CAP Section 205: Meramec River near Fenton, Missouri Flood Risk Management Study

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

US Army Corps of Engineers ®
St. Louis District

1. What is a Flood Risk Management study?

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) flood risk management studies evaluate structural and nonstructural measures to manage the hazards associated with flooding and reduce the negative consequences of flooding to people and property. Structural and nonstructural flood risk management measures include channel modifications, levees, floodwalls, dams, diversion culverts, natural and nature-based features, elevating structures in the floodplain, floodproofing, acquisition or relocation, flood warning systems, floodplain management, and road elevations. A Flood Risk Management study assesses flood risks to communities and identifies solutions that improve a community's flood resilience. The CAP Section 205: Meramec River near Fenton, Mo Flood Risk Management study will assess solutions that, if implemented, can reduce risk to homes and businesses in and around the floodplain.

2. What is the USACE project process?

USACE civil works water resources activities are initiated by non-Federal partners or potential non-Federal partners, authorized by Congress, funded by Federal and non-Federal partners, and typically constructed by private contractors supervised by USACE. A civil works project partnership between USACE and a non-Federal partner progresses through four phases: feasibility study (planning); preconstruction, engineering, and design (PED); construction; and, once project construction is complete, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRR&R). Most civil works projects – from planning through construction – are cost-shared between the Federal Government and a non-Federal partner or partners. Currently, only the feasibility study (planning) is funded.

3. What is the Army Corps' Continuing Authorities Program (aka CAP)?

The Continuing Authorities Program (or CAP) is a suite of nine authorities under which the Corps can plan, design, and implement certain types of water resources projects without additional project specific congressional authorization.

Section 205 is for small flood risk management projects that are small in size, scope, and complexity with limitations on costs and scope.

4. Is the City of Fenton involved in the process?

Yes. The City of Fenton is the non-Federal Sponsor for this study and will be engaged at every stage of the planning process. Additionally, the planning process will include input from representatives from Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, St. Louis County, the East-West Gateway Regional Council of Governments, and state, federal, and non-governmental organizations.

5. When will the study be completed?

The study will take 3 years and will be completed in January of 2025. It takes this long for the Corps to gather data, build models, and conduct analyses, and go through all our required review processes to ensure that the final product is of the highest quality and complies with all relevant rules and regulations.

6. Is there a Draft Report yet? And what is the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP)?

The Draft Report is currently being written and will include public comment and engagement from this public scoping meeting. Our Project Delivery team (PTD) will have the draft report ready for public review in September of 2023, and the public will have a 30-day window to provide public comment to the PDT. The Draft Report will provide information on the existing conditions in the study area, future conditions if no project is implemented, the planning process of alternative formulation, and the selection of a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP). The TSP is the plan chosen as the likely best plan to implement based on economic, environmental, and social benefits. It will be refined in the next phase of the study based on further input from the City of Fenton and the public.

7. How can I provide a comment following the Public Scoping Meeting? How about comments on the Draft Report?

The public can provide comments following the Public Scoping Meeting as well as the Draft Report (when it is available) during the 30-day public comment period following the release of the Draft Report. Please email your comments to Matthew.A.Jones@usace.army.mil. If you do not have access to email, you may send your comments to Mr. Matthew Jones, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, MO 63103.

8. How much will this cost the City of Fenton?

The total cost of the project has yet to be determined. The current feasibility study is cost shared 50% federal and 50% nonfederal. The city's share of the construction project will be 35%, while the federal government's share is 65%.

9. Can you tell me about buyouts and whether they will be considered in the study?

Buyouts/acquisition are a tool in the toolbox of flood risk management solutions. It is possible that some buyouts will be included in the final plan for structures that experience significant or repetitive flooding. The analysis to identify these structures will be conducted in the next phase of the study. If you would like to provide input on buyouts, please submit a comment.

10. Will climate change be taken into account?

Yes – the study team will take climate change into account in the planning process. This may include projected changes in rainfall. We will also incorporate projected development in the surrounding area.

11. Will there be an Environmental Impact Statement for this project?

At this time, this project will be National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)-compliant with an Environmental Assessment, not an Environmental Impact Statement. However, this may change as the project evolves.

12. Is this study related to FEMA's flood mapping and the National Flood Insurance Program?

FEMA is responsible for publishing Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and then updating them periodically. Because your flood risk changes over time, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and FEMA work with communities across the country to identify and map flood risk on an ongoing basis. Flood maps show a community's risk of flooding to include flood zone, floodplain boundaries, and base flood elevation.

This Flood Risk Management study project bases its recommendations on the most current FIRMs, which are the 2020 maps. This study will not affect FEMA's flood risk mapping process.