



2. PLANNING PROCESS

This chapter describes the planning process used to update the Hudson County HMP, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved. The planning approach aimed to achieve the following results:

- The plan will be multi-jurisdictional, including all municipalities in the County. Hudson County invited all jurisdictions in the County to join in the planning process. To date, all 17 local municipal governments in the County (the Planning Partnership) have participated in the 2025 plan update process:
 - Hudson County
 - City of Bayonne
 - Borough of East Newark
 - Town of Guttenberg
 - Town of Harrison
 - City of Hoboken
 - City of Jersey City
 - Town of Kearny
 - Township of North Bergen
 - Town of Secaucus
 - City of Union City
 - Township of Weehawken
 - Town of West New York
 - Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority
 - Kearny Municipal Utilities Authority
 - North Bergen Municipal Utilities Authority
 - North Hudson Sewerage Authority
 - Secaucus Municipal Utilities Authority
- The format of this plan is such that other entities can easily join at a later date as part of the regulatory five-year- plan update process.
- The plan considers all natural hazards that pose a risk to the area, as required by 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 201.
- The plan was developed following FEMA regulations and prevailing FEMA and state guidance. This ensures that all the requirements are met and supports plan review. In addition, this plan will meet criteria for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) programs.

Hudson County was awarded Hazard Mitigation Assistance funds to support this plan update under the COVID-19 pandemic disaster declaration (DR-4488-NJ). Grant administration was the responsibility of the Hudson County Department of Roads and Public Property's Office of Emergency Management.

2.1 General Mitigation Planning Approach

FEMA provides hazard mitigation planning support to local communities through guidance, resources, and plan reviews. This hazard mitigation plan was prepared in accordance with the following regulations and guidance:

- FEMA Mitigation Planning How-to Series (FEMA 386-1 through 4, 2002)
- FEMA How-To Guide for Using Hazus for Risk Assessment FEMA Document No. 433, February 2004.
- FEMA Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide, October 1, 2011.



- FEMA Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards, January 2013.
- FEMA Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning, March 1, 2013.
- FEMA Plan Integration: Linking Local Planning Efforts, July 2015.
- FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide, April 19, 2022.
- FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Handbook, May 2023.
- DMA 2000 (Public Law 106-390, October 30, 2000).
- 44 CFR 201 and 206 (including: Feb. 26, 2002, Oct. 1, 2002, Oct. 28, 2003, and Sept. 13, 2004, Interim Final Rules).
- NJOEM Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance, 2019
- State of New Jersey Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2024.

2.2 Organization of Planning Process

2.2.1 Planning Process Participants

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING CONSULTANT

Project management was the responsibility of the Hudson County Department of Roads and Public Property's Office of Emergency Management. A contract planning consultant (Tetra Tech) was tasked with the following:

- Assisting with the organization of a Steering Committee and the Planning Partnership
- Assisting with the development and implementation of a public and stakeholder outreach program
- Data collection
- Facilitation and attendance at meetings (Steering Committee, municipal, stakeholder workshops, public and other)
- Review and update of the hazards of concern, and hazard profiling and risk assessment
- Assistance with the review and update of mitigation planning goals and objectives
- Assistance with the review of past mitigation strategy progress
- Assistance with the screening of mitigation actions and the identification of appropriate actions
- Assistance with the prioritization of mitigation actions
- Authoring of the draft and final plan documents

PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

In January 2024, the County notified all municipalities in the County of the pending planning process and invited them to formally participate. Jurisdictions were asked to formally notify the County of their intent to participate via a letter of intent (LOIP) and to identify planning points of contact to facilitate their participation and represent the interests of



their communities. All participating jurisdictions, including the County, are recognized as Planning Partners and belong to the Planning Partnership for this HMP. The Planning Partnership was charged with the following responsibilities:

- Representing their jurisdiction throughout the planning process
- Ensuring participation of all departments and functions within their jurisdiction that have a stake in mitigation (e.g., planning, engineering, code enforcement, police and emergency services, public works), specifically including the jurisdiction's NFIP floodplain administrator
- Assist in stakeholder identification within their jurisdiction that should be informed and potentially involved with the planning process
- Assisting in gathering information for inclusion in the HMP update, including the use of previously developed reports and data
- Supporting and promoting the public involvement process
- Reporting on progress of mitigation actions identified in prior or existing HMPs, as applicable
- Identifying, developing, and prioritizing appropriate mitigation actions
- Reporting on progress of integration of prior or existing HMPs into other planning processes and municipal operations
- Supporting and developing a jurisdictional annex
- Reviewing, amending, and approving all sections of the plan update
- Adopting, implementing, and maintaining the plan update

Table 2-1 shows the current members of the Planning Partnership as of the time of publication of this plan update.

The various jurisdictions in Hudson County have differing levels of capabilities and resources available to apply to the plan update process, as well as differing levels of vulnerability and impacts from the natural hazards being considered in this plan. It was Hudson County's intent to encourage participation by all jurisdictions, and to accommodate their specific needs and limitations while still meeting the intent and purpose of plan update participation. Such accommodations have included establishing a Steering Committee, engaging a contract consultant to assume certain elements of the plan update process on behalf of the jurisdictions, and providing alternative mechanisms for planning participation.

Ultimately, jurisdictional participation is evidenced by a completed annex of the HMP, wherein jurisdictions individually identify their planning points of contact, evaluate their risk from the hazards of concern, identify their capabilities to effect mitigation in their community, identify and prioritize a suite of actions to mitigate their hazard risk, and adopt the updated plan via resolution. Annexes are included in Volume II of this HMP.

Appendix D (Participation Matrix) identifies how each individual who represented the jurisdictions during this planning effort contributed to the planning process.

