

# THE RESILIENCE DART

Parsons Brinckerhoff Resilience Disaster Awareness Report

March 16, 2015

The Parsons Brinckerhoff Resilience DART (Disaster Awareness Report) summarizes key developments related to resilience planning and design across the US, including the region affected by Superstorm Sandy.

**Parsons Brinckerhoff's Resilience Information Center:** A website established by Parsons Brinckerhoff allows users to track congressional, regulatory, and federal agency funding developments pertaining to Superstorm Sandy and resilience programs. The site provides links to the final Sandy bill, notices of funding availability and funding allocations, Federal Register notices, fact sheets on agency Emergency Relief programs, testimony from Sandy implementation hearings, etc. The website can be accessed via the following link:

[http://www.pbtransportationupdate.com/legislation/resiliency\\_issues\\_and\\_hurricane.aspx](http://www.pbtransportationupdate.com/legislation/resiliency_issues_and_hurricane.aspx)

## State of Affairs:

### Washington, DC/National/International

- FEMA has set up new guidelines for reviewing engineering costs before an insurance company can be reimbursed for Sandy claims, following revelations that some damage reports were altered to reduce payments to homeowners (link below).

[http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/03/fema\\_takes\\_steps\\_to\\_oversee\\_engineering\\_firms\\_hired\\_by\\_insurers\\_to\\_assess\\_damages.html](http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/03/fema_takes_steps_to_oversee_engineering_firms_hired_by_insurers_to_assess_damages.html)

- The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has named Hoboken a model city for flood protection planning, a key aspect of resilience (link below).

[http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2015/03/un\\_names\\_hoboken\\_as\\_model\\_city\\_for\\_its\\_flood\\_plans.html](http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2015/03/un_names_hoboken_as_model_city_for_its_flood_plans.html)

- The USDOT has awarded NJ TRANSIT \$147.1 million for Sandy-related repair, recovery, and resilience projects (link below).

[http://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger\\_rail/news/NJ-Transit-to-receive-147-million-in-Hurricane-Sandy-funds--43712](http://www.progressiverailroading.com/passenger_rail/news/NJ-Transit-to-receive-147-million-in-Hurricane-Sandy-funds--43712)

- A new study by the Institution of Civil Engineers explores urban resilience policy in three coastal cities—New York, Vancouver and Rotterdam; it remains clear, meanwhile, that New York needs to adapt faster to climate change (links below).

<http://www.ice.org.uk/topics/community/Case-studies/Availability-of-Infrastructure-Resilient-Cities>

<http://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2015/mar/02/storm-new-york-city-adapt-climate-change>

- Five states—California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and New York—have been identified as being most proactive in pushing utilities to adopt business models that create more resilient power grids (link below).

<http://www.utilitydive.com/news/beyond-the-substation-how-5-proactive-states-are-transforming-the-grid-edg/369810/>

- The EPA's Climate Change Newsroom posts current news items and links to various climate and energy news releases (link below).

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/newsroom.html>

- A new tool that complements LEED certification, called Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines (WEDG), has been developed to address issues connected with shorelines, with a focus on safety and resilience (links below).

<http://rew-online.com/2015/03/05/new-york-city-on-the-cutting-edge-with-wedg/>

<http://www.waterfrontalliance.org/WEDG>

## Regional (New York/New Jersey/Connecticut/Boston)

- One of six winning bids in the Rebuild by Design competition is driving development of a flood-defense system around Manhattan (link below).

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2987993/Protecting-Manhattan-Hurricane-Sandy-Stunning-plans-revealed-Dryline-10-miles-waterfront-park-disguise-crucial-flood-defences.html>

- Two public meetings will be held this month on New York's East Side Coastal Resiliency Project, a plan to create a flood protection barrier alongside East River Park (link below).

<http://www.thelodownny.com/leslog/2015/03/two-public-meetings-on-east-river-resiliency-project-this-month.html>

- New York City is investing \$150 million to upgrade infrastructure at the Hunts Point Market to help protect the city's food supply, especially during extreme weather (link below).

<http://www.wnyc.org/story/de-blasio-150m-hunts-point-market/>

- In New York, Mayor de Blasio has signed into law two new bills to improve the city's coastal storm emergency preparedness (link below).

<http://theforumnewsgroup.com/2015/03/05/mayor-signs-laws-improving-storm-emergency-preparedness/>

- New York City has awarded \$34 million in grants and loans to help 200 Sandy-impacted small businesses (link below).

<http://www.capitalnewyork.com/article/city-hall/2015/03/8563711/city-has-awarded-34-m-sandy-affected-businesses>

- Long Island's first 26 projects under the NY Rising Community Reconstruction program have moved into the implementation phase (link below).

<http://liherald.com/fivetowns/stories/Storm-recovery-projects-moving-forward,64803>

- Sustainable Long Island was awarded a \$10,000 grant from State Farm to implement a Disaster Preparedness Program that would investigate whether Long Island residents are better prepared for natural disasters after Sandy (link below).

<http://www.longisland.com/news/03-05-15/are-you-prepared-take-the-storm-readiness-assessment.html>

- The Hugh L. Carey Tunnel in New York City (formerly the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel) will have nightly tube closures to repair Sandy-related damage from March 2015 through 2018 (link below).

[http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2015/03/hugh\\_l\\_carey\\_tunnel\\_nightly\\_tu.html](http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2015/03/hugh_l_carey_tunnel_nightly_tu.html)

- The New York State Assembly's Climate Change Work Group is looking at policy recommendations to cut emissions further and ensure that communities are better prepared for extreme weather (link below).

<http://blog.timesunion.com/johnmcdonald/nys-assembly-tackles-climate-change/3583/>

- New York City's Build it Back program continues to support homeowners on Staten Island through various initiatives, including direct grants to homeowners renovating on their own and a program to promote home elevations (link below).

[http://www.silive.com/eastshore/index.ssf/2015/03/built\\_it\\_back.html](http://www.silive.com/eastshore/index.ssf/2015/03/built_it_back.html)

## Contact:

---

Parsons Brinckerhoff provided immediate support to help clients and communities in the New York metropolitan area recover and rebuild after Superstorm Sandy, and is currently participating in a range of projects to mitigate the effects of extreme weather and build resilience in the region. For information on the firm's activities and capabilities, please contact:

**Michael Flood, AICP**  
National Resilience Lead  
Parsons Brinckerhoff  
[Flood@pbworld.com](mailto:Flood@pbworld.com)  
410.246.0528 (office)  
202.748.6131 (cell)