

City of Alexandria, Virginia
MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 21, 2025
TO: Mayor Alyia Gaskins
Members of City Council
James Parajon, City Manager
FROM: John Hill, Chair
Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee
SUBJECT: Proposed Stormwater Fee for FY 2027

Progress is being made to combat stormwater flooding in Alexandria

Alexandria continues to make steady progress in addressing the backlog of urgent “spot improvement” projects. At the start of the Flood Action Program, twenty-seven spot improvements were identified. About two-thirds of these have been completed and the remainder are well underway. The City’s aggressive maintenance program for the stormwater and sanitary sewer systems is already having a beneficial effect.

The program’s largest infrastructure project -- to address flooding in the area of Commonwealth, Ashby, and Glebe -- has completed the design phase and preliminary site preparation will soon begin. In the combined sewer area, the Nethergate project has begun engineering design.

Committee support for the proposed Stormwater Fee increase

When the Flood Action Program was launched in 2021, it proposed a ten-year \$260 million investment in stormwater infrastructure. The Advisory Committee understands that this level of infrastructure investment requires a steadily increasing Stormwater Fee.

At our most recent meeting, the Advisory Committee acknowledged the current uncertainty facing the Alexandria economy. The impact of a fee increase on residents during these uncertain times must be weighed against the long-term benefit of a more flood-resilient Alexandria.

After considerable debate, the Advisory Committee voted in favor of “a fee increase at a level up to that projected by City Staff as needed to support the Flood Action Program for FY 2027.”

Committee interest in the FY 2027 Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan for Stormwater

Progress to date on the Flood Action Program has revealed that some of the large infrastructure projects initially proposed in 2021 may be technically infeasible or exorbitantly expensive. The Advisory Committee urges City staff to incorporate this new knowledge into the development of the Capital Improvement Plan for Stormwater for FY 2027 - 2036.

Making Alexandria more flood-resilient will take years. The committee stands ready to work with City staff to shape the future plans and engage residents in the multi-year Flood Action Program to prepare Alexandria for the climate challenges of the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

