



September 14, 2016

**TO:** Flood Authority Members  
**FROM:** Scott Boettcher, Staff  
**SUBJECT:** Bucoda Main Street Regrade Project

Purpose of this memo is to update Flood Authority members on activities pertinent to the Main Street Regrade project since last Flood Authority meeting (7/21/2016). We will discuss this at tomorrow's Flood Authority meeting. Please feel free to call or email if you have questions (i.e., 360/480-6600, [scottb@sbgh-partners.com](mailto:scottb@sbgh-partners.com)).

### **7-21-2016 Flood Authority Meeting**

- Question before the Flood Authority at last Flood Authority meeting was how to proceed with the Main Street Regrade Project in light of the fact that the scale, bulk, cost and complexity of the project were substantially more than originally scoped (price now ~\$8M).
- See meeting presentation here [https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/\\_1492/images/Flood%20Authority%20Presentation%202016-7-21.pdf](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/Portals/_1492/images/Flood%20Authority%20Presentation%202016-7-21.pdf)
- Direction out of last Flood Authority meeting was to pursue additional information about alternate emergency routes and means of aiding Town citizens in times of emergency.

### **Options Being Explored**

Mayor Carr reports two options are being pursued at the moment that are alternatives to the Main Street Regrade Project and serve to aid and protect Town citizens. These are:

1. **Water Rescue Training** – Thurston County Sheriff's Office and the Town Fire Department are in conversation about a limited and specific training to enable Fire Department Staff to enter flood waters for purposes of rescue. Presently Fire Department Staff are not trained in water rescue and as such are not allowed to perform such. The training being discussed would be specific to the need to bring people from the south of Town to the north of Town. It would not be the more extensive, full training associated with swift-water rescue (all scenarios).



2. **Abandoned Roadway** – In the 1920's Bucoda (or Thurston County??) abandoned a roadway that connected to Crowder Road (north of Town). This abandoned roadway, if reopened in a limited capacity, could provide a way out of town in times of emergency. In addition to town being separate by rising floodwaters into a north half and a south half, the community as a whole is vulnerable to not being able to leave if the railroad track is blocked (e.g., stalled or derailed train) and access to 507 is not possible. Bucoda will pursue a grant through Thurston Regional Planning Council to secure resources to research easements and right-of-way to see if reopening the road in a limited capacity is even possible. Grant proposals are due 10/07/2016. [Note: Limited capacity could mean for only emergencies, recreation and major recreation event like the STP.]

### Recommendation

Staff recommends no action at this moment on whether or not to proceed with any further activities on the Main Street Regrade Project until we learn more about the results of the Water Rescue Training and Abandoned Roadway described above.

Staff should provide an update at next Flood Authority meeting.