



# Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee

May 14, 2025 | 7:00 p.m. | Hybrid (Virtual and In-Person) Meeting

## Minutes

Advisory Group Members Present:

|   |                   |   |                                |
|---|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| V | John Chapman      | P | Howard “Skip” Maginniss        |
| P | Dino Drudi        | A | Brian Sands                    |
| P | John Hill (Chair) | P | Janette Shew                   |
| A | Cheryl Leonard    | A | Christine Thuot                |
| A | Chris Ferrara     | P | Katherine Waynick (Vice-Chair) |

Staff Present:

|   |                                                           |   |                                                          |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------|
| P | Brian Rahal, T&ES Civil Engineer IV                       | P | Jesse Maines, T&ES Division Chief, Stormwater Management |
| P | Dan Medina, DPI Stormwater Program Manager                | V | Jessica Lassetter, T&ES Civil Engineer III               |
| P | Emma Wheeler, T&ES Communications Office                  | P | Jonathan Whiteleather, DPI Technical Project Manager     |
| A | Erin Bevis-Carver, Sanitary Infrastructure Division Chief | V | Lisa Jaatinen, T&ES Civil Engineer IV                    |
| V | Felicia Montoney, T&ES Management Analyst I               | P | Mitch Dillon, DPI Associate Technical Project Manager    |
| A | Alex Haptemariam, DPI Senior Technical Project Manager    |   |                                                          |
|   |                                                           |   |                                                          |

P = Present      A = Absent      V = Virtual (on call)

Other Attendees Present:

|   |                   |   |                  |
|---|-------------------|---|------------------|
| V | Lu Zhang          | V | Mujeeb Atefi     |
| V | Lori Sharp        | V | Ehsanullah Hayat |
| V | Victoria Varnedoe | V | Susan Beck       |
| V | Haweni Gobena     | V | Rami Chehade     |

Hill: Lack quorum, will wait to approve minutes. Asked Dr. Medina if Committee can begin project updates.

Medina: Yes.

### 1. Welcome remarks

### 2. Review of Minutes [End of Meeting]

Reached quorum. Drudi: Motion to approve minutes. Waynick: Second. All in favor: Aye.

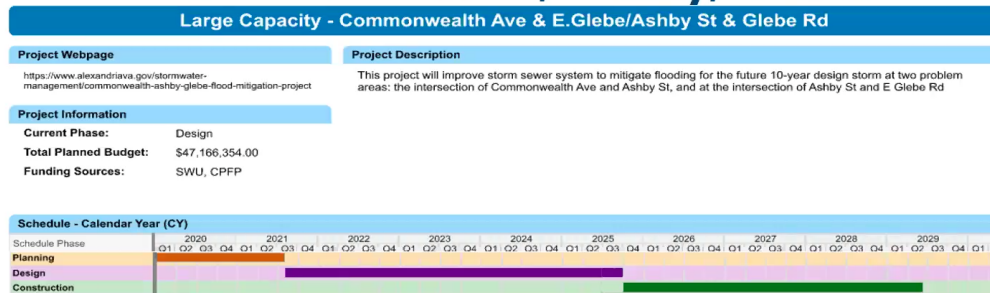
### 3. FY2026 Budget as approved and Committee’s Annual Report

### 4. Program Updates



#### 4a. Large Capacity Project (Whiteleather)

## Flood Action Progress Report: Commonwealth, Ashby, Glebe



- 90% Submission received early May
- Utility test pits completed in April
- Continued utility coordination
- Met with Lynhaven, Del Ray, and Auburn Village Civic Associations in April
- Design completion anticipated in late Summer/early fall

**Commonwealth, Ashby, Glebe:** The City is reviewing the 90% design submission and actively coordinating with utilities. The City held productive outreach meetings with local civic associations and will integrate feedback – related to mitigation during construction. On track to complete by late summer/early fall.

City cost estimates are in line with planned funding. City will begin procurement process once design phase is complete. Expect to receive bids early 2026. Expect RFP to be released at end of 2025. Bidders are not pre-qualified due to size of project.

Drudi: If estimates exceed planned cost?

- Whiteleather: Must use current cost estimates. Will evaluate bids and determine whether scope modifications are necessary
- Jesse: Review applicants based on prior work (scope and scale). Typically give at least six weeks to develop applications. Firms have already sent inquiries.
- Rahal (?): Insurance requirements are high for project.

Waynick: What was main feedback from outreach events?

