.5M) Planning Phase – Coordinating alternatives with AlexRenew
  - Nethergate (\$5M) Planning Phase – Alternative Selected. Coordinating with NPS





# **Flood Action Progress Report:**

## **Updates to Stormwater Program Schedule**

**(Period 2 closes 6/30)**

# **Flood Action Progress Report: Updates to Stormwater Program Schedule**

# Targeted Maintenance

- Holmes Run Channel Maintenance underway
  - Removal of nuisance vegetation in bottom 1 / 3 of bank
- Hooffs Run Culvert Repairs
  - 'Hatches'
  - Retaining wall

# Communications

- 199 total messages were received from all social media channels with 150 of them originating from Twitter.
- Our total audience growth during the reporting period increased by 0.6%
- Facebook net page likes increased by 25%
- Facebook video views increased by 20.5%
- We are in the process of hiring a new Communications Officer. The potential candidate search is ongoing.

# Alexandria Flood Resilience Plan

AGENDA ITEM #5

# Agenda

- Purpose of the Flood Resilience Plan (FRP)
- What to expect from the FRP and the process
- Discussion

## The Relationship Between Adaptation and Resilience

The terms adaptation and resilience are often used together, although they have different meanings.

**Adaptation**—The process of adjusting to new or changing climate conditions to reduce or avoid negative impacts to valued assets and take advantage of emerging opportunities.

**Resilience**—The capacity of a community, business, or natural environment to prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover from disturbances, while retaining the basic functions of the system.

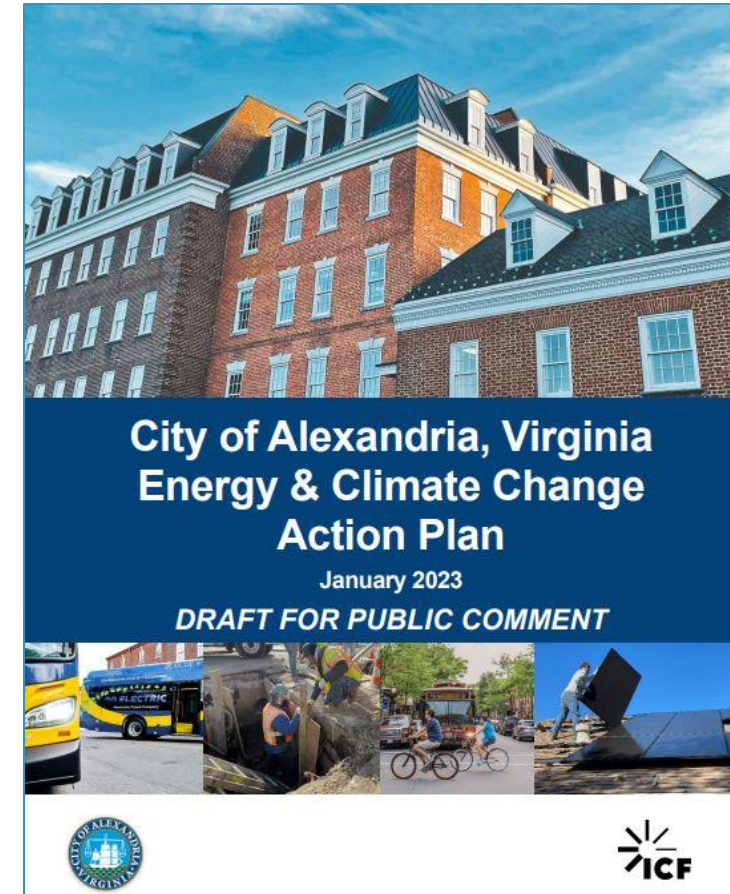
# FRP Purpose

Identified in the 2023 Energy and Climate Change Action Plan (5/12/23 draft)

Included in the Long Range Interdepartmental Work Plan

Will include:

- Hazard identification and information dissemination
- Flood mitigation
- Flood preparedness and response
- Land development policies and regulations
- Financing strategy

