

Coastal Resilience Solutions for North End / Downtown and Dorchester: Question Follow Up

Thank you all for asking questions during the panel and using the survey we provided during the release event. Here are responses to your questions. If you still have questions, please fill out this form [here](#) or email climate.ready@boston.gov.

Flood Risk

How is Climate Ready Boston keeping up with climate change and the best available science?

We expect and plan for climate science to continue to evolve and improve over time. The Climate Ready Boston report calls for the City to update our modeling and our assessment of the science every five years.

Are there any projects that must be completed by 2030 in order to prepare for imminent flood risks?

The City of Boston is already seeing the impacts of climate change today. Areas such as Long Wharf, Columbia Point, and Morrissey Boulevard currently experience flooding. Projects in near-term flood pathways will be prioritized as we move into implementation.

Climate Resilience Strategies

How will climate resilient parks impact programming and recreation opportunities?

Climate resilient parks provide the benefits of improving or expanding access to public open spaces. Integrating climate resilience into public open space can enhance programming and recreational opportunities. [Martin's Park](#) in Fort Point Channel is an example of climate resilient park design, and there is an opportunity to learn more as the Parks Department leads [planning for Moakley Park](#).

Implementation

How much do these projects cost and how are we going to pay for them?

Mayor Martin J. Walsh has dedicated 10% of all new capital funding to open space, infrastructure, and facilities projects that are climate resilient or contribute to making the City more environmentally friendly. By the end of the century, across the entire city, Boston will need to secure several billion dollars in funding to implement the solutions identified in Climate Ready Boston. The City continues to investigate creative ways to fund and finance these projects using local means, though federal, state, and private funding will

also play a role.

What level of engineering or feasibility studies have been done already to take these ideas toward reality? What are the next steps and top priorities in design and construction for these projects?

The majority of projects in Climate Ready Boston are at a conceptual design stage. Next steps include getting near-term priority projects to a higher percentage of design and engineering study in order to seek funding for final design and implementation.

Do we have infrastructure and buildings that are just too vulnerable to adapt? Will there be strategic acquisitions or removals of certain roads and structures?

Many coastal communities are grappling with the costs and benefits of protecting vulnerable infrastructure and people along the coasts. In Boston, the benefits of our coastal resilience projects outweigh the costs across the board. Mayor Walsh is committed to taking bold action to protect Boston so that we can thrive in the face of climate change.

How do these plans address regulatory challenges?

The City is committed to a close and collaborative relationship with State and Federal regulatory agencies.

The plan mentioned building-level adaptation. Can you say a bit more about what this means?

Building-level adaptation means protections that are implemented for each building individually. It can include flood proofing the building, raising the building, elevating essential mechanicals to the roof, installing backflow preventers and more to avoid damages from flooding. For more information about how individual buildings can integrate resilience, review the [BPDA Coastal Flood Resilience Design Guidelines](#).

There are coastal resilience plans for East Boston, Charlestown, South Boston, and now North End Downtown and Dorchester. How do we implement these plans, especially on non-city owned land? Who at the City is responsible for making sure these plans are executed?

Mayor Martin J. Walsh is committed to ensuring that these plans are implemented. The City has a variety of policy tools to equitably and fairly accelerate implementation of resilience solutions and will continue to partner with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that there are no gaps in the line of protection.

Community Engagement & Environmental Justice

How will you continue to engage the community about climate risks now that this planning process is over?

The Climate Ready Boston team will continue to engage with residents and stakeholders. A great way to get involved is through the Greenovate Leaders Program. Learn more [here](#).

How will you prioritize projects for implementation? How will social and racial equity play into this?

Factors such as the timing and extent of the flood risk, integration with other City projects and policies, and social and racial equity are critical to prioritizing implementation. The City is committed to inclusive growth and recognizes that the only way to build resilience citywide is to embed racial equity, social justice, and social cohesion into all aspects of climate resilience and adaptation initiatives.

Other

Both Climate Ready Dorchester and Climate Ready North End & Downtown are focused on coastal resilience (sea level rise and storm surge). What are you all doing to address other climate vulnerabilities like heat and stormwater?

The City will launch a heat resilience planning study in 2021 to develop a comprehensive citywide heat resilience plan. The plan will focus on long-term resilience solutions to reduce increasing urban heat extremes and heat risk. The Climate Ready Boston team also works closely with the Boston Water and Sewer Commission to prioritize and implement Green Stormwater Infrastructure across the City. Learn more about BWSC's work [here](#).

Both of these plans are about preparing for the impacts of climate change. What is the City doing to address the root cause of climate change: greenhouse gas emissions?

The City of Boston has set a goal to be carbon neutral by the year 2050. Approximately 70% of emissions from the City of Boston come from the building sector. The Mayor's 2019 Climate Action Plan update focused on decarbonizing the building sector. Learn more about our carbon neutrality work [here](#).