

Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment for the

Melrose Terrace Demolition and Floodplain Restoration

Brattleboro, Windham County, VT

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) intends to provide federal funding to the Town of Brattleboro for a Melrose Terrace public housing demolition and floodplain restoration project. The proposed project would be funded through the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program.

The project includes demolition of eleven of seventeen (11 of 17) structures within the Melrose Terrace complex, floodplain restoration of approximately 4.3 acres, and the installation of an overflow culvert at the George F. Miller Bridge. The purpose of the project is to reduce the vulnerability of Melrose Terrace residents to flooding risks. The project is needed because Whetstone Brook flooding has repeatedly impacted the Melrose Terrace housing complex.

The project area is within a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and federal regulations, FEMA evaluated project alternatives, including a No Action alternative, and the proposed alternative.

In accordance with NEPA, an environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed project on the human environment. The Draft EA summarizes the project's purpose and need, project alternatives, the affected environment, and potential environmental consequences for considered alternatives.

The Draft EA is available for public comment and can be viewed and downloaded from www.brattleborohousing.org and www.brattleboro.org

The Draft EA can be viewed in hard copy at the following locations:

Brattleboro Housing Authority Office
224 Melrose Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Town Planning Office
230 Main St.
Brattleboro, VT 05301

The comment period will end 15 days from the date of this legal notice publication, or distribution of print copies, whichever is later. Written comments can be emailed to david.robbins@fema.dhs.gov or sent to FEMA Regional Environmental Officer, 99 High Street, Boston, MA 02110. If no substantive comments are received, the EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact will be signed. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.