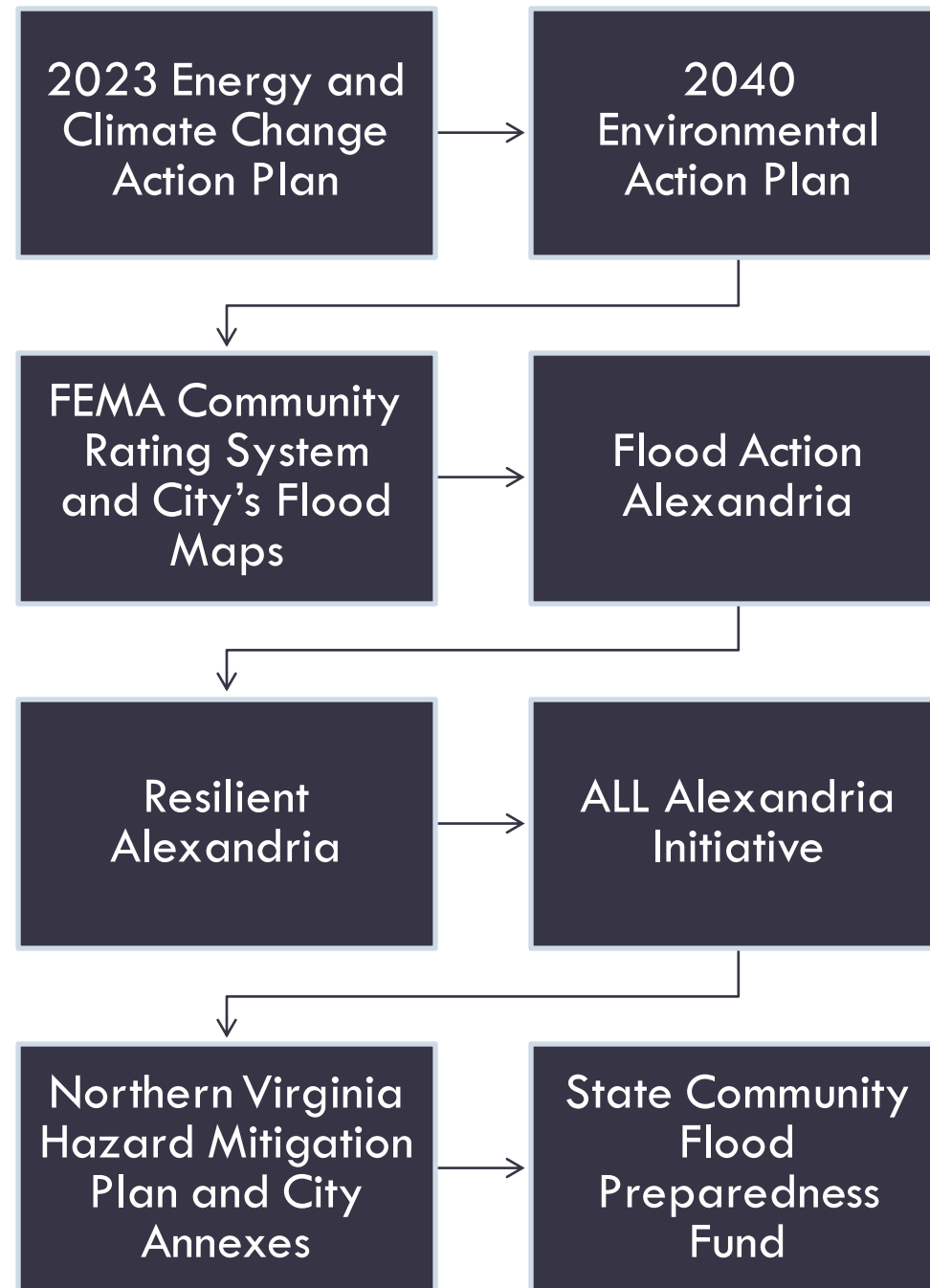


# FRP Overview

- Transportation & Environmental Services, Stormwater Management (Lead)
- Department of Project Implementation
- Consultant (Jacobs)
- Will also solicit input from
  - Office of Emergency Management and Planning & Zoning
  - Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Ad Hoc Advisory Committee
  - Environmental Policy Commission
  - General Public



