



Flood Mitigation Action Plan

*Consideration of Stormwater Utility Fee Ordinance
and Adoption of*

City Council Legislative Meeting
January 12, 2021



Proposed Council Action

Staff recommends that City Council:

- Pass the proposed ordinance to increase the Stormwater Utility Fee on first reading, and schedule it for public hearing, second reading, and final passage on January 23, 2021; and
- Receive the Interdepartmental Flooding Management Task Force recommendations and authorize the City Manager to implement the recommendations.

More Frequent, Intense Rainfall Events

- **2018:** Virginia's wettest year on record, 20"+ over normal
- **July 8, 2019:** Regional Flood
- **July 23, 2020:** Local Flash Flood
 - 60-80% of monthly avg in 30 minutes
- **Sept. 10, 2020:** Local Flash Flood
 - 2.5-4" with rates up to 3"/hr in 10 mins
 - Daily rainfall record at National Airport
- Increase in reported problems of property damage



Radar, September 10

Background: Interdepartmental Flooding Management Task Force



- Assembled to **urgently address** recent flash flooding from climate-change-induced severe rain events
- Six-week work period
- Developed recommendations for:
 1. Budget
 2. Programs & Legislation
 3. Early Warning & Communications
- **Extensive neighborhood-level engagement** ongoing to hear residents' concerns and identify additional needs



★ **Recommendation #1 (Budget)**: Approve a 100% SWU Fee rate increase with additional, varying increases in subsequent fiscal years

Increase bond capacity and reprogram water quality funding

Reflects Council directive on November 16 to **be more aggressive**

Bill fee increase in two steps to generate **\$14.8 million this calendar year**:

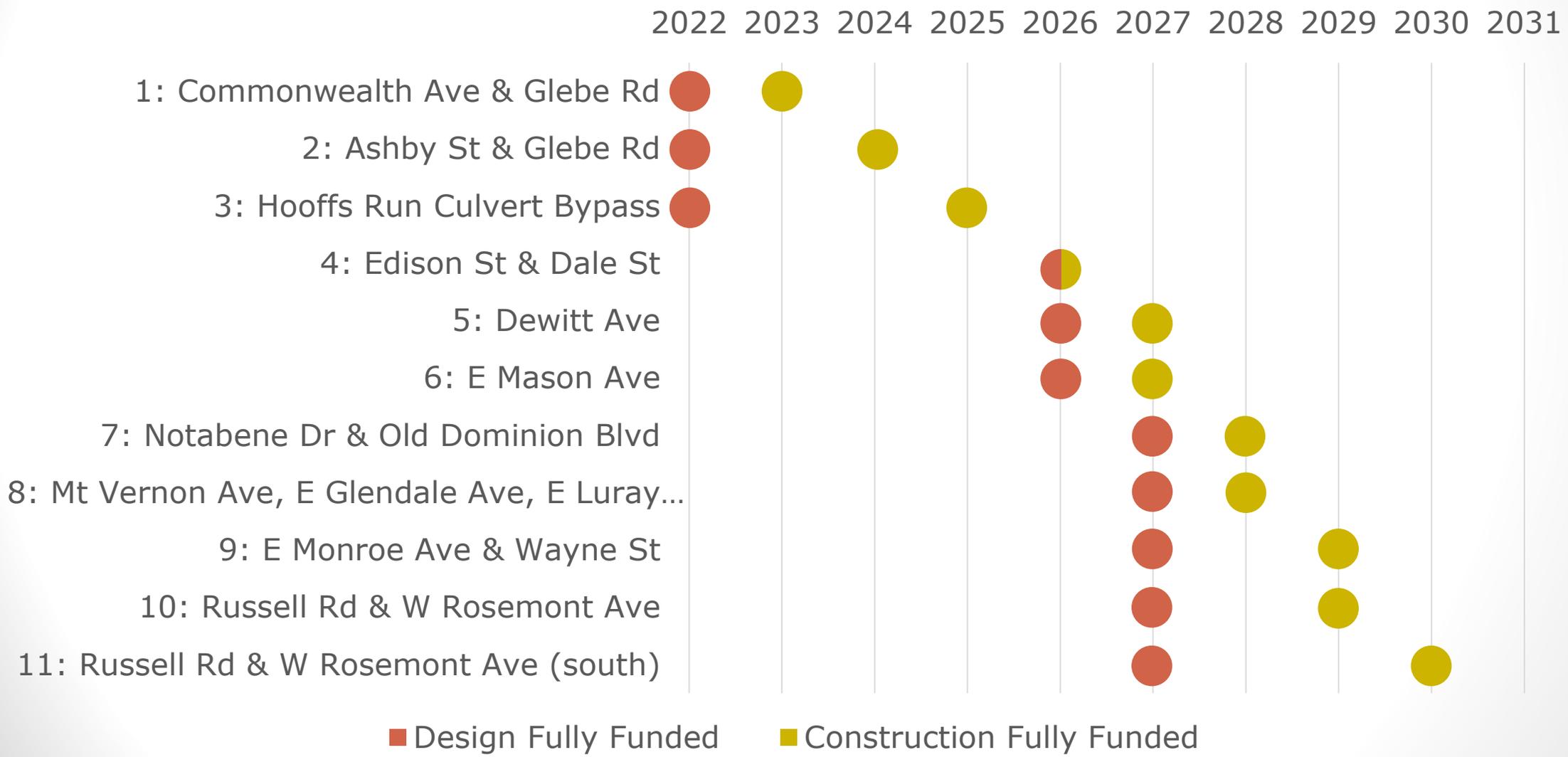
- May 2021 (FY2021)
- October 2021 (FY2022)

