



Authority, Purpose, and Need

STUDY AUTHORITY

The authority for this study is provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Continuing Authorities Program (CAP), Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (Public Law 80-858), as amended. Under this authority, the USACE is authorized to plan, design, and construct small flood risk management projects with structural and nonstructural measures for flood damage reduction in accordance with current policies and procedures governing projects of the same type which are specifically authorized.

STUDY PURPOSE AND NEED

Purpose: Prepare a feasibility study to evaluate potential solutions to manage economic damages from flooding events in the study area while improving resiliency and managing risk to public health, life safety, critical infrastructure, and communities.

Need: The City, its residents, and businesses along the Meherrin River have suffered repeated flood losses associated with large storm events.



FUNDING

Federal funding is limited to \$15 million per project. This includes the feasibility study, design, and implementation (construction). The current feasibility study cost-share = 50% Federal/50% Non-Federal funds.

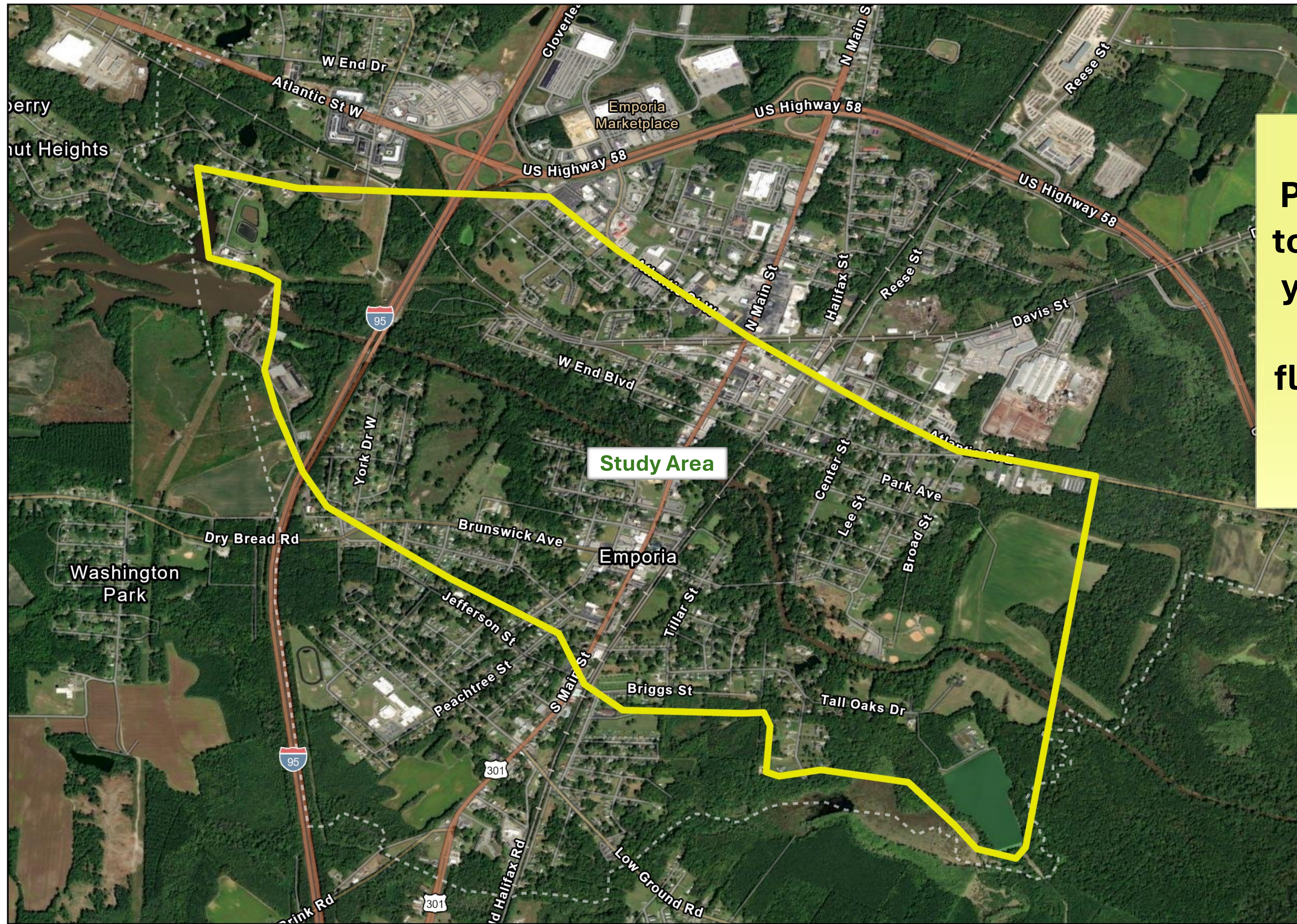
NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR



