



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MITIGATION PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: How are residents being informed about these meetings and will there be more public meetings or outreach to the community?

- **Answer:** The Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Program (CDBG MIT) is a new and unique opportunity to fund drainage improvements. The federal government created the CDBG MIT program following Hurricane Harvey and the State of Texas has created a statewide competition for the funds. Projects that reduce flood risk are eligible. Houston Public Works (HPW) has completed several studies to identify improvements needed to reduce flooding throughout the City. HPW is trying to inform the community about the studies and the improvements HPW is proposing to mitigate flooding. Recent public meetings are to inform residents about the opportunity to secure federal funding to move the projects forward into the design and construction phases.
- Houston Public Works has posted information about the proposed improvements on its website at: <https://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/houston-drainage-studies>. Meeting notices were posted at City Hall, on the City Council Transportation, Technology and Infrastructure website, Houston Public Works transportation studies webpage and were distributed through the Complete Communities constant contact list and *NextDoor*. The Houston Housing and Community Development Recovery website has a callout box directing residents to the HPW drainage studies page for CDBG MIT project information as does the webpage for the City's Recovery Officer.
- The CDBG MIT applications request funding for design and construction of the proposed flood improvements. As the projects go through the design phase, HPW will again reach out to the areas where there is funding to proceed and start talking about design elements. For instance, where HPW is trying to create more green and open space as well as where there may be construction impacts.

As these projects get funded, HPW will move forward with additional public outreach. In the meantime, information will remain available on the Houston Drainage Studies webpage and responses will be provided to any comments/questions sent to drainage.study@houstontx.gov.

Question: Who should be contacted for follow up?

- **Answer:** At the Houston Drainage Studies webpage (<https://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/houston-drainage-studies>) there is an email listed (drainage.study@houstontx.gov) that is directed to the project team. The project team will answer all the questions received.

Question: What is the timeframe or format for public comment?

- Answer: The public comment period for the CDBG MIT applications has been extended to October 1, 2020. Comments must be received by 5PM on October 1, 2020 to be included with the applications.
- The information will remain on the website beyond the CDBG MIT application period and Houston Public Works will continue to respond to any inquiries about the projects after the application comment period.
- Application and project information is available at the Houston Drainage Studies website. At the website is an email address where inquiries or comments can be submitted. (publicworks.houstontx.gov/houston-drainage-studies). Email: drainage.study@houstontx.gov

Question: You mentioned some of these applications are in collaboration with other local entities. How does that work?

- Answer: HPW works in collaboration with other entities, particularly Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD), to coordinate and maximize the benefit of local investments. The goal is to develop projects that build off each other and enhance the benefits to the community.

Under the CDBG MIT partnership applications, one of the partners is identified as the primary applicant and it is that entity which submits the application. Applicants are limited to three partnerships. Houston Public Works is the lead applicant on two of its partnership proposals. The third partnership proposal is in coordination with Harris County Flood Control District and HCFCD will submit that applications.

If funding is awarded to partnership applications, the lead applicant will receive the grant. Partner agencies will complete the activities they have proposed within the application under an interlocal agreement to share the grant funds.

Question: What happens if we don't get these funds?

- Answer: If the state does not award grant funds to the City of Houston for drainage improvements, Houston Public Works will continue the project development process with local funds. Local funds are committed in the City's Capital Improvement Plan for the next 5 years so the schedule for design and construction will be longer. If grants are awarded to the City, design and construction will be complete in less than 10 years.

There is an expectation that the State will request another round of applications. The City will remain vigilant in trying to identify other sources of funding for drainage improvements.

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