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## I. Overview of Feedback/High-level Takeaways

The Resilient Task Force identified numerous concrete action items to identify the TNJ region's vulnerability to extreme weather and climate change and to enhance the resiliency of the region's communities and infrastructure. These actions can be applied at the local and regional level.

- Gather and curate available data sources on resiliency in the region
- Integrate Green Infrastructure (GI) techniques into complete streets. This is an inter task force topic with the Livable Task Force.
- Inform communities about the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (CRS) and undertake efforts to increase municipal participation in the program.

## II. Summary of Discussion by Focus Area

### **FOCUS AREA 10: ENHANCE THE RESILIENCY OF THE REGION'S COMMUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### ***Strategy 10.1: Identify the Region's Vulnerability to Extreme Weather and Climate Change***

- There are various data sources and efforts underway to address the vulnerability of the region and the collection and curating of these data sources and web applications would further resiliency goals. By coordinating efforts and information from a variety of sources, all of the resources available can be made accessible for use in identifying vulnerabilities. One suggestion is to bring mapping efforts and web-based tool development together to coordinate individual agency and stakeholder efforts. To do this the Task Force will identify climate databases, maps, models and tools and understand which climate models are being used to populate the tools. As a follow up effort the Task Force recommends developing a centralized database of vulnerability for all assets – transportation, energy, etc. There is ongoing discussion to identify the most appropriate organization to host this resource.
- The Task Force would like to encourage/require counties to identify climate risks in master plan updates (not just in hazard mitigation plans), potentially mainstreaming risks throughout all comprehensive plan elements. Potential funding sources include CDBG-DR, HUD, NJ Resiliency Bank, NJDOT SPR funds and MPO PL-funds.
- Key partners to achieve these outcomes include Stevens Institute, NJBPU, NJIT, Prudential Foundation, NJOEM, NJDHS, NJ OEM, NJ Association for Floodplain Management, NJ Future, NJ Conservation Foundation and the Regional Plan Association.

### **FOCUS AREA 14: MANAGE WATER SYSTEMS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY**

#### ***Strategy 14.1: Improve management of stormwater runoff***

- The Task Force can work with members and local governments to incorporate GI techniques and programs in Complete Streets. For example, GI can be incorporated into the NJTPA's Congestion Management Process (CMP) manual. The CMP points to mobility strategies that complement roadway investments to minimize the need for capacity expansions, realize greater system efficiency and protect the environment. An effective strategy in a variety of situations, GI helps to retain water and has the potential to minimize flooding and inundation of roadways which interrupts travel on all

modes. It is a mechanism to improve the transportation system's performance and maintain a level of accessibility, which is one of the goals of Complete Streets. NJTPA and its sub-regions can also work with local officials to include GI in their plan review. Hudson County, for example, could provide municipal engineers with guidance on trees that are maintainable in terms of both effort and cost and appropriate for that geographic area.

- Two other identified action items were capacity building in the form of a combined GI/Complete Streets training and grant writing workshops for localities.

### **III. Technical Assistance/Capacity Building Recommendations**

- Collect and curate climate data sources and web applications and developing a centralized database of climate tools to identify vulnerabilities in a community's infrastructure.
- Host an integrated GI/complete streets training and host a grant writing workshop for counties and municipalities.
- The Task Force recommends that NJTPA host a peer exchange workshop for counties and potentially for municipalities to inform jurisdictions about the CRS and undertaking efforts that increase municipal participation in the program. Plans for the workshop are to include a representative from FEMA to lay the groundwork for CRS and a panel of representatives from Ocean County, Monmouth County and Hudson County to discuss their experience in developing a CRS program with their municipalities and how their particular model works. This forum will inform attendees with ideas for how they can set up a county level or municipal level program in their area. In preparing for the workshop, the Task Force will research what training is available for municipal staff and reach out to those counties and cities in the region involved in the CRS program. The workshop will include a discussion on how local governments can use the CRS effort to promote resiliency and address perceived or real obstacles to participation. This workshop addresses a technical assistance/capacity building item. The Task Force will also share useful tools for CRS with municipalities, such as the DEP's self-assessment resiliency tool. The Task Force will try to adjust coastal centric tools for inland communities.

### **IV. New Member Recruitment**

Organizations that should be recruited to help carry out Resilient Task Force recommended actions include: NJ Climate Adaptation Alliance; NJTPA counties involved in CRS; NJ Mayors Association; NJ Sewer Authorities; NJ DEP; Rutgers University Water Resources Program; Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program City of Camden; Camden County; Atlantic County; Cape May Coastal Coalition; NJ Tree Foundation; Stevens Institute; NJ BPU; NJIT; Prudential Foundation; NJOEM; NJDHS; NJ OEM; NJ Association for Floodplain Management; NJ Future; NJ Conservation Foundation; Regional Plan Association

### **V. Visibility and Awareness-Building Events**

No recommendations