It is noted that all municipalities in the County actively participate in the NFIP and have a designated floodplain administrator. All floodplain administrators have been informed of the planning process, reviewed the plan documents, and provided direct input to the plan update. Local floodplain administrators are identified as part of each jurisdiction's



hazard mitigation planning team, as presented in the jurisdictional annexes in Volume II, as well as in Appendix D (Participation Matrix).

After completion of the plan, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the Planning Partnership as described in Chapter 17 (Plan Maintenance). The Planning Partnership will be responsible for reviewing the draft plan and soliciting public comment as part of an annual review and as part of the five-year mitigation plan updates.

Table 2-1. Hudson County Hazard Mitigation Planning Partnership Members

Jurisdiction	Primary Point of Contact	Title	Alternate Point of Contact	Title
City of Bayonne	Suzanne Mack	City Planner	Edoardo Ferrante	OEM Coordinator
Borough of East Newark	Junior Flori	Deputy OEM Coordinator/Police	Dina Grilo	Mayor, OEM Coordinator
Town of Guttenberg	Richard Delafuente	OEM Coordinator	Cosmo Cirillo	Business Administrator
Town of Harrison	Harold G. Stahl	OEM Coordinator	Henry Richard	Fire Chief/Deputy OEM Coordinator
City of Hoboken	RJ Theofield	Capital Planning Manager	Caleb Stratton	Resilience Officer/Assistant Business Administrator
City of Jersey City	Walter Kierce	OEM Coordinator	Martin Valenti	Deputy Coordinator
Town of Kearny	Rich Poplaski Jr.	Kearny Police Department/Deputy OEM Coordinator	Joseph P. Mastandrea	Kearny Fire Department Deputy OEM Coordinator
Township of North Bergen	Dave Ricigliano	OEM Coordinator	Dan Peschetti	Deputy OEM Coordinator
Town of Secaucus	Vince T. Massaro	Fire Official/OEM Coordinator	Gary Jeffas	Administrator
City of Union City	Mario Bordon	OEM COordinator	Tammy Zucca	CFO
Township of Weehawken	Jeffrey Fulcher	Deputy Director Department of Public Safety	Giovanni Ahmad	Business Administrator/Deputy OEM Coordinator
Town of West New York	William Bringas	Deputy OEM Coordinator	Brian Velazquez	Deputy OEM Coordinator
Kearny Municipal Utilities Authority	JoVann Quinones	Executive Director	Mark Coimbra	Authority Engineer
Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority	Joseph Coviello	Deputy Executive Director	Richard Haytas	Chief Engineer
North Bergen Municipal Utilities Authority	Frank Pestana	Executive Director	Carlos Torres	Director of Operations & Maintenance
North Hudson Sewerage Authority	Richard Wolff	Executive Director	Amanda Martino	Project Specialist (Consultant)



Jurisdiction	Primary Point of Contact	Title	Alternate Point of Contact	Title
Secaucus Municipal Utilities Authority	Brian Biglar	Executive Director	Glenn Beckmeyer	Engineer

STEERING COMMITTEE

Hudson County developed a Steering Committee to provide guidance and direction to the HMP update effort, and to ensure that the resulting document will be embraced by local government leaders as well as all who live and work within the planning area.

The Steering Committee provided guidance, leadership, and oversight of the planning process and acted as the point of contact for all participating jurisdictions and various interest groups in the planning area. Table 2-2 lists the members of the Steering Committee.

Table 2-2. Hudson County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee Members

Affiliation	Name	Title
Rutgers University	Ashlyn Spector	Unit Manager
Hudson County	Bob Grewe	OEM Emergency Response Specialist
NJOEM	Cansu Yerdelenli*	Disaster Recovery Analyst
Hudson Regional Health Commission	Carrie Nawrocki	Executive Director
Hudson County Prosecutor's Office	Chin Micko	County Prosecutor's Office Joint Terrorism Task Force
Hudson County Office of Digital Information	Daryl Karsnuk	Director
Township of North Bergen	Dave Ricigliano	OEM Coordinator
Hudson County Office of the County Administrator	David Drumeler	Deputy Administrator
Hudson County Department of Planning & Business Opportunity	Francesa Giarratana	Deputy Director
Hudson County Department of Emergency Management	George Johns	OEM Deputy Coordinator
Hudson County Department of Emergency Management	Jeffery Brzozowski	OEM Planner
Hudson County Department of Emergency Management	Jim Woods	OEM Coordinator
NJOEM	John Walsh	NJOEM Liaison
Town of Kearny	Joseph P. Mastandrea	Kearny Fire Department Deputy OEM Coordinator
Hudson County Office of Emergency Management	Michael Kenny	Domestic Preparedness Planner
Hudson County Improvement Authority	Norman Guerra	Chief Executive Officer
Hudson County Department of Emergency Management	Peter Nevins	OEM Planner
Hudson County Department of Roads and Public Property	Ralph Sax	Deputy Director
City of Hoboken	Rashawn Crandell	OEM Coordinator
City of Hoboken	RJ Theofield	Capital Planning Manager
Hudson County Department of Emergency Management	Rosa Abrantes	OEM Monitoring & Evaluation
Hudson County Communications Department	Sean O'Connor	Hudson County Communications



Affiliation	Name	Title
Hudson County Planning Board	Tom Malavasi	County Engineer
Hudson County	Vincent Viera	GIS Specialist

*Until May 2025

Steering Committee members were charged with the following:

- Providing guidance and oversight of the planning process on behalf of the general Planning Partnership
- Attending and participating in Steering Committee meetings
- Assisting with the development and completion of certain planning elements, including:
 - Reviewing and updating the hazards of concern
 - Developing a public and stakeholder outreach program
 - Ensuring that the data and information used in the plan update process is the best available
 - Reviewing and updating the hazard mitigation goals
 - Identifying and screening appropriate mitigation strategies and activities
- Reviewing and commenting on plan documents prior to submission to NJOEM and FEMA

2.2.2 Planning Activities

Table 2-3 summarizes meetings and other planning activities conducted during the development of the plan. It also identifies which 44 CFR 201 requirements each activity satisfies. Documentation of meetings (agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes, etc.) is provided in Appendix C (Public and Stakeholder Outreach).

