

# TOWN OF FREDERICK FLOOD REPAIR UPDATE

## MAY 2014

The September 2013 flooding was an experience that Coloradans and residents of Frederick will remember for decades. The impacts of this horrible natural disaster are long lasting, and so are the stories about how neighbors came together to help one another. That, in addition to the initial response by the Town are testaments to what a great community we have here in Frederick.

The purpose of this update is to provide you with information on the recovery efforts to permanently repair the roads and other infrastructure damaged by the flooding in September 2013. We're providing general background information related to the roads as well as the federal and state processes to request funding. We're also specifically detailing what we plan to accomplish, subject to approvals from the federal and state government, and cost estimates based on our ideal scope of work.

**If you are interested in learning more, we will be hosting a listening session on Wednesday May 28th 6-8 p.m.** at Town Hall (401 Locust St.) so you can ask the Town Manager and lead Civil Engineer any questions you have to fully understand the scope of the projects. If you would like to email any questions that you would like answered at the listening session ahead of time, please email [mwilliams@frederickco.gov](mailto:mwilliams@frederickco.gov) with the subject line "Flood Repair Listening Session Question."

The safety of the community is always our number one priority. We believe that in order for us to rebuild to the best and safest condition possible, navigating through the state and federal funding request processes is our only financially feasible option. Please know we are doing everything we can to expedite this long and intricate process, and we appreciate your patience and help communicating the situation to other neighbors who may have the same concerns.

Emergency repair and initial recovery efforts are completed and we are now focused on the permanent repairs. The effects of the storm have caused the Town nearly \$4 million dollars in damages to our infrastructure, including the initial response to the event and emergency repair projects to reopen roads. The Town's share of the preliminary estimates of the permanent repair work will be \$1 million. Listed on the next page are roads and storm drainage basins damaged by the flooding and in need of permanent repair.

When the roads and storm detention structure were destroyed, the Town executed a contract for engineering design of necessary emergency and permanent repairs, at direct cost to the Town. In the hopes of accelerating the recovery process, the Town took an aggressive approach and did this within a few weeks of the storm. This means we are now more prepared to go to bid without taking extra time to complete the designs. However, we are still subject to the authorization of the federal and state government before we can move forward. If we move forward in the repair process without authorization at each step, we will not receive any financial assistance from the federal and state government, placing the full \$4 million burden onto the Town instead of the projected \$1 million.

In terms of the repair and recovery efforts, financial assistance and approval for each road and structure falls under the jurisdiction of one of the following agencies, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). We're required to work with one of these entities directly as well as their counterparts at the State level which are the Colorado Department of Public Safety – Office of Emergency Management (CDPS-OEM) and Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), respectively. The damaged roads and structures that need repair are categorized on the next page.

## FEMA/CDPS-OEM

- Wetland Loop Road
- Storm Drainage Basins

## FHWA/CDOT

- WCR 7/Aggregate Boulevard
- WCR 18/Godding Hollow Parkway
- WCR 20/Bella Rosa Parkway

In order to qualify for each agency's financial assistance, we have to follow their system which is specific to the individual federal and state entities, and the two systems are not the same.

## FEMA/CDPS-OEM Projects

As part of FEMA's grant programming, they may provide for up to 75% financial assistance on all projects if they are approved by FEMA, but not all projects are guaranteed approval. The State will also assist with a percentage of the Town's remaining obligation of the 25% match requirement. In late April, FEMA made their final determination about the two projects identified for repairs. Here is some detailed information on their findings:

### Wetland Loop Road:

**Request:** The Town asked FEMA to change the capacity of the damaged area to bring it up to the current adopted Frederick Codes and Standards of 100-year flood compliance. The scope of work would require removing asphalt, concrete sidewalk, guardrail, monument signs, and the existing 48" diameter reinforced concrete pipe (RCP). The pipe would then be replaced with four – 14' x 4' concrete box cells to bring the culvert capacity up to the 100-year flood compliance. The road, sidewalk, and guardrail would then be installed and completed to Town specifications.

