

THE RESILIENCE DART

Parsons Brinckerhoff Resilience Disaster Awareness Report

October 17, 2014, 2014

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/hurricane_sandy_supplemental_funding.aspx

State of Affairs:

Washington, DC/National

- On October 7, the Federal Transit Administration published in the Federal Register the Final Rule for the new MAP-21-authorized Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program, which becomes effective on November 6. The 2013 Disaster Relief Appropriations Act (passed following Hurricane Sandy) provided \$10.9B for the program, specifically for Sandy-related expenditures. This final rule is not limited to Sandy expenditures; it includes a description of eligible projects, FTA criteria for funding projects, and details on how the program will be administered (link below).

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-07/pdf/2014-23806.pdf>

- Rebuild by Design, HUD's design competition to promote resilience along the East Coast, looks at potential next steps, including a symposium presented by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and New Jersey Future (links below).

<http://www.archpaper.com/news/articles.asp?id=7590>

<http://www.rebuildbydesign.org/events/whats-next-after-rebuilding-making-resilience-happen-2/>

- A federal audit shows that FEMA's system for delivering emergency supplies is flawed, and offers recommendations on how to close the gaps in the agency's disaster response system (link below).

<http://click.crainemail.com/?qs=f74c2a517b29b6ffff642b6406bc8810bf8eb990a56942f9cf7c7450abcffebaf3e2c97b64c6b1c>

- A report by the American Meteorological Society examines extreme weather events in 2013, and investigates whether individual events are connected to climate change (links below).

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/which-2013s-many-natural-disasters-can-we-blame-climate-change-180952888/?no-ist>

http://www2.ametsoc.org/ams/assets/File/publications/BAMS_FEE_2013_Full_Report.pdf

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has developed a drone (“the Coyote”) that is capable of flying into the eye-wall of a hurricane and collecting data that could improve prediction models and forecasts (link below).

<http://www.businessinsider.com.au/drone-flies-inside-a-hurricane-2014-9>

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

- At the recent Northeast Risk & Resilience Leadership Forum in Stamford, environmentalists, policymakers, scientists, and insurance industry experts assessed lessons learned from Sandy and examined best practices for adapting to severe weather and mitigating its effects (links below).

<http://insurancenewsnet.com/oarticle/2014/10/13/national-leaders-collaborate-on-best-practices-in-resilience-as-second-anniversa-a-567126.html>

<http://www.mitigationleadership.com/>

- As the two-year anniversary of Sandy approaches, new protective systems are being tested at subway stations in flood-prone areas of Lower Manhattan (link below).

<http://manhattan.ny1.com/content/news/transit/216562/mta-testing-protective-systems-at-flood-prone-manhattan-subway-stations/>

- New York City recently held the Sandy Recovery Opportunity and Resource Fair, and two workforce development initiatives were announced: the Build It Back Local Hiring Initiative and the Rockaways Economic Advancement Initiative (link below).

<http://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/882-14/transcript-mayor-de-blasio-hosts-sandy-recovery-opportunity-resource-fair-two-new>

- A microgrid feasibility study for the New York City Housing Authority’s Red Hook Houses in Brooklyn has been launched, in an effort to develop an effective energy resilience model (links below).

<http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/10082014-feasibility-study-nyc-red-hook>

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/brooklyn/red-hook-houses-eyed-power-center-article-1.1967977>

- The New York Times is preparing a report on losses and lessons learned from Sandy with direct input from readers (link below).

http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/10/10/nyregion/sandy-experience.html?_r=0

- Sea Bright, one of New Jersey’s hardest hit areas, will be vulnerable to flooding from rising sea levels without a solid coastal protection plan (link below).

http://www.nj.com/monmouth/index.ssf/2014/10/sea_level_rise_threatens_more_flooding_in_sea_bright_experts_warn.html

- New York City’s newly released report “Retrofitting Buildings for Flood Risk” is geared toward helping residents and owners understand building retrofit options in the post-Sandy landscape (links below).

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/retrofitting/index.shtml>

- The National Research Council has issued a report calling for a regional or national approach to managing weather hazards on the barrier islands along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, including New York's Fire Island (link below).

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/30/science/barrier-islands-feeling-the-effects-of-climate-change.html?_r=0

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:

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