Table 2-3. Summary of Mitigation Planning Activities

Date	44 CFR 201 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
January 18, 2024	2	Project Start Up Meeting: Discuss proposed planning process and scope of work including documenting participation, schedule, and public and stakeholder outreach and involvement.	Hudson County Office of Emergency Management, Tetra Tech
January 24, 2024	2	All municipalities were invited to participate in the planning process.	-
March 7, 2024	1b, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 4a, 5c	SC Kickoff Meeting: Review project schedule; review municipal participation, discuss municipal Kickoff meeting and local data collection; review and discuss sources and availability of County and regional data; discuss public and stakeholder outreach efforts.	See Appendix D
March 7, 2024	1b, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 4a	Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting: Complete overview of planning process, plan participant expectations, review of hazards and hazards of concern identification, discussion of data needs and data collection process explaining all provided worksheets, discussion of public and stakeholder outreach efforts	See Appendix D



Date	44 CFR 201 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
April 9, 2024	2, 3c	GIS data collection meeting	Hudson County Office of Emergency Management, Hudson County GIS, Tetra Tech
May 13, 2024	2	Public project website developed: https://www.hudsoncountynjhmp.com/	Hudson County Office of Emergency Management, Tetra Tech
August 13, 2024	1b	Letters to neighboring municipalities, counties, and stakeholders were developed to publicize the planning process, identify opportunities for involvement and engagement, and provide links to the HMP website and surveys.	Hudson County Office of Emergency Management, Tetra Tech
August 13, 2024	2	Online Public Hazard Preparedness and Mitigation survey developed and deployed	Hudson County Office of Emergency Management, Tetra Tech
August 13, 2024	2	Online Stakeholder Hazard Mitigation surveys developed and deployed	Hudson County Office of Emergency Management, Tetra Tech
August 13, 2024	2	Online Neighboring County Mitigation survey developed and deployed	Hudson County Office of Emergency Management, Tetra Tech
August 30, 2024	1b	Meeting with Hudson County Department of Planning and Business Opportunity to discuss communication strategy	Hudson County Office of Emergency Management, Hudson County Communications Department, Tetra Tech
September 26, 2024	-	Quarterly meeting with Hudson County OEM Coordinators to provide worksheet assistance and notify participants of upcoming meetings and engagement opportunities.	Hudson County Office of Emergency Management, Tetra Tech
December 10, 2024	3	Risk Assessment Meeting	See Appendix D
January 28, 2025	4	Mitigation Strategy Workshop: Jurisdictions reviewed their previous mitigation actions, completed outstanding worksheets with assistance from Tetra Tech planners, and identified 2025 mitigation actions.	See Appendix D
June 12, 2025	2	Draft Plan Review Presentation: Overview of entire plan and sections; confirmed plan maintenance schedule	TBD
June 12, 2025	1b, 2	Draft HMP posted to public project website; all plan participants were notified and asked to assist with the public outreach including social media. Neighboring communities and stakeholders were notified of the posting as well.	Public and Stakeholders
June 13, 2025	2	HMP submitted to NJOEM	NJOEM
TBD	2	HMP submitted to FEMA Region II	FEMA Region II
Upon plan approval by FEMA	1a	Plan adoption by resolution by the governing bodies of all participating jurisdictions	All Plan Participants

Note: TBD = to be determined.

Under the 44 CFR 201 Requirement column, numbers identify specific federal requirements, as follows:

1a – Prerequisite – Adoption by the Local Governing Body (201.6.a.1)

1b – Public Participation (201.6.b)



- 2 – Planning Process – Documentation of the Planning Process (201.6.c.1)*
- 3a – Risk Assessment – Identifying Hazards (201.6.c.2.i)*
- 3b – Risk Assessment – Profiling Hazard Events (201.6.c.2.i)*
- 3c – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Assets (201.6.c.2.ii.A)*
- 3d – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses (201.6.c.2.ii.B)*
- 3e – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends (201.6.c.2.ii.C)*
- 4a – Mitigation Strategy – Local Hazard Mitigation Goals (201.6.c.3.i)*
- 4b – Mitigation Strategy – Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Measures (201.6.c.3.ii)*
- 4c – Mitigation Strategy – Implementation of Mitigation Measures (201.6.c.3.iii)*
- 5a – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan (201.6.c.4.i)*
- 5b – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Implementation through Existing Programs (201.6.c.4.ii)*
- 5c – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Continued Public Involvement (201.6.c.4.iii)*

Members of the Planning Partnership (individually and as a whole), as well as key stakeholders, met and communicated as needed to share information. This included workshops to identify hazards, assess risks, update inventories of critical facilities, and assist in updating mitigation goals and strategies. All members of the Planning Partnership had the opportunity to review the draft plan, supported interaction with other stakeholders, and assisted with public involvement efforts. These activities provided continuity through the process to ensure that natural hazard vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated.

Table 2-3 identifies only formal meetings and milestone events in the plan update process. In addition to these meetings, there was a great deal of communication between Planning Partnership members and the consultant through individual local meetings, phone, and email.

2.3 Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement

The Hudson County HMP update was written using the best available information obtained from a wide variety of sources. Throughout the HMP update process, a concerted effort was made to gather information from municipal and regional agencies and staff as well as stakeholders, federal and state agencies, and the residents of the County. A Steering Committee solicited information from local agencies and individuals with specific knowledge of certain natural hazards and past historical events. In addition, the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership took into consideration planning and zoning codes, ordinances, and recent land use planning decisions.