# FRP Connection with Other Efforts

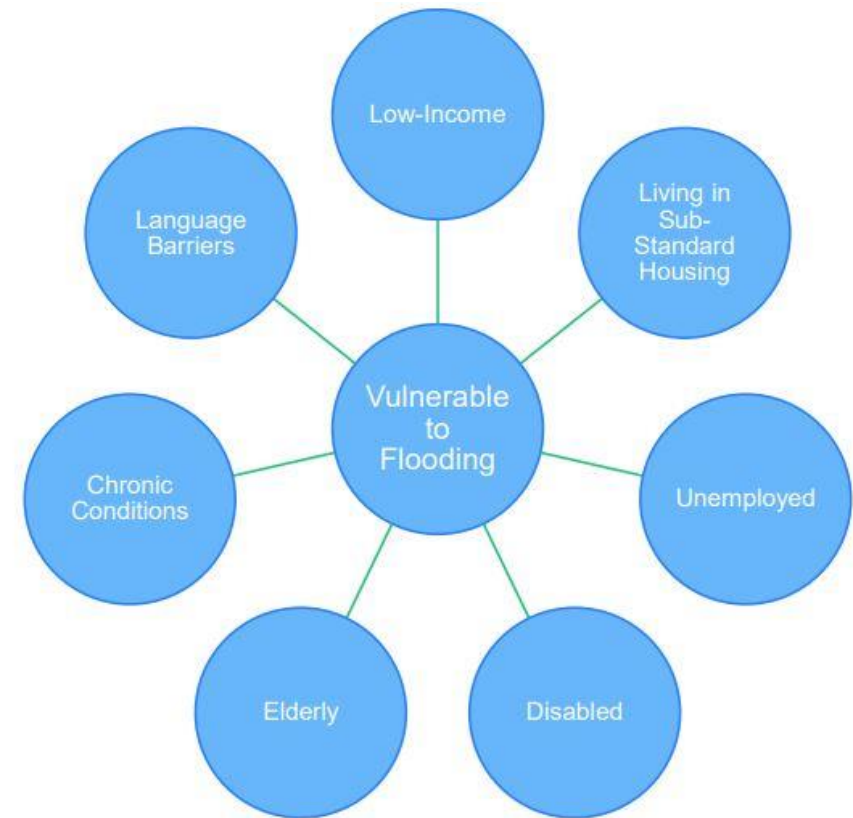


# FRP Outline

- Background
  - What is Resilience?
  - Understanding Flood Risks
  - Characterization of Alexandria
  - Past Studies and Flood Impacts
  - Vision
  - Resilience Plan Structure
- Hazard Identification
  - Flood Extents
  - Dam Safety
  - Stormwater Water Quality
  - Planning for the Future
  - Vulnerability Assessment
- Flood Resilience Strategy
  - Flood Mitigation
  - Equity considerations
  - Integration with other programs
  - Flood Preparedness and Response
  - Policies & Regulations
  - Communications & Outreach
  - Funding Strategies
- Path Forward
  - Framework for implementation
  - Action Plan/Summary of Projects, Initiatives, and Recommendations
  - Capacity building and community engagement
  - Cost
  - Schedule
  - Plan Updates

# Vulnerability Assessment

- Vulnerability Assessment Methodology/Criteria
  - Flooded Area/Structures
  - Business Districts
  - Disadvantaged communities
  - Critical facilities
  - Natural Resources



