

City of Tallahassee/Leon County Local Mitigation Strategy
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Note: The twenty four underlined items are from the City of Tallahassee/Leon County Local Mitigation Strategy 2010 Update, Table 3.3.

1. Increase intergovernmental coordination in the area of Stormwater management.

Status: Intergovernmental Stormwater management coordination is accomplished through several initiatives including countywide land development ordinance, Blueprint 2000 intergovernmental agency Stormwater improvement projects and Local Mitigation Strategy Steering Committee meetings. In addition, the City and County are currently working with the Northwest Florida Water Management District in an effort to improve the accuracy of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps through the Risk Map program, which is funded by FEMA. Once complete, it is expected that FEMA will issue updates to the FIRM, which will improve the accuracy of the depiction of Special Flood Hazard Areas for the community.

2. Improve the disaster resistance of existing site built housing stock.

Status: The Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross continues to provide educational programs to low income population on how they can be “disaster resistant.”

3. Advocate that FEMA provide greater flexibility to local communities that elect to establish more accurate flood elevations.

Status: The City of Tallahassee and Leon County continue to cooperate with the Northwest Florida Water Management District through a Cooperating Technical Partnership with FEMA, which will be instrumental in accomplishing this goal. The City and County are attending the Apalachee Bay Saint Mark River Watershed Discovery Meeting for the purpose of updating the FEMA flood maps for the Saint Marks Basin.

4. Improve floodplain boundary identification and implementation of the FEMA map amendment process.

Status: The City and County are currently working with the Northwest Florida Water Management District in an effort to improve the accuracy of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps through the Risk Map program, which is funded by FEMA. Once complete, it is expected that FEMA will issue updates to the FIRM, which will improve the accuracy of the depiction of Special Flood Hazard Areas for the community.

5. Explore methods to eliminate additional development in the 25-year floodplain.

Status: The City of Tallahassee, Growth Management Department continues to consider new ordinance language to accomplish this goal.

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6. Create a public education campaign and community program that promotes awareness of vulnerability to hazards in our community and encourage disaster preparation.

Status: The Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross has developed the Disaster Resistant Neighborhood Program. The program is designed to mitigate the impact of various disasters by educating residential and commercial property owners on personal actions they can take to reduce the effects of a disaster such as removing dead limbs, putting up shutters/plywood, creating a safe room in your house/business, etc.). The City and County should adopt this program and advertise to all residents to provide technical assistance where needed. The City and county host annual and semiannual disaster fairs, which focus on community vulnerability to various disasters and possible mitigation techniques. The fair is a standalone event and integrated into other community events throughout the year. This strategy would address creating a safe room within the home, general home protection procedures, etc. Volunteer Leon also offers disaster preparedness information during their community outreach programs. Florida State University actively uses social media and other programs, such as its published Emergency Preparedness Guide, to foster a “culture of preparedness and safety” on its campus.

7. Develop and disseminate a public awareness safety strategy.

Status: The City of Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida State University and Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross performs this initiative on a regular basis. Information is passed out both in forms of press releases/news articles, radio preparedness messaging, TV ads, community outreach and social media.

8. Promote disaster resistant neighborhoods.

Status: The community continues to partner with the local Red Cross and local media outlets to provide public service announcements and outreach programs supplying information to citizens related to disaster resistant neighborhood strategies. The Red Cross is working to revamp the Disaster Resistant Neighborhood program in cooperation with the city/county partners and CONA.

9. Host an annual or semi-annual disaster fair.

Status: The Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross regularly facilitates hurricane exercises for businesses and neighborhoods to increase community preparedness. Further information related to the Red Cross hurricane exercises can be found online at <http://www.redcross.org/fl/tallahassee> . The Red Cross has facilitated, partnered and hosted community exercises and provided relevant preparedness messaging during those exercises.

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10. Continue current efforts to remove dead, dying or diseased trees or branches next to roadways and power lines.

Status: The City of Tallahassee Electric Department and City of Tallahassee Streets and Drainage Division in cooperation with the Leon County Public Works Department, continues to remove those trees and limbs that pose a hazard to overhead power lines and roadways.

11. City of Tallahassee and Leon County flood-related capital improvement projects.

Status: See attached list of City of Tallahassee, Stormwater Capital Projects drainage improvement projects.