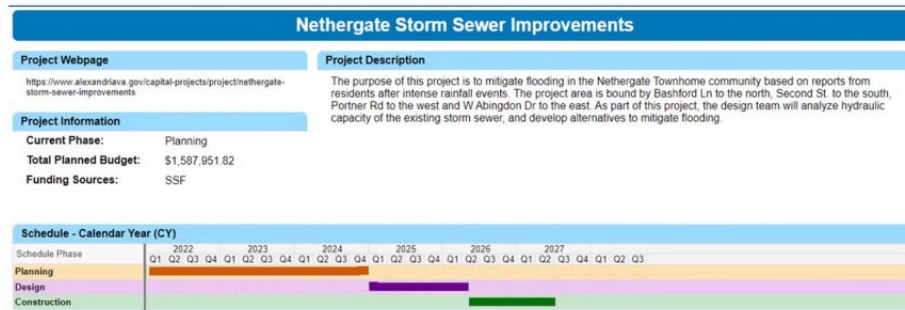
- Whiteleather: Ensure detours don't go through local roads. Project will require close Glebe Rd and Reed Rd for short periods. Residents want to ensure detour shifts traffic between those two roadways and not to other roadways. Also, Lynhaven is looking to expand slow zone improvements and ensure isn't in conflict with maintenance of traffic. Many residents also ride their bikes, want to ensure bike racks aren't compromised.
- Waynick: Likely will hear from DelRey residents who use bike routes once construction starts.

#### 4b. CSS (Whiteleather)



## Flood Action Progress Report: CSS

- Pitt & Gibbon (\$20-25M) CSO surcharge mitigation. Project team reviewing alternatives to mitigate flooding.
- Nethergate (\$5M) CSO surcharge mitigation. Design consultant selected. Negotiating scope and fee prior to kickoff. Design kickoff anticipated in late spring/early summer



**Pitt & Gibbon:** Still reviewing alternatives. Solution could be improving conveyance or storing water (would likely be combination). Issue is where to fit additional infrastructure given limited space.

- Hill: Flood Action is not a 10-year program, it is an ongoing program. Included in report.
- Drudi: Is estimate of 25 million for Pitt & Gibbon plausible? Concerned is half of cost.
- Shew: Is it better to have an estimate even if not accurate?
- Waynick: Important to have reserve, shows City's commitment to issue. Need to consider impacts of funding climate.
- Hill: Percent tax will likely need to fluctuate with inflation.

**Nethergate:** In the procurement process. City has preliminarily selected a consultant and are in the negotiation process. Hope to kickoff design shortly.

Drudi: Design was set to being in Q1 but are in Q2.

- Whiteleather: Procurement for design is considered part of design and is currently moving forward.

### 4c. Hooffs Run Culvert

## Flood Action Progress Report: Hooffs Run Culvert Bypass Project

- City staff continues evaluation of potential alternatives

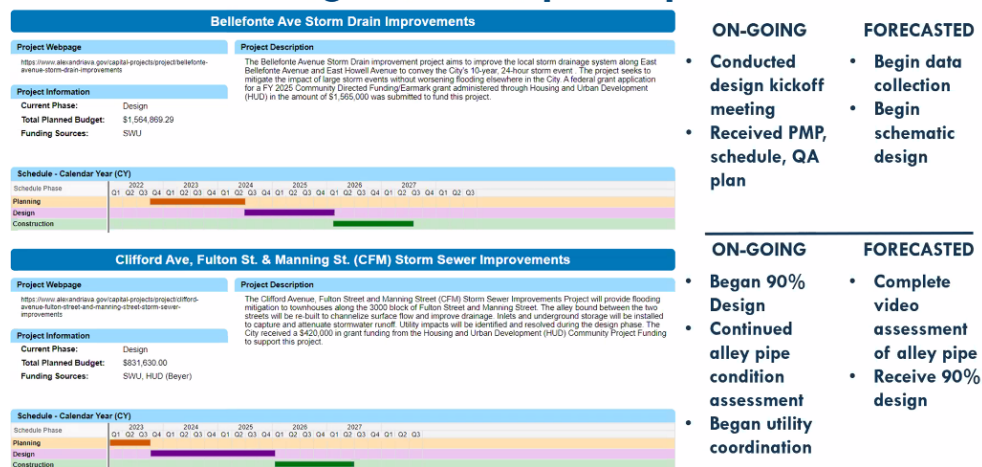
Medina: Considered pump, but not as good as hoped. Possible will not have solution. All options would require massive infrastructure and would need to find location where do not cross railroad tracks.



- Option: Would require 9-million-gallon tank underground and pump station.
- Medina: Once City completes analysis, will summarize findings in document and share with group at end of summer 2025.
- Hill: People who live in area will need to take measures to protect themselves. Good news is that the neighborhood sanitary system can contain sewer water. Advises City to share likely outcome with residents.
- Drudi: Concerned Pitt & Gibbon will meet same fate (which is combined sewer and stormwater).

#### 4d. Spot Projects (Dillon)

### Flood Action Progress Report: Neighborhood Spot Projects



**Bellefonte:** Held Kick-off with consultant. Obtained project management plan, schedule, and quality assurance plan. Entering first stage of planning and data collection (topographic survey, property boundaries), followed by schematic design.

