

**Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the  
Merrimack River Bank Stabilization  
Chelmsford, Middlesex, MA**

**FEMA-4028-DR-MA**

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA) to provide federal funding to the Town of Chelmsford as subrecipient, for the Merrimack River Bank Stabilization (proposed project). The proposed project would be funded through the Hazard Mitigation Grand Program.

The Proposed Alternative consists of stabilizing the western bank of the Merrimack River adjacent to Wellman Ave in Chelmsford, MA. The work will entail using bioengineering bank stabilization techniques using a mixture of structural components, such as a stone toe, and natural components such as timber, coir rolls, and living vegetation. The purpose of this project is to reduce the risk to the existing gravity sewer from becoming washed out, exposed, and/or ruptured from bank erosion. The project is needed because the river bank is currently eroded from the natural river flow, storm flooding and runoff, and frost melt. The gravity sewer line could be exposed to the Merrimack River with potential sewage seepage if the erosion continues.

The project area is partially within a FEMA-designated flood zone and floodway, as shown on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 44 CFR Part 9, DHS-FEMA evaluated practicable alternatives, including a No Action alternative, the proposed alternative, and an additional alternative (Rock Rip Rap Bank Stabilization).

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. DHS-FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management in accordance with DHS directive 108.1 is incorporated with the EA.

The Draft EA is available for public comment and can be viewed and downloaded from <http://www.townofchelmsford.us/174/Public-Works>

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

Chelmsford Town Hall  
50 Billerica Road  
Chelmsford, MA 01824

The comment period will end 15 days from the date of this legal notice publication in the Lowell Sun, or distribution of print copies, whichever is later. Written comments on the EA can be mailed or emailed to the contact below. 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. Contact: FEMA Region 1, Office of Environmental & Historic Preservation, Attention: Merrimack River Bank Stabilization or via email at: [Fema-r1ehppubliccomments@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Fema-r1ehppubliccomments@fema.dhs.gov).