Increase of \$283.8 million in resources to apply to needs over the next 10 years



Funding* Timeline for Capacity Projects

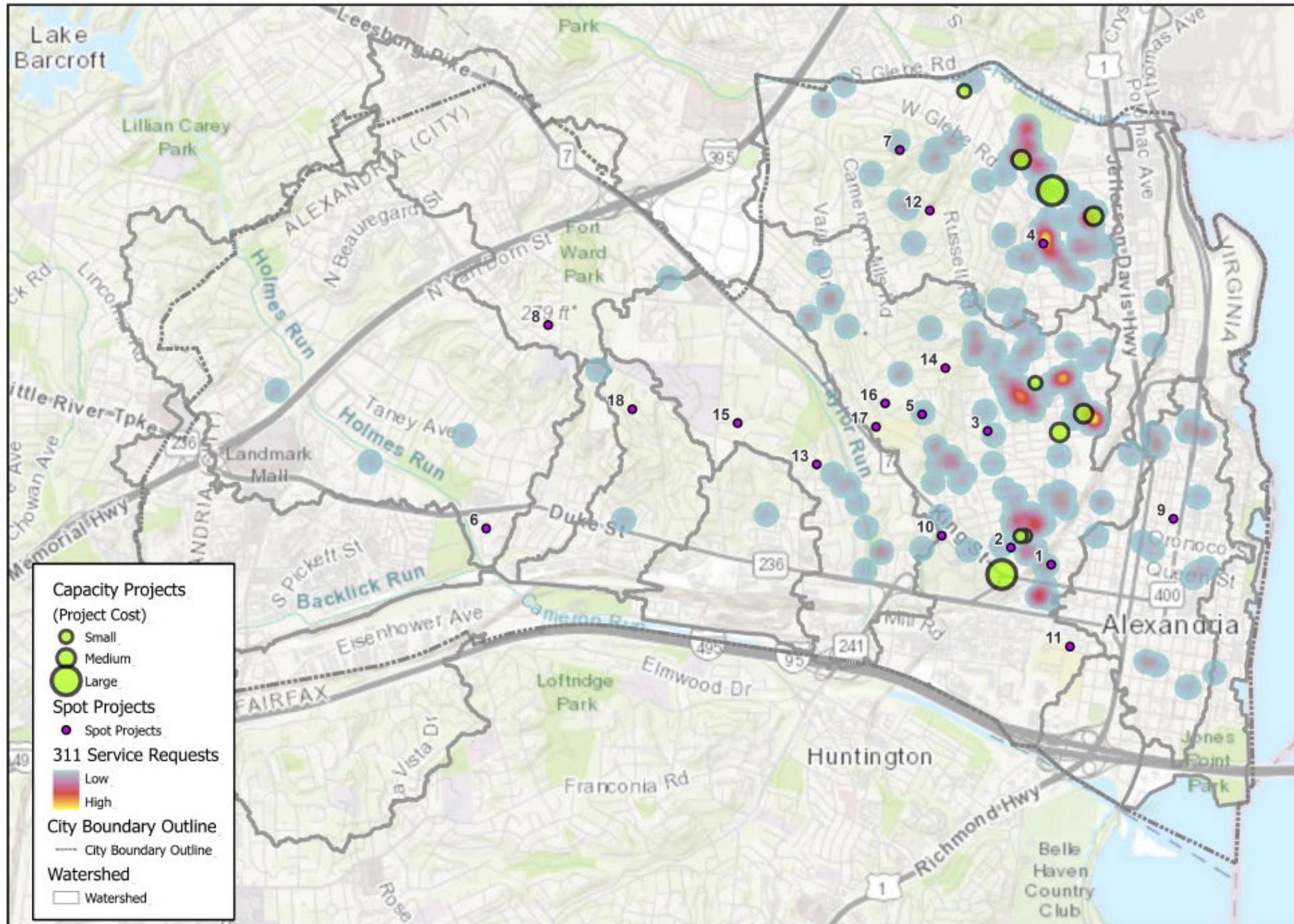
(*for Planning & Budgeting Purposes, by fiscal year)