**Clifford Ave:** Completed 30% design and began 90% design. City conducting ongoing assessment of alley pipe, will be incorporated into 90% design. Talked with Washington Gas about Commonwealth gas line (hope relocation not necessary) and fiber cable utility provider (requesting relocate). Video assessment of alley pipe will inform 90%.

**Waynick:** If rerouting on Manning, will need to talk to Arborists office to ensure avoid tree (over 200 years old, spans five homes). Route system is extensive, didn't want micro trenching along Manning. Dillon and Waynick to further discuss.



## Flood Action Progress Report: Neighborhood Spot Projects



**Edison St:** Presented to City leadership (leadership of environmental and transportation services departments). Once obtain signatures, can take to bid. Need to clear ROW ahead of procurement and construction (working with Washington Gas and American Water).

**Four Mile Run:** Issued task order request to pre-qualified bidders. City is addressing questions, expect to receive proposals and begin negotiations with most qualified and best priced.

- Engineer: Project to upsize infrastructure of 75 inlets (~2 miles).
- Hill: Will drain into Hoofs Run culvert on Southern side – Yes.
- Maines: Received grant for additional 100+ inlets identified via ongoing inlet work.

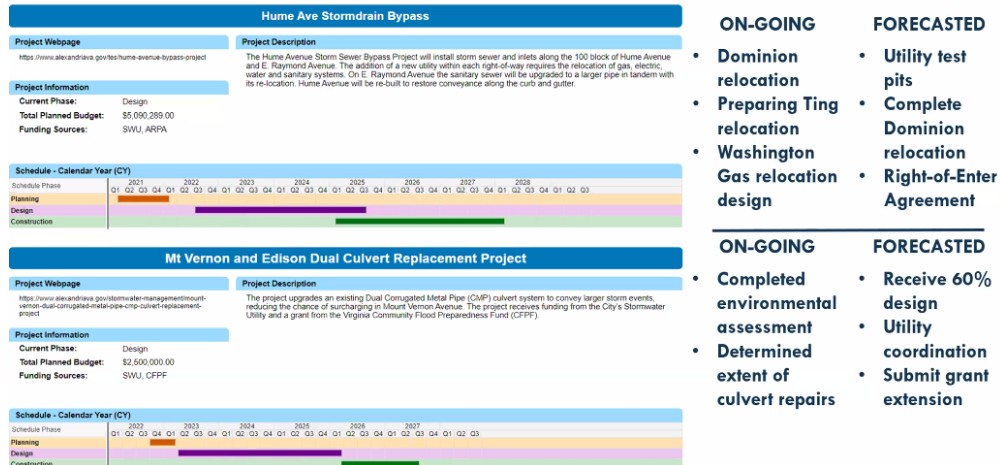
**Councilman John Taylor Chapman:** Discussion with City Council on CIP and Stormwater

- Committee has done a great job in educating and warning Council about the work that needs to be done. Cautiously optimistic colleagues are heeding calls for increased funding and projects lasting longer. Received a few messages from people concerned about continued increase in fee but based on conversations and meetings with other council members, doesn't get the sense they are pulling back.
- Vote: All supported increase in fee. Comes from commission and staff work. Staff has done a great job educating council on portfolio of projects and advocacy of committee members is adding to understanding. Appreciate staff and residents work on this. Issue will not go away in 10 years. While momentum is good, council members are concerned about upcoming election cycle and are likely to hear from voters about increased fee costs compared to project completion rates.
- As committee considers other funding models, will need to strategize how to ensure council support.

Hill: Cannot count on 5% increases forever.



## Flood Action Progress Report: Neighborhood Spot Projects



**Hume Ave:** Dominion utility relocation is ongoing, anticipated completion in June. Working with other utilities to relocate lines along E Raymond, Dewitt, and Hume Ave, work to begin in October. Encouraged to start on East Raymond so that Washington Gas can relocate, followed by Virginia American Water. City needs to complete test pits by 06/30 and finalize entry agreements (City had to enter into agreement with private landowners for right-of-entry agreement).

Drudi: How many FTE (full-time equivalent) are devoted to flooding?

- Medina: 5.5 (internal and contracts). Maines: 5-6, need time to truly calculate.

Drudi: 10-11 FTEs devoted to flooding. Contractors are a force multiplier, harder to estimate contractor FTE. Is it feasible to make better progress by adding FTEs or does it result in diseconomies of scale?

- Medina: Is context-specific, could have more people but every project will end up in construction. No statistical limit of work but don't want to paralyze City.

Drudi: Concerned that the projected timeline set when Committee was Ad Hoc has been constantly extended. Would adding staff resources accelerate projects?

