

**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed
Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain and
Riverine/Marsh Wetland**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that Sarasota County Resilient SRQ under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under Infrastructure & Public Facilities Program HUD grant B-23-UN-12-0004 is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain, floodway, and riverine, marsh, swamp, bog, and prairie wetlands, and Resilient SRQ will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and wetlands and the potential impacts on the floodplain and wetlands from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, and Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project location is along West Price Boulevard, crossing Myakkahatchee Creek, between Butler Park and Eagles Flight Way in the City of North Port, Sarasota County. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the freeboard value approach. The Zone AE 100-year floodplain (base flood elevation 16.2-feet) and floodway were determined using FEMA Flood Map Panel 12115C0378F dated November 4, 2016 and riverine, marsh, swamp, bog, and prairie wetlands were identified using the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory Mapper.

The proposed project consists of the demolition and reconstruction of the Myakkahatchee Creek Bridge and the removal of the pedestrian bridge that runs parallel to the bridge on the northern side. The new bridge would consist of two lanes of travel, a 2-foot shoulder, and standard width sidewalk in both directions. The new bridge would generally be within the same footprint, but over double the width of the existing bridge, which consists of one travel lane and narrow sidewalk in each direction. Additionally, the bridge would be modernized to contemporary design standards. The current bridge area is about 0.5 acres, while the proposed reconstructed bridge is estimated to cover approximately 1 acre.

The bridge serves as a primary access point to US-41 for residents in the census tract immediately to the north of US-41. This includes approximately 7,000 citizens, including 3,725 individuals living in low- to moderate-income census tracts. It is the main conduit for these citizens to their places of employment and to US-41 in the event of an emergency evacuation. It also provides access for first responders to the neighborhoods north of US-41. Myakkahatchee Creek (also known as Big Slough) is a 24-mile tributary of the Myakka River providing hiking and other recreational opportunities. The floodway provides for floodwater storage and groundwater recharge during rain events.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain and wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain and wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplain and wetlands. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Resilient SRQ on or before September 16, 2024, at the following address:

Resilient SRQ
301 N. Cattlemen Rd., Suite 200
Sarasota, FL 34232
Attention: Jonathan R. Lewis, ICMA-CM, County Administrator

You may also submit comments by phone by calling 311, 941-861-5309, or TTY: 7-1-1 or 1-800-955-8771 during business hours (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM), or via email at ResilientSRQ@scgov.net.

Date: August 30, 2024