Capacity and Spot Capital Projects



For illustrative purposes only





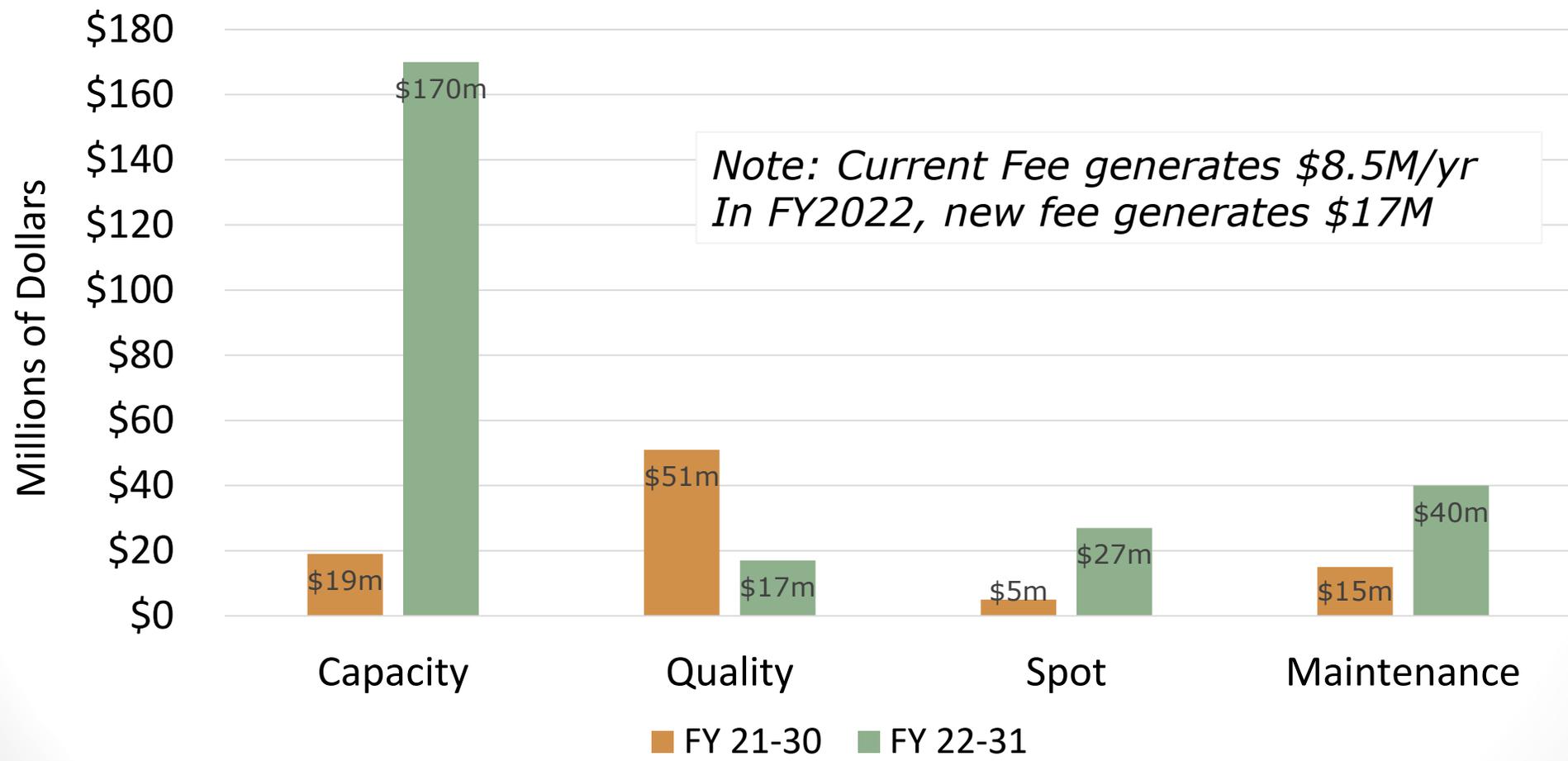
Key Outcomes

Mitigation Element	Current	Proposed	Change
Capacity Projects	\$19M over 10 years (3 projects)	\$170M over 10 years (11 projects)	+\$151M over 10 years (+6 FTEs)
Spot Improvement Projects	~\$0.5M/year (3-5 projects/yr)	~\$2.5M/year (8-11 projects/yr)	+\$2M/year (+2 FTEs)
Stream & Channel Maintenance	\$0.5M/year	\$0.9M/year	+\$0.4M/year
State of Good Repair	\$1M/year	\$2.5M/year	+\$1.5M/year (+4 FTEs)
Pilot Grant Program	\$0	\$750,000/year	\$750,000/year



Reprioritized Stormwater Management Plan

Change in spending from prior 10-yr. plan, plus added resources





- ★ **Recommendation #2a (Programs)**: Develop a pilot grant program and technical assistance program to incentivize flood mitigation on private property.

Pilot Grant Program

- Partial reimbursement for flood-proofing on private property
- Retroactive to July 2019
- Examples include flood-proof doors, windows, and walls
- Program to be developed before FY 2022

Technical Assistance Program

- Help residents assess cause of flooding and identify potential solutions
- Complements pilot grant program
- Program has been initiated



- ★ **Recommendation #2b (Legislation)**: Support legislation that provides authority and funding to support localities dealing with the impacts of inland and urban flooding.

Legislative priorities approved by Council on December 8, 2020:

- ✓ Increase Stormwater Local Assistance (SLAF) funding and evaluating scoring criteria to capture stormwater capacity needs
- ✓ Joint Subcommittee on Inland and Urban Flooding
- ✓ Authority to use City-sponsored grant funds on private property for flood protection measures that have a public benefit
- ✓ Authority to regulate modifications to single-family detached residential structures where land disturbance is $<2,500 \text{ ft}^2$

★ **Recommendation #3a (Early Warning):** Enhance the City's flood early warning systems by taking the following actions by Summer 2021:



Add new stream and flow gauges



Upgrade rainfall data collection and flood warning systems



Enhance alert capabilities to reach more residents



Increase flood-related weather alerts



Explore a real-time stream gauge dashboard

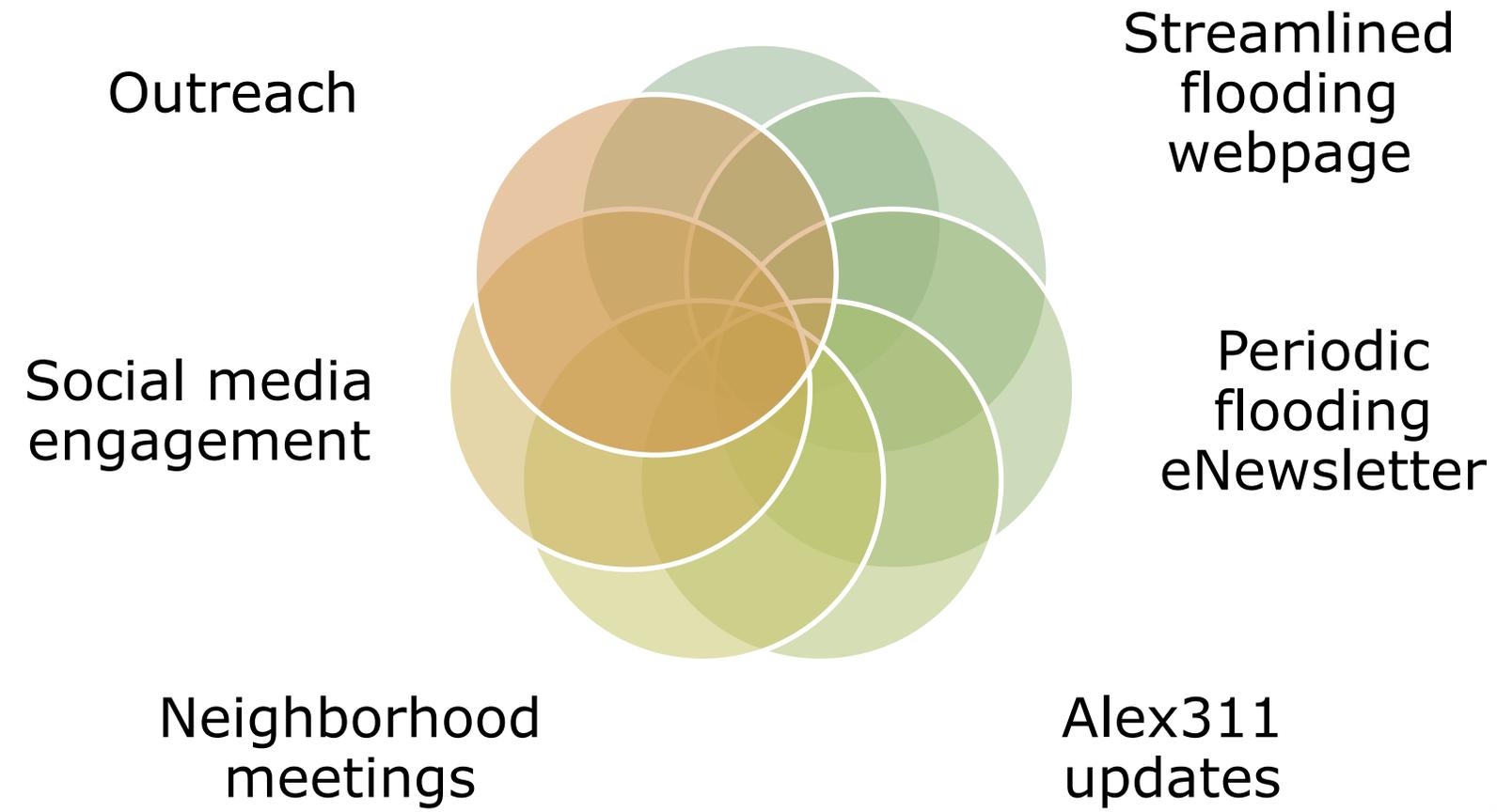


Expand flood warning road signage



★ **Recommendation #3b (Communications):** Develop an enhanced outreach and communications strategy related to flooding.

Adopt a program brand (tentatively: "Be Flood Ready Alexandria")





Thank you!
Questions?