- Medina: We are not late. Process is methodological, would not change with more people.
- Waynick: Prior to Ad Hoc, many were angry to see increase in number of FTEs because felt took money away from potential projects. There is no clear-cut answer.
- Shew: Opportunity could be having staff to look at projects, troubleshoot, evaluate and plan ahead of working phase?
- Hill: Master schedule from 2 years ago, said in summer 2025 would have: 4 projects in design phase (CAG, Books, Pitt & Gibbon, Nethergate). Starting design when wanted to but is taking longer (but is better than longer construction phase).

Drudi: Council anticipates pushback at next election which could be issue if voters don't see much tangible progress (e.g., Braddock Rd remains consistent issue, particularly given King St and Commonwealth Ave closures). If issues persist, likely to experience pushback against stormwater fee.

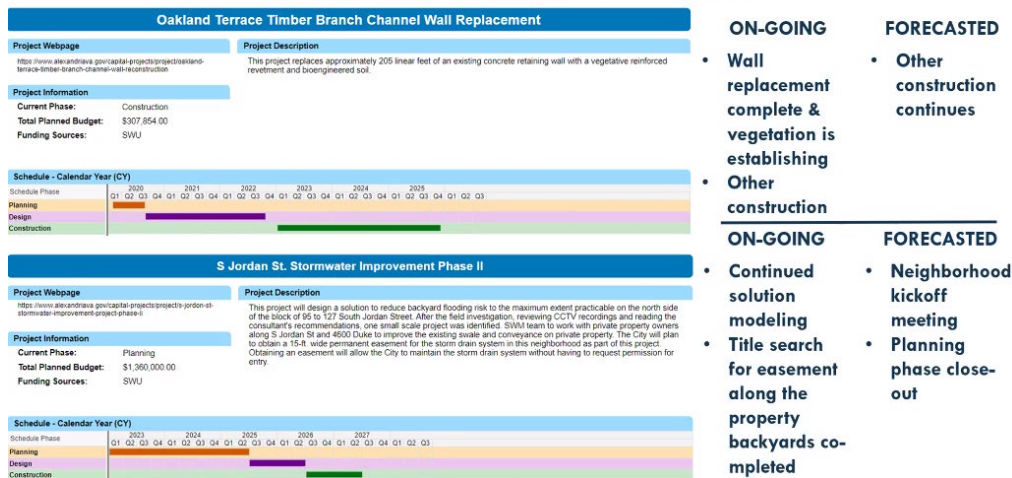


Should money that would have gone to construction go to additional staffing so that two years from now have more progress to show (ahead of council elections) to counter political opposition?

- Dillon: Many projects are extended in design/construction phase because need to clear ROW ahead of construction. The public may see the clearing of the ROW and would demonstrate progress.
- Waynick: Many questioned 10-year mark. Need to preliminarily draft future phases once complete current projects so that are prepared for next election cycle.

**Mt Vernon:** Completed environmental assessment and determining extent of culvert repairs. Anticipate will receive 60% design and grant extension, and will coordinate with utilities.

## Flood Action Progress Report: Neighborhood Spot Projects

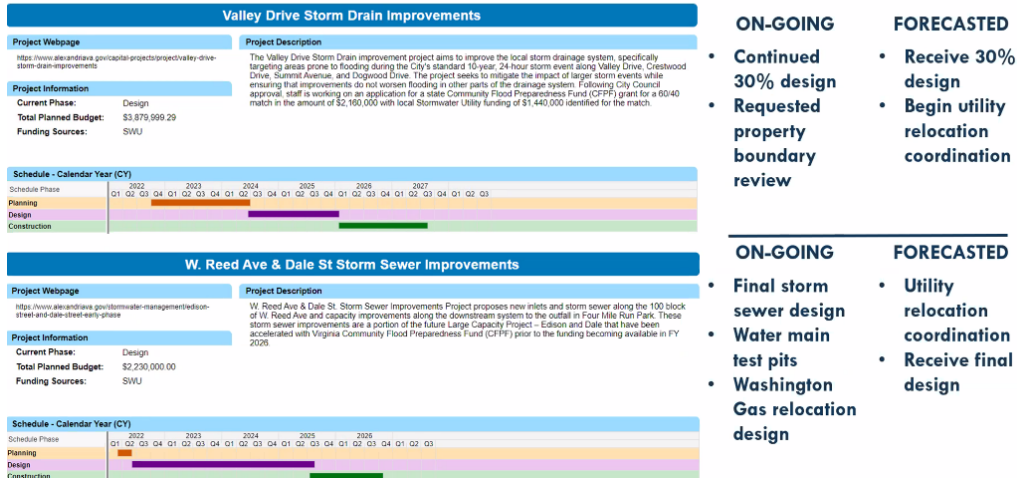


**Oakland Ter:** Completed wall replacement, are establishing vegetation, and continuing other construction. Expect to complete major elements by end of 2025.

**S Jordan:** City conducted title search for easement along property boundaries and continues to model anticipated improvements. Forecast neighborhood kickoff meeting and to end planning phase shortly.



