



## Charlestowne Neighborhood Association

To the Charleston Peninsula Coastal Flood Risk Management Study Team:

The Board of the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association (CNA) commends the USACE's efforts in developing the perimeter protection strategy, executing the EIS, and working productively with the City and civic groups throughout the process. The work to date materially advances important aspects of the City's water management strategy. The CNA Board accordingly endorses, with reservations, progressing the Charleston Peninsula Coastal Flood Risk Management Study to the Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) stage. We understand that this phase will require the City, as the non-Federal Sponsor, to contribute to the project's expense over the term of the PED (estimated to total \$15-20M over a 3-4-year period, with the first year of the PED likely at less than \$1M).

Having said that and recognizing the complex nature and numerous uncertainties of this massive project, we wish to identify some serious concerns:

- The acceptability of proceeding to the PED should be conditioned upon a Design Agreement with the City that incorporates clearly defined decision points at which engineering expenditures can be modified, deferred, or cancelled. As taxpayers, we are concerned about the City entering into an agreement without effective controls or exit points that commits us to unsustainable financial obligations.
- We have several concerns regarding the impact on our neighborhood's critical historic and aesthetic resources, especially the proposed alignment of the wall north of the High Battery. We are also concerned that the proposed wall would entail replacement of the High Battery, itself an important historic structure. We understand that such considerations will be further explored during the PED phase, and we have been encouraged by the level of partnership that has been demonstrated to-date by the USACE, reflected in a number of positive modifications to the original proposal. But we are concerned about the degree of flexibility and creativity that will be allowed by the USACE during the PED phase. The City's Civic Design Center has worked tirelessly in suggesting a set of enhancements to the current plan's pathing and design aspects – all in pursuit of a solution that both protects and enhances our City. Accordingly, our support for moving into the PED phase is predicated on the belief that elements of the Design Center's alternatives can be fully evaluated and incorporated.

As you are aware, CNA representatives have been deeply involved in the Study effort, and we look forward to further productive engagement.

Sincerely,

The CNA Board