City of
Emporia
Virginia



Project Website
QR Code



Please use the Post-it notes provided to identify areas where you have experienced issues related to flooding caused by the Meherrin river.

| | | | |
|--|---|----------------|--|
| US Army Corps of Engineers Norfolk District | <h2>Emporia CAP Section 205 Study Study Area</h2> | Study Area | 0 0.25 0.5 Miles PM: Mike Morgan Map: EmporiaCAP205.aprx Developed By: Jared Swallow Date of Map: 12/17/2025 |
|--|---|----------------|--|



Project Website QR Code



National Environmental Policy Act

What is NEPA?

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 1969 as amended:

- ✓ Requires federal agencies to consider and disclose the environmental effects of their proposed actions and **consider public input during the NEPA process.**
- ✓ The **NEPA** process includes both decision making and public involvement.

NEPA Documents:

- **Environmental Assessment (EA)** is prepared if there are no significant impacts anticipated.
- **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** is prepared if significant impacts are anticipated.



What is “Scoping”?

- ✓ “**Scoping**” is the step in the NEPA process when the public is invited to participate in **identifying issues**, alternatives, and potentially significant effects to be considered in the analysis.
- ✓ Helps the USACE with informed decision making.

Ways to submit Scoping Comments

- **Fill out a comment card**
- **Email to**
CENAO-EmporiaCAP@usace.army.mil
- **Mail to:**
US Army Corps of Engineers,
Norfolk District
ATTN: Gina Dotolo
Planning and Policy Branch
803 Front Street, Norfolk, VA 23510

What Environmental Topics will be Considered?

- Environmental Quality
- Changing Conditions
- Cultural and Historic Resources
- Socioeconomics
- Wetlands
- Traffic
- Fish and Wildlife Resources
- Hydrology
- Land Use
- Navigation
- Noise and Vibration
- Recreation
- Protected Species
- Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Materials

Submit
comments by
February 16,
2026



Project Website QR Code



Potential Solutions: Nonstructural Management Measures

Nonstructural management measures focus on reducing the consequences of flooding. These are permanent or contingent measures applied to a building or its contents that prevent or provide resistance to damage from flooding.