# Flood Resilience Strategy

Flood Mitigation

# Path Forward



Framework for  
implementation



Action  
Plan/Summary of  
Projects, Initiatives,  
and  
Recommendations



Capacity building  
and community  
engagement



Cost



Schedule



Plan Updates

# Project Milestones

Draft Outline

Draft Report

Community Outreach Event

Update Report

Community Outreach Event

Refine and Finalize Report

Public Comment Period

Update Report and Bring to Council

Implementation

# Contact Info

Jessica Lassetter, Senior Environmental Specialist

T&ES Stormwater Management

[Jessica.Lassetter@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Jessica.Lassetter@alexandriava.gov)

# Update of flood mitigation grants for multifamily dwellings

AGENDA ITEM #6



# Why are we updating the Program?

- Remove requirement to document past flooding
  - Pilot sought to target prior flooded properties first
  - Pilot allowed for flooding back to July 2019 storms
  - Update removes need for documentation of prior flooding
- Address "Condominium Proportionality"
  - Provide increased and/or 'bundled' relief for condo associations
  - 50/50 match

# Condo Proportionality – Individual Unit Bundling (Not Common Areas)

- 50/50 match

Two Scenarios:

1. Owner applies
    - \$5,000 max match for the individual condo
  2. Association can apply for multiple owners: 'Bundle'
    - Multiple units 'bundled' for exterior work
    - Document specific units and cost per each unit
    - Strongly urged to consult with staff prior to starting work, or applying if work completed
- Grant max depends on # of units protected
  - Grant amount subtracted from the \$5,000 per unit individual max total

# Condo Proportionality – Common Area

- 50/50 match up to \$25,000 for the association
- Floodproofing measures for protecting common area primary structures, such as clubhouse, parking garage, pool area, etc.
- Strongly urged to consult with staff prior to starting work; or applying if work completed
- Doesn't affect potential 'bundling' eligibility