## Flood Action Progress Report: Neighborhood Spot Projects



**Valley Dr:** Continuing 30% design, requested property boundary review of schematics to ensure within ROW. Plan to receive 30% design and begin utility relocation process based on schematics.

- Hill: Request rename as projects are no longer spot projects. New Name: Neighborhood Impact Projects.

**W Reed Ave:** Final design phase, completed water main test pits on W Reed Ave and Dale St. To continue coordination with utilities, City to receive relocation design from Washington Gas for Dale St.

- Maines: No projects are funded by BRICK grant program.

### 4e. Sewer Renewal Program (Zhang)

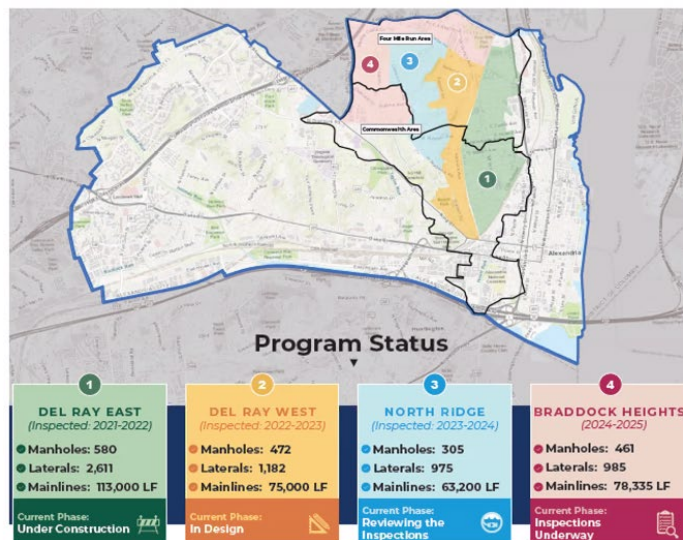
## Sanitary Sewer Asset Renewal Program

### • Del Ray East Manhole & Mainline Rehabilitation:

- Completed, closing out contract

### • Del Ray East Lateral Rehabilitation:

- City owns lateral sewers from mainline connection to curb pre-1955
- Invitation to Bid (ITB) late Spring/early Summer 2025





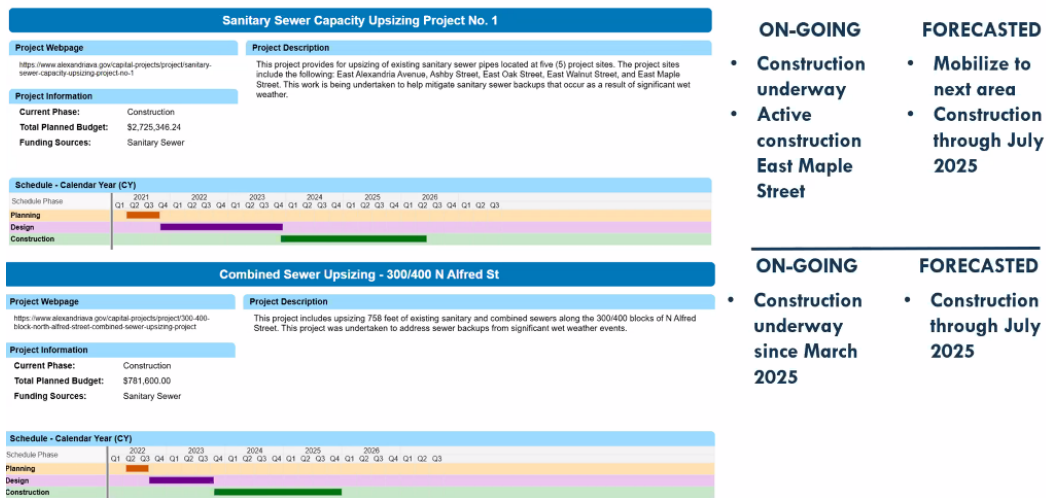
**Del Ray East:** Inspection in 2021-2022. Began mainline and manhole rehabilitation construction in Jan 2024 and now complete. Currently in close out phase. Lateral rehabilitation to be completed on separate contract. 100% design submission from consultant. Anticipate issue of ITP late summer 2025.

