

City of Austin
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Memorandum

To: Mayor & Council
From: Steven J. Lang, P.E.
Date: May 27, 2020
Subject: North Main Flood Control, Project Summary

Following the devastating record flood that impacted the Austin community on September 15th, 2004, city officials, residents and business owners were looking for a solution to the flooding problem. Austin's history of flooding dates back to a major flood event in 1904, which washed out bridges and impacted residents and businesses throughout the community. More recently, the city experienced back-to-back floods ten days apart in July 1978, major flooding in 1993 and 2000, along with many smaller flood events in between.

A task force was developed following the 2004 flood to help the city work toward a comprehensive flood mitigation plan. The plan identified projects throughout the community that included both property acquisition and flood protection. The North Main area was identified as a critical commercial business district needing protection. Over the next 16 years the City worked to develop a comprehensive mitigation plan for a 12-phase North Main project, secure necessary funding and build the project. The project timeline was as follows:

- 2004 Flood of Record
- 2006 North Main Flood Mitigation Study
- 2007 Passage of the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST)
- 2008 Construction of Phase 8
- 2011 Construction of Phase 2-9-10-11-12
- 2014/15 Construction of Phase 3-4-5-6-7
- 2018/19 Construction of Phase 1

The project consisted of flood wall and levee construction, storm sewer and stormwater pump stations, roadway reconstruction, property acquisition and extensive property owner coordination. Key flood control elements included:

- Earthen Levee, 5260 LF or 1 mile
- Concrete Wall, 3300 LF or 0.6 mile
- Storm Sewer, 8200 LF or 1.5 miles
- 3 Roadway Crossings
- 2 Stormwater Pumping Stations

Other infrastructure improvements included:

- Roadway Construction, 2850 LF or 0.5 miles
- New Traffic Signal and Street Lighting
- 4 Residential Property Acquisitions
- 1 Commercial Property Acquisition
 - o Acquisition and Site Remediation of the former Sinclair Gas Station
- North Main Sanitary Sewer Lift Station & Force Main

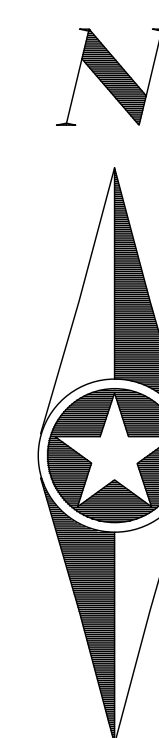
The total project cost for engineering design and construction came to approximately \$22 million. The project was funded using a combination of sources including:

- \$5 million EDA Grant
- \$8.5 million DNR Grants
- \$8.5 million LOST

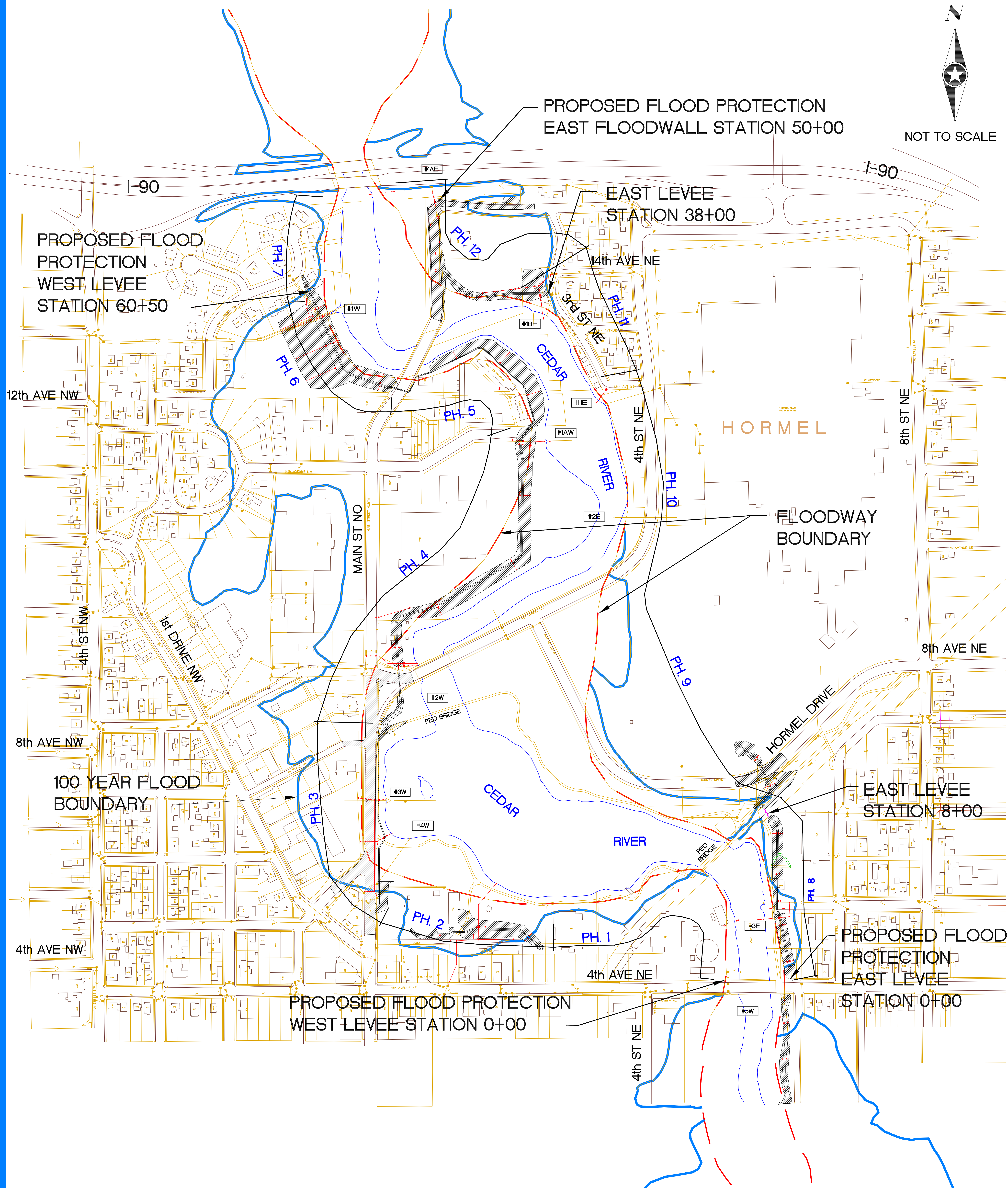
The flood mitigation project has protected 35 acres of commercial and residential property in the North Main area. The system of levees, walls and pumps was built to meet FEMA standards. Homes and businesses that were once required to carry federal flood insurance, no longer have that requirement.

Austin is known Statewide and Nationally for our flood mitigation efforts. This is yet another flood mitigation project, in Austin, that will provide residents and business protection from future flooding.

“By spending time and energy toward flood mitigation today, we can lessen the cost of disaster to our community tomorrow.” Jon Erichson, former City Engineer



NOT TO SCALE



NORTH MAIN FLOOD CONTROL STUDY CITY OF AUSTIN, MINNESOTA

