

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Pawleys Island has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program funding through South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) as a sub-recipient.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990, FEMA is required to consider alternatives, and to provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Sub-Applicant: Town of Pawleys Island

Project Title: Project Number 702821 - Access Point Walk Platform; PA-04-SC-4677-PW-00105

Location of Proposed Work:

Facility	Address	Latitude	Longitude	Date of Construction
First Street Beach Access Path	1 Street Access & Atlantic Avenue, South Carolina 29585	Start GPS: 33.43524, - 79.11814	End GPS: 33.43517, - 79.11788	2017

Special Flood Hazard Area Zone:

This project is for the repair of a beach access path located in the Town of Pawleys Island. The project is located within a VE and AE Flood Zone. Confirmation of location in a Flood Zone was determined by the **Georgetown** County Effective Flood Insurance Rate Map, Panel Number 45043C0390G, dated 05/09/2023. The proposed work conforms to all applicable State of South Carolina and local floodplain regulations. There is a potential for the facility to be impacted by future flooding events due to its location within the VE and AE Flood Zone. The proposed work will take place in designated wetlands, per the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

The Town of Pawleys Island plans to conduct repairs at the First Street Beach Access Path Site by replacing the wooden walkway with a 50 foot long by 10-foot-wide Semi-Rigid Nonslip Polyester Mobi-Mat.

Project Alternatives:

Alternative #1 (No Action): The 'no action' alternative would ultimately result in a negative impact on

the Town of Pawleys Island because the beach access path provides an access point for the beach. The ‘no action’ alternative would leave the beach access path damaged and would endanger the health and safety of the public who utilize the access path. Therefore, the ‘no action’ alternative is not a practicable solution.

Alternative # 2 (Repair back to pre-disaster conditions): The repair of the beach walkway back to pre-disaster conditions was considered. This alternative would return the facility back to its pre-disaster conditions. However, this is not a practicable alternative because it does not address how future damages would be prevented in future storm or flooding events. Furthermore, in comparison to the mobi-mat alternative, the repairs of the walkway back to pre-disaster conditions would not be as cost effective. Therefore, this alternative is not the most practicable alternative.

Alternative # 3 (Replacement of the beach access path with a mobi-mat): The replacement of the beach access path with a mobi-mat was considered. This alternative is the most practicable alternative for the project because it would return the facility back to its pre-disaster functions while also being cost effective in comparison to repairing the beach walkway. Furthermore, the installation of the mobi-mat would allow for the continued usage of the beach access path and would allow for safe access for visitors and promote open space usage and recreation which are beneficial values to the floodplain. The mobi-mat would also be ADA compliant and would provide easy access for persons with disabilities to access the beach front. In addition, the portability of the mobi-mat would be more cost effective in the long-term because the Town of Pawleys Island would be able to remove the mat prior to storm events and thus prevent damage and incurring additional costs due to the need to repair the facility. Due to this alternative being cost effective and ADA compliant, this alternative is the most practicable alternative.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to:

FEMA Internal 11988 Reviewer
FEMA Region 4
3005 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, Georgia, 30341

Alternatively, comments may be emailed to: FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Please send comments with the subject line [DR-4677-SC-00105 11988 COMMENT].

All comments are due by no later than 30 days of the posted date of this notice.

POSTED ON: May 19, 2023

End of Notice