**Del Ray West:** Issued purchase order, held kick-off design.

**North Ridge:** In planning phase, actively reviewing inspection data and anticipate DPR in next 6 months.

**Braddock Heights:** Ongoing inspection.

## Sanitary Sewer Backup Mitigation Projects

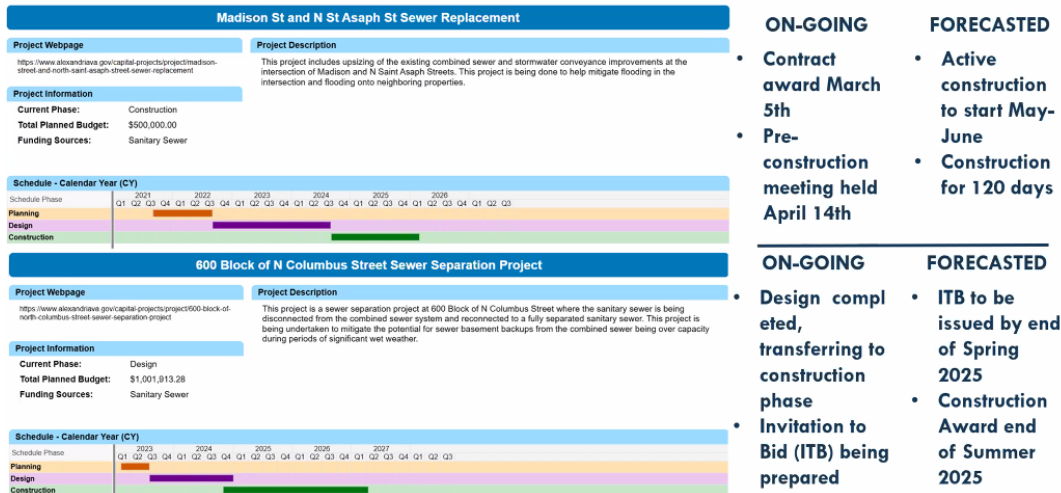


**Sanitary Sewer Capacity Upsizing Project 1:** Encompasses sewer segments along Oak St, Maple St, Walnut, Ashbee, and Alexandria that were deemed insufficient capacity. Construction began in Feb 2025 at Oak St (now complete). Ongoing construction at E Maple and anticipate through Jul 2025.

**Combined Sewer Upsizing:** Construction from Mar 2025 through Jul 2025.



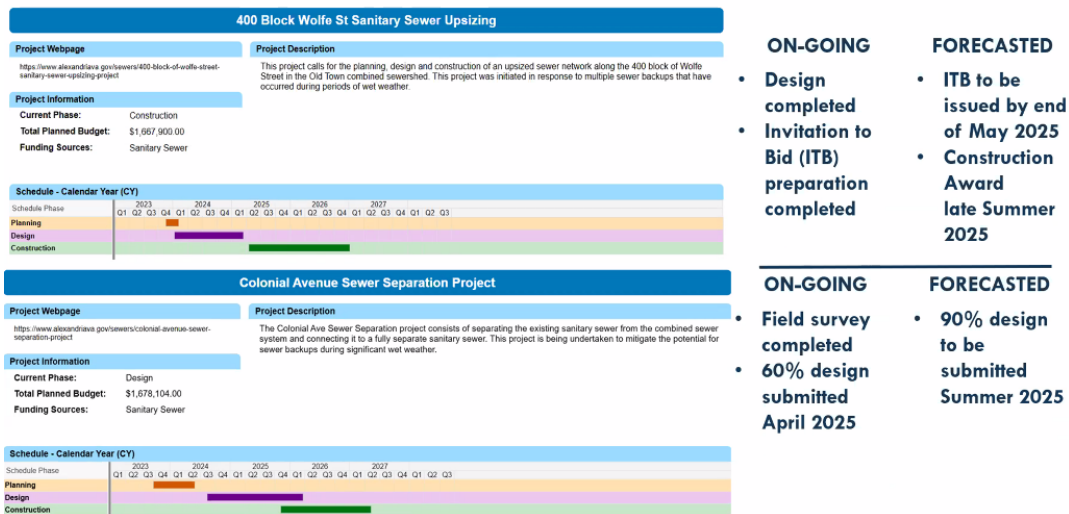
## Sanitary Sewer Backup Mitigation Projects



**Madison St:** Upsizing project, awarded contract in Mar 2025. Held pre-construction meeting on 04/14/2025. Anticipate construction to start in May or Jun 2025, and to last 4 months.

**600 Block N Columbus:** Reroutes flow into separate sewer system. Design is complete. Purchasing working on ITP, anticipate to award by end of May 2025. Anticipate award construction in summer 2025

## Sanitary Sewer Backup Mitigation Projects



**400 Block Wolfe:** Upsizing undersized sewer lines. Design complete, currently developing ITP. Forecast awarding ITP by end of May and construction in late summer 2025.

**Colonial Ave:** City conducted flow metering, observed back-up from combined sewer during high intensity rain events. Will disconnect and reroute. Received 60% design, will review comments with consultants. Following submission to be 90% design (summer 2025).



Hill: Can we calculate number of avoided basement back-ups?