12. Acquire parcels in the 100-year floodplain.

Status: The City and County continue to evaluate potential acquisition projects and possible funding sources for property acquisitions within the 100-year floodplain. Many parcels within the 100-year floodplain have been purchased by the City of Tallahassee and Leon County during previous years to provide flood relief to flood prone property owners. Some of these acquisition projects were entirely funded using local dollars. Others were funded through state and federal programs while also making use of local matching funds. Examples of these programs include the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, both of which are FEMA programs administered by the Florida Department of Community Affairs.

13. Develop an emergency notification system for all hazards.

Status: Emergency notification is essential to protecting lives and property. Immediate notification to a specific area is critical during rapidly developing situations such as tornados, hazardous material releases, and flash flooding. This system can also be used to inform residents of utilities issues such as boil water notices, power outages, sewer issues, Amber Alerts and more. For the City of Tallahassee, the Department of Communications sends these notifications.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Communications Commission, and the Wireless Communications Industry launched the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system in 2013. This system sends concise, text-like messages to WEA capable mobile devices. Wireless providers, representing 97% of subscribers, are participating in distributing Wireless Emergency Alerts. Mobile users will not be charged for receiving these text-like alerts and are automatically enrolled to receive them. Wireless Emergency Alerts use a different kind of technology, than text messages, to

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ensure they are delivered immediately and are not subjected to potential congestion (or delays) on wireless networks. Wireless Emergency Alerts are a point-to-multipoint system, which means alert messages will be sent to those within a targeted warning area, unlike text messages which are not location aware. Wireless Emergency Alerts distributed by the National Weather Service include: Tornado Warning, Extreme Wind Warning, Flash Flood Warning, and Hurricane Warning.

Leon County utilizes the internet website <http://leoncountyfl.gov/ei> to post all-hazards emergency public information for use by citizens and the media during emergency events. They also utilize a subscription service (powered by GovDelivery) available at the Leon County website for citizens to sign up for all-hazards emergency notifications, traffic notifications, as well as general Leon County government announcements. Notifications are available via email and SMS.

Florida State University maintains a nationally-renowned emergency notification and warning system targeted toward its campus community that includes up to 35 methods of message delivery. FSU recently completed installation of its “EZ Button” technology which allows for the instantaneous activation of pre-scripted emergency messages at the press of a single button. The FSU ALERT EZ system streamlines warning and notification to 3-5 minutes or less in the most extreme situations.

14. Evaluate requirements and feasibility for the County’s participation in the NFIP Community Rating System.

Status: Leon County has applied to participate in the Community Rating System and had a Technical Assistance Visit on July 10, 2014. They are working on their 30-day letter.

15. Explore the feasibility of adding a full build-out component to the Leon County Master Stormwater Management Plan.

Status: The master Stormwater management plan does not take into account Stormwater and flooding impacts given future build-out conditions for the entire County. This information could be used to revise existing floodplain regulations so that they reflect projected build-out conditions. Based on information from the Leon County Public Works Department, there are no plans to update the Master Plan at this time due to staffing limitations and current allocation of available resources.

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16. City and County are to implement a program to acquire easement or fee simple land allowing access to maintain the major ditches/canals to reduce flooding.

Status: The program would consist of the acquisition of easements for ditches and the necessary land to access the ditches so normal maintenance can be performed. Currently, the City of Tallahassee is responsible for the maintenance of over 23 miles of major ditches. About 15 miles have adequate access easements, are located within an easement or are located on public ROW. Approximately 30 acres are needed to have full public access to maintain the ditches.

17. Continue and expand program to deploy flood-warning devices at critical facilities and/or locations.

Status: There are several flood-warning devices in place and functioning within the community, which include the warning system at the Lake Talquin Dam as well as the Capital Area Flood Warning Network and City of Tallahassee Rainfall Data Telemetry System. The Capital Area Flood Warning Network and the City of Tallahassee Rainfall Data Telemetry System provide real-time rainfall totals and water levels at key points within the community. Emergency Management Officials can then use this information during major storm events to identify potential areas of flooding.

