



To: Yi-An Huang, City Manager

From: Julie Wormser, Chief Climate Officer

Date: December 5, 2025

Re: Cambridge Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Final Adoption

On January 28, 2025, FEMA issued an “Approval of the City of Cambridge Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Pending local Adoption.” In order for the plan to be considered formally complete, allowing FEMA funds to flow to the City, the Council must now adopt the revised plan using required language provided by FEMA. We respectfully request the Council’s adoption of the plan.

The HMP was initially adopted by Council in December 2023 and was subsequently submitted to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review. Based on their review revisions were made, including on these key topics:

- Improved description of how the community will continue to seek future public participation after the plan has been approved.
- Refining narrative on Cambridge’s past changes in land use and projected changes in land use and how these changes affect risk and vulnerability to climate hazards
- Specifying funding sources for mitigation actions
- Adding state hazard declarations in addition to federal hazard declarations
- Adding details related to high-hazard dams owned by Cambridge outside of the city

The revisions resulted in the FEMA’s approval of the plan which can be [accessed here](#).

Background on the process to develop the HMP

The HMP outlines Cambridge’s vulnerability to and impacts from natural hazards including climate change and describes what actions the City will take to prepare for and respond to natural hazards. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires an up-to-date HMP for municipalities to remain eligible for certain types of FEMA funding.

The development of the HMP was guided by a cross-departmental steering committee, with consultant support from Weston & Sampson. The project team and steering committee worked to identify Cambridge’s vulnerability to natural hazards, consider the impact on the city’s people and assets, and create and prioritize mitigation actions aligned with the HMP goals, guided by public input.

Community and stakeholder engagement is a comprehensive part of the FEMA framework for HMP updates. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team, comprised of representatives from universities,

Cambridge city staff, neighboring city staff, neighborhood groups, private sector, and state agencies, shared their expertise over three workshops. In addition, three public meetings were held to share updates on the plan and request feedback on the content. In addition, two surveys were conducted. Engagement teams from DHSP, CDD and the Public Health Department supported engagement throughout the process, informing residents about opportunities to participate.



City of Cambridge

Agenda Item No.1
IN CITY COUNCIL
February 10, 2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE ADOPTING THE 2025 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

WHEREAS the City Council recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within the City of Cambridge; and

WHEREAS the City of Cambridge has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the City of Cambridge 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, in accordance with federal laws, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; and the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; and

WHEREAS the City of Cambridge 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in the City of Cambridge from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS duly-noticed public meetings on the 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update were held by the City on June 13, 2023 and two on September 13, 2023; and

WHEREAS the City Council authorizes Departments to execute their responsibilities demonstrated in the 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update; and

WHEREAS adoption by the City Council demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the City of Cambridge 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That in accordance with M.G.L. 40 §4 or the charter and ordinances of the City of Cambridge, the City Council adopts the City of Cambridge 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. While content related to the City of Cambridge may require revisions to meet the plan approval requirements, changes occurring after adoption will not require the City of Cambridge to re-adopt any further iterations of the plan. Subsequent plan updates following the approval period for this plan will require separate adoption resolutions.