- Zhang: Have conducted some flow metering. City has seen few intense rainfall events resulting in basement back-ups over past 18 months, many back-ups are due to OM issues, difficult to compare. System is sufficient for ongoing events but struggles to handle massive amounts of water. Need to look at similar intensity, didn't have intense events over last 18 months.
- Hill: Can we calculate the number of houses that connect to/are served by the sewer? Hill to write survey for Emma. Want order of magnitude estimate.
- Zhang: Can provide estimate.
- Engineer: The Colonial Ave project's initial investigation surveyed 135 houses (door-to-door). 35 homes reported having issues.
- Zhang: Manhole inserts are complete, making the sewer system tighter, keeping more water on roadway, which can impact stormwater system.

#### 4f. Communications (Wheeler)

## Communications

### March-April

- 23 Total Flood Action/ Stormwater social media posts
  - VA Flood Awareness Week, Earth Month Activities, Commonwealth, Ashby, Glebe
- Impressions: 62,199 decreased by 51%
- Engagements: 2,196 decreased by 65%
- Post link clicks: 214 decreased by 76%
  - \*Compared to previous 2 months (January - February)
  - \*Decrease engagements following snow events
- 5,613 Stormwater Management webpage views
  - \*86 total pages under Stormwater Management web group
- Average engagement rate: 66%, Average events per session: 4
- Most popular stormwater webpages: Additional Top Ten Pages:
  - [Flood Map](#) = 672 views [Flood Mitigation Grant Program](#): 199 views
  - [Flood Action](#) = 563 views [Rain Barrels and Water Harvesting](#): 138 views
  - [Types of Sewer Systems](#): 531 views

City observed decrease in engagement, returning to normal social activity post winter storms. City acknowledged Virginia Flood Awareness Week in March and April via multiple social media posts. During April, City did outreach and education on programs like SWU credits as part of Earth Month.

Webpage analytics: Flood Map, Flood Action, and Types of Sewer Systems were most popular. Two new webpages in the top 10 were the Flood Mitigation Grant Program and Rain Barrels (hosted workshop in April).



## Communications

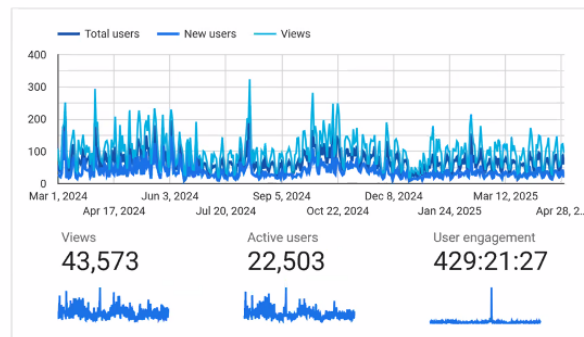
### March – April 2024

- 6,932 Stormwater Management webpage views
- Average engagement rate: 55%,
- Average events per session: 4
- Most popular stormwater webpages:
  - [Flood Map](#) = 990 views
  - [Flood Action](#) = 678 views
  - [Sanitary Infrastructure](#): 429 views

#### Peaks:

March 7, 2024: 252 views  
April 1, 2024: 294 views  
August 9, 2024: 324 views  
October 1, 2024: 282 views

### March 2024 – April 2025



Shew: Request that identify relevant events (e.g., storm events) that occurred around key dates. Also, request that increase color contrast of chart elements.

## Communications

### Upcoming Communications Priorities

- Flood Mitigation Grant Program
- Commonwealth, Ashby, Glebe
- Spot Projects
- Hurricane Season

Hurricane season begins June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### 4g. Maintenance Activities (Jaatinen)

## Maintenance Activities

- Hooffs Run Culvert Maintenance and Cleaning from Linden Street to Duke Street
  - Maintenance work is underway and expected to continue through June 2025.
  - The sediment removal is complete.
    - 2700 CF of sediment was removed.
  - Concrete repairs are ongoing.
  - Staging areas are located in Linden Street Alley, Mount Vernon Avenue cul-de-sac and Hooffs Run Park.



**Hooffs Run Culvert:** Ongoing, slightly behind schedule due to snow and weather, expect construction (e.g., concrete repairs) to continue through June. Sediment removal is complete. Likely to take 7 months to remove debris and complete repairs.

Hill: Residents appreciate project.

## Maintenance Activities



Before Repair



After Repair

Drudi: Is the support temporary or permanent?

- Jaatinen: Likely for support but will check.

### 4h. Flood Mitigation Grant Program (Montoney)

## Flood Mitigation Grant Program

- Reimbursed a total of \$1,135,315.42 since July 2021 inception.
- So far in FY2025: 85 applications with 10 in various stages of approval with a total of \$144,468.19 paid.
- FY2024: Approved 101 applications, reimbursed \$235,145.16.
- FY2023: Approved 73 applications, reimbursed \$167,538.49.
- FY2022: Approved 148 applications, reimbursed \$588,163.58.

Slide Update: 46 applications in FY 25 (not 85).



