Community Flood Resilience Task Force and Harris County Infrastructure Resilience Team

November 17, 2020

ASCE Houston – November Branch Meeting
Alan R. Black, P.E.

Director of Operations
Harris County Flood Control District
Flooding conditions can occur year-round, and you do not have to live in the 100-year floodplain to be at risk.

Flood loss claims as a result of Hurricane Harvey
- Approximately 68% were outside of the FEMA mapped 100-year floodplain.
Agenda

• Bond Progress
• Community Flood Resiliency Task Force
• Infrastructure Resiliency Team
Bond Progress

Status Tracker is live: http://www.harriscountyfemt.org/cb

Construction

- $381M bid since 8/25/2018 (66 projects)
- $371M in active construction contracts (64% complete overall)
- $49M in additional construction awards/advertisements for 2020

Overall – Total $3.5 Billion in project value underway

- 146 Bond projects Initiated since 8/28/2018 (80% of the portfolio)
- CIP Expenditures averaging $40M per month
- 3rd Quartile Projects to be authorized 11/10 – 12/15
Federal Funds

Applied for vs Awarded

- Applied for $1.079B (plus $292M local share)
- Awarded $678M (plus $257M local share)

Total Project Value = $935M
Pursuits

- **FEMA 404 (HMGP)** – $180M waitlisted
- **TWDB FIUP** – Submitted 9 abridged applications requesting app $80M grant, $200M Loan
  - Submitted 3 full applications
- **CDBG-MIT** – $1B+ in Applications submitted in October
- **FEMA BRIC**
  - **DUE TO TDEM 12/1/2020**
- **NRCS** – WFPO and RCPP Opportunities
- **Dept of Commerce (EDA)** – $2.5M application (CARES)
- **USACE** – Draft 216 Study – Comment period extended to 11/20/2020
Community Flood Resilience Task Force (CFRTF)

- Community Feedback
- Guide for the Bylaws

cjo.harriscountytx.gov/Community-Flood-Resilience-Task-Force
ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

July 20-30, 2020
via
Website
Focus Groups
Commissioners Court
Email Comments

Over 150 participants attended focus groups,
provided over 200 email comments,
and offered feedback at Commissioners Court

Discussed the vision for the Task Force, key trade-offs, concerns, and desired changes
WHAT WE HEARD

The County Judge’s Office heard the following key question and conflicts of opinion throughout the engagement process.

**Key Question:** What is the true purpose of the Task Force?

**Key Trade-Offs/Conflicts of Opinion:**

- **Flood resilience focus**
  - 5 members approved by CC*
  - All members approved by CC*

- **Broader resilience focus**

- **Community reps**
  - Entire community reps
  - Flood-prone communities reps

- **Technical reps**
  - Low-income and/or communities of color reps

*Commissioners Court*
WHAT WE HEARD

Key Themes:

1. It’s important to keep “Flood Control” in the Task Force name, as it is one of the most critical infrastructure resilience needs in Harris County

2. The Task Force should not reallocate any funding from the 2018 Flood Bond

3. Definitions such as Resilience, Infrastructure, Equity should be clarified

4. Balance technical and community representatives

5. Representatives from flood-prone areas should be included

6. Include cross-jurisdictional collaboration: City of Houston and County departments should be represented in this effort

7. Task Force should be funded with staff and a budget in order to do the work and facilitate community engagement
What is one thing we can do to make the Task Force more impactful?

- community as the client
- clarity and transparency
- commitment to equity
- good communication
- representative representatives
- reports/recommendations presented to commissioners court
- meaningful community engagement and involvement
- balance in membership
- inclusiveness of impacted communities
- geographic representation
- well-vetted data
- incremental policy adjustments
- broad view of resilience, not just flooding
- more representation for residential and small business
- long-term cultural change
- action-oriented
- cross-jurisdictional coordination
- accountability
- support community members and their concerns
- justice, inclusion, and diversity
- clarity of scope
- encourage dissent and discussion
- community-based solutions
- creative solutions
- funding support for outreach
- educational component: technical experts to inform
WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE

After synthesizing all feedback, the County Judge's Office team made the following key changes to the Task Force Bylaws:

1. **Changed the name** of the Task Force to emphasize flood resilience

2. **Clarified** that the role of the Task Force is **not to reallocate any funding from the 2018 Flood Bond**

3. **Provided definitions** for key terms

4. **Balanced technical and community representatives**

5. **Added in representatives from flood-prone/impacted areas**

6. **Included more at-large positions** for a range of members including watershed, natural science, and green infrastructure representatives

7. **Included a City of Houston representative**

8. **Provided a facilitator** for the Task Force
The revised Community Flood Resilience Task Force bylaws were approved by Commissioners Court on August 11, 2020.

