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City of Lowell Seeks Public Input for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation Plan

The City of Lowell has embarked on a planning process to identify projects to reduce the potential impacts from natural hazards like severe storms, flooding, and extreme heat. The City will also consider the likelihood of experiencing more severe natural hazards more frequently due to projected climate change. The planning process will broadly focus on three topic areas: infrastructure assets, societal and economic resilience, and environmental resources.

The City of Lowell's resilience is evident through the community's response to the current public health concerns and historic responses to weather-related events. The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) and Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Project aims to document historic successes and challenges in order to better develop solutions for tomorrow. The City is seeking input from the public in this process. Feedback from the community is vital to ensure the planning process is comprehensive and relevant to its constituents.

Given the current COVID-19 crisis, in person public meetings will not be possible. However, the City is making available resources to connect as a community online. The latest information will be available on a dedicated project webpage. Posts will also be found on the City's social media platforms. The City plans to release videos, surveys, and more in the coming days to hear about experiences, concerns, ideas, and solutions for the challenges associated with natural hazards and climate change. Please note, materials will be available in English, Khmer, Portuguese, and Spanish.

The MVP-HMP project is funded through a \$77,550 grant award from the Commonwealth's [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) Planning Grant program](#), which provides technical and financial support for cities and towns to plan for climate change and implement the results. As part of the process, the City of Lowell will also fulfill the [Federal Emergency Management Agency's \(FEMA\) requirements](#) to update the [City's Hazard Mitigation Plan \(HMP\)](#) from 2015. The HMP update will maintain the City's eligibility for FEMA grant funding.

If you would like to receive updates on this project, please forward your contact information to Adria Boynton, Resiliency Specialist at Weston & Sampson (boyntona@wseinc.com).