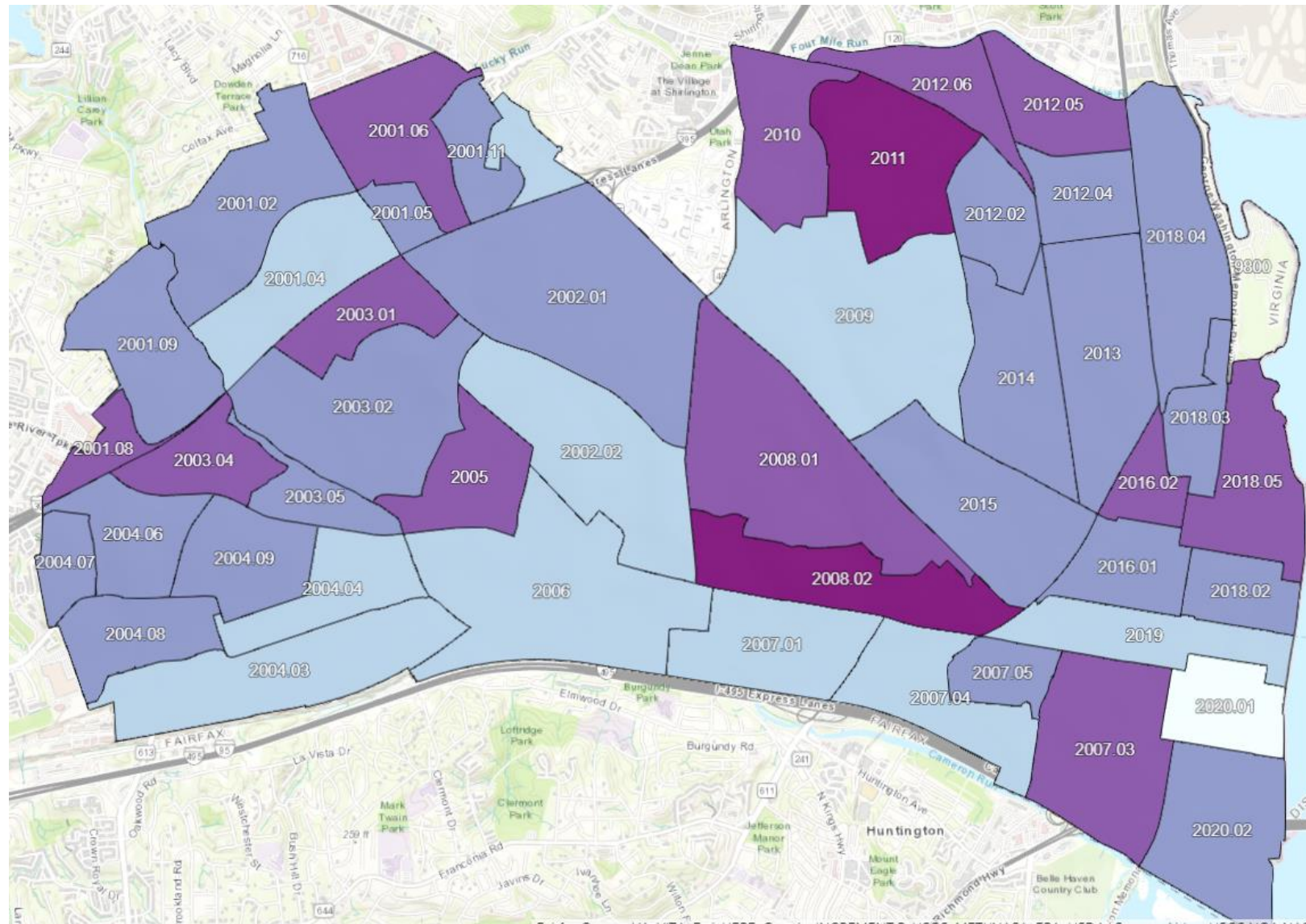
## Next Steps

- Make changes to online permitting system and forms
- Community outreach for the changes
- Bring changes to City Council in the Fall
- Implement the changes