The first members of the Task Force were nominated and confirmed on September 29, 2020.

Visit [cjo.harriscountytx.gov/crtf](http://cjo.harriscountytx.gov/crtf) for the final adopted bylaws, additional information, and to sign up for the CRTF mailing list.
cjo.harriscountytx.gov/Community-Flood-Resilience-Task-Force
Key Terms

• Equitable Resilience
• Infrastructure Resilience Team (IRT)
• Flood Resilience Planning Efforts
• Flood Resilience Projects
CFRTF Purpose

The Purpose of the Community Flood Resilience Task Force is

To serve in an advisory capacity to the IRT and, in turn and as applicable, the Harris County Commissioners Court to promote collaboration among stakeholders and encourage equitable resilience planning efforts and flood resilience projects.
CFRTF Tasks

The Tasks of the Community Flood Resilience Task Force are

• Provide Evaluation and Feedback
  • Approach and Planning
  • Projects
  • Implementation
  • Funding Strategies

• Encourage Transparency

• Further and support community engagement of the IRT and County Departments
CFRTF Composition

At least 1 Member from each sector:
1. Housing
2. Public Health
3. Engineering
4. Urban Design/Planning
5. Flood Risk Mitigation
6. Environmental Sustainability
7. Community Leadership or Membership Organization
8. Equity and Social Justice

Additional Members:
9. City of Houston flood resilience employee
10. Member
11. Member
12. Member
13. Member
14. Member
15. Member
16. Member
17. Member
CFRTF Structure

**TASK FORCE**

- **5** Commissioners Court Appointed
- **12** Selection Committee Appointed

**Multidisciplinary Body**

[see previous page for composition]

The 5 Commissioners Court-appointed members make up the Selection Committee for the remaining 12 members.

**Full Time Facilitator**

To be housed within Flood Control Department

**INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE TEAM**

- **7** Non-Voting Support and Coordination Members

1 representative from each DEPARTMENT:

- Engineering
- Flood Control
- Community Services
- Toll Road Authority
- Public Health
- Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Economic Equity
- and Opportunity
CFRTF Commissioners Court Appointed Members

- Iris Gonzalez (Judge)
- Dr. Earthea Nance (Precinct 1)
- Lisa Gonzalez (Precinct 2)
- Bill Callegari (Precinct 3)
- Bob Rehak (Precinct 4)

Note: An RFP for the Facilitator/Liaison is currently advertised with submittals due Monday 11/20/2020
Infrastructure Resiliency Team (IRT)

Mission

To develop Harris County’s overall approach to improving flood resilience, as well as to track, evaluate, and measure progress against set goals, strategies, plans, and initiatives.
IRT Tasks and Goals

• Collaborate with Commissioner Court, CFRTF, Community Stakeholders
• Build on Harris Thrives Resolution
• **Develop a 2050 Harris County Flood Resilience Plan**
  • Defines Success
  • Recommends Actionable Strategies
  • Measures Progress
IRT Guiding Principles

- Equitable, holistic improvements to quality of life
- Account for historical problems and social vulnerabilities
- Respect, reclaim, and restore floodplains
- Encourage nature-based solutions
- Protect communities across Harris County
- Continual Community Engagement
IRT Members

- Office of the County Engineer
- Harris County Flood Control District
- Harris County Toll Road Authority
- Harris County Community Services Department
- Harris County Public Health
IRT Timeline for 2050 FRP

• Phase 1 (6 months) – Hire members and startup
• Phase 2 (12 months) – Develop Preliminary Flood Resilience Report
• Phase 3 (18 months) – Develop 2050 Flood Resilience Plan

Time to Complete = 3.5 years
Questions?