



City of Annapolis

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MEMORANDUM

Date: April 11, 2014
To: City Council Committee
From: Lisa Craig, Chief of Historic Preservation
Subject: April 17 Work Session / Cultural Resource Hazard Mitigation Plan - Overview

The following overview highlights some of the information to be presented at the April 17 City Council Work Session on hazard mitigation planning for the Annapolis Historic District. Not intended to be an all inclusive summary of the presentation, the below project description addresses the planning framework for this essential planning and economic development tool.

City of Annapolis Cultural Resource Mitigation Plan: Designing a Resiliency and Response Plan for Historic Properties

The City of Annapolis is committed to creating for Annapolis -- Maryland's Capital City -- a more sustainable and disaster-resistant historic district. To that end, the Cultural Resource Hazard Mitigation Plan (CRHMP) is intended to build upon a number of studies and plans already completed at the City and State level.

- City All Hazard Mitigation Plan
- City Sea-Level Studies
- City Comprehensive Plan
- City Dock Master Plan
- State Preservation Plan
- State Hazard Mitigation Plan

The CRHMP addresses a number of natural and man-made threats, but the most concentrated planning effort is on the threat associated with sea level rise and flooding. The project is intended to engage Annapolis residents, business owners, property owners and local, state and federal agencies & public officials in the development of a hazard mitigation plan and implementation strategy.

The plan is a survey, risk assessment and design tool intended for the 180 properties within the 100-year flood plain area, as delineated in the sea-level study recently completed by the City. The survey will identify not only the importance of the resources affected, but will assess risk and economic impacts and provide design alternatives that will mitigate damage and/or potential loss of the property. The project will also engage State and Federal property owners whose assets abut those of

the City in the NHL District. The survey and implementation strategies will benefit ALL property owners within the 100-year flood plain area, including those outside of the Historic District. As well, regarding other hazards to property that are not flood specific (ie earthquake, fire) this plan can have a citywide benefit.

The plan's development will follow the approach recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through its "how-to" guide to State and Local mitigation planning (i.e. *Integrating Historic Property and Cultural Resource Considerations Into Hazard Mitigation Planning*). Under the FEMA framework, there are 4 Phases in the development of a comprehensive mitigation plan. They include: 1) Organize Resources, 2) Assess Risks, 3) Develop a Mitigation Plan and 4) Implement the Plan and Monitor Progress.

The City of Annapolis has secured \$54,000 in funding for the first two phases of this process -- Organize Resources and Assess Risks. In addition, the US Army Corps of Engineers has stepped forward to offer the immediate use of its Flood Plain Planning Division with expertise in Building Elevation Survey, Floodproofing Strategies and Cultural Resource Survey. This team will work closely with the local architectural survey team and City staff already engaged in the survey and assessment work of Phase 1 and 2.

In Phase 1 (Organize Resources)

- Step #1 - identify resources for disaster mitigation, specifically the historic/cultural resources of the district and building public awareness of their value
- Step #2 - recruit the necessary expertise to engage with on specific types of threats and appropriate treatments.
- Step#3 - engage the public in the process.

The end product of this phase will be an expert planning team and a public outreach strategy.

Phase 2 (Assess Risks) includes:

- Step #1 - identify the specific disasters that affect Annapolis' historic properties.
- Step #2 - profile the disaster-prone areas and the magnitude of each disaster. Step #3 - create an inventory of the historic properties vulnerable to those disasters, assess the vulnerability of the assets and establish preservation priorities by determining which assets are most valuable to the community.
- Step #4 - estimate the associated potential lose.

The end product of this phase will be a prioritized list of properties for protection in the community.

While funding is not currently in place to move beyond the survey / risk assessment process, the involvement of key agencies (i.e. MEMA/FEMA, the Maryland Historical Trust, DNR) ensures that information about potential funding for plan development, implementation and monitoring can be identified in a timely and relevant way. A case in point, the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources encouraged the City to apply for the *Coast Smart* Communities grant. This grant has been submitted to fund the ArcGIS Risk Assessment Database for CRHMP, drafting of the CRHMP and development of Design Guidelines for the sensitive retrofitting of historic properties.

Again, while funding has not yet been secured for Phases #3 and #4, they are essential to completion of the planning process.

Phase #3 – Mitigation Plan

With the public outreach process begun, the inventory completed and the assessment of the risk identified, the momentum will be in place to finalize the Mitigation Plan, Phase 3 of the process.

- Step #1 - develop mitigation goals and objectives
- Step #2 - identify evaluate and prioritize actions
- Step #3 - require preparation of an implementation strategy
- Step #4 - document the completed mitigation planning process for each historic property

The end product of this phase is a planning document to include performance standards, formal plan amendments, ordinance revisions and design guidelines for property owners.

Phase #4 - Implementation

Phase #4 is the most crucial phase and one that the planning team anticipates will be a funding partnership between the City, State and relevant Federal entities.

- Step #1 - coordinate with local and state agencies in any required regulatory reviews,
- Step #2 – conduct necessary coordination agreements
- Step #3 – perform plan updates and evaluations

The desired end product of this phase includes model hazard mitigation projects on both private and public properties.

More detail regarding the partnering organizations, funders, outreach strategy and schedule will be available as part of the Work Session presentation on April 17.