**Thank you!**

# Equity map

AGENDA ITEM #7



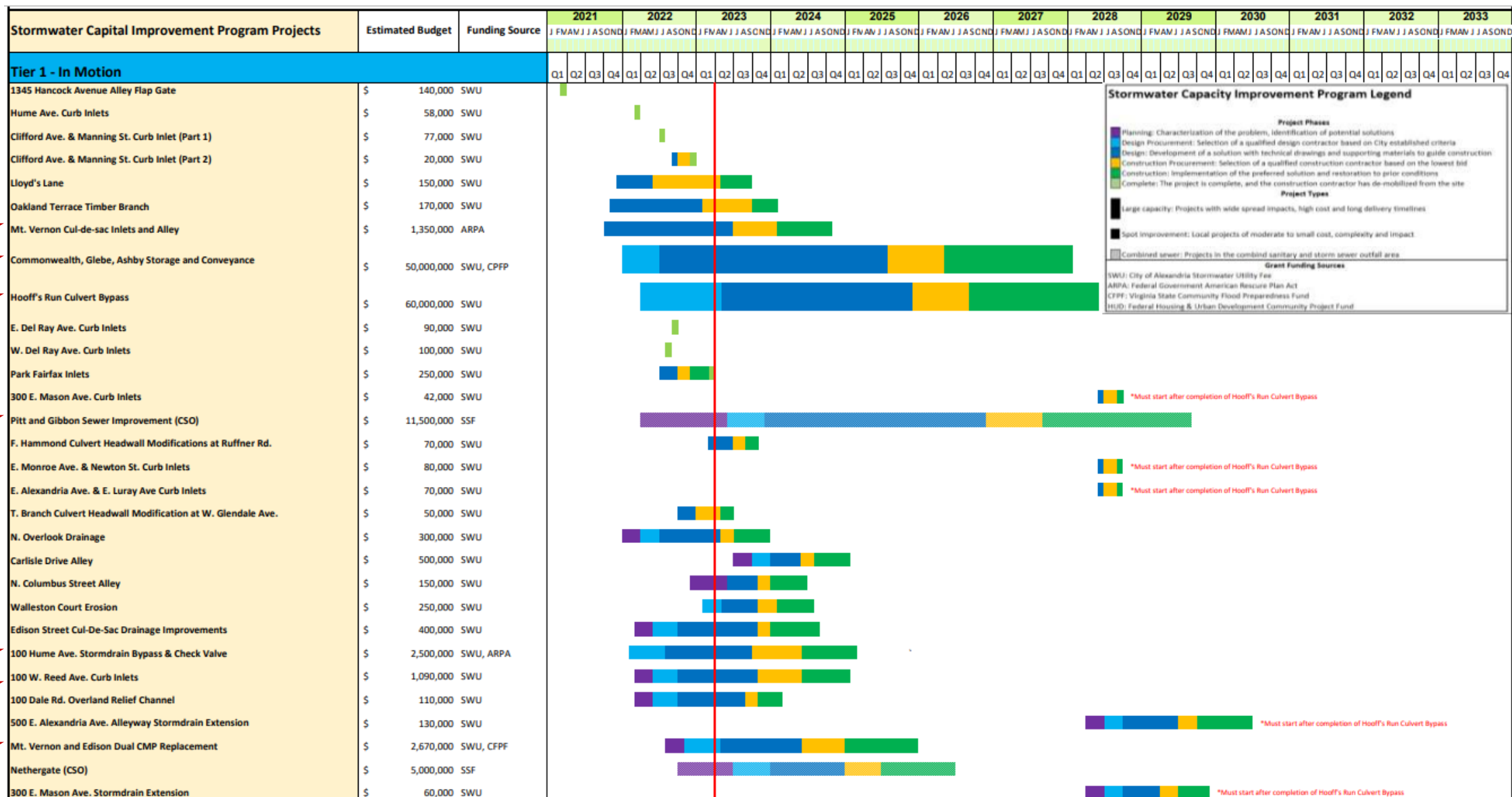
<https://tinyurl.com/equityindexmap>

# Group Brainstorming About Communications

AGENDA ITEM #8



## Communication Discussion – *Big projects are now being designed*



# Communication Discussion – How one civic association is staying informed



ROSEMONT  
CITIZENS  
ASSOCIATION

## RCA Updates - May 2023

**Next Meeting.** The next RCA general meeting will be at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 100 West Luray Avenue, at 7pm on Wednesday, June 21.

The lead item for discussion will be the zoning changes that have been proposed in the City - both what they actually would be and their potential implications. (Alexandria has made available a questionnaire about its zoning initiative, available at <https://www.research.net/r/AlexandriaVA-ZoningforHousingSpringOutreach>, and open through June 19.) If you have specific questions/issues, please let us know in advance ([jol@thirdamendment.com](mailto:jol@thirdamendment.com)).

We also plan to finalize how association membership is handled, and to have a report on recent crimes in the neighborhood and city from our police liaison.

**PELT Committee.** An update from the Planning, Environment, Land Use, and Transportation committee:

**1. Alexandria's "Housing For All" Initiative – Topic at the June 21 RCA Meeting.** While City staff are unable to present an update on this initiative at the June 21 RCA meeting, the City's Planning Office will present to civic associations later this year. To keep Rosemonters informed as things develop, the PELT committee asked to meet with the City's planning staff later in late May, or early June. During the meeting, PELT plans to present questions to the staff that may be of most concern to our neighborhood, and PELT will give a full report on the meeting's outcome and the City's response at the June RCA meeting.

**2. Stormwater Mitigation – Hooff's Run Project approved in City's Capital Improvement Program.** The 10-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for stormwater infrastructure was recently approved by City Council along with the annual city budget for FY2024. The CIP has almost \$50 million earmarked in FY2025 and FY2026 for the award of the construction contract, with actual construction starting in late 2027. The CIP has also set-aside money for the routine cleaning of the culvert every five years. To learn more about the City's plans to combat stormwater flooding, visit: <https://patch.com/virginia/delray/cautious-optimism-flood-mitigation-progress-advisory-group>.

