

## Workshop 4 | Feedback FAQ

*We want to thank everyone again who participated in the final workshop of the Resilient Edgemere Community Planning Initiative on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and to those who provided written comments following the workshop, as well as all of those who have participated in the Initiative throughout the process. We recognize that we could have been clearer about certain aspects of the draft plan during the most recent workshop and in the materials we distributed. The materials represented components of a full neighborhood planning document that is still being finalized.*

*Below is an FAQ to clarify some of the comments, issues, and concerns we heard most frequently at the workshop and in written feedback that followed. We hope you will continue to actively engage with this planning process.*

### Coastal Protection

**Q. Why are projects involving coastal protection for Edgemere planned for the long-term, although we need solutions now?**

A. There is no silver bullet solution that will fully protect Edgemere from future flooding. However, this plan contains numerous projects intended to mitigate flooding in Edgemere. Many of these will complete construction within the next 1-5 years.

The first step is building Edgemere's Raised Shoreline, which will address the impact of sea-level rise and climate change. This project will be completed in 1-5 years and was incorrectly described as a 5-10 year project on the boards displayed at the workshop. We apologize for this error. Other projects that will address coastal protection in the short-term can be viewed in the implementation matrix found [here](#) on the *Resilient Edgemere* website.

Medium- and long-term coastal protection projects are also already in the works. These include the neighborhood drainage study, which will lay out improvements to alleviate flooding from the sewer system. The drainage study is scheduled to begin in spring 2017, and it will likely take several years to implement the study's recommendations.

Lastly, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is evaluating where a barrier within Jamaica Bay can be constructed to mitigate flooding from storms like Hurricane Sandy. Information about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project can be found [here](#) on the *Atlantic Coast of New York, East Rockaway Inlet to Rockaway Inlet, and Jamaica Bay Reformulation Study* website.

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### Housing

**Q. Why is the City proposing mid- to high-density housing with low-income units?**

A. New housing in the neighborhood will serve households with a variety of income levels. The homeownership projects will be for moderate-income households, and the multi-family buildings will be mixed income.

We heard from the Edgemere community on housing needs at public workshops and through a feedback form sent to all Edgemere residents. Based on this feedback, we learned that mixed-income, mid-rise housing (approximately 6 floors) is appropriate adjacent to the A-train line and near train stations, including along the Rockaway Beach Boulevard corridor. We also heard that the community desires density and building styles that are sensitive to existing, nearby homeowners’ quality of life and property values. If these mid-rise developments move forward, the City will engage the community to ensure the designs meet these preferences.

### Mobility and Transit

**Q. Infrastructure/Transportation is insufficient today, why is more housing proposed before addressing the capacity and reliability of streets and public transit today?**

A. There are variety of projects that address scaling up transportation and improving transit service and reliability in the next 1-5 years (from implementation matrix):

| Project   | Lead Agency                          | Partners                                      | Timeline     | Status      |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--------------|-------------|
| 3.5 Implement Q52/Q53 Select Bus Service  | NYC Dept. of Transportation          | MTA, HPD                                      | 1 to 5 years | In progress |
| 3.6 Extend the Q52 route further east   | NYC Dept. of Transportation          | MTA, HPD                                      | 1 to 5 years | In progress |
| 3.7 Study and propose improvements to bus stop locations for the Q22 bus  | NYC Dept. of Transportation          | MTA, HPD                                      | 1 to 5 years | In progress |
| 3.8 Expand the rush hour moratorium on opening the South Channel Bridge for marine traffic to improve A train reliability | U.S. Coast Guard                     | New York City Transit, Councilmember's Office | 1 to 5 years | Proposal    |
| 3.13 Launch Citywide Ferry service to Lower Manhattan from Beach 108th Street   | NYC Economic Development Corporation | DOT, NYC Parks                                | 1 to 5 years | In progress |

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NYCDOT and HPD are working collaboratively on a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant to study how the City can provide better access to opportunity via mobility improvements throughout the Eastern Rockaways, including vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic, as a long-term capital vision.

Additionally, a new EDC-managed ferry service will serve the Rockaway peninsula beginning in 2017, providing a water-based transit alternative.

### Services and Amenities

**Q. Why is expanding access to quality retail not an immediate priority for the next 1-5 years?**

A. We heard throughout the planning process that additional retail is a priority for the Edgemere community. As a result, retail space will be included in many of the new affordable residential buildings that will be built as part of the Resilient Edgemere Community Plan. We will also increase opportunities for quality retail by pursuing rezonings of several City-owned sites that currently do not allow retail uses.

The plan also calls for developing business recruitment and retention strategies for Edgemere that could help strengthen and diversify the neighborhood retail mix.

### Projects Outside of Edgemere

**Q. Why are projects outside of Edgemere included, like the supermarket at Beach 54<sup>th</sup> Street? Shouldn't Edgemere funding stay in Edgemere?**

A. Although this supermarket is outside of the Edgemere community we think it is important to highlight as a project, since Edgemere residents will benefit from a new grocery store nearby.

This project is not taking funds away from other projects in the Resilient Edgemere Community Plan. The grocery store is a separately funded project led by the New York City Housing Authority, Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, and Asian Americans for Equality.