

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) and 11990 (Wetlands) and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides final notice of its decision to provide Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program funding for an action located in a floodplain and near a wetland. Funding would be provided through the NH Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to the City of Portsmouth for the Pierce Island Roadway Resiliency Project.

The proposed action is located on Pierce Island Rd. in Portsmouth, NH. The project is to elevate a 400-foot-long section of Pierce Island Rd. and the adjacent parking area to three feet above the current 100-yr floodplain. Additionally, a portion of the packed gravel parking area would be replaced with grass pavers and vegetation to improve stormwater management.

The project is partially within a mapped special flood hazard area (Zone AE) and partially within a 500-year floodplain. The elevation of the road would result in the net loss of 80 cubic yards (CY) of flood storage. However, due to the nature of the area surrounding the project (i.e. large tidal basin), this action would not have a detrimental impact to the floodplain. Additionally, the City would comply with conditions set forth in the NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) Wetlands Permit, which would minimize any potential impacts to nearby wetlands. A map of the area of available upon request.

The project must in be in a floodplain and near a wetland because the existing road is in a floodplain. Pierce Island Rd. is the only means of entrance and egress to the City of Portsmouth's primary Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). Relocating the WWTF to prevent the need to elevate the road was deemed financially, environmentally, and functionally unsuitable. Additionally, the No Action would eventually lead to road wash out and the need for reconstruction and elevation. Grant conditions will require compliance with all federal, state and local laws, including coordination with the local floodplain administrator.

Map requests and comments about this project and potential floodplain and wetland impacts should be submitted within 15 days of the date of this publication to:

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