

Fort Point Channel is a flood pathway into Boston that causes repetitive damage to transportation ways, infrastructure, residences, and businesses from storm surge. Storms and resulting damage are expected to increase in frequency and severity as a result of climate change and future sea level rise.

The purpose of the proposed project is to reduce flood damage and provide protection to nearby residents, infrastructure, utilities, and structures.

The City of Boston and the BPDA have applied for Federal funding for this proposed project, and are currently conducting an environmental review. An Environmental Notification Form for this coastal infrastructure project was filed with the MEPA Office on December 31, 2021 due to proposed alteration of coastal wetland resource areas (coastal bank and land subject to coastal storm flowage), requiring a State permit.



Project Elements

The proposed project includes the construction of a flood control system around a portion of the Fort Point district in South Boston.

It includes permanent berm and floodwall segments along the southeast edge of Fort Point Channel, between 15 Necco Street and Dorchester Avenue. These are further described below. The tops of these structures will be 4.6 feet higher than the current FEMA 1% annual chance (100-year) flood elevation to account for sea level rise and more intense storms anticipated over the next 50 years or more.



It also includes interim flood walls at the west end of Necco Court and beneath Summer Street at A Street and West Service Road. These would only be installed temporarily when major coastal flooding events are forecasted. The tops of these structures will be 1.5 feet higher than the FEMA 1% flood elevation. Interim flood walls will become redundant once flood control systems are constructed along other vulnerable segments of the South Boston waterfront over the next 10-20 years.

Segment 1

- Vegetated berm approximately 729 feet long and 45 feet wide
- Extends from approximately 15 Necco Street to the southern end of the Gillette pump house
- Runs parallel to and landward of the existing Harborwalk

Segment 2

- Double retaining wall of granite blocks that will be built on top of the existing seawall
- Approximately 816 feet long and 18 feet wide, with a 12-foot wide Harborwalk on top
- Extends from the southern end of the Gillette pump house to where Fort Point Channel turns west

Segment 3

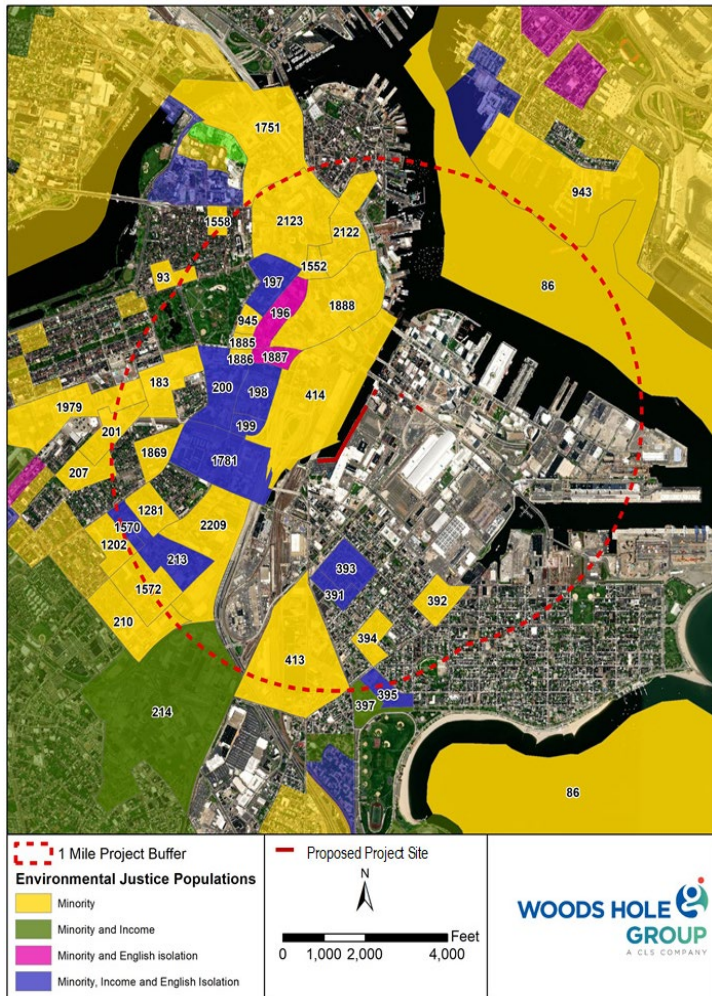
- Vegetated berm approximately 546 feet long and 45 feet wide
- Extends from the western turn in the Fort Point Channel to Dorchester Avenue
- Runs parallel to and landward of the existing Harborwalk

Temporary Impacts

Normal transportation ways, parking areas, and public access to the waterfront and Harborwalk may be disrupted or rerouted during project construction. Minor temporary environmental impacts due to construction activities may also occur, including to soils, water quality, vegetation, and fish habitat.

Long-Term Benefits

The project will directly benefit 31 existing buildings (including historic structures), approximately 814 current residents, and numerous jobs and businesses exposed to present and future flood risk. Many additional people, including Environmental Justice populations within 1 mile, may indirectly benefit from the improved and more resilient waterfront and more reliable transportation network. The project may also provide moderate permanent environmental benefits to wetlands.



Anticipated Permits

Once the MEPA review process is complete and engineering design progresses, the BPDA and the City plan to file with the following agencies:

- Boston Conservation Commission for an Order of Conditions
- Boston Landmarks Commission for a Certificate of Design Approval
- Boston Public Improvement Commission for Specific Repairs License, Maintenance, and Indemnification agreement
- Boston Water and Sewer Commission for Site Plan and Groundwater Overlay District Reviews
- Mass DEP Waterways Division for a Chapter 91 License or Amendment
- Mass Office of Coastal Zone Management for a Federal Consistency Determination (if required)
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and Mass Historic Commission for Section 106 Determination of Adverse Effect Concurrence
- US Army Corps of Engineers for a Permit (if required)
- US EPA for a Section 402 National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit.

Environmental Justice Populations

The map shown here identifies the Environmental Justice (EJ) populations and characteristics within 1 mile of the project site.

Additional Information

More information about this project can be found at: [https://www.bostonplans.org/planning/planning-initiatives/fort-point-district-planning-\(100-acres\)](https://www.bostonplans.org/planning/planning-initiatives/fort-point-district-planning-(100-acres))

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