



Resilient Nashua Initiative

Mitigation & Adaptation Prioritization Meeting

Monday, November 19th, 2018 (10 AM - 12 PM)

Nashua City Hall

Auditorium (3rd Floor)

229 Main Street, Nashua, NH, 03060

Facilitator

Justin Kates, Nashua Office of Emergency Management

Attendees:

Sarah Marchant	City of Nashua Community Development Division
Michael Apfelberg	United Way of Greater Nashua
Jason Climer	US Department of Homeland Security
Mark Hastings	Southern NH Health System
Laurie Branchaud	Gateways Community Services
Sally Newhall	Nashua Presbyterian Church
Donald Ware	Pennichuck Water Works, Inc.
Meta Vornehm	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Zeina Eyceoz	SNHU , Nashua Citizen
Pamela Coutermarsh	Nashua Adult Learning Center
Chelsea St George	City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services
Ray Rowell	Worthen Industries
Rusty Russell	Merrimack River Watershed Council
Deb Chisholm	City of Nashua Waterways Department
Roger Houston	City of Nashua Planning Department
Carlos Camacho	Nashua PD
Matthew Chigas	Nashua Office of Emergency Management
Justin Kates	Nashua Office of Emergency Management

Agenda

10:00 AM Welcome & Introductions

11:15 AM Mitigation/Adaptation Strategy Development/Prioritization:
(FEMA Requirement Element C5)

- What opportunities exist to reduce risk and adapt to future conditions for the [hazards & perils identified](#) in Risk Assessment
 - Based on anticipated performance of Buildings & Infrastructure as determined in the NIST and HAZUS process
 - Based on vulnerable areas as determined in the Texas A&M Scorecard process
 - Local Plans and Regulations
 - Structure and Infrastructure Projects
 - Natural Systems Protection
 - Education and Awareness Programs
 - Initiatives beyond the scope of FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Plan Requirements but may have resilience co-benefits
- Criteria for Priorities?
 - Life safety
 - Property protection
 - Technical
 - Political
 - Legal
 - Environmental
 - Social
 - Administrative
 - Local champion
 - Other community objectives

Update: Round 2 Mitigation & Adaptation Evaluation

- Group suggested a number of recommendations at October Meeting
- Group went through each recommendation to determine where the strength to implement it would lie as well as rating each one's strengths & weaknesses and estimating how much time and money it will take to implement
- Notes from the discussion:
 - Catch Basins, property protection rated highest

Concerns are:

that people drive through flooded areas

Concerned with having people clear out catch basins because they don't have the technical expertise, may be putting themselves at risk, would only be asking people to clean out the ones near their homes

Is there a way to monitor it? Are we just telling people in a general way to be a good citizen and keep the drain clear or do we not need to do that

Provide guidance on how to keep them clear so people do not get overzealous
If people can't shovel snow around a hydrant how can they do this for a catch basin

Procedures especially on the safety side

Administrative rated highest concern

Across from Adventure way on DW highway as well as near Worthen on Spit Brook and the CVS on DW

East Dunstable past the Shell station, after Immaculate Conception church

End of Toll Street under bridge (already on CoUrbanize, will be upvoted)

Some drains can be clear but don't have the capacity to handle that much water at one time

Daylighting of Salmon Brook to remove culvert, (property protection rated highest, then environmental then administrative)
(area floods because the culvert there cannot handle all the water and floods upstream areas (acts like a dam))

Challenges/concerns:

Technical and political are highest ranked challenges
(do we have the capability and technical capacity to do this? May have to demolish part of the plaza and remove culverts)

We don't know if it will actually solve the problem

Property owners may not be happy

People will not be happy with disruption of area

People will not be happy with the cost

Downstream flood plain may expand because the downstream environment changes

Implementing green infrastructure on properties

New storm water ordinance is trying to keep as much stormwater on properties as possible, this would be for existing properties because the new ordinance covers new builds

Not to the extent of new legislation but encouraging people (at their own cost)

Benefits:

Natural filtration

Flood reduction

Part of this has already been legislated so it has already gone through a lot of the political battle, puts it a lot further ahead in regard to local champion and politics
Problem here is that we've done what we can for new property but there is no incentive to offer to existing structures (can we leverage insurance side?)

We have done a lot to manage floodplain and insurance rates have gone down but it hasn't changed behavior much

Challenges to implement:

Political, legal, and social ranked highest

Do we have the legal authority to do this?

