

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 9, FEMA hereby provides final notice of its decision to provide Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for an action located in a floodplain. Funding would be provided through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to the City of Leominster, MA to stabilize an urban stretch of Monoosnoc Brook and widen an adjacent culvert.

The proposed action is located on Manning Ave in Leominster, MA 01453. The project would modify the channel and stream banks of a 200-foot-long, urban section of Monoosnoc Brook and widen the existing culvert under a parking lot adjacent to Mechanic Street. The open portion of the brook and banks would be reshaped and provide additional flow and storage capacity. Stream banks would be graded to form uniform slopes. To stabilize the stream banks in the near term, the toe of the embankment would be reinforced with anchored coir logs and the upper banks will be reinforced with geotextile fabric and stone. A pre-cast concrete segmental block wall would be constructed above the upper banks. The toe and embankments would be planted with native perennial plants for long-term stability. The 12-foot-wide portion of the existing culvert would be replaced with a 24-foot-wide open-bottom arch culvert. A sewer main paralleling the brook will be relocated further east and upgraded from a 15-inch clay pipe to a 15-inch, high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. A concrete utility bridge containing electric distribution conduits will be removed and relocated to the upgraded culvert crossing. Additional work would be conducted outside of the stream to protect and improve the walking and driving conditions in the densely developed area in the vicinity of the crossing.

The project is within a mapped Special Flood Hazard Area (100-year floodplain). The proposed changes to the stream and culvert are expected to reduce flood levels upstream from and adjacent to the project site. The changes are expected to increase flood levels by approximately 0.5 feet downstream from the project site. The impacts to downstream flood levels are not expected to overtop banks in a 100-year flood event accounting for 50 years of climate change, and levels are expected to return to existing conditions at a point 200 feet from the Mechanic Street culvert outlet. A map of the area of available upon request.

The project must be in a floodplain because the waterway and culvert are functionally dependent on their location within the floodplain. Any federal funding will be conditioned to require that the City of Leominster coordinate with the local Floodplain Administrator, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to ensure that the project is compliant with applicable laws and executive orders. The No Action alternative was considered and determined not to be the most practicable alternative, as the No Action alternative does not address existing flood hazards.

Map requests and comments about this project and potential floodplain impacts should be submitted within 15 days of the date of this publication to:

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