Florida State University has identified locations on its campus that are prone to flooding, with a history of personal injury and property damage. FSU has plans to install flood detection equipment in several key locations on its campus and integrate it into its FSU ALERT emergency notification and warning system. The FSU Flood Detection and Warning system is pending funding opportunities.

18. Establish audible warning systems at the Lake Talquin Dam.

Status: The C. H. Corn, Hydroelectric Power Plant at the Lake Talquin Dam continues to operate warning siren and paging system that is used to warn boaters downstream of the dam to move further downstream prior to increasing flow through the dam. Electric is providing phone and email notifications to Crooked Road residents now.

19. Establish a regional lightning detection and warning system.

Status: Representatives from Florida State University have proposed a regional lightning mapping array (LMA). The proposed lightning mapping array would provide all public and non-profit entities in the region advanced warning of the potential of a lightning strike, followed by active monitoring capabilities once lightning is occurring. With advanced warning, detection

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and monitoring capabilities, the goal is to mitigate the risk to life and property from lightning strikes. DHS Science and Technology does not take unsolicited proposals and incorrectly say that “lightning is not a hazard.” FSU is exploring other possibilities for support.

20. Place an audible warning system at the wastewater treatment plant and potable water sites.

Status: The City of Tallahassee Water Quality Administration has initiated a remote detection system to determine the run status and condition of the potable well facilities. This system achieves the goal of an audible alarm system for our potable water system. The Lake Bradford Road wastewater treatment plant has audible alarms on chlorine gas releases. In addition, a separate monitoring system has audible alarms for all equipment in the Thomas P. Smith wastewater treatment plant on Springhill Road.

21. Develop automated telephone warning/notice system tied to chemical releases at fixed facilities.

Status: Funding needs to be identified, to support such a system.

22. Secure funding source for identified shuttering and hardening needs for Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (TMH) and Capital Regional Medical Center (CRMC).

Status: Once a possible funding source is identified, the committee has discussed applying for window protection at TMH. TMH has developed an application for hazard mitigation and is ready to proceed, when funding becomes available. Tallahassee community hospital is now Capital Regional Medical Center, and they have hardened windows installed.

23. Consider addressing the economic impact of different disaster scenarios, as information becomes available.

Status: The City of Tallahassee and the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross both continue to have programs in place to assess the impacts of disaster immediately following an event. Damage Assessment Teams are also deployed following a disaster on a countywide basis to document disaster-related damages. In addition, the Tallahassee – Leon County Geographic Information Systems department now has FEMA’s HAZUS-MH 2.0 software. This software incorporates a nationally applicable standardized methodology that contains models for estimating potential losses from floods and hurricanes. It can be used to model and generate estimated potential losses for hurricane winds and flooding.

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24. Continue to improve and expand regional response capabilities for responding to hazardous materials and terrorism events.

Status: The possibility of an incident involving a weapon of mass destruction or a hazardous materials release exists within Leon County. County EM is preparing a response plan and now needs to identify the equipment needed to respond to effectively to an incident. In addition, the City and County need to identify potential funding sources to acquire the highly specialized, and often expensive, equipment. Tallahassee Fire Department has the only hazardous materials response unit in the region (between Alachua and Escambia Counties, and to a lesser extent, Bay County). Currently the Fire Department will respond to hazardous material incidents outside of the County. In the extent of multiple incidents, the Fire Department's ability to response would be severely taxed. The Development of a regional hazardous material response capability would necessitate the expansion of personnel, equipment, and training, as well as the development of local agreements.

25. Identify equipment needs for responding to a weapon of mass destruction threat, a hazardous materials release or similar disaster.

Status: Our community emergency management officials have identified the equipment needed and have purchased many of the items through the homeland security funding. There is a committee that outlines items to be purchased, and funding is coordinated through the Regional Domestic Security Task Force. However, available funding for this initiative is decreasing.

26. Compile a more comprehensive hazardous materials database.

Status: According to Local Mitigation Strategy Steering Committee information, the Solid Waste Departments are responsible for maintaining the hazardous materials database. However, there is no record of a recent update to this information on file. Leon County Division of Emergency Management and the Local Emergency Planning Committee is responsible for identifying and mapping all facilities storing EPA section 302 chemicals. Annually, they publish a document identifying these locations as part of the community right to know act.

