

PUBLIC NOTICE
Federal Emergency Management Agency
In accordance with 44 CFR §9.8 for Executive Orders 11988 & 11990
Proposed Highway Drainage Improvement Project
Steuben County, New York

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA) to provide federal funding to the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) as subrecipient for the proposed upgrade of drainage infrastructure along New York State Route 54A through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDMC) Grant Program. The purpose of the PDMC Grant Program is to reduce overall risk to the population and structures from future hazard events, while also reducing reliance on federal funding in future disasters. This notification is given in accordance with Executive Order (EO) 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order (EO) 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), Federal Coastal Zone Management Act, and 44 CFR Part 9, regulations for implementing EO 11988-11990.

The proposed scope of work will take place along a four-mile stretch of highway and includes reconstructing 2.3 miles of closed drainage, installing 1.2 miles of curbing/gutters, constructing 0.5 miles of open drainage and French drains, and altering large culvert inlets to incorporate an over-topping measure. These actions aim to increase flow efficiencies and protect vulnerable embankment slopes and retaining walls from stormwater runoff, which has repeatedly damaged the highway during past flooding events.

Small segments of the highway are in the special and moderate flood hazard areas, which have a likelihood of flooding once every 100- and 500-years, respectively. The highway is also adjacent to a lake wetland habitat known as Keuka Lake. Alternatives considered include: 1) taking no action or, 2) the proposed alternative, which is the implementation of drainage improvements along the most vulnerable four-mile stretch of Route 54A. FEMA has determined that these improvements are most practicable alternative to ensure that those who utilize the highway are out of harm's way. FEMA has also determined that investment of funds to reduce flood risk is in the public interest. Potential impacts to water quality or aquatic habitat are anticipated to be temporary during construction, and minimized through best management practices and conservation measures incorporated from resource agency recommendations and required regulatory permits.

Comments about this project, potential alternatives, and floodplain impacts may be submitted in writing within 15 days of the date of this publication to: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency – Region II – Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation, Mitigation Division, One World Trade Center, Suite 53, New York, NY 10007 or via email to FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov. If substantive comments are received, FEMA will evaluate and address the comments as part of the environmental documentation for this project.