Louisiana Highway 22 Bridge Construction and Drainage Improvements

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
In 2020, the Louisiana Watershed Initiative’s five coordinating state agencies selected 15 projects to receive $163 million in federal funding. The projects were selected because they align with the missions of these agencies and the long-term resilience objectives of LWI. Specifically, the projects will reduce flood risk in communities throughout the state, store floodwaters in ways that enhance natural habitats and move people in flood-prone areas out of harm’s way. As the granting agency of these funds, the Louisiana Office of Community Development reviewed the projects to ensure they meet HUD requirements and align with the state’s $1.2 billion CDBG-MIT Action Plan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
La. Hwy. 22 functions as a barrier impeding natural hydrology in the Amite River floodplain. The highway prevents the natural flow of water into the adjacent McElroy Swamp, increases surface elevation in the river and exacerbates area flood risk. The La. Hwy. 22 Bridge Construction and Drainage Improvements project includes the construction of two bridge structures and the excavation of two drainage basins for the purpose of improving local hydrology, reducing area flood risk and restoring the McElroy Swamp.

COST ESTIMATE
$41.7 million
The project is located in Provisional Watershed Region 7, which includes 13 parishes in eastern Louisiana among the Mississippi River, Lake Pontchartrain and Mississippi. Those portions of La. Hwy. 22 impacted by the project are located near Bayou Terrace in St. Amant.

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<td>Ascension Parish</td>
<td>Livingston Parish</td>
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**PROJECT LOCATION**

Ascension Parish
(HUD-Identified Most Impacted and Distressed Area)

Livingston Parish
(HUD-Identified Most Impacted and Distressed Area)

**SCALE OF INFLUENCE**

**PLAN CONSISTENCY**

**LOUISIANA CDBG-MIT MASTER ACTION PLAN (2020)**
The project is consistent with the Louisiana CDBG-MIT Master Action Plan’s focus on implementing “state-identified regional retention/detention, natural flood management and infrastructure projects.” OCD identifies flood control projects as unmet mitigation needs.

**LOUISIANA’S COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN FOR A SUSTAINABLE COAST (2017)**
The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority incorporated the Flood Risk and Resilience Program into the agency’s State Coastal Master Plan. The proposed project is consistent with CPRA’s goal of implementing high-performing risk reduction projects in coastal parishes.

**PROVISIONAL WATERSHED REGION AND PROJECT LOCATION**

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