This section details the outreach to, and involvement of, the many agencies, departments, organizations, non-profits, districts, authorities, and other entities that have a stake in managing hazard risk and mitigation, commonly referred to as stakeholders.

Diligent efforts were made to ensure broad regional, county, and local representation in this planning process. A comprehensive list of stakeholders was developed with the support of the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership. Stakeholder outreach was performed early and throughout the planning process, including mass media notification efforts. Identified stakeholders were invited to attend the Planning Partnership risk assessment meeting, and key stakeholders were requested to participate on the Steering Committee and/or Planning Partnership. Information and input provided by these stakeholders has been included throughout this plan.



The following sections list the stakeholders who were invited to participate in the development of this plan and describe how they contributed to the plan. This summary demonstrates the scope and breadth of the stakeholder outreach efforts during the planning process. Beyond those described here, many stakeholders were aware of and/or contributed to this plan through formal and informal outreach efforts by the Planning Partners involved in the plan update.

2.3.1 Federal and State Agencies

The federal and state agencies listed in Table 2-4 were contacted during the planning process. The table describes how each participated.

2.3.2 County and Regional Agencies

The county and regional agencies listed in Table 2-5 were invited to participate during the planning process. The table describes how each participated.

Table 2-4. Participation of Federal and State Agencies

Agency	Participation
FEMA Region 2	Provided updated planning guidance; provided NFIP data for planning area; presented preliminary regulatory flood products to municipalities and the public; attended meetings; participated in a Mitigation Strategy Workshop; conducted plan review.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">National Centers for Environmental InformationNational Hurricane CenterNational Oceanic and Atmospheric AdministrationNational Weather ServiceStorm Prediction CenterU.S. Army Corps of EngineersU.S. Census BureauU.S. Geological Survey	Information regarding hazard identification and the risk assessment for this HMP update was requested and received or incorporated by reference
New Jersey Office of Emergency Management	Administered planning grant and facilitated FEMA review; provided planning guidance; attended meetings; participated in the Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting, provided review of draft and final HMP.
New Jersey American Water	Participated in the Steering Committee Kickoff Meeting and provided information in the planning process.
New Jersey Office of Climate Resilience	Participated in the Planning Partnership Kickoff meeting

Table 2-5. County and Regional Agencies

Agency	Participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rutgers – BlousteinNew Jersey Office of Emergency ManagementHudson County Regional Health CommissionHudson County GISKearny Fire Department Deputy OEM CoordinatorHudson County Planning and Business Opportunities	Served on steering committee, attended meetings, provided input in completing exercises and reviewed draft plan.



Agency	Participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hudson County Administrators OfficeNew Jersey State Police	Provided input and reviewed draft plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">North Hudson Sewerage AuthorityNorth Bergen Municipal Utilities AuthoritySecaucus Municipal Utilities AuthorityKearny Municipal Utilities AuthorityJersey City Municipal Utilities Authority	Invited to take the stakeholder survey and review the draft plan.

2.3.3 Stakeholders by Community Lifeline Category

FEMA defines community lifelines as fundamental services in a community that, when stabilized, enable all other aspects of society. Following a disaster event, intervention is required to stabilize community lifelines. All participating jurisdictions were asked to invite their internal agencies associated with community lifeline categories to complete a stakeholder survey. Many jurisdictions also directly involved representatives of these agencies in the planning process, as identified in Table 2-1. This section describes outreach to and participation by other stakeholders in the planning process associated with FEMA’s eight designated community lifeline categories. More detailed information about community lifelines in the planning area is provided in Chapter 3: County Profile.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Law Enforcement

Many municipalities directly involved police and other law enforcement representatives in the planning process. Municipalities were asked to invite their law enforcement agencies to complete a stakeholder survey. Further, the following police departments and law enforcement agencies were invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- East Newark Police Department
- Little Ferry Police Department
- Kearny Police Department
- Lyndhurst Police Department
- Weehawken Police Department

Fire Districts and Fire Departments

Many jurisdictions directly involved fire district/department, hazmat teams, and rescue team representatives in the planning process. Jurisdictions were asked to invite their fire departments to complete a stakeholder survey. The following fire districts or departments, hazardous materials response teams, and rescue teams were invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- NJ State Fire
- Town of Harrison Fire Chief
- Town of Kearny Fire Department



- Town of Secaucus Fire Official

Dams

In order to address High Hazard Potential Dams, outreach was conducted with the following dam owners and/or the dam safety agency.

- Township of Weehawken

The following information was requested:

- Information, data, or resources regarding the risk to dam failure as a result of deficiencies or exposure to hazards such as flooding, geologic hazards, and severe storms.
- Concerns with dam safety due to changing climate conditions
- Concerns with emergency action plan deficiencies including warning time, evacuation needs, etc.
- Completed or in progress repairs/improvements to dams
- Potential new mitigation actions that should be considered for inclusion in the HMP mitigation strategy

HEALTH AND MEDICAL

Hospitals and Health-Care Facilities

The Hudson County Regional Health Commission was invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan.

TRANSPORTATION

The New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority was invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

WATER SYSTEMS AND UTILITIES

In addition to municipal utilities, the following water utility companies were invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- North Hudson Sewerage Authority
- Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority
- Kean Municipal Utilities Authority
- Secaucus Municipal Utilities Authority

2.3.4 Additional Stakeholder Groups

Additional stakeholder outreach was made to academia and organizations that support socially vulnerable populations and underserved populations, as listed in the sections below.



