Farmington

Farmington is located in the southwest corner of the Capitol Region. It has a land area of 28.1 square miles and a population of approximately 25,000. Farmington’s elevation is between 160-245 feet. The majority of Farmington’s land area is located in the Farmington River watershed, but the eastern portion of Town is within the Park River Watershed. The main watercourses in Town include the Farmington and Pequabuck Rivers and Great, Hyde and Scott Swamp Brooks. Several major transportation routes traverse Farmington, including Interstate 84, and routes 4, 6, 9 and 10. The University of Connecticut’s John Dempsey Hospital and medical and dental schools are located in Farmington. Principal industries located in town include numerous national and international corporate facilities, banking, insurance, retail (West Farms Mall), biomedical research and product development, aerospace engineering and products, laser research and production, precision and specialty manufacturing, manufacture of ball bearing spindles, springs, flow and level switches, fans, metals and plastics.

Challenges

Farmington’s transportation network is frequently disrupted by flooding because of the Farmington River and its tributaries. The traffic impacts of road closures in and around Farmington are compounded by the limited number of river (Farmington and Pequabuck) crossings.

During the 2011 Hurricane Irene flooding event, the main roads leading to the Town’s emergency shelter became flooded and inaccessible. There is a significant gap in our ability to provide a shelter during flooding events. Currently there are no other schools equipped with generator backup power.

Farmington’s Emergency Operations Center is located in the Police Department. The Police Department is also the PSAP for the Towns of Burlington and Farmington and is the communications center for all Police/Fire operations in Farmington and Fire operations in the Town of Burlington. The Police Department is located in the 100 year flood plain and almost flooded during the last storm. We have no alternate site to move the communications center.

The National Flood Insurance Program has paid 123 property damage claims in Farmington totaling $1,189,996 to-date. Farmington also has six properties that suffer repetitive flood loss. The NFIP has paid out claims totaling over $797,564 in twenty Repetitive Loss Property claims on these properties to-date. Due to the low lying area of these houses and the disinterest of sale by the homeowners, we are left with mitigation in the form of early warning. The Town plans to utilize the Reverse 911 communications system along with the proposed hydrologic study of the Farmington River in order to warn these property owners of potential flooding incidences based upon rainfall predictions. This will allow for the early mitigation and evacuation of affected properties, thereby reducing the potential for loss of life and mitigating the loss of property. The Town has not permitted any recent new construction in the floodplain.

A significant flood event could result in substantial damage beyond those which have experienced repetitive losses. CRCOG used FEMA’s Hazus-MH model to analyze the risks that the Town of Farmington might face from a major flood. The model estimates that economic losses to the town
including residential and commercial damage and business interruptions due to a flood having a 1% chance of occurring any given year (the 100-year flood) would be nearly $230 million. The impacts of such a flood are summarized below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Damages from 100-Year Flood</th>
<th>Households Displaced</th>
<th>748</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People Needing Shelter</td>
<td>1,992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buildings at Least Moderately Damaged</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Estimated Economic Losses</td>
<td>$228,470,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Residential Building &amp; Content Losses</td>
<td>$92,150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Commercial, Industrial &amp; Other Building &amp; Content Losses</td>
<td>$135,120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Business Interruption Losses</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CRCOG also used FEMA’s Hazus-MH model to analyze the risks that the Town of Farmington might face from a hurricane as powerful as the 1938 hurricane. The model estimates that economic losses to the town including residential and commercial damage and business interruptions due to such a Category 3 hurricane would be nearly $100 million. The model also estimates that the probability of the UConn Health Center suffering at least moderate damage is over 50%. The impacts of such a storm are summarized below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Damages from a 1938 Strength Hurricane</th>
<th>Households Displaced</th>
<th>41</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>People Needing Shelter</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buildings at Least Moderately Damaged</td>
<td>667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buildings Completely Damaged</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Estimated Economic Losses</td>
<td>$99,840,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Residential Building Losses</td>
<td>$67,080,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Commercial, Industrial &amp; Other Building Losses</td>
<td>$21,020,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Business Interruption Losses</td>
<td>$11,740,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Debris Generated</td>
<td>39,248 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Truckloads (at 25 tons/truck) of building debris</td>
<td>374</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to information from the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, the three federally declared natural disasters of 2011 resulted in total expenses to the municipality and other local agencies of over $2.6 million. These expenses include debris and snow removal, emergency protective measures and repairs to damaged infrastructure and buildings but do not include damages experienced by private citizens and businesses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant Town &amp; Other (Other = Fire Districts, Schools, Private Non-Profit Agencies)</th>
<th>100% of Amount Eligible for 75% Reimbursement</th>
<th>Total Damages Eligible for Public Assistance Due to 2011 Disasters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town of Farmington</td>
<td>$73,307.82</td>
<td>$144,255.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmington Other</td>
<td>$9,508.58</td>
<td>$58,644.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmington Total</td>
<td>$82,816.40</td>
<td>$144,255.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Goals, Objectives and Strategies

GOAL: REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION DUE TO FLOODING OF MAJOR EAST/WEST ROUTE (MEADOW ROAD)

Objective 1:
Implement traffic study to improve access to alternate routes (Town Strategic Plan).

