



# FEMA

## *Mitigation Prevents Bridge Damage West Virginia Homeowners Relieved*

**Charleston, WV** – Many West Virginia homeowners and businesses took steps after previous floods to make their property more secure from flood damage. Some of those efforts were tested in the latest floods and landslides that began Memorial Day weekend. It isn't only individuals and businesses that can make property more resistant to floods. Local and State governments also can take mitigation action.

Public assistance or "infrastructure" mitigation takes many forms, but one of the most successful has been upgrading flood-damaged bridges when they are being replaced because of flood damage.

In Cabell County, a bridge on Route 9 over Trace Fork had to be replaced after a flood heavily damaged it in June, 2003. The new bridge, constructed at a cost of \$92,450, is made of concrete and steel. Flood debris, including tree trunks, is still clinging to the sides of the bridge from the Memorial Day floods, but the bridge itself was undamaged.

After a flood in November 2003, FEMA and West Virginia officials began a \$30,000 project to improve a bridge on Route 5 over Manila Creek in Putnam County.

Thick concrete wings were added to the bridge abutments protecting the approaches from floodwaters, which in the past had washed away the approach road. The storms and floods that began Memorial Day weekend in West Virginia did not damage the Manila Creek Bridge.

There have been more than 60 bridge improvement projects in 32 West Virginia counties since the floods of 2001. In the majority of those projects, damaged or destroyed wooden bridges were replaced with concrete and steel structures. The total cost for those improvements was \$8.6 million. FEMA provided 75 percent and the state 25 percent of the cost of the projects. Officials said all the improved bridges survived the recent floods with little or no damage.



Multiple Counties,  
West Virginia



### Quick Facts

Sector:

**Public**

Cost:

**Amount Not Available**

Primary Activity/Project:

**Flood Control**

Primary Funding:

**Other FEMA funds/ US Department of  
Homeland Security**