

## ADDENDUM #1

To: All Proposal Holders

Date: April 21, 2026

From: Tyler Dombroski, Director  
Community Development Program  
SEDA-Council of Governments  
201 Furnace Road  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
570-524-4491

### **Project: Columbia County Flood Mitigation Projects and Columbia County West End Flood Risk Management Systems**

This Addendum forms a part of the Request for Proposals and Qualifications (RFP/RFQ) and modifies the original RFP/RFQ, dated April 1, 2026, as noted below. All proposers must sign and return the attached Acknowledgement of Receipt of Addendum. Acknowledgement of Receipt is required to ensure consideration of the proposal. Failure to do so may subject the proposer to disqualification.

April 13th, 2026  
RFP/RFQ  
Engineering Pre-Bid Meeting

Mr. Dombroski opened the meeting at approximately 2:00 PM.

1. Mr. Dombroski gave an overview of the scope of work contained in the RFP/RFQ. Underscoring years of flood history in Bloomsburg, successful efforts to achieve flood risk mitigation in Bloomsburg, and previous unsuccessful efforts in the West End of Bloomsburg.

Mr. Dombroski reviewed the current study efforts that have taken place to date for the projects and emphasized that efforts to achieve flood protection in the West End of Bloomsburg are as strong as that they have been in a very long time.

Mr. Dombroski reviewed the Fort McClure Boulevard Road Reconfiguration Project, which the Town of Bloomsburg recently received funding for (not included in this RFP/RFQ scope of work).

Nate Bevan of Benish Engineering was indicated as the point of contact for this project.

Mr. Dombroski noted the anticipated construction schedule and its anticipated overlap with the Route 11 Profile Adjustment Project. Contained as an appendix to this RFP/RFQ Addendum is a draft drawing and correspondence emphasizing the need for communication between the two projects. Traffic coordination specifically will be a vital area of mutual interest.

Randy Karshner was introduced to the engineers. Mr. Karshner is the President of the Bloomsburg Fair Association, and also a Commissioner for Columbia County. Given the proximity of both projects to the fairgrounds, and numerous ongoing events at the fair, traffic impacts and logistics planning will be imperative.

2. Mr. Dombroski reviewed that the County is in the process of applying for Act 13 funding from the State, which has a deadline of May 31, 2026.

The funding is earmarked for the Fishing Creek Channel Modification Project. **Mr. Dombroski noted that Act 13 funding requires that draft design specifications be submitted with the grant application.**

**Mr. Dombroski acknowledged that although the engineer will have just recently been retained, providing draft specifications for use for the grant application will be an immediate assignment that will be required by the retained engineer despite this very short time frame.**

Mr. Dombroski reviewed that Local Share Account, and Congressional Designated Spending funding is to make up the other \$2.5 million necessary for this project with a \$500,000 request being submitted for the Act 13 funds.

Given that the congressional designated spending will require a NEPA environmental review, it is unlikely that construction will be able to occur until 2028, which would be a bit later than the other two mitigation projects.

3. Mr. Dombroski reviewed that a Notice of Funding Opportunity was recently released by FEMA for BRIC funding. Mr. Dombroski noted that PEMA is requiring that BRIC applications be submitted to them by June 19th. FEMA has a deadline of July 23rd for BRIC application submissions.

**Calculation of the BCA for this application will be a critical early assignment for the retained engineer.**

To be eligible for BRIC funding a BCA of greater than 1 must be calculated.

4. Question about the BCA was raised as far as what would need to be considered for the cost analysis given that the BRIC application is going to be focused on the levee/floodwall system projects and not the mitigation projects. Mr. Dombroski emphasized that ultimately the County will be relying upon the retained engineer to ensure that the BCA is calculated correctly to the specifications of FEMA.

Given that the mitigation projects are to occur prior to the levee/floodwall projects, and financed separately, it is believed that these would be considered “sunk” costs, which are excluded from the cost analysis.

5. Given that multiple projects are to occur, it was asked if the County intends on awarding engineering contracts to multiple firms to undertake the work. Mr. Dombroski indicated that that is unlikely.

6. It was requested if the previous design/study related documents completed by Verdantas would be provided to the new retained engineer for this contract. Mr. Dombroski indicated that the work has been paid for by the County and that efforts would occur to facilitate the necessary exchange of information.

7. Mr. Dombroski reviewed the existing funding deadlines, including a September 2026 deadline from FEMA for the existing LPDM funds.

Mr. Dombroski indicated that PEMA has previously indicated that a significant extension is anticipated for these funds, which is particularly important given that this money is financing all preliminary design efforts under this contract as well as awarded final design efforts for the mitigation projects.

Mr. Dombroski also noted the December 2027 deadline for \$500,000 of EDCDI funds, and a summer 2028 deadline for \$4 million of EDCDI funds.

Mr. Dombroski also reviewed the Luzerne County funds, which have a deadline of June 2030 for expenditure.

Mr. Dombroski noted that these funds require that progress continue to occur with the engineering efforts in addition to significant public interest in the progression of these projects.

8. A question was raised concerning whether the engineer would be required to facilitate public outreach to keep the public apprised of project progress. Mr. Dombroski noted that this was discussed in the RFP/RFQ document and that the engineer, in addition to the rest of the project team, would facilitate these efforts collaboratively. Mr. Dombroski noted that a public meeting is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>, but it is not anticipated that the engineer will be retained for this meeting, thus participation will be unnecessary.

9. Mr. Dombroski discussed the real estate impacts associated with the mitigation projects and that necessary relocations or demolitions would be included in the engineer's scope of work.

At this time, only real estate acquisition efforts for the Route 11 and Bloomsburg Fairgrounds Mitigation Projects are to be undertaken. Acquisition for the Fishing Creek Channel Realignment project will not occur until 2027. The acquisition efforts for the levee system itself in Bloomsburg will not occur until a later date.

10. During the discussion, Mr. Dombroski introduced the group to Bill Siegel, the real estate consultant for the projects. Mr. Dombroski elaborated that the County is in the process of procuring an appraiser for the Route 11 and Bloomsburg Fairground Swale Project and that the quote opening as scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>. No quotes were received on April 16<sup>th</sup> so follow-up solicitation is occurring.

11. Question was raised about whether correspondence has occurred to date with PEMA, and or DEP, Mr. Dombroski noted that some correspondence has occurred with Tom Hughes of PEMA regarding the open space conformance letters necessary from the Town of Bloomsburg and Hemlock Township for properties that were previously subject to FEMA buyouts.

DEP was consulted during the study process per Addendum #2.

12. A question was raised concerning the level of engineering effort necessary for the levee projects.

It was inquired whether just assistance for pursuing additional grant opportunities would be necessary for this effort.

Mr. Dombroski referred back to the RFP/RFQ scope of work narrative, and specifically noted achieving approval of a CLOMR is a vital preliminary engineering benchmark for the levee projects.

13. Mr. Dombroski noted that Chris Anderson of the Columbia County Water Mitigation Authority is the project point of contact for long-term operation and maintenance needs.

## APPENDIX I

Dean A. Brewer  
Randy Karschner  
David M. Kovach  
Commissioners



David Witsbey  
Chief Clerk  
Alicia Marinos  
Solicitor

### Commissioners of Columbia County

Court House, P.O. Box 380, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815  
570-389-5600 (TDD: 570-389-5745) Fax: 570-784-0257

November 24, 2025

Subject: Comments on Proposed Appalachian Commission Fort McClure Boulevard Road Reconfiguration Projects

Dear Ms. Lockwood,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed Appalachian Regional Commission Fort McClure Boulevard Road Reconfiguration given its proximity to Columbia County's West End Flood Risk Mitigation project.

Both projects are critical to the long-term resilience and functionality of the community's infrastructure. However, their execution in the same geographic footprint raises several important considerations:

- **Site Access and Coordination:** Overlapping construction zones may limit access for crews, equipment, and emergency services. A coordinated phasing plan will be essential to avoid conflicts and ensure safe, efficient site operations. Coordination should occur between both projects engineers to ensure that both projects are able to occur as intended. It is proposed that Route 11 be lowered in the vicinity of Fort McClure Boulevard, potentially expanding the lowering to the west and incorporating transitional grading to facilitate overtopping of Fishing Creek. This design would enable floodwaters to enter a constructed swale situated within the Bloomsburg Fair Grounds parking area. Implementation of this proposal will necessitate coordination across both projects.
- **Schedule Dependencies:** Elements of the road reconfiguration may be impacted by or contingent upon the completion of flood mitigation components (e.g., stormwater infrastructure, lowering of Route 11 and transition periods, grading). A clear understanding of interdependencies and sequencing will help prevent delays. The proposed schedule for implementing the mitigation features outlines acquisition activities commencing in 2026, with construction anticipated to begin in mid-2027 and reach completion by the end of 2028. It is noted that the proposed schedule for the Appalachian Regional Commission reconfiguration of Fort McClure Boulevard is scheduled to occur in 2027.
- **Public Impact:** Concurrent disruptions to traffic flow, due to the geometry of the roadway, temporary traffic control for construction of the Route 11 lowering could overlap in the area of the proposed intersection, pedestrian access, and nearby properties could amplify community concerns. A unified public outreach and communication strategy will be key to managing expectations and minimizing inconvenience, particularly during events at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds, which do happen year-round.

If these coordination challenges are addressed proactively through integrated planning and stakeholder engagement, the concurrent approach could offer efficiencies in cost, time, and community impact.

Please let me know if further input or collaboration would be helpful as planning progresses.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Anderson  
Columbia County Resiliency Officer





**Acknowledgement of Receipt of Addendum**

We hereby acknowledge and confirm receipt of ADDENDUM #1 regarding the **Columbia County Flood Mitigation Projects and Columbia County West End Flood Risk Management Systems** and have attached this Addendum to our copy of the RFP/RFQ.

**Company Name:**

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**By:**

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**Title:**

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**Date:**

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