27. Develop regional hazardous materials response capability; identify needed assets, training and local agreements.

Status: The Apalachee Regional Planning Council, Tallahassee, Gainesville, Thomasville, Valdosta and other surrounding communities have worked together on regional responses. In Florida, surrounding communities have agreed to support each other through the Fire Chief's Association and the

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Regional Domestic Security Tasks Forces. There are 7 of these in Florida, and they will support each other as needed. There has been no change in the status of this initiative since the previous publication of this report.

28. Maintain training programs for emergency responders, and continue to identify new training programs as needed.

Status: In the event of a natural disaster, hazardous material release, or other catastrophic incident, numerous emergency responders, often with widely different roles, will be required to work as a single, integrated unit. Key to this effort is training. The City and County need to continually identify the different training needs for numerous responders, including, but not limited to dispatch, initial responders, field responders, and incident commanders. Included as part of this is a continuous training program, involving classroom training, table top exercises and field exercise. The effort should also address the development and implement public awareness training programs. Through continued cooperation between City and County emergency managers, incident command training sessions will continue to be provided to City, County and other community representatives with emergency response roles.

29. Continue to identify needs for improving the disaster resistance of critical facilities.

Status: Critical facilities provide essential services in the event of an emergency, but may be housed in structures that require improvements to weather the impacts of a disaster. Improvements may include, but not limited to, the installation of storm shutters, or gas generators. The Local Mitigation Strategy Steering Committee continues to work to identify additional security measures to protect critical facilities within the community. The City has installed extra security measures at certain critical facilities throughout the City. The North Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Forces, is provided funding to address K-12, Universities, Court houses and communications towers, funding is still needed to protect utilities.

30. Identify populations at risk under different scenarios.

Status: The Local Mitigation Strategy Steering Committee regularly meets to discuss these issues. Additional coordination has also taken place using the digital information available through the community's Geographic Information System. In addition, the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Division of Emergency Management also considers this topic for hazardous materials. In addition, the Leon County and the City of Tallahassee in 2011-2012 collaboratively developed a Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP) in order to better prepare the community for long-term recovery and redevelopment after a disaster. This plan complements other planning efforts

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ongoing in the city and the county, including the Comprehensive Plan, Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) and Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). The PDRP identifies policies, operational strategies and roles and responsibilities for implementation that will guide decisions that affect long-term recovery and redevelopment of the community after a disaster.

31. Encourage the establishment of community-based emergency shelters.

Status: The City of Tallahassee and Leon County have a total of 15 school campuses and 72 buildings, which meet the Red Cross standards and can be used as emergency shelters. In addition, the City of Tallahassee is now providing transportation to persons who regularly ride StarMetro seeking shelter.

Through the successful completion of several structural hardening mitigation projects, Florida State University now maintains an inventory of four buildings with the capability to shelter 3,140 of its own students, faculty, staff and their immediate family members on campus, without burdening the community shelter system.

32. Build a single, community-wide emergency operations center.

Status: Construction of the Public Safety Complex was completed in July 2013. The 100,000 square foot facility will house the Consolidated Dispatch Agency, Leon County Emergency Medical Services, Tallahassee Fire Department Administration, City of Tallahassee Regional Traffic Management Center, and a joint City/County Emergency Operations Center.

33. Deploy a low-power public radio station.

Status: Currently, no funding has been obtained to purchase the system. Therefore, Emergency Managers would make use of NOAA Alerts and Public Radio for required radio broadcasts of public announcements in the event of an emergency.

34. Identify major land-based transportation corridors and establish safe zones around those corridors based on the exposure pathway for different chemicals.

Status: This would also include identification of all structures, facilities and special need populations in the corridors. Provide ready access to this information to hazardous material response personnel, preferably from deployed resources (such as GIS capability on the hazardous response vehicle). The Apalachee Regional Planning Council has developed a transportation study for hazardous materials. In addition, local Emergency Management officials have

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developed preliminary mapping of safe zones, 1-2 miles along the major routes through the community.

Table 1: City of Tallahassee Drainage Improvement Projects

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The City has identified the following 24 drainage improvement projects in its current Capital Improvement Program (FY2014-2019). The estimated cost of these projects totals \$97,632,311.

