

**COMBINED PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS AND  
NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN THE  
100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN**

**HUDSON COUNTY**

October 10, 2014

New Jersey Economic Development Authority  
36 West State Street  
PO Box 990  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0990  
609-858-6700

This notice shall satisfy three separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA).

Per 24 CFR 58.33, and 24 CFR 55.20(b)(1), the combined Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (FONSI/NOI-RROF), and the Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain will be published simultaneously with the submission of the RROF. The funds are needed on an emergency basis due to a declared disaster from the impacts of Superstorm Sandy, which made landfall on October 29, 2012. As a result, the comment periods for the NOI-RROF, 100-Year Floodplain and RROF have been combined.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or about October 11, 2014, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on behalf of EDA will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Federal funds under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program pursuant to the Disaster Relief (DR) Appropriations Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-2, approved January 29, 2013) for the Neighborhood and Community Revitalization (NCR) program. EDA expects to fund the following project using approximately \$919,373 of NCR funds.

The following information pertains to this project:

Project Title: City of Hoboken Streetscape Project (NCR39440)

Location: First Street between Marshall Street and Bloomfield Street, Hoboken, Hudson County, NJ

Estimated Cost: \$919,373

Project Description: The purpose of the City of Hoboken Streetscape Project (NCR39440) is to revitalize the First Street commercial corridor through attractive gateway and wayfinding signage and streetscape improvements. The project is planned between Marshall Drive and Bloomfield Street adjacent to the city's commercial business core.

The NJ Neighborhood and Community Revitalization (NCR) Program supports the long-term recovery of small businesses and communities by funding projects that contribute to the economic revitalization throughout New Jersey, but focusing on the nine most impacted counties. NCR supports projects that retain or hire new employees, contribute to the State's economy, serve Low or Moderate Income (LMI) areas, create or maintain LMI jobs, remove slum or blight, or address an urgent need related to Superstorm Sandy. These projects are commercial or mixed use projects, typically development and public improvement or streetscape revitalization.

#### NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

This is to give notice that the EDA has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The following activities are funded under the NCR program under (B-13-DS-34-001).

The purpose of NCR39440 is to revitalize the First Street commercial corridor through attractive gateway and wayfinding signage and streetscape improvements. The project is planned between Marshall Drive and Bloomfield Street adjacent to the city's commercial business core.

The streetscape project is partially within the Special Flood Hazard Area Zone "AE" Zone floodplain, as shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 106 of 118, Map Number 34017C0106E, effective December 20, 2013.

DCA has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts of NCR39440 and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values. Relocating the Proposed Action outside of the 100-year floodplain was considered. However, due to its geography and proximity to the Hudson River, much of Hoboken is considered to be within the 100-year floodplain: approximately 75% of land parcels within the city are classified as being located within the 100 year floodplain (Zones "AE" and "VE"); approximately 12% of land parcels within the city are classified as being outside the 100-year floodplain but susceptible to the 0.2 % annual chance flood hazard" (i.e. the 500-year flood); and approximately 13% of land parcels are outside the 100-year or 500-year floodplain (Zone "X").

The intent of the project is to assist in the economic revitalization of Hoboken through the revitalization of the First Street corridor; therefore, alternative locations would not meet the project intent. Additionally, relocating the project from the proposed location to another comparable portion of the city adjacent to the CBD would not necessarily avoid floodplain impacts. A No Action Alternative was considered and rejected because it would not address the economic revitalization needs of Hoboken. Similarly, no alternative actions that would serve the same purpose and would avoid construction within the 100-year floodplain were identified.

DCA has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that there are no practicable alternatives. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

DCA has determined that construction of the proposed project would not result in significant adverse impacts to flood levels, flood risk, or the flow of floodwaters on the project site or surrounding areas. Therefore, the proposed project would be compliant with the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (44 CFR § 59) and EO 11988 on Floodplain Management (42 FR 26951).]

#### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

An Environmental Assessment has been prepared and EDA and DCA have determined that this project will have no significant impact on the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. The reason for the decision not to prepare an EIS is that no significant impacts or hazards were identified in the course of the environmental review.

Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, 36 West State Street, PO Box 990, Trenton, New Jersey 08625. The record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. by contacting Erin B. Gold at 609-858-6718 or may be viewed online at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on these projects may submit written comments to Stacy Bonnaffons, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800 or online at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/> and to Tennille Smith Parker, DRS, Acting Division Director, HUD, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20410. All comments received by October 25, 2014 will be considered by DCA and EDA. Comments should specify which Notice (Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds [NOI-RROF] or Notice of Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain) they are addressing.

#### RELEASE OF FUNDS

DCA certifies (on or about October 25, 2014 ) to HUD that Richard E. Constable, III, in his capacity as Commissioner of DCA consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and related laws and authorities, and allows DCA to use Program funds.

#### OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and DCA's certification for a period of fifteen (15) days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of DCA; (b) DCA has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency, acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504, has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to Tennille Smith Parker, DRS, Acting Division Director, HUD, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20410. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Commissioner Richard E. Constable, III  
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs