Simsbury

Simsbury is a suburban community of about 23,600 located in the western portion of the Capitol Region. Its land area encompasses 33.9 square miles. Elevation in town generally ranges from about 150 to 500 feet above sea level. Most of Simsbury contributes to the Farmington River Watershed, although a very small portion in the southwest drains to the Park River Watershed. Watercourses in town include the Farmington River and Bissell, Grimes, Hop, King Philip, Nod, Minister, Munisunk, Owens, Saxton, Second, and Still Brooks. Principal industries include agriculture, insurance offices, non-electric blast initiation systems, polypropylene fiber manufacturing, and safety and detonating fuse making. The main transportation routes through town are north-south state routes 10/202 and 167, and east-west state routes 185, 309 and 315.

Challenges

While Simsbury has been pro-active in assuring that new land-use developments are not placed in floodplains or wetlands, and the Town has worked to preserve open space in the floodplain, flooding is a significant challenge for Simsbury. The Town has several areas of repetitive loses involving at least eleven properties and resulting in claims of over $389,000. Overall, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has paid 100 claims in Simsbury totaling over $526,615 to-date. For homes with repetitive loses, the Town is utilizing the Everbridge notification system. The Towns Social Services Department maintains a listing of elderly, frail and disabled persons so that notification and contact can be made in flooding and loss of power events. The Town is carefully reviewing renovation/reconstruction plans for homes in repetitive lose areas in order to assure that flood proofing is accomplished and that utility/heating facilities are located above the 100 year flood level.

Also, there are a number of important roads that in recent years have been overtopped by flood waters, with resulting limitations to travel by emergency vehicles and access to the Town’s Emergency Shelter. In two flood events (Hurricane Irene and Storm Sandy), certain critical access roads were blocked. Route 185 was closed at East Weatogue Street, severing a major east/west transportation artery. Route 315 was closed, isolating the Tariffville Village area and preventing those residents access to the Town emergency shelter. Town Forest Road flooding blocked access/egress to the Town Public Works Campus. Riverside Road flooding blocked emergency vehicle access to the neighborhood. Solutions for some of these roads, such as Route 185 and Riverside Road are accomplishable by raising road elevations above the 100 year flood level. However, the environmental and cost implications in raising Route 315, suggest that a secondary emergency shelter site be established at the Tariffville Elementary School. Access improvements on Town Forest Road can be accomplished, but at a large expense. Work involves raising the road above the 100 year flood level and replacing two large culverts and associated drainage.

CRCOG used FEMA’s Hazus-MH model to analyze the risks that the Town of Simsbury 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 over $102 million. The impacts of such a flood are summarized below:
Losses from strong hurricanes would also be significant. The model estimates that economic losses to the town including residential and commercial damage and business interruptions due to a Category 3 hurricane such as the 1938 Hurricane would be nearly $89 million. 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>11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People Needing Shelter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings at Least Moderately Damaged</td>
<td>512</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings Completely Damaged</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Estimated Economic Losses</td>
<td>$88,800,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Residential Building Losses</td>
<td>$74,170,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Commercial, Industrial &amp; Other Building Losses</td>
<td>$7,550,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Business Interruption Losses</td>
<td>$7,070,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Debris Generated</td>
<td>44,301 tons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truckloads (at 25 tons/truck) of building debris</td>
<td>259</td>
<td></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 $3.8 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. Storm Alfred, by far, wreaked the most havoc on the town. During Storm Alfred, the municipality experienced extreme costs in excess of $3.6 million in order to clear downed trees, operate emergency shelters, and clear roads. Snow storms have been found to be the most costly events, with widespread community impacts. A comprehensive, fully founded, and utility coordinated tree trimming/removal program is urgently needed to address the issue of downed trees from damaging overhead utilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant:Town &amp; Other Agencies (i.e., Fire Districts, Schools, and 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>
</table>

2011 Disasters Damage Amounts Eligible for 75% Reimbursement Under FEMA Public Assistance Program
Goals, Objectives and Strategies

GOAL: REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AS A RESULT OF FLOODING

Objective 1:
Incorporate natural hazard mitigation strategies into new/existing projects.

