

Published:
12.11.2023 @ 3:02 pm
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CLIMATE RESILIENCE MITIGATION PROJECTS

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Pittsburgh – Today on Mt. Washington, Federal, state and local officials gathered to official celebrate the Climate Resilience Mitigation Projects locally called the Mt. Washington Landslide Remediation Projects. These projects were made possible through a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) \$10-million-dollar grant extended through Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) which was then given to the City of Pittsburgh.

This project focuses on stabilizing parts of the Northern and Western slopes of Mt. Washington with retaining walls and geotechnical installations to protect homes and roadways. The City of Pittsburgh Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (DOMI) is leading the effort with the support of FEMA and PEMA to preemptively secure the hillsides of Mt. Washington to minimize the probability of landslides.

"Pittsburgh is no stranger to the impacts of landslides, said FEMA Region 3 Regional Administrator MaryAnn Tierney. We're happy to support the actions the city is taking today to prevent landslides in the future. This project will not only protect residents, but critical infrastructure for many years to come."

Recently, Mt. Washington has seen challenges on several locations where hillside instability has spilled debris onto roadways and walking paths. The three locations identified as areas that would best benefit from the remediation project are Greenleaf Street, Reese Street and William Street.

"The Mount Washington landslide remediation projects are excellent examples of what can be accomplished when municipal, state, and federal government officials work together on solutions that will provide benefits well into the future," said PEMA Director Randy Padfield. "The success of these hazard reduction projects shows how strong partnerships lead to more resilient communities in the commonwealth."

Reese Street, the first site that work will take place will shore up slope movement that would impact the Emerald Park Trail. Further mitigation solutions are needed to ensure long-term slope stability. Work on Greenleaf Street is necessary after a large landslide in 2018 showered Saw Mill Run Blvd with substantial debris heavily impacting traffic. While work on William Street is needed following several landslides that has already caused the closure of the road and a home being designated as uninhabitable by the

project managers, FEMA and PEMA. While the City is monitoring the hillside will use this opportunity to develop further mitigations to stabilize the slope, reduce future impacts to additional homes and limit debris from falling on McArdle Roadway and Arlington Avenue.

"Through the assistance of FEMA and PEMA working with DOMI, we're moving towards preventing a major tragedy from taking place. It's also the leadership and hard work by the engineering design and contracting companies that will make this possible. I'm thankful federal and state officials were able to provide this grant to assist the City of Pittsburgh in keeping Pittsburgh residents safe," said Mayor Ed Gainey.

Climate change is a threat to present as well as future development in our area but through the FEMA/PEMA grant, the City of Pittsburgh through DOMI will be able to ensure the safety of residents and develop means to mitigate erosions in our area.

Residents can reference the City's Engage Website at: <u>a> to see the full scope of the work.</u>

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