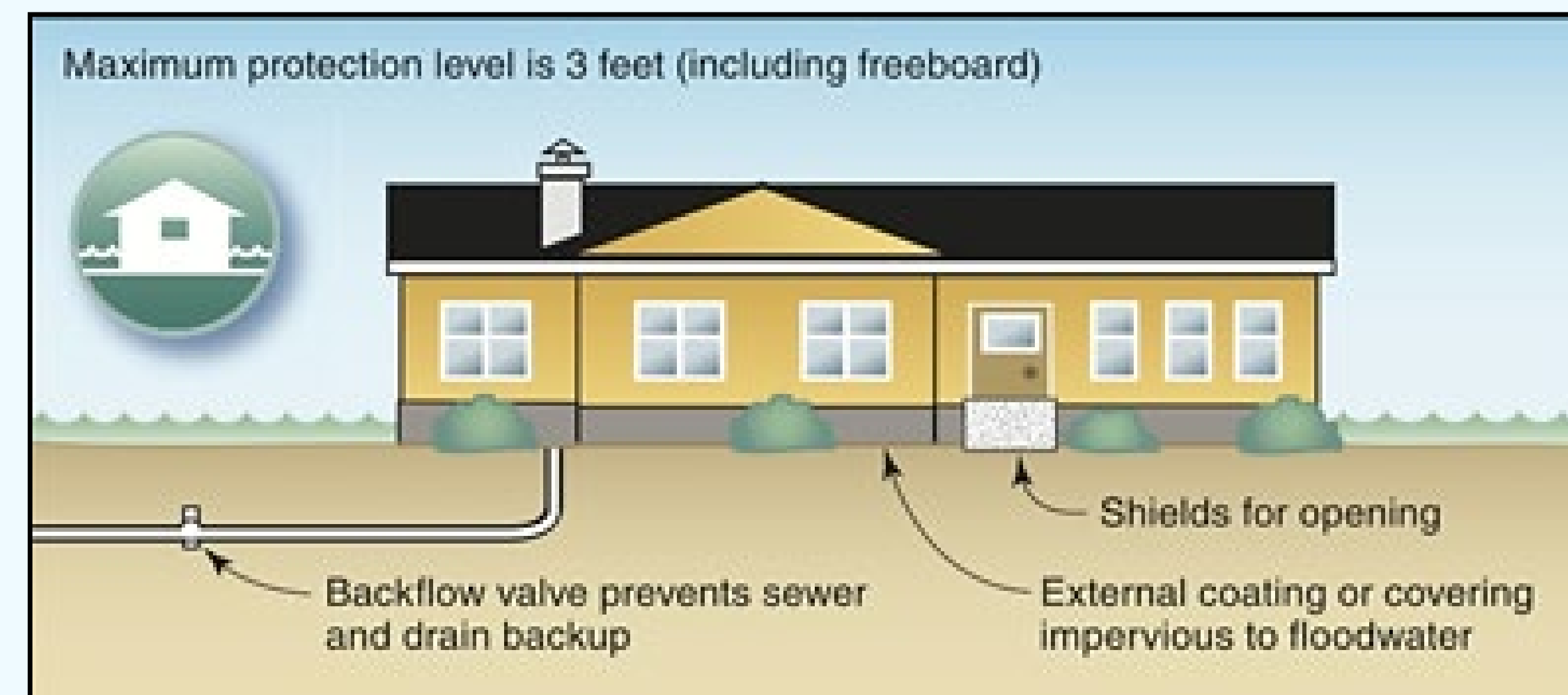
ELEVATION



Residential Structures

- Raises an existing building above flood elevation

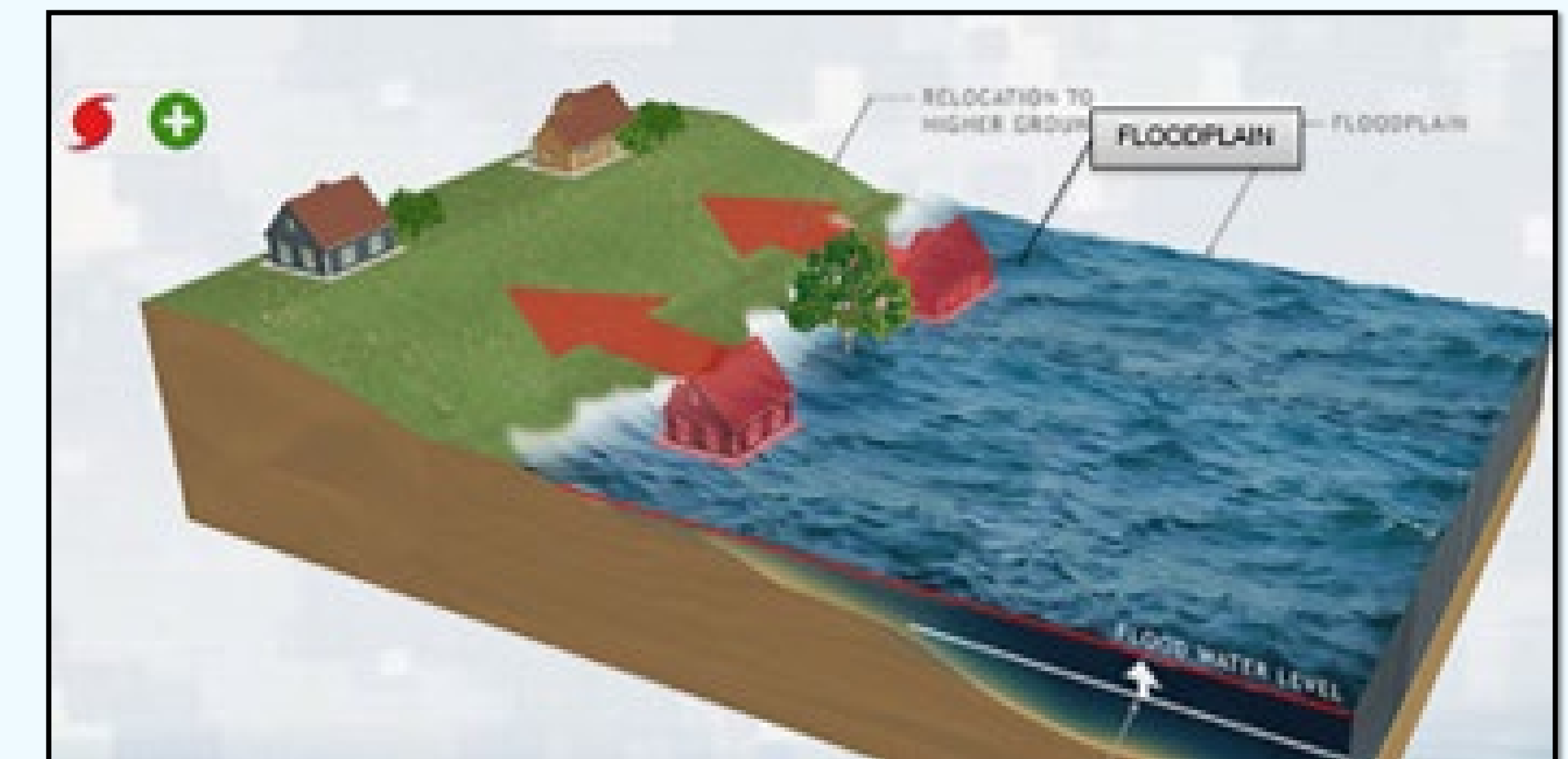
FLOODPROOFING



Commercial Structures

- Wet Floodproofing - floodwaters can enter a building without resulting in damage
- Dry Floodproofing - consists of waterproofing a building to prevent floodwaters from entering

