

FIRE ISLAND INLET TO MONTAUK POINT (FIMP)

Brief summary: The FIMP project has a very long legislative history—it was originally authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 14 July 1960, and subsequently modified by the River & Harbor Act of 1962, and the Water Resources Development Acts of 1974, 1986 and 1992. After Sandy, Congress appropriated 1.9 billion dollars to finally provide for ‘big picture’ regional coordination of coastal management along five reaches of the south shore of Long Island between Fire Island Inlet and Montauk Point, a distance of approximately 83 miles.



After 60 years, the current FIMP plan, a proposed partnership between the Federal partner (US Army Corps), the non-Federal partner (New York State DEC) and 6 local sponsors (Suffolk County, and the 5 Suffolk towns of Babylon, Islip, Brookhaven, Southampton, and Easthampton) will at long last begin work this year.

Purpose: The purpose of FIMP is to strengthen and protect our barrier island shorelines and low areas on the mainland from sea level rise and coastal storms while maintaining or enhancing natural resources over the 30 to 50 years of the project duration. The initial construction phases of FIMP are funded by the federal government at 100%, with no state or local government contribution.

Scope: 83 miles of ocean shoreline, 220 miles of bay shoreline, 3 Federal navigation inlets, altogether functioning as an interconnected system of ocean shoreline, inlets and estuaries

Components: FIMP is designed to take a comprehensive and regional systems approach to coastal management and storm protection.

Plan Features include:

Inlets: Sand bypassing at Fire Island Inlet, Moriches Inlet and Shinnecock Inlet and placement of dredged material on downdrift beach in quantities needed to supplement Operation and

Maintenance (O&M) dredging and bypassing to restore littoral transport of sediment across inlets for 50 years.

Dredging of off-shore borrow areas: used for on-shore sand placement, repair and renourishment

Dune and berm construction:

- Fire Island dune and berm work from Robert Moses State Park to Smith County Park (Aka FIMI—work completed, Fall 2020)
- Westhampton beach fill
- Sediment Management--Downtown Montauk

Mainland work: Coastal storm risk management on the mainland for approximately 4,432 structures (consists mostly of elevating eligible private homes—on a voluntary basis; no one will be forced to do so).

Breach response on Fire Island:

- Proactive response to breaches in developed (i.e. community) areas
- On FINS properties
 - Proactive breach response in the lighthouse tract
 - Conditional breach response when there is a threat to developed (community) area
 - No breach response in the Wilderness area

Removal: Ocean Beach groins will be removed to allow sand to follow coastal drift east to west.

Periodic Renourishment: Dune and berm sand fill projects will be re-nourished every 4-5 years for a 30 year period following construction; proactive breach response continues for years 31 to 50.

Coastal process features (CPFs): Pilot projects to study methods to restore sand transport processes in the bays. 12 selected barrier island locations and 2 mainland locations, with the placement of approximately 4.2 million cubic yards of sediment along barrier island bayside shoreline over 50 years.

Maintenance: Suffolk County and 5 South Shore Towns will enter into Local Project Partnership Agreements (PPAs) with NYSDEC that will describe the O & M responsibilities:

- a) Indemnify state and federal governments
- b) Supervise routine maintenance and operation (i.e. snow fence, grass, repair overpasses, beach scraping, plus participate in annual monitoring and reporting) *
- c) Maintain public access to project area

*Note: Routine maintenance does not include periodic renourishment of beaches and dunes with sand fill.

Funding Options: There are four different funding options available for shoreline management until the FIMP program. Each option depends on the type of work that must be paid for:

1. Initial Construction: Total authorization for FIMP was 1.9 billion dollars. All initial construction (including FIMI project which cost approximately \$200 M qualifies for 100% Federal funding.

2. Routine Maintenance: Suffolk County and 5 South Shore Towns will enter into Local Project Partnership Agreements (PPAs) with NYSDEC, thereby agreeing to assume 100% cost of routine

maintenance and operation (snow fence, grass, repair overpasses, beach scraping, annual monitoring and reporting)

3. Emergency Repair: In the event of severe damage to a USACE engineered beach, there is a provision for emergency repair at 100% Federal cost under the PL 84-99 program. This is a national program for repair of all Army Corps projects, and qualifying for PL 84-99 repair funding is a competitive process based on the magnitude of the storm event and the severity of the damage, as measured on the USACE assessment scale.

4. Periodic Renourishment: Under the FIMP program, Fire Island's status as an Army Corps engineered beach qualifies it for periodic renourishment of the dune and berm template every 4 to 5 years. This means that sand fill will be placed to bring the dunes and beaches back to the levels of the original project design template. If areas of the island have built up and the beach and dunes that exceed the template, they will not receive fill.

Congress commonly passes legislation that authorizes U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) civil works activities as a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Since WRDA 1986, Congress often has considered a WRDA every two years. USACE would request renourishment funds for Fire Island in a WRDA bill. After signing PPAs governing the initial construction responsibilities, Suffolk County and 5 South Shore Towns will sign a second PPA with NYSDEC, and agree to provide the local cost share for periodic (4-5 years) sand renourishment. Cost share percentages will be:

- Federal 50% (funded by WRDA)
- NY State 35%
- Towns/Villages/ECDs 15%



Project Schedule:

- Execute PPA between USACE and NYSDEC by April 1st
- Execute PPAs between DEC and local sponsors—by April 15th
- **Contract 1**: Dredge Fire Island Inlet, Fill Placement on Gilgo and Robert Moses State Park Beaches
 - USACE Advertises work: 15 May 2021
 - Awards contract: 15 July 2021
 - Construction Start Sep 1, 2021
- **Contract 2** (Moriches Inlet dredging) and Contract 5 (Ocean Beach groin removal) – Construction start Sept 2022