GROUPS SUPPORTING SOCIALLY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

The following groups and agencies that provide support to and work with socially vulnerable populations and underserved communities were invited to complete a stakeholder survey and review the draft plan:

- City of Bayonne Planning
- City of Hoboken Public Safety
- City of Hoboken Department of Climate Action and Innovation
- Hudson County Planning
- Hudson County Improvement Authority
- Hudson County Communications

2.3.5 Adjacent Jurisdictions

The County kept surrounding jurisdictions apprised of the project, invited them to complete a neighboring community survey, and requested their review of the draft plan. The following adjoining county and jurisdictional representatives were contacted to inform them about the availability of the project website, draft plan documents, and surveys and to invite them to provide input to the planning process:

- Bergen County
 - Borough of Bogota
 - Borough of Little Ferry
 - Borough of North Arlington
 - City of Hackensack
- Union County
 - Borough of East Rutherford
 - Borough of Rutherford
 - City of Elizabeth
- Township of Lyndhurst
- Township of Ridgefield
- Township of Teaneck
- Village of Ridgefield Park
- City of Newark
- Village of Carlstadt

2.3.6 Stakeholder and Neighboring Community Survey Summaries

This section summarizes the results and feedback received by those who completed the stakeholder and neighboring community surveys. Feedback was reviewed by the Steering Committee and integrated where appropriate in the plan.

STAKEHOLDER SURVEY

The stakeholder survey was designed to identify general needs for hazard mitigation and resiliency within Hudson County from the perspective of stakeholders, as well as to identify specific projects that may be included in the mitigation plan. It was distributed to identified stakeholders, including county and municipal departments and agencies.

As of April 21, 2025, 12 stakeholders completed the survey, with respondents coming from the emergency management sector, economic development sector, health and social services sector, infrastructure sector, and the land use and



development sector. The majority of respondents represented groups that served Hudson County as a whole (58.33 percent).

When asked if the organization maintains or manages anything within their designated service area, 66.67 percent said no they do not manage any facilities. For those that did answer, they indicated the following facilities: buildings, stormwater infrastructure, roads, or water/sewer plants.

Seventy percent of respondents noted that they work with socially vulnerable populations. Examples of this work included the following:

- Education
- Support for individuals with disabilities
- Support for refugees, the economically disadvantaged, developmentally disabled, and those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS
- Housing and services to the homeless population
- Emergency aid
- Food distribution

Hazard and Damage Identification

More than half of respondents (58.33 percent) indicated that buildings, facilities, or structures their organization is involved with have been impacted by a natural hazard. Of these, respondents noted issues with flooding, wind damage, pandemic, and building damages.

In addition to asking about whether or not their facilities were damaged, stakeholders were also asked what areas they believe to be the most vulnerable to natural hazards, and the problems they face. The respondents provided hazards and impacts:

- Flooding causing water damage and blocking roads
- School facilities are vulnerable to natural, and human caused hazards
- Damage to overhead electric lines from high winds and ice
- Transportation and access to services
- Power outages causing a halt in internet services

The majority of respondents (58.33 percent) stated that they have facilities that have been impacted by a hazard event, mostly being related to flooding and severe storms. Of these respondents, 58.33 percent of people stated that their agency owns their facilities as opposed to leasing them. Respondents stated that they were most concerned about school facilities and flooding in relation to the pumping stations. Respondents also stated that proximity to water bodies and the density of population were the biggest challenge and barriers in reducing vulnerability in the County.

Community Preparedness

Sixty percent of respondents noted they are aware of the location and number of socially vulnerable populations in their community/operating area. Organizations within Hudson County support socially vulnerable populations through



education, emergency aid, providing services and programs to seniors, and serving those that are economically disadvantaged. Respondents reported participation in preparedness activities as follows:

- Part of an Emergency Operations Plan—72.73 percent of total respondents
- Part of a Continuity of Operations/Government Plan—45.45 percent of total respondents
- Part of a Business Continuity Plan—36.36 percent of total respondents

Other capabilities that respondents indicated that they have to help address hazards include operational coordination, cybersecurity, and emergency power. Respondents also listed that there is a Disaster Response Project which provides legal representation and other legal services to individuals and families that may be impacted by a disaster.

Project Identification

Respondents identified the following projects or programs that could reduce their organization's vulnerability to damages, including operation of service:

- Free and easily accessible training for hazard events.
- Harden Infrastructure to be more hazard resistant
- Collaborate with other organizations and local agencies
- Inflow and Infiltration research and planning
- Flood hazard assessments

NEIGHBORING COMMUNITY SURVEY

The neighboring community survey was sent to the county and municipal governments that border Hudson County due to their proximity to the county and because the effects of hazard events that impact Hudson County would be similar to that of their neighbors. As of Monday, April 21, 2025, no neighboring communities submitted the survey.

2.3.7 Public Outreach

In order to facilitate better coordination and communication between the Planning Partnership and all community members and to involve the public in the planning process, draft documents were made available to the public through a variety of venues, including printed and online format. The Steering and Planning Partnership made the following efforts toward public participation in the development and review of the Plan:

- The public was informed of the hazard mitigation planning effort commencement at the kickoff meeting and through press releases, news articles, and public service announcements released throughout the planning process. Copies of these announcements may be found in Appendix C.
- Media Release were drafted for the County to send to local news sources or to publish through the County.
- A public website is being maintained as another way to facilitate communication between the Steering Committee, planning partnership, public and stakeholders (<https://hudsoncountynjhmp.com/>). The public website contains a project overview, County and local contact information, access to the citizens survey and various stakeholder surveys, and sections of the HMP for public review and comment.