RELOCATION / ACQUISITION

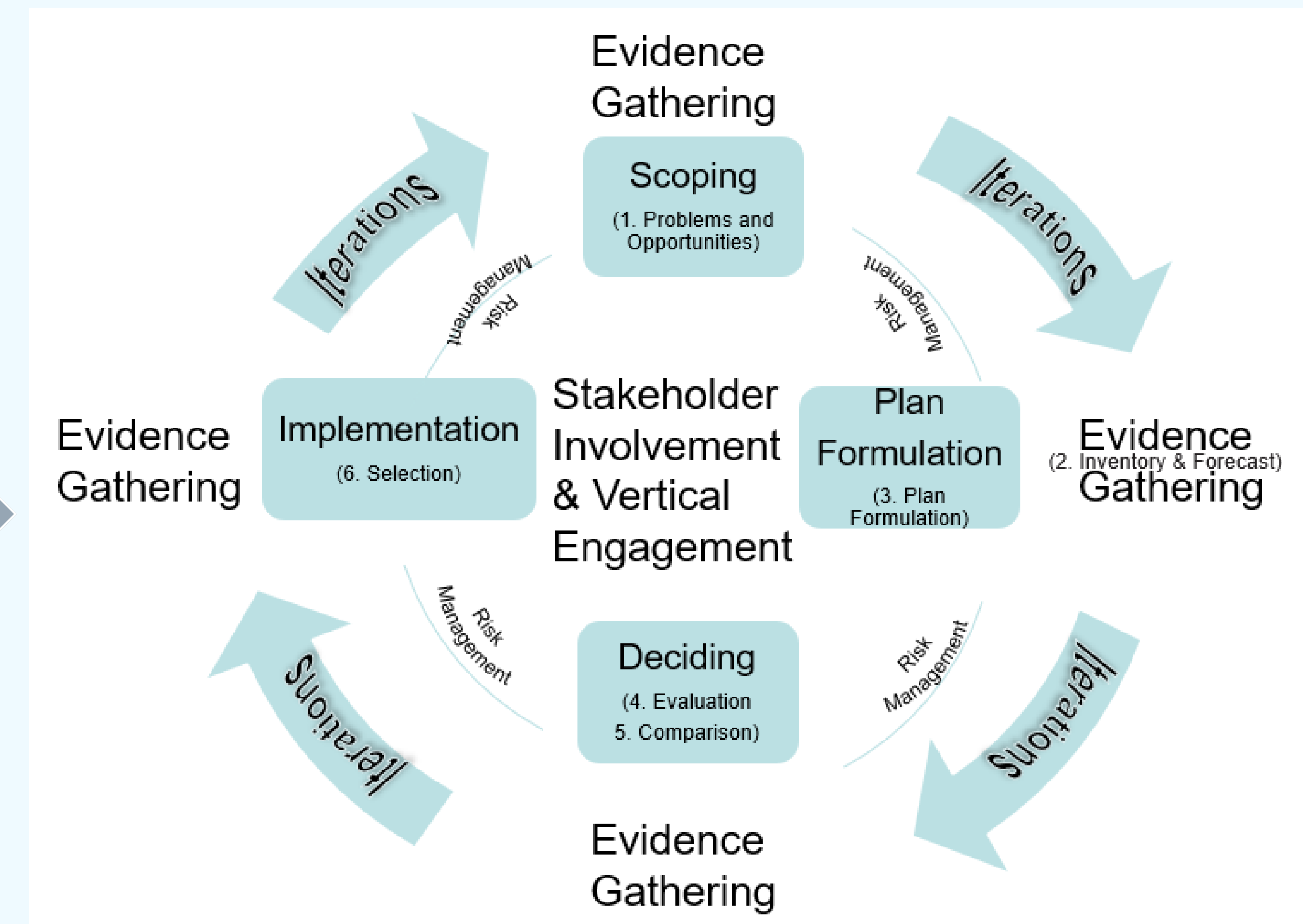
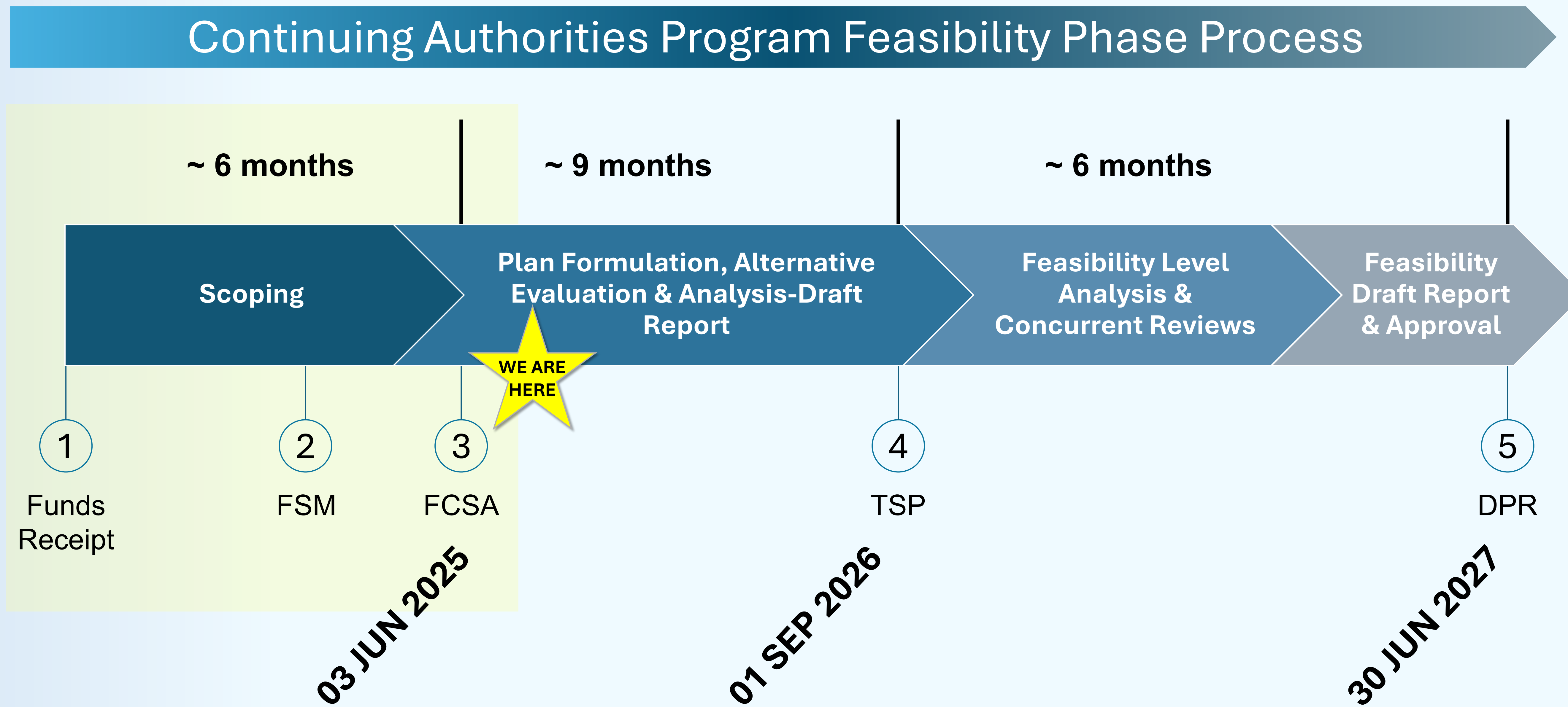


