

planning tasks specific to their department or agency. For example, completing the Local Capability Self-Assessment or seeking approval of specific mitigation actions for their department or agency to undertake and include in their Mitigation Action Plan. These meetings were informal and are not documented here.

Public meetings are summarized in subsection 2.6.

**Table 2.7 – Summary of HMPC Meetings**

Meeting Title	Meeting Topic	Meeting Date	Meeting Location
HMPC Mtg. #1 – Project Kickoff	1) Introduction to DMA, CRS, and FMA requirements and the planning process 2) Review of HMPC responsibilities and the project schedule.	September 19, 2024 3 p.m.	Whitted Building 300 West Tryon Street, Hillsborough
HMPC Mtg. #2	1) Review Draft Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment (HIRA)	December 9, 2024 10 a.m.	Microsoft Teams
HMPC Mtg. #3	1) Discuss changes in capability 2) Review and update plan goals and objectives 3) Report on status of actions from the 2020 plan 4) Discuss new mitigation action alternatives	February 11, 2025 10 a.m.	Microsoft Teams
HMPC Mtg. #4	1) Review the Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan 2) Solicit comments and feedback	April 3, 2025 10 a.m.	Microsoft Teams

## 2.6 INVOLVING THE PUBLIC

An important component of any mitigation planning process is public participation. Individual citizen and community-based input provides the entire planning team with a greater understanding of local concerns and increases the likelihood of successfully implementing mitigation actions by developing community “buy-in” from those directly affected by the decisions of public officials. As citizens become more involved in decisions that affect their safety, they are more likely to gain a greater appreciation of the hazards present in their community and take the steps necessary to reduce their impact. Public awareness is a key component of any community’s overall mitigation strategy aimed at making a home, neighborhood, school, business, or entire planning area safer from the potential effects of hazards.

Public involvement in the development of the plan was sought using various methods including open public meetings, an interactive plan website, a public participation survey, and by making copies of draft plan documents available for public review online and at government offices. Additionally, all HMPC meetings were made open to the public.

All public meetings were advertised on the plan website and on local community websites, where possible. Copies of meeting announcements are provided in Appendix B. The public meetings held during the planning process are summarized in Table 2.8.

**Table 2.8 – Summary of Public Meetings**

Meeting Title	Meeting Topic	Meeting Date	Meeting Location
Public Meeting #1	1) Introduction to DMA, CRS, and FMA requirements and the planning process 2) Explanation of mitigation 3) Review of the project schedule 4) Review of hazard identification	September 19, 2024 5 p.m.	Whitted Human Services Building, 300 West Tryon Street, Hillsborough
Public Meeting #2	1) Review “Draft” Hazard Mitigation Plan 2) Solicit comments and feedback	April 9, 2025 5 p.m.	Microsoft Teams

## 2.7 OUTREACH EFFORTS

The HMPC agreed to employ a variety of public outreach methods including established public information mechanisms and resources within the community. The table below details public outreach efforts employed during the preparation of this plan.

**Table 2.9 – Public Outreach Efforts**

Location	Date	Event/Message
Plan website	Ongoing	Meeting announcements, meeting materials, and description of hazards; contact information provided to request additional information and/or provide comments
Local community websites	September 2024	Public Meeting #1 announcements posted with summary of the plan purpose and process
Local community websites	September 2024, December 2024	Link to the plan website and public survey shared to expand reach
Public survey	September – December 2024	Survey hosted online and made available via shareable link
Plan website - HIRA draft	December 2024	Draft HIRA made available for review and comment online
Plan website - Draft Plan	April 2025	Full draft plan made available for review and comment online
Local community websites	April 2025	Public Meeting #2 announcements posted with request for comments on the draft plan

As detailed above, public involvement activities for this plan update included press releases, creation of a website for the plan, a public survey, and the collection of public and stakeholder comments on the draft plan. Documentation of these activities is provided in Appendix B.

A public outreach survey was made available in September 2024 and remained open for response until December 2024. The public survey requested public input into the Hazard Mitigation Plan planning process and the identification of mitigation activities to lessen the risk and impact of future hazard events. The survey is shown in Appendix B. The survey was available online on the plan website. In total, 144 responses were received via the online survey.

The following is a list of high-level summary results derived from survey responses:

- Responses were received from residents of all participating communities as well as individuals who live outside of the region but live or recreate in the region.

- 39% of people said they have experienced a hazard or disaster in the Eno-Haw region. However, 55% of respondents, moderately to highly concerned about future hazard events. Regardless of past experience, concern about hazard impacts are moderate; 45% of all respondents rated their concern at 4 or 5 out of 5.
- People were asked to rate the risk of each hazard identified in the region. Severe weather, extreme heat, and flood were rated the highest risk hazards. Earthquake, dam failure, and landslide were rated the lowest risk hazards.
- Regarding flood risk, 72% of people say their home is not located in a floodplain, and another 8% of people say their home is outside of the floodplain but they still experience flooding. Only 5% of respondents reported that their home was in a floodplain.
- 9% of respondents have flood insurance. Of those who do not have flood insurance (84%), 63% say that is because their home is elevated or otherwise protected.
- 47% of respondents have taken actions to protect their home or neighborhood from hazards. Reported actions include trimming trees, cleaning debris around property, cleaning gutters and drains, installing French drains, having a generator, and knowing evacuation routes.
- Almost 70% of respondents do not know which government office to contact for more information on hazard risks and how to reduce vulnerability.
- All mitigation categories were rated as important, with most ranked as 1 or 2 out of 6 on a scale where 1 is most important and 6 is least important. The most preferred categories were prevention, natural resource protection, and emergency services. 97 people responded with steps the local government could take to reduce hazard risk. These responses were shared with the HMPC to assist in identifying new mitigation actions.

Detailed survey results are provided in Appendix B.

## 2.8 INVOLVING THE STAKEHOLDERS

In addition to representatives of each participating jurisdiction, the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee included a variety of stakeholders. Some residents and stakeholders were able to represent underserved communities and vulnerable populations. Stakeholders on the HMPC included representatives from the Duke University, Preservation Durham, University of North Carolina, American Red Cross, and local CERT and Stormwater Advisory Boards. Input from additional stakeholders, including neighboring communities, was solicited through invitations to the open public meetings, distribution of the public survey, and review of the draft plan. Documentation and details of this effort are provided in Appendix B. Additional stakeholders could also participate through the public survey, however, that information is unknown due to the anonymous nature of the survey.

## 2.9 DOCUMENTATION OF PLAN PROGRESS

Progress on the mitigation strategy developed in the previous plan is documented in this plan update. Table 2.10 below details the status of mitigation actions from the previous plan. More detail on these actions is provided in Section 6: Mitigation Strategy.

**Table 2.10 – Status of Previous Mitigation Actions**

Jurisdiction	Completed	Deleted	Carried Forward
Alamance County	6	1	17
City of Burlington	0	1	18