



Town of Bristol, Rhode Island

Department of Community Development

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May 1, 2024

TO: Planning Board
FROM: Diane M. Williamson, Director
RE: **June 4 Workshop – Route 114 Resilience Plan**

This is to invite the Planning Board to the upcoming workshop on June 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Bristol Town Hall as the first of several workshops on the Route 114 Resilience Plan.

The Route 114 Resilience Plan, funded by the RI Division of Statewide Planning with in-kind support from Bristol, Warren and Barrington, is being developed to assess the current and future vulnerability of the Route 114 Corridor and establish concept alternatives for reducing coastal flood risks and improving the overall resilience in key areas of vulnerability. Bristol has two of those areas – at Silver Creek and at Walker Cove.

This first workshop will introduce the public to the project, and present the existing and future conditions analysis. Members of the public can offer their feedback on observations, concerns, and project goals.

See the attached for further information on the project and the project web page.

Thank you.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN:

Rhode Island (RI) State Route 114 is a key north-south regional connector in the state's East Bay transportation network that **serves as the central main street for the communities of Barrington, Bristol, and Warren**, providing important connections between commercial, educational, and residential land uses. Several local and State plans recognize that Route 114 **also serves as a critical evacuation route**, yet the **use and long-term functionality of Route 114 are vulnerable to the current and future impacts of a changing climate**, as the road runs through several low-lying areas along the RI shoreline. Currently, several segments of the Route 114 corridor become periodically inundated during coastal flooding events (see **Figure 1**), and these conditions are only expected to worsen in the future with the increasing rise in sea levels and greater intensity of coastal storms.

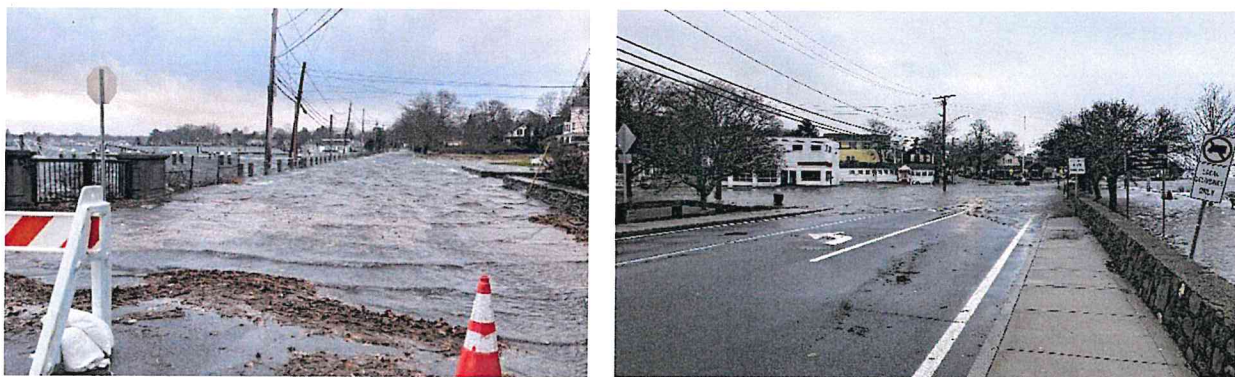


Figure 1: Photos of coastal flooding along Route 114 in Barrington (left) and Bristol (right)

Even temporary disruptions to the use of this state-owned collector road can result in dramatic community impacts, ranging from disconnected neighborhoods for emergency services to the loss of economic production and damage to critical infrastructure. With **support from the Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning** – and the **Towns of Barrington, Bristol, and Warren** – the **Route 114 Resilience Plan** is being developed to: (1) **assess the current and future vulnerability** of the Route 114 corridor through Barrington, Bristol, and Warren and (2) **establish conceptual alternatives for reducing coastal flood risks** and improving overall resilience in key areas of vulnerability (AOVs) throughout the region.

PLANNING GOALS:

The primary goal of this plan is to **engage local, regional, and state stakeholders in developing a purposeful and actionable plan that positions the Barrington, Bristol, and Warren communities to maximize the value of the future investments that will be required to make the Route 114 corridor more resilient to future flooding**. Recognizing the growing scale of funding opportunities that are now available for taking action on addressing climate-related impacts, the focus of this plan is to prioritize actions that support long-term community goals and balance flood risk reduction with potential project costs to generate benefits that create value beyond coastal flood resilience.

PROJECT WEBSITE: <https://planning.ri.gov/planning-areas/climate-change-resilience/resilient-route-114>