Strategic Actions:
(The following mitigation measures which were identified in the 2008 Plan are proposed to be continued in the 2014-2019 Plan Update)

1.1 Continue to implement regulations prohibiting net flow increase from new development.
   Lead: Planning, Engineering
   Priority: High
   Status: This is an established practice of the Town. As applications for development are received by the Town, they are routinely reviewed for their conformance to flood plain regulations. Town inspectors ensure the developments are constructed in conformance with approved plans and regulations.
   Potential Funding Source: General funds

1.2 Implement recommended regulations that result from study of impervious coverage in various areas of town.
   Lead: Planning, Engineering
   Priority: Medium
   Status: The Town undertook a low impact development study and developed stormwater design guidelines, a development checklist and proposed regulations in 2011. As development proposals are submitted they will continue to be reviewed in accordance with approved guidelines and regulations.
   Potential Funding Source: General funds

Objective 2:
Correct undersized drainage systems in repetitively flooded areas.

Strategic Actions:

2.1 Upgrade culverts associated with Bissell Brook on Fire Town Road.
   Lead: Public Works, Administration
   Priority: Medium
   Status: This project identified in the 2008 Plan was completed prior to the 2014-2019 Update

2.2 Upgrade culverts associated with Stratton Brook on Town Forest and Stratton Brook Roads.
   Lead: Public Works, Administration
Objective 3:
Ensure the protection of private properties at greatest risk.

Strategic Actions:

3.1 Explore participation in the Community Rating System.
Lead: Emergency Management, Planning
Priority: High
Status: This project which was identified in the 2008 Plan was not completed and is proposed to be included in the 2014-2019 Plan Update
Potential Funding Sources: General funds
Timeframe: 2014-2019

3.2 Pursue acquisition of parcels with potential for development along or within 100-year floodplain to preserve as open space.
Lead: Planning, Administration
Priority: High
Status: This project, identified in the 2008 Plan, was completed prior to the 2014-2019 Plan Update. Connecticut DEEP acquired land in the floodplain on Eno Place adjacent to the Simsbury Game Management Area.

GOAL: REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AS A RESULT OF WINTER STORMS

Objective 1:
Continue to trim/remove hazard trees.

Strategic Actions:

(The following mitigation measures which were identified in the 2008 Plan are proposed to be continued in the 2014-2019 Plan Update)

1.1 Maintain relationship with CL&P - currently CL&P serves on local public safety committee.
Lead: Public Safety Committee
Priority: High
Status: This project which was identified in the 2008 Plan is an established practice which will be continued.
Potential Funding Sources: General funds
Timeframe: 2014-2019: Bi-monthly meetings
1.2 Continue local tree maintenance work.
   Lead: Public Works, Administration
   Priority: Medium
   Status: This project which was identified in the 2008 Plan is an established practice which will be continued.
   Potential Funding Sources: General funds (Note: Additional funding is needed.)
   Timeframe: 2014-2019

1.3 Maintain informal agreements with local contractors for emergency debris removal work
   Lead: Public Works
   Priority: High
   Status: This project which was identified in the 2008 Plan is an established practice which will be continued.
   Potential Funding Sources: General funds
   Timeframe: 2014-2019

Objective 2:
Provide planning and equipment for traffic rerouting.

Strategic Actions:

2.1 Purchase mechanical signs.
   Lead: Police, Emergency Management, Administration
   Priority: Medium
   Status: This project identified in the 2008 Plan was completed prior to the 2014-2019 Plan Update

2.2 Maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities.
   Lead: Emergency Management
   Priority: Medium
   Status: This project which was identified in the 2008 Plan is an established practice which will be continued.
   Potential Funding Sources: General funds
   Timeframe: 2014-2019

Objective 3:
Minimize risks vulnerable to populations as a result of power failure.

