



River Road Project

Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

Oxford County, Maine

Hiram, ME - Along the Saco River on River Road, the river bank eroded within 2 feet of the roadway's edge. The shoulder was too narrow even for guard rails. Northbound traffic in the winter was in danger of sliding directly into the river. Each heavy rain event made the situation worse.



The Town of Hiram recognized that if no action was taken, the entire road would be lost. Also, the continued erosion along the road threatened Central Maine Powers Hiram Fall Dam, which is immediately downstream. The Town was awarded Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds for this project in December 1997. The Town subsequently closed a 1,170 foot section of road, moved it 30 feet back from its location on the river, and elevated that section 8 to 10 feet.

The project was completed in May 1998. In June 1998, more than 10 inches of heavy rain caused flooding across central Maine. The relocated section of the River Road was not damaged and remained open to traffic. The project is expected to save the Town and its residents \$772,055 in avoided damages, including loss due to dam failure.

Standard Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flood damage. The National Flood Insurance Program makes Federally backed flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners in participating communities.

Activity/Project Location

Geographical Area: **Single County in a State**

FEMA Region: **Region I**

State: **Maine**

County: **Oxford County**

Key Activity/Project Information

Sector: **Public**

Hazard Type: **Severe Storm; Flooding**

Activity/Project Type: **Flood Control; Land Use/Planning**

Activity/Project Start Date: **12/1997**

Activity/Project End Date: **06/1998**

Funding Source: **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); Local Sources**

Funding Recipient: **Local Government**

Funding Recipient Name: **Town of Hiram**

Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost: **\$103,298.00 (Actual)**

Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal
Disaster? **Unknown**

Value Tested By Disaster? **Yes**

Tested By Federal Disaster #: **No Federal Disaster specified**

Year First Tested: **1998**

Repetitive Loss Property? **Unknown**

Reference URLs

Reference URL 1: <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/>

Reference URL 2: <http://www.state.me.us/mema/>

Main Points

- Closed a 1,170 foot section of road, moved it 30 feet back from its location on the river, and elevated that section 8 to 10 feet.
- The project was completed in May 1998. In June 1998, more than 10 inches of heavy rain caused flooding across central Maine.
- The project is expected to save the Town and its residents \$772,055 in avoided damages, including loss due to dam failure.