

Natural Hazards & Climate Change – Implementation Actions (DRAFT 1/15/2026)				
ID	Action Type	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Parties
NH-A1	Capital Improvement / Green Infrastructure	Identify, prioritize, and advance green infrastructure and stormwater retrofit projects in locations experiencing recurring flooding, including rain gardens, permeable paving, and flood storage areas, and incorporate these projects into capital planning, watershed-based implementation strategies, and grant applications.	Short–Medium	Department of Public Works; Department of Community Development
NH-A2	Land Conservation / Natural Systems	Identify and evaluate potential land acquisition opportunities to support future marsh migration and the protection of coastal wetlands in areas vulnerable to sea level rise, including coordination with regional and state partners where wetlands provide shared resilience benefits.	Medium–Long	Department of Community Development; Town Council
NH-A3	Regulatory Review / Zoning & Development	Evaluate existing land use regulations to assess whether climate resilience standards, including impervious cover limits and measures to reduce flood impacts and direct development away from high-risk areas, are adequately addressed, and update regulations as appropriate.	Short–Medium	Department of Community Development; Planning Board; Town Council
NH-A4	Intergovernmental Coordination / Funding	Coordinate with government agencies, partners, and neighboring communities to advance priority resilience projects through grant funding and technical assistance, including projects identified through state and regional resilience studies such as Resilient Rhody and the Route 114 Corridor Resilience Study.	Ongoing	Department of Community Development; Town Administrator
NH-A5	Administration / Floodplain Management	Periodically review Bristol’s Community Rating System activities and identify opportunities to strengthen credited actions related to floodplain management, open space preservation, public information, mapping, etc.	Ongoing	Department of Community Development; Building Official
NH-A6	Transportation / Capital Planning	Evaluate and implement priority resilience strategies identified within Bristol along low-lying segments of Route 114 that experience tidal flooding and storm surge, in order to maintain emergency access, evacuation routes, and regional transportation connectivity (Route 114 Resiliency Study).	Medium–Long	Department of Public Works; Department of Community Development; Town Council
NH-A6a	Transportation / Infrastructure	Elevate a limited segment of Route 114, approximately 350 feet by 2–3 feet, adjacent to Silver Creek to reduce recurring tidal flooding.	Long	Department of Public Works; RIDOT (coordination)
NH-A6b	Infrastructure	Study and evaluate the sizing and performance of the existing culvert at Silver Creek to address roadway flooding concerns while maintaining adequate tidal flushing.	Short	Department of Public Works
NH-A6c	Emergency Planning / Engineering	Commission a detailed engineering study of evacuation routes to evaluate capacity, identify alternative routes, and assess performance during flood events.	Short–Medium	Department of Public Works; Emergency Management
NH-A6d	Transportation / Infrastructure	Install sheet pile cutoff walls along approximately 2,500 feet of Route 114 to reduce the risk of roadway washout during coastal flooding.	Long	Department of Public Works; RIDOT (coordination)
NH-A6e	Transportation / Infrastructure	Install a temporary or deployable flood barrier to address the seawall gap along Route 114 near Walker Creek, where flooding currently enters the roadway at a boat ramp location.	Medium	Department of Public Works
NH-A6f	Public Facilities	Construct an elevated berm or other protective measures to reduce flood risk to the Bristol Wastewater Treatment Facility, which may require consideration of voluntary property acquisitions in the long term.	Long	Department of Public Works; Town Council; Finance

NH-A7	Infrastructure	Evaluate and implement priority adaptation strategies consistent with Ready, Set, Rhody: Strategies to Improve Resilience study for the Thames Street waterfront area, including measures to address coastal inundation and inland penetration flooding within the Bristol Waterfront Historic District.	Short–Long	Department of Community Development; Town Council
NH-A7a	Public Outreach	Coordinate with waterfront property owners and business operators to promote building-scale flood mitigation measures, including temporary and deployable flood barriers.	Ongoing	Department of Community Development
NH-A7b	Emergency Preparedness	Integrate coastal flooding considerations into emergency preparedness, communication, and response planning related to periodic flooding near the Prudence Island Ferry terminal and adjacent roadways.	Short	Emergency Management; Town Administrator
NH-A7c	Funding & Grants	Pursue state and federal funding to support planning, design, and pilot flood-resilience projects within the Thames Street waterfront area.	Ongoing	Department of Community Development; Town Administrator
NH-A7d	Transportation / Infrastructure	Work with ferry operators and state agencies to improve the flood resilience of the Prudence Island Ferry terminal, including elevation or protective measures.	Medium–Long	Department of Public Works; Town Administrator
NH-A8	Operations & Maintenance	Establish a routine program for watercourse and drainage system maintenance in flood-prone areas, including debris removal and channel/culvert clearing where permitted, to improve conveyance and reduce backups during storm events.	Ongoing	Department of Public Works
NH-A9	Public Outreach	Expand participation in emergency notification systems by conducting regular outreach to residents and businesses, especially in flood-prone neighborhoods and waterfront areas, and by promoting sign-ups at Town events and through Town communications.	Ongoing	Emergency Management; Town Administrator
NH-A10	Public Outreach	Maintain and improve public-facing hazard and resilience information through a single, easy-to-find Town webpage that includes flood maps, evacuation information, preparedness guidance, permit requirements in flood zones, and links to local and state resources.	Short–Ongoing	Department of Community Development; Town Administrator