

Public Notice: Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in an FFRMS Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - Texas Division of Emergency Management, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Houston as required under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Mitigation (MIT) program Grant Number B-18-MP-48-0001 is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain. As such, the City of Houston will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the FFRMS floodplain and the potential impacts on the FFRMS floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project is known as Frenchtown Drainage and Paving Improvements and is located on approximately 5,772 linear feet along Linn Street (from Collingsworth St to Evella St.), Gregg Street (from Retta St to Roland St), Ralston St. and Retta St. (between Lucille St and Retta St.), Russell Street. (between Brill St and Jewel St.) and the intersection between Love St. and Tiffin St. to the south and east respectively. It also includes a 24 acre-feet (ac-ft) detention at the intersection of Roland St. and Linn St. to the east (29.791457, -95.335581) and a 22 ac-ft detention at 3300 Sayers St, Houston, TX 77026.

Proposed project activities include improvements to the existing drainage system along public roadways; no residential structures would be impacted by the proposed activities. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 0.2 Percent Annual Chance Flood Approach. Climate Informed Science Approach (CISA) data is not available since the Federal Flood Standard Support Tool (FFSST) is no longer available as of May 7, 2025.

The proposed action includes installation and improvements of stormwater infrastructure to reduce flooding and provide the highest feasible level of service within the existing road and Right-of-Way constraints. The proposed scope would require detention to mitigate the increased flows and prevent downstream adverse impacts. Above-ground detention storage locations have been identified at an abandoned City of Houston water plant and a planned detention pond on Russell Street.

The proposed action includes approximately 5,772 linear feet associated with the improvement and installation of a trunk line and approximately 5.67 acres for the construction of two detention ponds. Of the trunk-line improvements, approximately 587 linear feet are located within the 100-year floodplain, while approximately 5,185 linear feet are located within the 500-year floodplain. Both detention ponds are located entirely within the 500-year floodplain and encompass a combined area of approximately 5.67 acres, consisting of approximately 3.30 acres for Pond 1 and 2.37 acres for Pond 2. The project area is located within FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel No. 48201C0690N, effective January 6, 2017. No wetlands were observed within the impact area; as such, no wetlands would be impacted by proposed project activities. The impacted floodplain and wetlands provide the following natural and beneficial functions: floodwater conveyance and storage, wildlife habitat, and groundwater recharge. The floodplain and wetlands do not provide recreational, educational, scientific, cultural, or historical value. This project is needed to reduce the risk of structural flooding in residential areas and reduce the burden on nearby drainage channels.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplain. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comments about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in the floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Houston at the following address on or before October 29th, 2026, **City of Houston Housing & Community Development Dept.**, 2100 Travis St, 9th Floor Houston, TX 77002. Attention: HCD Environmental Team. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the address listed above or upon request to hcdenvironmental@houstontx.gov. Appointments for office visits to view the project description/environmental review in person are recommended to avoid any potential for delays. Comments or questions may also be submitted via email at the same address or (832) 394-6319.

Date: Wednesday October 14th, 2026.