- For at-risk structures located in the Floodplain and/or damage centers
- Purchasing a structure and/or land
- Relocating outside of the flood zone



Study Status & Schedule

Continuing Authorities Program Feasibility Phase Process



STUDY SCHEDULE

| Milestone | Proposed Milestone Date |
|--|-------------------------|
| Feasibility Cost-Sharing Agreement (FCSA) | 03 JUN 2025 |
| NEPA Scoping Period | 15 JAN – 16 FEB 2026 |
| Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) | 01 SEP 2026 |
| Draft Report Release & Public Review (30 Days) | 01 OCT 2026 |
| Final Report Submission | 01 FEB 2027 |
| Final Report Approval | 30 JUN 2027 |



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Plan Formulation

PROBLEMS

- Flooding along the Meherrin River has resulted in economic damages and impacts to residents and businesses.
- Critical infrastructure, residential, recreational, and commercial areas are at risk during flood events.
- The City is allocating resources and increasing budget to manage the flood risk.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve the economic sustainability of the City by managing flood impacts to business operations.
- Improve and preserve recreational opportunities in the City.

OBJECTIVES

- Manage risk to residential and commercial properties due to flood events in the City of Emporia to the extent justified.
- Manage economic damages and impacts incurred by the City and its residents from severe weather events.
- Manage risk to public health, life, and safety from flood events.
- Manage risk to critical infrastructure from flood events.
- Improve resiliency of the local economy and community.
...over the 50-year period of analysis (2029 – 2078).

CONSTRAINTS

- Avoid impacts to the structural integrity and operation of the Emporia Hydroelectric project (dam).
- Avoid impacts to VDOT transportation infrastructure and private trestles crossing the River.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Avoid adverse impacts to cultural and environmental resources.
- Avoid exacerbating water levels and inundation in other areas.
- Avoid encroaching on the FEMA floodway.
- Minimize impacting utilities in the study area.