**July Fourth.** We are starting to plan for the annual Independence Day event at Brooks Elementary; as always, the support of volunteers will be essential. Please sign up to help at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4bafaa2ca0f85-2023>; for general information about the event, please visit <https://rosemontcitizensassoc.org/2023-4th-of-july-celebration>. But we also would like to request help in distributing flyers to homes, to ensure that neighbors who aren't online are aware of the event (and of the RCA generally). If you can help, please email [jol@thirdamendment.com](mailto:jol@thirdamendment.com).

**Keeping Informed.** We try to provide regular updates on local news, Rosemont history, and general happenings in the neighborhood and Alexandria via our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/RosemontCitizensAssociation>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/RosemontCitizen>) and general resources on our web page (<http://rosemontcitizensassoc.org>). The



Picture of recent storm sewer construction circulated on neighborhood email lists

A stormwater update is included in every monthly newsletter

## Communication Discussion – Which civic associations are most interested?

Alexandria Civic Associations by Watershed		
<i>(Draft -- this is a work in progress)</i>		
Association	Website/email	Watershed
Federation of Civic Associations	<a href="http://alexafca.org">HOME (alexafca.org)</a>	All
Nethergate Homeowners Association	<a href="http://hoa-community.com">Nethergate HOA Alexandria, VA – HOA Community (hoa-community.com)</a>	Combined Sewer
Old Town Civic Association	<a href="http://theoldtowncivicassociation.org">OTCA (theoldtowncivicassociation.org)</a>	Combined Sewer
West Old Town Citizens Association	<a href="http://wotcaalexandria.org">About Us – West Old Town Citizens Association (WOTCA) (wotcaalexandria.org)</a>	Combined Sewer
Arlandria Citizens Association	<a href="mailto:kbeekman@yahoo.com">kbeekman@yahoo.com</a>	Four Mile (East)
Hume Springs Civic Association	<a href="#">Hume Springs, Alexandria, Virginia - Home</a>	Four Mile (East)
Lynnhaven Civic Association	<a href="http://lynhaven.org">Lynnhaven Civic Association (google.com)</a>	Four Mile (East)
North Ridge Citizens Association	<a href="http://northridgecitizens.org">Home (northridgecitizens.org)</a>	Four Mile (East)
Park Fairfax Unit Owners Association	<a href="#">Parkfairfax  </a>	Four Mile (East)
Seminary West Civic Association	<a href="#">Seminary West Civic Association</a>	Four Mile (West)
Brookeville-Seminary Valley Civic Association	<a href="http://bsvca.org">Brookville Seminary Valley Civic Assoc. Alexandria VA (bsvca.org)</a>	Holmes Run
Cameron Station Community Association	<a href="#">Contact - Cameron Station</a>	Holmes Run
Wakefield-Tarleton Civic Association	<a href="#">Wakefield-Tarleton Civic Association   Facebook</a>	Holmes Run
Del Ray Citizens Association	<a href="http://delraycitizens.org">Del Ray Citizen's Association (delraycitizens.org)</a>	Hooffs Run
Rosemont Citizens Association	<a href="#">Rosemont Citizens Association</a>	Hooffs Run
North Old Town Citizens Association	<a href="http://notice-alexandria.org">NOTICE (notice-alexandria.org)</a>	Potomac River
Potomac Greens Homeowners Association	<a href="http://sentrywebsites.com">Home - Potomac Greens HOA (sentrywebsites.com)</a>	Potomac River
Seminary Hill Association	<a href="http://seminaryhillasn.org">Home (seminaryhillasn.org)</a>	Taylor Run
Taylor Run Citizens Association	<a href="#">Taylor Run Citizens' Association - Home   Facebook</a>	Taylor Run

# Public Comment

AGENDA ITEM #9

# Adjourn

AGENDA ITEM #10