Strategic Actions:

3.1 Maintain special needs population list.
   Lead: Social Services
   Priority: Medium
   Status: This project which was identified in the 2008 Plan is an established practice which will be continued.
3.2 Work with convalescent and day care centers to plan for evacuations.
   Lead: Emergency Management
   Priority: Medium
   Status: This project which was identified in the 2008 Plan is an established practice which will be continued.
   Potential Funding Sources: General funds

3.3 Work with CREPC to obtain funding to purchase generators for shelters.
   Lead: Emergency Management
   Priority: Medium
   Status: This project which was identified in the 2008 Plan is an established practice which will be continued.
   Potential Funding Sources: General funds
   Timeframe: 2014-2019

3.4 Equip a secondary shelter at Tariffville School.
   Lead: Emergency Management
   Priority: Medium
   Status: This project is proposed as a new initiative to be included in the 2014-2019 Plan Update. This project is identified in the Town’s Capital Improvements Program. FEMA grant funding was awarded in the fall of 2013.
   Potential Funding Sources: General funds and grants
   Timeframe: Installation to be completed in 2014

GOAL: REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AS A RESULT OF WIND

Objective 1: Continue to trim/remove hazard trees.
   (Note: This is the same as Objective 1 from Goal 2 above.)

Strategic Actions:

(The following mitigation measures which were identified in the 2008 Plan are proposed to be continued in the 2014-2019 Plan Update)

1.1 Maintain relationship with CL&P - currently CL&P serves on local public safety committee.
   Lead: Public Safety Committee
   Priority: High
   Status: This project which was identified in the 2008 Plan is an established practice which will be continued.
   Potential Funding Sources: General funds
   Timeframe: 2014-2019: Bi-monthly meetings
1.2 Continue local tree maintenance work.
   Lead: Public Works, Administration
   Priority: Medium
   Status: This project which was identified in the 2008 Plan is an established practice which will be continued.
   Potential Funding Sources: General funds (Note: Additional funding is needed.)
   Timeframe: 2014-2019

1.3 Maintain informal agreements with local contractors for emergency debris removal work
   Lead: Public Works
   Priority: High
   Status: This project which was identified in the 2008 Plan is an established practice which will be continued.
   Potential Funding Sources: General funds
   Timeframe: 2014-2019

Objective 2: Provide planning and equipment for traffic rerouting.
(Note: This is the same as Objective 2 from Goal 2 above.)

Strategic Actions:

2.1 Purchase mechanical signs.
   Lead: Police, Emergency Management, Administration
   Priority: Medium
   Status: This project identified in the 2008 Plan was completed prior to the 2013/14 Update

2.2 Maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities.
   Lead: Emergency Management
   Priority: Medium
   Status: This project which was identified in the 2008 Plan is an established practice which will be continued.
   Potential Funding Sources: General funds
   Timeframe: 2014-2019

Objective 3:
Coordinate back-up communications.

Strategic Action:
3.1 Continue to implement upgrades to fire, police and town-wide communications systems.
   Lead: Emergency Management, Administration
   Priority: Medium
Status: This project which was identified in the 2008 Plan is an established practice which will be continued.
Potential Funding Sources: General funds
Timeframe: 2014-2019: Upgrades to be considered annually during the budget process.

THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND MITIGATION ACTIONS ARE PROPOSED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2014-2019 PLAN UPDATE:

GOAL: IMPROVE ACCESS DURING FLOOD EVENTS

Objective 1:
Raise road elevations to assure access

Strategic Actions:

1.1 Raise Riverside Road near Drake Hill Bridge
   Lead: Public Works, Engineering
   Priority: High
   Potential Funding Sources: Bonding and State Aid
   Timeframe: 2016-2018

1.2 Raise Route 185 near East Weatogue Street
   Lead: Public Works, Engineering
   Priority: High
   Potential Funding Sources: Bonding and State Aid
   Timeframe: 2016-2018

Objective 2:
Co-ordinate efforts with Connecticut DOT

Strategic Actions:

2.1 Coordinate with Connecticut DOT for Route 185 work.
   Lead: Public Works, Administration
   Priority: High
   Potential Funding Sources: General funds
   Timeframe: 2015-2018
Map 49: Simsbury Flood Plains, Repetitive Loss Areas, Dams and Important Facilities