

Rocky Ripple Town Council
Flood Control Stance and Activities Summary
04-Mar-2022



INTRODUCTION

Since 2017, when a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with the Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Rocky Ripple Town Council enacted a resolution to proceed with “Alternative 3”, which offers 100 year flood protection for the town of Rocky Ripple, while not taking down any homes, the Rocky Ripple Town Council has worked closely with the DPW team to move the floodwall project forward.

RECENT CHANGES PROPOSED BY DPW

In December 2021, Rocky Ripple was made aware that DPW had determined that due to material price and construction cost increases, the floodwall plan costs had increased from an estimated \$70 million to over \$90 million, which was above the cost threshold that DPW could allow for the project. DPW therefore proposed to reduce costs by replacing some of the more expensive combi-wall parts of the floodwall design with a less costly earthen levee. The earthen levee requires a much larger footprint than the combi-wall and thus the revised plan calls for the removal of 10 homes along the southern portion of the river, one home just south of the town hall, two homes at 54th and Byram and the Rocky Ripple town hall.

DPW has stated that this option was chosen because it provides the needed cost reductions for the project while continuing to protect the largest number of citizens and homes in Rocky Ripple.

ROCKY RIPPLE TOWN COUNCIL POSITION ON CHANGES PROPOSED BY DPW

The Rocky Ripple Town Council continues to support that rebuilding and improvement of our river levee must be first and foremost pursued for the protection of our homes and residents. The best path forward for this crucial flood protection of our town is the continued partnership with Butler University and the City of Indianapolis to pursue local floodwall options outlined in the previously enacted Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the RR Town Council, Butler University, and the City of Indianapolis to provide flood protection for Rocky Ripple on 14-Mar-2017.

However, the Rocky Ripple Town Council is now charged with making the decision as to whether to accept and proceed with the revised floodwall protection plan subsequently presented by DPW in January, 2022.

As this proposed path forward is in direct contrast with the previous plan formally approved in 2018 with regard to the demolition of homes, the Town Council has not at this time agreed to move forward with this revised plan and requires additional information from DPW in order to make an informed decision on best path forward for this project.

The Rocky Ripple Town Council has been in discussion with DPW regarding the proposed changes but has not yet received answers to important questions regarding the plan. Pending questions include what alternatives that were specifically considered and ruled out, costs associated with those alternatives versus the option proposed, what will be done with affected property after it is acquired, can some affected homeowners move homes rather than demolish them, and what is the proposed plan to replace the current town hall.

In addition, Rocky Ripple Town Councilors have repeatedly asked for and have to date not yet received the following from DPW on the project: 1) a detailed cost breakdown of the project and how it will be financed through the enacted flood control district that was established to pay for it and maintain the floodwall after it is completed and 2) a signed Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) that establishes the responsibilities of City of Indianapolis DPW, Butler University and Town of Rocky Ripple with regard to the project. The previous Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Rocky Ripple with the city for the floodworks projected expired in July 2021.

At this time, Rocky Ripple Town Councilors await the information requested and answers to questions on the PCA detailed above from DPW in order to determine path forward for this project. The Town Council appreciates everyone's patience while we work to obtain the required information.

The Town Council discusses these flood control activities during regular monthly meetings with DPW and at Rocky Ripple Town Council meetings that follow. To stay up to date, you can attend the meetings, read the posted minutes or contact a board member. Please visit rockyripple.in.gov for more information.

Your Rocky Ripple Town Council strongly encourages you voice your views about the changes proposed to this crucial initiative for our community, as officials need to hear from you, not just us.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Let city, state, federal legislators know your viewpoints regarding flood protection for Rocky Ripple and request that DPW/City of Indianapolis provide detailed answers to questions regarding the current proposed floodworks project and related project cost estimates so that the Rocky Ripple Community at large understands the rationale for what can/will be done and allows for Rocky Ripple Town Councilors to make an informed decision regarding the future of this initiative.

- Contact the Rocky Ripple Town Council to let them know your viewpoints. We are in close contact with and have discussions frequently with the riverfront residents that will be directly affected by the floodwall project. We would much like to hear from those of you that do not live directly on the river, as well:

Megan Hulland meganhulland@rockyripple.in.gov
Mandy Redmond mandyredmond@rockyripple.in.gov
Randy Sanders randysanders@rockyripple.in.gov

- Contact the Department of Public Works (DPW):

Daniel Parker, Director, City of Indianapolis Department of Public Works
2501 City-County Building
200 E. Washington Street, Suite 2460
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Daniel.Parker@indy.gov
Ph: 317-327-7837

Michael Massonne, Program Manager, Rocky Ripple Floodworks Project
Department of Public Works – Division of Engineering
1200 S. Madison Ave., Suite 200
Indianapolis, IN 46225
Michael.Massonne@indy.gov
Ph: 317-445-1130

Board of Public Works Members:

- Daniel Parker (Department Chair) – contact info listed above
 - Daniel Haake
 - Nicole Martinez LeGrand
 - Priscilla Keith
 - Robert Parrin
 - Sibeko Jywanza
 - Susie Cordi
- Contact Other City Officials:

John Barth, District 7 City-County Council Representative
City-County Building
200 E. Washington St. Suite T241
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Ph: 317-902-1453
John.Barth@indy.gov

The Honorable Joe Hogsett
Mayor of Indianapolis
2501 City-County Building
200 E. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Ph: 317-327-3601

Vop Osili, President of the Indianapolis City-County Council
133 W. Market, Unit 184
Indianapolis, IN 46204
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- Contact State and Federal Officials:

State Senator Greg Taylor
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Ph: 800-382-9467

U. S. Senator Todd Young
251 N. Illinois St. Suite 120
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Ph: 317-226-6700

State Representative Gregory Porter
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Ph: 800-382-9842

U. S. Senator Mike Braun
115 N. Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Ph: 317-822-8240

U. S. Representative Andre Carson
300 E. Fall Creek Parkway N. Dr Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46205
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We hope you have found this information helpful.

Sincerely,

Mandy Redmond

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Randy Sanders