**FEMA Determination:** FEMA will only cover upgrading facilities to meet the 100-year flood standards if they were damaged. If only part of a facility was damaged, FEMA will only pay to upgrade the damaged elements. Therefore, while the road repair itself is eligible for financial assistance (\$34,345), replacing/upgrading the undamaged RCP drainage structure (\$420,000) to comply with codes and standards is not.

**FEMA Project Cost Estimate:** \$420,000

**FEMA Approved Amount:** \$34,345

**Town Obligation:** \$385,655

**Comments:** The Town applied for Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to help with funding this extremely large financing gap in upgrading the culvert. The application was submitted on May 16 and notification is expected on May 26. If unsuccessful, the Town will work to fund this project internally as quickly as possible.

### Storm Water Detention Ponds between Frederick Way and WCR15/Ridgeway Blvd:

**Request:** The storm water detention pond berms were washed out and detention ponds filled with sediment during the flood. The work to be completed will use contract services to restore the five damaged areas to pre-disaster conditions.

**FEMA Determination:** FEMA has approved repair of these detention ponds with the added installation of Geo-Tech fabric with 12-24 inches of riprap (rock) to minimize future damage.

**Town's Current Project Cost Estimate:** \$97,000

**FEMA Approved Amount:** \$78,119

**Town Obligation:** \$18,881

**Comments:** The Town is advertising for bids on this project's construction for a period of three weeks to comply with federal procurement standards. Construction is expected to begin sometime around July 1, 2014 after opening the bid and receiving authorization from the state to award to the lowest responsible bidder. Project construction is approximately 60 working days.

## **FHWA/CDOT Projects**

Currently, FHWA/CDOT is still in the evaluation and authorization processes of all local projects. Like FEMA, they too have grant programming which may provide for up to 82% (Federal and State grant total) financial assistance on each project if they are approved by FHWA, but not all projects are guaranteed approval. The remainder of the cost is covered by the Town as a project match. Here is some detailed information about our current requests to FHWA/CDOT awaiting approval/denial:

### **WCR 7/Aggregate Boulevard:**

**Request:** The Town has requested that WCR 7/Aggregate Boulevard be repaired to its pre-disaster condition.

**FHWA Project Cost Estimate:** \$356,227

**FHWA Amount (if fully funded as requested):** \$294,920

**Town Obligation (if fully funded as requested):** \$61,307

### **WCR 18/Godding Hollow Parkway:**

**Request:** The Town has requested that WCR 18/Godding Hollow Boulevard be repaired with the addition of a box culvert to bring it up to the current adopted Frederick Codes and Standards of 100-year flood compliance. Paving of the road surface would also be included in this project's scope.

**FHWA Project Cost Estimate:** \$1,354,896

**FHWA Amount (if fully funded as requested):** \$1,121,718

**Town Obligation (if fully funded as requested):** \$233,178

### **WCR 20/Bella Rosa Parkway:**

**Request:** The Town has requested that WCR 20/Bella Rosa Parkway be repaired with the addition of a box culvert to bring it up to the current adopted Frederick Codes and Standards of 100-year flood compliance. Paving of the road surface would also be included in this project's scope.

**FHWA Project Cost Estimate:** \$1,498,550

**FHWA Amount (if fully funded as requested):** \$1,240,650

**Town Obligation (if fully funded as requested):** \$257,900

A full determination has not been made on any of the FHWA/CDOT requests, but they are currently in the federal and state processes required to qualify for funding. We are currently waiting for approval of the Detailed Damage Inspection Report (DDIR) and task order (TO) submittals. After these are approved, we will submit the engineering designs we have already completed for review.

We realize the inconvenience and frustration that the emergency repairs are creating and appreciate your continued patience as we navigate through these financial assistance processes to get the final repairs completed. The Town is committed to completing the evaluation and authorization process in conjunction with FHWA and CDOT to ensure that our projects receive favorable consideration and are completed as soon as possible.

## **Glossary of Terms**

**Culvert:** structure that allows water to flow under a road, can be made from corrugated metal, pipe or reinforced concrete

**100-year Flood Compliance:** making sure drainage structures are able to handle the runoff from a flood event that has a 1% probability of occurring in any given year

**Berm:** a level space, shelf or raised barrier separating two areas