- All participating jurisdictions have been encouraged to distribute press releases on the project, including links to the project webpage and citizen and stakeholder surveys.
- In order to facilitate coordination and communication between the Planning Partnership and citizens and involve the public in the planning process, the Plan Update will be available to the public through a variety of venues. A printed version of the Plan will be maintained at the Hudson County Office of Emergency Management, and Hudson County Division of Planning.
- An online natural hazards preparedness citizen survey was developed to gauge household preparedness that may impact Hudson County and to assess the level of knowledge of tools and techniques to assist in reducing risk and loss of those hazards. The questionnaire asks quantifiable questions about citizen perception of risk, knowledge of mitigation, and support of community programs.
- The questionnaire was posted on the County website and was available through April 21 for public input. All participating jurisdictions have been requested to advertise the availability of the survey via local homepage links, and other available public announcement methods (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, email blasts, etc.). Roughly 19 responses have been collected. A summary of survey results is provided later in this Section with full results provided in Appendix C of this plan.
- Directed response surveys were distributed to Academia, Fire Departments, EMS, Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations, Business and Commercial interests, Utilities and Law Enforcement stakeholders as detailed in the Stakeholder outreach subsection of this chapter. A summary of survey results is provided later in this Section with full results provided in Appendix C of this plan. In addition, an example of the directed stakeholder surveys is presented in Appendix C.
- The Draft Plan was posted to the public website as of **November 23, 2022**, for public review and comment. All public comments were directed to the Hudson County Office of Emergency Management for collection and review by the Steering Committee. All public comments received were forwarded to the appropriate jurisdiction and/or agency and incorporated into the final plan as appropriate.
- Once submitted to NJOEM/FEMA, the Final Plan will be available for public review and comment in the same manner and format as the Draft Plan, as well as in hard-copy format at the following as identified in the Plan Maintenance chapter.

Examples of virtual outreach via websites and social media completed by the Planning Partners are provided in Figure 2-1 and Figure 2-2.



Figure 2-1. Hudson County HMP Webpage and Local Online Outreach





Figure 2-2. Hudson County HMP Webpage and Local Online Outreach

The image shows two screenshots of Hudson County's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) website. The top screenshot is the 'About the Office of Emergency Management' page, featuring a sidebar with links to 'About the Office of Emergency Management', 'Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)', 'HMP Summary and Process', '2020 FEMA-Approved Hudson County Hazard Mitigation Plan', and 'Local Emergency Planning Committee'. The main content area includes the title 'About the Office of Emergency Management', the '2024 Hudson County Hazard Mitigation Plan' announcement, a description of the plan's purpose, and a 'Virtual Public Participation' link with a 'Learn More' button. The bottom screenshot is the 'Hudson County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update' page, which has a dark blue header with the county seal and navigation links: Home, About, What's Mitigation, Meetings, Calendar, Explore the Plan, and Additional Information. Below the header is a 'Websites' section listing links to FEMA resources, the 2019 State of New Jersey HMP update, NJOEM, and the Hudson County Office of Emergency Management.

PUBLIC SURVEY SUMMARY

The public survey was developed to assess the level of knowledge of tools and techniques to assist in reducing risk and loss associated with hazards. It asked quantifiable questions about citizen perception of risk, knowledge of mitigation, and support of community programs. The County advertised the survey on their website and social media accounts. As of April 21, 2025, the survey received 19 responses.

Most residents receive information concerning natural hazards through the internet (73.68%) or TV News (73.68%).



Demographically, survey respondents were from four municipalities within Hudson County, with 62.5 percent having lived in the County for 20 years or more. The most common (50 percent) age of respondents was ages 31 to 40. The majority (73.68 percent) of residents receive information concerning natural hazards through the internet and through TV news. Over half (52.63 percent) receive information through social media or radio news (52.63 percent).

Survey respondents identified the following as the top 5 most frequently occurring natural hazard events within Hudson County in the past 10 years, as shown in Figure 2-3:

- Disease/Pandemic Outbreak (89.47 percent)
- Extreme temperature – heat and cold (84.21 percent)
- Flooding – street/land (68.42 percent)
- Severe Storm (63.16 percent)
- Earthquake (52.63 percent)

The highest hazards of concern (respondents reporting somewhat concerned, very concerned, or extremely concerned) include flooding, and hazardous materials.

Respondents identified the following as priorities to focus on to reduce the damage due to natural hazards:

- Protecting critical facilities and community lifelines (81.25 percent)
- Preventing development in hazard areas (56.25 percent)
- Protecting and reducing damages to utilities (87.5 percent)
- Strengthening emergency services (75 percent)
- Disclosing natural hazard risks during real estate transactions (93.75 percent)
- Promoting cooperation among public agencies, residents, non-profit organizations, and local businesses (93.75 percent)

