

**Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment**

**Middlebury River Flood Mitigation Project**

**Middlebury, Addison County, VT**

FEMA intends to provide federal funding to the Town of Middlebury for a flood control project that would be funded through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The purpose of the Middlebury River Flood Mitigation Project is to restore floodplain storage capacity and enhance flood protection infrastructure at the Middlebury River between Lower Plains Road bridge and the bridge at Grist Mill Bridge Road. The proposed mitigation project is needed to prevent reoccurring flood damage to town bridges and roads, state highways and private residences in East Middlebury.

The proposal has four main components: 1) Remove large sediment deposits from chute entrances and the top of large sand and gravel bars; 2) Armor sections of the Ossie Road Berm and upstream berms; 3) Repair the existing flood wall; and 4) Extend the flood wall 150 feet downstream. Three access roads are proposed: 1) Through the junkyard property for a length of approximately 420 feet; 2) at Goodro Lumber Company for a length of approximately 790 feet.; and 3) near Lower Plains Road for an approximate distance of 350 feet.

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act and federal regulations, FEMA evaluated project alternatives, including a No Action alternative and three other alternatives including the proposed alternative. An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess potential impacts of the proposed project on the human environment. The Draft EA summarizes the project purpose and need, project alternatives, the affected environment, and potential environmental consequences for considered alternatives.

The Draft EA is available for public comment and can be viewed and downloaded at:

[https://cms5.revize.com/revize/middlebury/document\\_center/Midd%20River%20Flood%20Project/Middlebury\\_River\\_Fld\\_Mit\\_Draft\\_EA\\_508\\_Comp\\_2020.08.20.pdf](https://cms5.revize.com/revize/middlebury/document_center/Midd%20River%20Flood%20Project/Middlebury_River_Fld_Mit_Draft_EA_508_Comp_2020.08.20.pdf)

The Draft EA can be viewed in hard copy at the following location:

Ilsley Public Library  
75 Main Street  
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

The comment period will end 15 days from the date of this legal notice publication, or distribution of print copies, whichever is later. Written comments can be emailed to [david.robbsins@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:david.robbsins@fema.dhs.gov) or sent to FEMA Regional Environmental Officer, 99 High Street, Boston, MA 02110. If no substantive comments are received, the EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact will be signed. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.