Strategic Action:

1.1 Consider the feasibility of a fourth bridge over the Farmington River. Because this is expected to be a long term, multi-year project, for the 2014-2019 Plan period, the action to be taken is to develop a scope of work for a feasibility study.

Lead: Planning, Engineering, Public Works
Priority: Medium
Status: Deferred: A fourth bridge was considered during the 2008/2009 Unionville Traffic Subcommittee. Two potential locations were identified; however currently there is a lack of funding to pursue the project.
Potential Funding Source: Grants, bonds
Timeframe: 2015-2019

GOAL: MINIMIZE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AS A RESULT OF SEVERE STORMS

Objective 1:
Reduce the impacts of flooding.
Strategic Actions:

1.1 Improve communications with the Army Corps of Engineers to obtain advance warning of releases from the Goodwin Dam.
   Lead: Emergency Management, Public Works
   Priority: High
   Status: Town staff has worked consistently and on a regular basis with the MDC on river flow conditions including storm events. Town staff will continue to work with MDC and ACOE throughout the 2014 – 2019 plan period to obtain information on river flow conditions.
   Potential Funding Source: General funds
   Timeframe: 2014-2019

1.2 Consider partnering with neighboring watershed communities to conduct a hydrologic study of the Farmington River.
   Lead: Planning, Engineering
   Priority: Medium
   Status: Some discussions have taken place to date. Over the next five years, town staff will continue to investigate means to undertake a hydrologic study of the river.
   Potential Funding Source: General funds, grants
   Timeframe: 2014-2019

1.3 Consider performing a town-wide hydrologic study.
   Lead: Planning, Engineering
   Priority: High
   Status: The study is listed as a recommendation from the Storm Irene After-Action Report but has not been funded to date. The town has identified a hydraulic watershed study in its capital improvements program for 2015-2016.
   Potential Funding Source: General fund

Objective 2:
Enhance the capabilities of the main town shelter (High School).

Strategic Action:

2.1 Continue to work with the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee on obtaining generators and other supplies.
   Lead: Emergency Management
   Priority: Low
   Status: Completed: A generator and other improvements to the high school were installed.
Objective 3:
Enhance the capabilities of emergency responders to prepare and respond to severe weather.

Objective 4:
Improve the information flow to the public regarding pre-disaster planning.

Strategic Action:

4.1 Continue to use the town newsletter and website to release relevant information.
   Lead: Emergency Management, Administration
   Priority: High
   Status: Notifications were made a number of times over the past five years. Over the next five years, town staff will continue to provide updated information.
   Potential Funding Source: General funds
   Timeframe: 2014-2019: updates to be posted seasonally and before major storm events.

THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES ARE PROPOSED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2014 – 2019 PLAN UPDATE:

Objective 5:
Locate and equip an alternate site to be used as a Town shelter.

Strategic Action:

5.1 Equip Irving A. Robbins School as a shelter.
   The current shelter becomes inaccessible during flooding events. The Town plans to make Irving A. Robbins School our shelter. The school is also a medical backup shelter to the University of Connecticut Health Center.
   Lead: Emergency Management, Administration
   Priority: High
   Status: Completion is expected in 2014 dependent upon availability of funding
   Potential Funding Source: Town Funding and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The Town is seeking grant and bond funding to provide a generator to power the Irving A. Robbins Middle School as an additional shelter.
Objective 6:
Develop plans and procedures in the event that the Police Department floods and requires evacuation.

Strategic Action:

6.1 Establish the Farmington Fire Station as a backup dispatch center and EOC. The site needs to be equipped with phone lines and communications equipment.
Lead: Emergency Management
Priority: High
Status: Bond funding has been approved in this year’s capital budget to equip a backup dispatch center and EOC
Potential Funding Source: bonds
Timeframe: Completion is expected in 2014

Objective 7:
Stabilize the Farmington River Embankment at the cemetery on Garden Street where the river turns north and has eroded during the last several flooding conditions. There are graves and a gravity sanitary sewer line that runs adjacent to the embankment.

Strategic Action:

7.1 Design a permanent retaining wall system or structure such as steel sheet piling to prevent further erosion of the existing gravel embankment.
Lead: Public Works, Engineering
Priority: High
Status: Staff has met with CT DEMHS, Federal Agencies FEMA, and NRCS and has had dialogues with the USACE requesting assistance. Project will be undertaken as soon as funding is available to assist with the costs for the design and construction.
Potential Funding Source: Grant and limited Town General funds
Timeframe: 2014-2019
Map 30: Farmington Population Density, Dams and Flood Zones
Map 31: Farmington Flood Plains, Repetitive Loss Areas, Dams and Important Facilities

Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update

Town of Farmington

Flood Plains, Dams & Important Facilities

Dams by Hazard
- C - High
- B - Significant
- BB - Moderate
- A - Low
- AA - Negligible
- Unclassified

100 Year Flood Zone

Repetitive Flood Loss Areas

Water Bodies

Facilities
- Airport
- Commercial/Industrial
- Fire Station
- Hospital/Healthcare
- Municipal Facility
- Nursing Home/Rehab. Center
- Other
- Police Station
- Public Safety
- School
- Senior Housing/Assisted Living
- State Facility
- Transportation Facility
- Water/Sewer Facility
- Broadcast Tower

Data Sources: Hazus-MH, FEMA, DEEP,
Telematics, GIS/OGIS and Municpalities