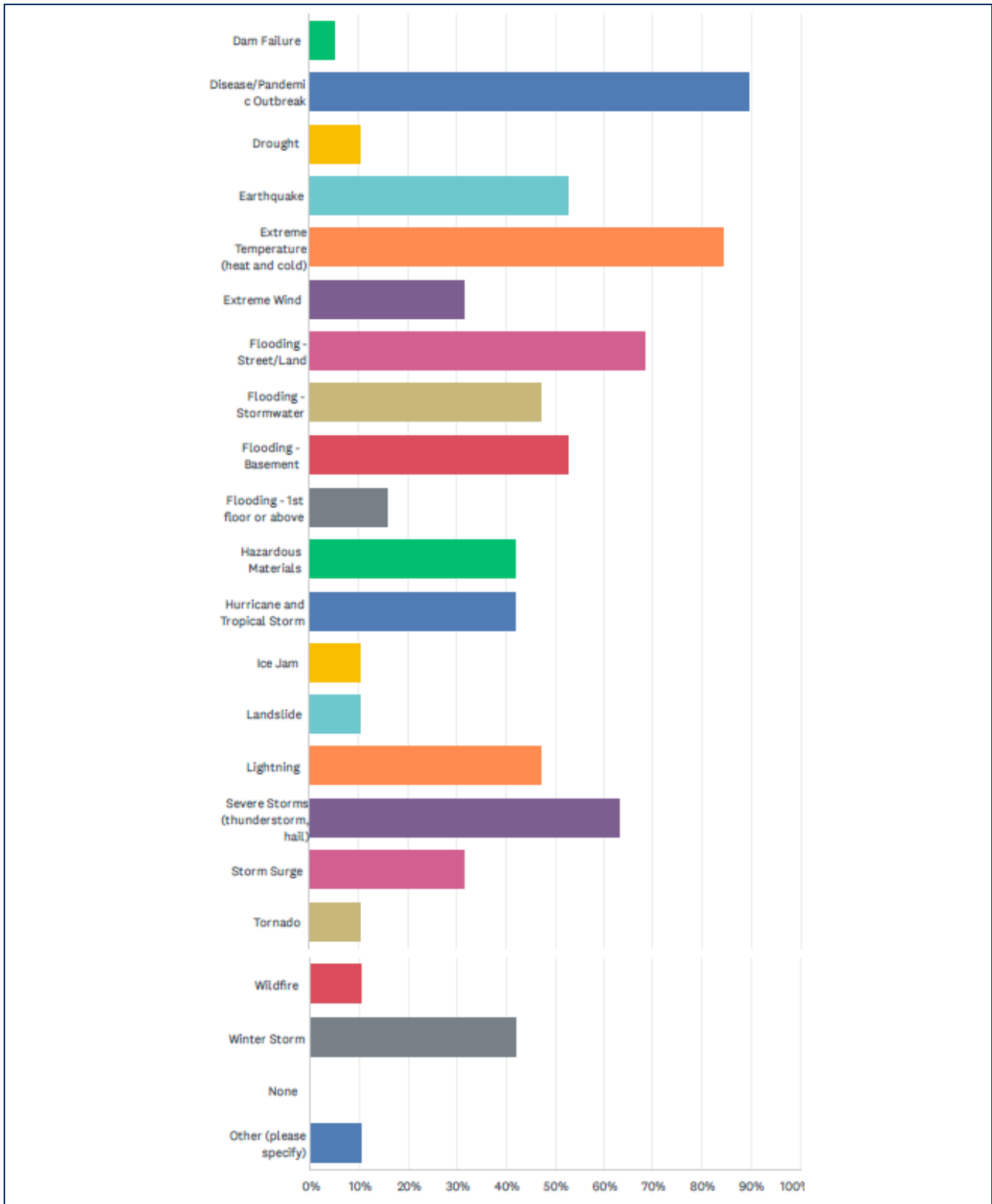
Respondents were then given the opportunity to identify specific vulnerabilities in Hudson County or their applicable jurisdiction. Suggestions included reducing flooding along Jersey City roads, backup power for traffic signals, and air quality improvements.

Respondents were asked if their home has been damaged by a hazard event. Slightly less than half of the respondents (47.37 percent) stated that they had experienced property damage to their home from a hazard event including frozen pipes, basement flooding, and water damage to infrastructure. 41.67 percent of those that reported property damage to their home stated that they did report the damage to the local police, fire or emergency management agency. Respondents were also asked what kind of things they have implemented in their home in preparation for hazard events. Half of all respondents stated that they have talked with members in the home about what to do in case of a natural disaster of emergency, while 93.75 percent of respondents have installed smoke detectors throughout the home.

Respondents were also asked about their property's location within the floodplain, and if they have flood insurance. Of the 19 respondents who answered this question, only four (21.05 percent) indicated that their property is located in a designated floodplain. However, five residents (41.67 percent) indicated their home is covered by flood insurance.



Figure 2-3. Most Frequently Experienced Natural Hazard Events in Hudson County





The most self-selected jurisdictions respondents indicated that they live in, include the Town of Kearny, Jersey City, Town of Harrison, and the Town of West New York.

Refer to Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach) for the full list of survey questions and responses.

2.4 Incorporation of Existing Plans, Studies, Reports and Technical Information

The Hudson County HMP uses the best available information to support hazard profiling, risk assessment, review and evaluation of mitigation capabilities, and the development and prioritization of County and local mitigation strategies. Plans, reports, and other technical information were identified and accessed online through independent research by the planning consultant or provided directly by the County, participating jurisdictions, and stakeholders involved in the planning effort. Detailed sources of technical data and information used are listed in the References section.

The asset inventory data used for the risk assessment is presented in Chapter 3. Details of the source of this data, along with technical information on how the data was used to develop the risk assessment, are presented in Chapter 4, as well as throughout the hazard profiles in this HMP. The County and participating jurisdictions provided relevant jurisdiction-specific planning and regulatory documents, which were reviewed to identify:

- Existing jurisdictional capabilities
- Needs and opportunities to develop or enhance capabilities, which may be identified in the County or local mitigation strategies
- Mitigation-related goals or objectives, considered in the review and update of the overall Goals and Objectives in Chapter 16
- Proposed, in-progress, or potential mitigation actions to be incorporated into the updated County and local mitigation strategies

The following regulations, codes, ordinances, and plans were reviewed to develop mitigation planning goals and objectives and mitigation strategies that are consistent across local and regional planning and regulatory mechanisms:

- Comprehensive/master plans
- Building codes
- Zoning and subdivision ordinances
- Flood insurance studies
- Flood insurance rate maps
- NFIP flood damage prevention ordinances
- Site plan requirements
- Local waterfront revitalization plans
- Stormwater management plans



- Emergency management and response plans
- Land use and open space plans
- Capital plans
- Climate smart community program
- Community rating system
- NJOEM State of New Jersey All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2024

The County and participating jurisdictions were tasked with updating the assessment of their planning and regulatory capabilities (see capability assessment section of each jurisdictional annex in Volume II). They reviewed relevant plans contributing to the capability of the County and each jurisdiction to integrate effective mitigation efforts into their daily activities. This review is reflected in the capability assessment table in each of the municipal annexes. These tables list plan types, names, and dates, as well as a summary of how each plan supports mitigation and resilience.