Project	Cost (\$)	Prior Year	Current Status
Concord Road SMF	980,000	Permitting	Under Construction
Downtown Stormwater Master Plan	500,000	Analysis	Analysis
E. Georgia at Meridian Flood Mitigation	2,475,000	Construction	Completed
Eastgate Flood Relief Project	3,850,000	Phase I & II Design & Land Acquisition	Phase I Under Construction. Phase II Design & Land Acquisition
Emory Ct and Dupont Dr Area Flood Relief (4)	10,100,000	Phase I complete	Phase II Analysis
Frenchtown Stormwater Master Plan (2)	11,645,400	(see note 2 below)	(see note 2 below)
Inglewood Stormwater Improvements	1,050,000	Design	Design
Karen Lane Drainage Improvements	600,000	Completed	Completed
Killarney Way at Shamrock Drainage Improvements.	1,765,000	Completed	Completed
Lafayette Park Stormwater Outfall (4)	1,300,000	Phase I complete, Phase II Under Construction	Phase II Completed
Lake Ella Stormwater Outfall	150,000	New	Study
Lower Central Drainage Ditch	11,450,050	Design	Design
Medium Stormwater System Imprv. (3)	18,000,000	New	(see note 3 below)
Meginnis Arm LOMR	200,000	New	Study
Northeast Ditch at Lonbladh Rd.	1,500,000	Completed	Completed
Northeast Ditch Tributary 2 Flood Study	120,000	On Hold	On Hold
Park Ave. Tributary No. 1 Improvements	3,125,000	Bid for Construction	Under Construction
Rainfall and Stream Gauging	1,651,861	Data gathering	Data gathering
Royal Oaks Creek	3,000,000	Analysis	Analysis
Small Projects Initiative (see below)	9,670,000	See Table 2 below	See Table 2 below
Stormwater Infrastructure Inventory and Mapping	3,360,000	Data gathering	Data gathering
Upper Lake Lafayette Nutrient Reduction Facility	7,000,000	Construction	Construction
Upper West Ditch Stormwater Facility	3,540,000	Analysis	Analysis
Wilson Ridge Flood Relief Project	600,000	Completed	Completed
Total	\$97,632,311		

Notes:

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1. Projects listed as “On Hold” have been recommended and approved in the Capital Budget and are awaiting implementation.
2. The Frenchtown Stormwater Project has been segmented into multiple phases. Nine phases have been constructed while other phases are in various stages of implementation.
3. The Medium Stormwater System Improvement Project funds the construction of multiple small to medium sized projects, some of which are listed under the Small Projects Initiative (SPI) project list (Table 2).
4. These projects have been segmented into two phases.

Table 2: City of Tallahassee Drainage Improvement Projects - Small Projects Initiative – Current & Planned Projects

Project	Prior Year Activity	Status
Sandhurst Drive	Under Construction	Completed
Stonehouse Road	On hold	Completed
3068 O’Brien Drive	Design	Completed
3933 Runnymede	Under Construction	Completed
4052 Roscrea Drive	Design	Completed
676 Riggins Road	Integrated*	Integrated*
3015 Shamrock North	Design	Under Construction
1046 Copper Creek Lane	Under Construction	Completed
3224 Baldwin Drive	Under Construction	Completed
3244 Shannon Lakes	Design	Design
1341 Hutchinson Avenue	Design	Design
903 Beard Street	Study	Design
1133 Richardson Road	Study	Under Construction
3509 Kilkenny East	Study	Design
2410 Limerick Drive	Study	Design
Limerick Drive Outfall	Study	Design
1423 Devils Dip	Study	Design
1829 Ivan drive	Study	Design
3033 Shamrock South	Future	Future
Bradford Road Stormwater Outfall	Study	Design
Gwen Street	<i>Not Reported</i>	Study
Chamberlin Drive	<i>Not Reported</i>	Design
Sauls Street – Short Street	<i>Not Reported</i>	Study

Note: All “Small Projects Initiative” projects that are listed as “On Hold” have been recommended for construction and are awaiting implementation. SPI projects listed as “Future” are planned in the SPI program and are planned to be implemented in the order listed.

SPI projects listed as “Integrated” are included as a component or part of a major capital improvement project.