



## City of Cambridge Press Release

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### For Immediate Release :

#### City of Cambridge Flood Mitigation Project - Phase 1 Awarded \$1,706,800.00

The City of Cambridge, Maryland recently received federal funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the design and permitting of its “Make Cambridge Resilient Flood Mitigation Project” along the shoreline of the Choptank River. The flood mitigation project is intended to extend from just west of the city limits, near Gerry Boyle Park, to the mouth of Cambridge Creek. This is a phased project.

FEMA is currently funding Phase I Design and Permitting for \$1.7M and is reserving funding of \$16M for Phase II Construction under the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant. Phase II funding will follow once FEMA reviews and approves the project final design. This review will include the final benefit cost analysis that demonstrates the project is cost effective, and that the Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) plan complies with all environmental regulations.

Funding is provided under FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program which is for disaster relief (COVID) under the Stafford Act. The City has committed to a required 10.5 percent non-federal contribution for Phase I Design and Permitting and Phase II Construction costs. Half of this cost will be covered by a Maryland DNR Grant for which the City has already been selected for award, and the other half will be made through a combination of a State of Maryland Resilience Revolving Loan Fund and the City Budget for 2024-2025. The diligent work of the City’s staff, stakeholder group and our Project Lead, Larry White, has resulted in securing this critical funding to address flooding issues in the west end of the City. The City of Cambridge is committed to the “Make Cambridge Resilient Initiative” and views this project as a major step forward.

The City will design an innovative hybrid flood mitigation project that includes a flood barrier integrated with a nature-based living shoreline, and stormwater management system to reduce the community’s flood risk. Phase 1 project activities include

necessary data gathering, analysis, detailed design and permitting required prior to construction. Scientists from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) at Horn Point will support the optimization of the living shoreline design and assessment of the hybrid structure's effectiveness in reducing flood risk due to sea level rise combined with coastal storms. Along with these activities, public outreach will be scheduled throughout Phase 1 to ensure that our community is informed and engaged. Finally, the City will coordinate directly with affected property owners for property assessment and concerns.

The period of performance for Phase I Design and Permitting will extend through 2025. The City's project management team that conducted all the planning and concept design of the project will oversee final project design and construction. Contractor support for Phase I includes Bayland Consultants and Designers, and Smith Planning. A general contractor will be selected through a competitive process for Phase II construction.

The City, along with their consultant team, are eager to get started on the design process now that this long-awaited funding is available. This week, Bayland field surveyors will be conducting a hydrographic survey in tidal waters along the shoreline of the Choptank River. This hydrographic survey will exclusively be conducted by boat. These surveys measure tidal information and other physical features, such as the shape of the shoreline, currents, and water properties. Survey staff be in Maryland state waters only and will not access any piers or land.

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