

Canal Drive Flooding Advisory Committee
Town Council Workshop Brief
June 22, 2021

The Canal Drive Flooding Advisory Committee was established by Town Council on February 13, 2018. Since establishment, a traffic control ordinance and flood routing plan has been adopted by Town Council, a three point survey and qualitative assessment of private and public bulkheads between the Town Marina and the marina at the North End has been completed, a State of North Carolina monitored tidal and sea level gauging station has been installed on Myrtle Grove Sound (Sandpiper Lane), and initiating legislative proposals for management of long term solutions for tidal flooding have been forwarded to State Legislative Staff, yet the basic health, welfare, and flood damage to private and public properties at the North End continues unabated.

The *Town of Carolina Beach Canal Drive Flooding and Vulnerability Assessment Study*, (Aptim, 2/2019), identifies nine locations along Canal and Florida that are at the root cause for the majority of tidal flooding at the North End. Tidal flow through these locations is the principal factor behind the continued deterioration of pavement on Canal, Florida, and the connector segments between Canal and CBAN, and those that run between Florida and Virginia. Dewatering constraints that are necessary to physically reconstruct water and sewer systems at the North End are the principal reason the Town has had to abandon its planned renovation of underground services and storm water pumps at the North End. Monthly flooding of the existing gravity sewer at the North End continues to compromise the health and welfare of residents and visitors, as well as impede public access to beach parking, restrooms, North End commercial establishments, and Freeman Park. It is the Committee's opinion that immediate action is required to address these nine identified flooding locations.

The Committee is making two recommendations to Town Council:

1. The initial "*Vulnerability Assessment Study*" clearly identifies the weak points of the existing infrastructure for both private and public tidal flood control facilities along Canal and Florida. In order to proceed further, hard cost factors must be generated. This is a fundamental requirement for developing financing options as well as forwarding both short and long range management plans. The Committee is recommending that Town Council authorize Staff to develop an engineering RFP to solicit a cost estimate and hard design recommendations for the nine locations identified in the "*Vulnerability Assessment Study*". (Estimated Cost < \$100,000).
2. Interagency coordination for tidal flood mitigation has proven to be a major obstacle in resolution of our Town's "sunny day" flooding. That is the principal reason the Committee was required to spend an inordinate amount of effort generating a Legislative Initiative for long term solution of the Town's tidal flooding issues. There are two major unresolved elements associated with establishing a legal platform with which to proceed:
 - a. The issues associated with the nine identified locations are nuisance control issues that the Town is likely obligated to correct, i.e., to facilitate reconstruction of sanitary sewers, water supply, storm drains, roadways, and safe accessibility at the North End for emergency services and the general public. The legal elements associated with initiating Town action on this type of nuisance issue are not fully defined, and;

b. The Legislative Initiative that has been developed by the Committee for long term financing and management, cannot, in the Committee's opinion, be effectively forwarded without professional assistance.

The Committee is recommending that Staff be authorized to develop an RFP for solicitation of legal services to thoroughly examine the Town's nuisance abatement options and responsibilities, and to identify the legal and legislative hurdles necessary to implement a long term solution to tidal flooding. (Estimated Cost < \$30,000).

Respectfully submitted,
Canal Drive Flooding Advisory Committee
Dale Walters, Chair