#### 4i. Flood Resiliency Plan Update (Lassetter)

## Flood Resiliency Plan Update

AGENDA ITEM #5

### Overview

- To remain eligible for DCR's Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) grant program, must develop and maintain an 'approved' Resilience Plan
  - Compilation of existing programs and plans was submitted in 2021 and approved for 5-years (2026); City has received over \$6.4 million to date
- 2023 Energy & Climate Change Action Plan identified flooding as a major concern; recommended developing a strategy to identify hazards and disseminate information; mitigate for flooding; and prepare for and respond to floods; and update policies for flood resilience
- This project to develop the plan received CFPF grant funding.
- ***The Flood Resilience Plan will build on the work undertaken by Flood Action Alexandria and work to build a Plan that represents all Alexandrians***

#### Overview of FRP

Consultants: Program Manager Susan Beck (Jacobs), and Victoria and Lori (PRR).

\$700,000 project, received \$525,000 from State via CFPF grant program. City developed Flood Resiliency Plan to be eligible and was approved through 2026. City now developing comprehensive plan.

### Flood Resilience Plan Tasks

- Review of Studies and Reports
- 2-D Screening-Level Model
- Flood Vulnerability Assessment
- Flood Mitigation Strategy and Implementation
- Flood Resilience Plan Development
- Equitable Outreach, Engagement, and Communication

#### Overview of FRP



## Community Engagement Activities

| Online Survey                                                                                                                 | Summer Pop-up Events                                                                                                     | Community Meetings<br>(In-Person/ Virtual)                                                                                                                  | Advisory Committee Touchpoints                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Launch and promote survey: June 2025</li><li>• Close survey: September 2025</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning: May – June 2025</li><li>• Attend pop-ups: June – August 2025</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning: Summer 2025</li><li>• First Meeting: September 2025</li><li>• Second Meeting: Winter 2025 (TBD)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentations: May 2025 and September 2025</li><li>• Third meeting TBD</li></ul> |

Provided requesting Committee feedback as part of Equitable Outreach, Engagement, and Communication strategy. Project team shared draft survey with Committee, hope to share with public on June 1st, 2025, via Flood Action Newsletter. Can delay survey release if receive additional comments.

Additional Outreach Component: Pop-Up events at larger community events and Outreach Meeting. Committee member attendance at Outreach Meeting would be appreciated.

## Community Input

- A brief survey for the community to provide details about how flooding impacts them, what types of flooding they experience, and what the impact is to them.
- Survey will be hosted on City's website and shared with the community in a variety of ways:
  - Link in the Flood Action Alexandria e-newsletter
  - Through the City's social media channels
  - QR code to the survey posted in City libraries and community centers
  - Pop-up events this summer
  - Coordinate with community-based organizations to share out the survey URL

Community Input

Critical that Committee members share with community.



## Next Steps

- Review and provide feedback on community flood survey
- Help disseminate information about the Flood Resilience Plan to the community
- Provide input and feedback into the Plan

### Next Steps

Waynick: How to provide feedback. Lassetter: Email, can also discuss.

- Waynick: Need to be specific with types of flooding (combined v. separate sewer).

Hill: Recommend reach out to committee members who represent watersheds (Waynick, Thuot, Hill, Leonard, and Drudi) so that engage civic associations.

- Waynick: Recess begins at end of June.
- Hill: Email watershed representatives to ensure engage civic association.

### 4j. Associated Project Costs

#### Discussion of Homeowners' Project Cost Associated with Flood Mitigation Grants

AGENDA ITEM #6

Maines: Montoney maintains tracker. To date, City has received 350 applications. 111 (32%) of those requests exceeded \$10,000. Out of 111, 43 requests would be eligible for a \$10,000 match. If match were greater than \$5,000 for those 111 requests, would cost the City over \$350,000. Looks pretty good that could go up to \$10,000. If have funding issue, may be first come first serve. If were to change, applicants would need to reapply. Would be retroactive but would need to reapply.

APEX is City permitting system. Would need to consult IT to determine whether would need applicants to resubmit all documentation.

Hill: Request continue to analyze to determine whether increase is feasible.

- Maines: Will provide recommendations. City Council would need to approve change.



Maginniss: Important that would not need to increase budget to implement change. Most businesses have landlords for whom flood mitigation isn't a priority. Would see uptick if landlords were to participate.

- Maines: Sent postcards to businesses and property owners.

Hill: Motion to ask City staff over the summer to look at changes to the grant program to enrich for larger projects within fiscal constraints of current budget. Drudi: Second. All in favor: Aye.

Rahal (?): City hasn't seen major flood event in 4 years, likely responsible for declining application numbers. Most flooding has occurred in the east half of the City, but same risk in west.

## Summer Homework

AGENDA ITEM #7

Hill: Members responsible for communicating with neighbors about program. Survey is first thing to communicate.

## Public Comment

AGENDA ITEM #8

No public comment.

Drudi: Motion to adjourn for 2024-2025 year. Waynick: Second. All In Favor: Aye.

8:48PM