2.5 Integration with Existing Planning Mechanisms and Programs

Effective mitigation is achieved when hazard awareness and risk management approaches and strategies become an integral part of public activities and decision-making. Many existing plans and programs support hazard mitigation in the County. It is critical that this HMP integrate, coordinate with, and complement, those existing plans and programs.

The capability assessment presented in Chapter 15 (Capability Assessment) provides a summary and description of the existing plans, programs, and regulatory mechanisms at all levels of government (federal, state, county and local) that support hazard mitigation in the County. In the jurisdictional annexes in Volume II, each participating jurisdiction identifies how it has already integrated hazard mitigation into its planning, regulatory and administrative framework (“integration capabilities”) and how it intends to promote this integration (“integration actions”).

A description of continued efforts toward a holistic approach to hazard mitigation is presented in Chapter 17 (Plan Maintenance).

2.6 Plan Adoption

Adoption by the local governing bodies of each participating jurisdiction demonstrates the commitment of the Planning Partners to fulfill the mitigation goals and strategies outlined in this HMP. Adoption via a municipal resolution legitimizes the HMP and authorizes responsible agencies to execute their responsibilities.

All participating jurisdictions will proceed with formal adoption proceedings. Each jurisdiction must submit a copy of its formal adoption resolution or other legal instrument to the Hudson County HMP Coordinator in the Hudson County Office of Emergency Management. Hudson County will forward the executed resolutions to the New Jersey Office of Emergency Services (NJOEM), after which they will be forwarded to FEMA for the record. FEMA allows two options for submitting adoption resolutions:



- **Submittal of adoption resolutions with plan**—All participating jurisdictions provide documentation of plan adoption when the plan is initially submitted to the state for review. After receiving the draft plan from the state, FEMA conducts its review and will approve the plan if it meets all requirements.
- **Approvable pending adoption**—A draft HMP is submitted to the state and FEMA for approval prior to adoption by the jurisdictions. When FEMA determines that the plan as a whole and each participating jurisdiction have met all the requirements except adoption, FEMA will inform the state that the plan is “approvable pending adoption” (APA). After that, once FEMA receives documentation of adoption resolutions from at least one jurisdiction, the status is changed from APA to approved for the entire plan and for that jurisdiction. Other jurisdictions that participated in the planning process then receive approval once they pass their own adoption resolutions. A jurisdiction with a plan in APA status does not meet the requirement for an approved mitigation plan to apply for and receive funding assistance.

In addition to being required by DMA 2000, adoption of the HMP is necessary because:

- It lends authority to the plan to serve as a guiding document for all local and state government officials.
- It gives legal status to the plan in the event it is challenged in court.
- It certifies to program and grant administrators that the plan’s recommendations have been properly considered and approved by the jurisdictions’ governing authority and citizens.
- It helps to ensure the continuity of mitigation programs and policies over time because elected officials, staff, and other community decision-makers can refer to the official document when making decisions about the community’s future.

Source: FEMA. 2003. How to Series: Bringing the Plan to Life (FEMA 386-4).

FEMA will transmit acknowledgement of verification of formal plan adoption and the official approval of the plan to the Hudson County HMP Coordinator. The plan approval date begins the five-year approval period and sets the expiration date for the plan. All participating jurisdictions will have the same expiration date regardless of their own jurisdiction’s adoption date. The date indicated on FEMA’s approval letter is the official approval date.

The resolutions issued by each jurisdiction to support adoption of this HMP are included in Appendix A.

2.7 Continued Public Involvement

The Planning Partners are committed to the continued involvement of the public in the hazard mitigation process. This Plan update will be posted online (currently at <https://www.hudsoncountynjhmp.com/>), and jurisdictions will be encouraged to maintain links to the plan website. Further, the County will make hard copies of the Plan available for review at public locations as identified on the public plan website.

A notice regarding annual updates of the plan and the location of plan copies will be publicized annually after the Planning Partnership’s annual evaluation and posted on the public website (currently at <https://www.hudsoncountynjhmp.com/>).

Each jurisdiction’s governing body shall be responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this plan.



The public will have an opportunity to comment on the plan as a part of the annual mitigation planning evaluation process and the next five-year mitigation plan update. The HMP Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the plan evaluation portion of the meeting, soliciting feedback, collecting, and reviewing the comments, and ensuring their incorporation in the five-year plan update as appropriate; however, members of the Planning Partnership will assist the HMP Coordinator. Additional meetings may also be held as deemed necessary by the Planning Partnership. The purpose of these meetings would be to provide the public an opportunity to express concerns, opinions, and ideas about the plan.

After completion of this plan, implementation and ongoing maintenance will continue to be a function of the Planning Partnership. The Planning Partnership will review the plan and accept public comment as part of an annual review and as part of five-year mitigation plan updates.

A notice regarding annual updates of the plan and the location of plan copies will be publicized annually after the HMP Committee's annual evaluation and posted on the public web site.

Mr. James Woods of the Hudson County Office of Emergency Management has been identified as the ongoing County HMP Coordinator, and is responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this Plan Update. Contact information is:

Mailing Address:	Hudson County Department of Roads and Public Property Office of Emergency Management 830 Bergen Avenue Jersey City, NJ 07306
Contact Name:	Mr. James Woods
Email Address:	jwoods@hcnj.us
Telephone:	(201) 369-5200

Further details regarding continued public involvement are provided in Chapter 17 (Plan Maintenance).