Is the political will there to support this? Especially due to the financial concern
Stormwater utility (fee set up based on how much impervious surface you have on your property, basically a tax, creates pool of money that can be used for improvements and green infrastructure)

Usually happens at the county level in the west not as popular at the town level in new England

Sewage treatment overflows could be reduced by better green infrastructure but that is the cheapest and least “required”

Making power distribution network more resilient to winter weather (local network)
(no specific technique mentioned)

Life safety was very high then property protection then technical

If people who are relying on medical equipment and a certain temp they can die
Downed lines create life safety hazard
Property protection: pipes freeze, lose food in fridge

Challenges/Concerns:
Technical, admin, political rated highest

We don't own it
Far reaching project (needs a plan), team of dedicated people and time
Do we have the legal authority to make it happen?
People always talk about powerline during the winter (why aren't they buried?) so there would be a lot of political support from the people but not necessarily from the utilities and legislators

Utilities may not care because they will get it back in rates and rates will go up
Cost to restore underground is much higher than above ground
No incentive or way to get existing utilities underground, also we just paved so we will have to rip the roads up again, people also don't want their roads ripped up (long term will)

Problems with ownership and the PUC, very complicated

Keep warmth in buildings, basic weatherization programs to passive survivability
Things like:
Additional education
Identifying incentives

Strong on environmental, property protection, life safety
Environmental= energy savings
Property Protection= pipes not freezing, etc
Life Safety= reduces need for city to open shelter, etc allows people to be safer at home

Easy to get utilities on board because it falls under their mission and helps them get people out of risk during power outage

Challenges/Concerns:

Harder for people to be involved (lower income, etc) (social)
Private property (legal)
New buildings have energy codes but old buildings there is not much by way of retroactive legislation

Personal Responsibility (personal preparedness for winter weather)
Ranked high for life safety as a positive

Challenges: Social, admin, political

A lot of people can't afford things like food day to day so they can't afford the preparedness costs

Also social, the awareness aspect, people simply aren't aware and don't know where to find that information

Political aspect, if we tell people to be prepared so we don't have to open shelters, etc

People will look at it as they pay taxes and should receive services vs the government telling them they aren't going to help

Drought related resilience
Environmental ranked highest

Positive: Water conservation
Could also be used to reduce greenhouse gas emissions down the line (adaptation)

Challenges/Concerns:
Political, social, property protection

People have reduced water use on their own at home, fixtures use a lot less water

People use a lot of water outside (sprinklers, fancy outdoor landscaping, people want to use as much water as they want for their yards)

People do not want to participate in voluntary water bans, etc because they want free and unrestricted access to water

Ultimately people to get on board in smaller communities with wells, etc

People do neighborhood policing and report people who are over watering etc

Extreme Heat Resilience:
Distribution of more A/Cs across the city (may not be initial cost but the ongoing and maintenance costs)

Life Safety, Social, technical (highest rated)

Cooling centers don't work for people who are non-ambulatory or movement challenged

Considerations of justice and equity

Challenges/Concerns:
Environmental, political, technical (then political overtook environmental)

High environmental costs from using so much A/C energy, more centralized cooling areas could be better for environment

Heat pumps vs. A/C

On the political side this is again a retroactive issue

Planting More Trees across the city:

Environmental is strongest then social and life safety

Challenges/Concerns:

Admin, Technical, Political

Unless we see significant decrease in greenhouse gas then there isn't a benefit

Certain trees are not suitable as a long term solution (susceptible to invasive species, absorb less carbon, may not last as long)

Where to plant them for the most benefit, expensive to remove trees, leaves will clog catch basins

Increased water use

11:25 PM Next Steps & Closing:

- Resilient Nashua Summit - December 18th 8:30am-3pm
 - <https://bit.ly/ResilientNashuaSummit>

Update:

- Waffle House added to the agenda.
- Please register if you plan to attend.
- Lunch will be interactive featuring Resilient Nashua Toolkit
- coUrbanize (courb.co/resilient) crowdsourcing tool is being used to solicit community feedback, a press release was also included on Civic Sounding Board. Question will periodically change and will be used to develop mitigation & adaptation strategies. After January we could continue this process using GIS mapping for citizen reporting but it lacks forward questioning to craft risk based questions and provide resources/information.
- How are people defining resilience? What is something in the community that is resilient or should be? Need to keep questions mappable, could be included on discussion board

- Announcements & reminders

Update: Today is last planned meeting for Stakeholder Group

2019 Date will be released soon including the exercise on community recovery

- Website: learn more & contact info
 - <http://www.livablenashua.org/resilient-nashua-initiative/>

Update: All presentations and material are available here on Livable Nashua Dashboard