Design and technical guide for implementing innovative municipal scale coastal resilience in Southern Connecticut

Alexander J. Felson, Urban Ecology and Design Lab (UEDLAB), Yale School of Architecture; and Alex Felson Landscape Architect (APLA)

Robert O. Mendelsohn, Edwin Waytehauser Davis Professor of Forest Policy; Yale School of Forestry and Professor of Economics; and Professor, School of Management

Carl Amersfo, Eugene Linhardt, and Rebecca Andrus. South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCKDG)

Except where labeled, all of the drawings and maps were prepared by UEDLAB for the Nature Conservancy as part of the Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience in South Central Connecticut with the SCKDG. The Plan is part of the United States Department of the Interior Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resilience Competitive Grant, October 2015. Drawings by Timothy Tremain and Alex Felson with Yale Architecture students.

REGIONAL FRAMEWORK

OVERVIEW

Coastal adaptation and resilience planning at the municipal scale face multiple challenges. Town planners are concerned with the tax base that coastal developments support, and, therefore, seek solutions that minimize impacts on the tax base. At the same time, they must address climate issues such as increased storm and flood events, increased sea-level rise and storm surges. There are severe challenges in transitioning from planning to implementation, which range from lack of communication and decision tools, gaps in linking urban, landscape, and coastal planning, insufficiencies in the current design process, and a misalignment of the objectives and timelines across the different disciplines.

The proposal seeks to overcome some of these challenges by bringing practitioners, planners, and policymakers together, through collaborations with communities, and through the development of decision-making frameworks. The proposal is to help municipalities develop strategies to reduce the impacts and costs of climate change. This requires a collaborative and iterative development process that involves a number of stakeholders.

The Resilience Corridor and West Haven plan is designed to provide a guide for the development of a corridor that includes a range of coastal features, including roads, transportation, and development of a corridor that is designed to accommodate equitably.

WILMINGTON

REASSURANCE

RESILIENCE CORRIDOR

AFLA, Alex Felson Landscape Architect with Kate Hagemann, National Disaster Resilience Competition, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Connecticut application, October 2015. Drawings by Andy Sternad and Alex Felson.

Resilience Corridors are urban redevelopment corridors designed as an extension of traditional development to improve transportation, utilities, stormwater, and habitat through ecosystem development. Resilience corridors respond to Connecti’s complex geology and topography, building on strategies developed along the coast and existing access to sustainable community development. Resilience Corridors provide an investment strategy for key areas in the region, and they can facilitate the development of sustainable corridors along the coast. They function as local emergency response hubs and extend the sustainability of coastal communities.