



# City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
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## Council Action

Resolution: R-16-331

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File Number: 16-1095

Enactment Number: R-16-331

Resolution to Accept a Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant and Appropriate Funds from FEMA for a Project to Create an Opening in the Railroad Berm to Reduce the Floodplain of Allen Creek (\$3,085,550.00) **(8 Votes Required)**

Whereas, The railroad berm near the mouth of Allen Creek is oriented perpendicular to the flow of flood water and causes the floodplain depth to be as deep as 10 feet. Upstream of the influence of this berm, flood depths are more typically in the 3 to 5 foot range;

Whereas, Opening the railroad berm to reduce flood depth is a recommendation of the City of Ann Arbor 2007 Flood Mitigation Plan (project #51) and the City of Ann Arbor 2012 Hazard Mitigation Plan;

Whereas, There is also an improvement recommended in the Non-motorized Transportation Plan and general desire within the community to provide a shared-use non-motorized path through the railroad berm from the Main St/Depot St. area to the Huron River/DTE site area;

Whereas, In December 2012, the city hired OHM-Advisors to study the feasibility of opening up the railroad berm near the mouth of Allen Creek and compare the project cost to the decreased cost associated with the lowered risk to the structures currently in the floodplain and analyzed the feasibility of including pedestrian access within the berm opening project;

Whereas, The feasibility study determined that it is feasible to open the railroad berm;

Whereas, If the berm was opened up, the floodplain would drop by 6.5 feet and 31 structures would have reduced flood depth and risk;

Whereas, Several structures would no longer be within the floodplain and substantial reductions in flood insurance rates could be realized by the affected properties;

Whereas; The preferred recommendation from the feasibility study proposes a large culvert to pass flood water and another for pedestrian passage at a cost of \$4,305,000.00;

Whereas, FEMA determined that only the flood mitigation aspect of the project could be funded through the hazard mitigation grant program;

Whereas, The cost attributable to flood mitigation is \$3,085,550.00 and the cost attributable to pedestrian access is \$1,219,450.00;

Whereas, The North Main-Huron River Corridor Vision Task Force recommended an

under-rail pedestrian passage to allow pedestrian access through the berm be built north of Depot Street between 4th Avenue and N. Main Street in conjunction with the City's flood mitigation efforts;

Whereas, SEMCOG and MDOT administer the federally funded Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) which provides resources to install non-motorized improvements such as the shared-use connection and the tunnel contained in the feasibility study preferred alternative;

Whereas, \$156,135.00 of funding for the non-motorized/pedestrian portion of phase one has been approved in the Alternative Transportation Fund (0061) capital budget. Funding for phase two of the non-motorized/pedestrian portion has several potential funding sources, including a potential Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant, but will have to be determined prior to submission of the Phase 2 FEMA Grant application;

Whereas, In Spring 2016, the City was invited to submit a Hazard Mitigation Grant application to FEMA;

Whereas, The City was notified by letter dated June 27, 2016 that FEMA awarded the City of Ann Arbor a \$2,314,163.00 grant which represents 75% of the flood mitigation portion of project cost;

Whereas, Funds for the City's \$771,387.00 match have been programmed in the City of Ann Arbor Capital Improvement Plan and (split between design FY 2017 and construction FY 2018) Stormwater Utility Capital Budget, if so approved by Council; and

Whereas, The Stormwater and Floodplain Program Coordinator will handle grant management;

RESOLVED, That the City accept and appropriate the Federal Emergency Management Agency grant of \$2,314,163.00 and appropriate the City's matching funds of \$97,966.00 for phase one from the approved Stormwater Capital Budget and \$156,135.00 from the approved Alternative Transportation Capital Budget to the Major Grant Fund (Fund 00MG);

RESOLVED, That if successful in the phase two application process, matching funds of \$673,421.00 be appropriated from the FY18 Stormwater Capital Budget, if so approved by council, to the Major Grant Fund (Fund 00MG);

RESOLVED, That City Council authorize City Staff to submit the Phase 2 Hazard Mitigation Grant application to FEMA, and accept the grant for construction of this project;

RESOLVED, That City Council authorize City Staff to submit a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application to SEMCOG and MDO T for the non-motorized/pedestrian improvements, such as the shared-use connection and tunnel portion of this project; and

RESOLVED, That City Council authorize the Mayor, City Clerk and City Administrator to execute all documents necessary to complete the Grant requirements for both the design and construction phases of this project, after approval as to form by the City Attorney.

At a meeting of the City Council on 8/15/2016, a motion was made by Chip Smith, seconded by Chuck Warpehoski, that this Resolution R-16-331 be Approved. The motion passed.

**Yeas:** 0

**Nays:** 0

**Absent:** 1 Councilmember Grand