

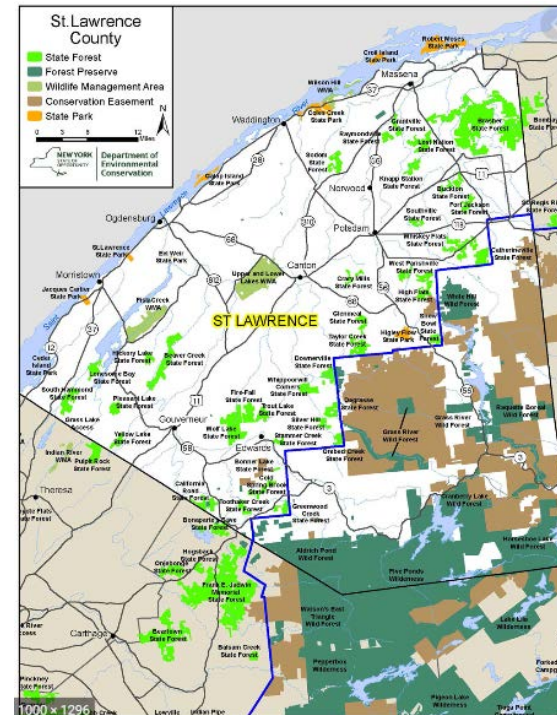
## Flood Risk Project

St. Lawrence County, NY  
Project Kick Off Meeting

February 11, 2021



FEMA



# Please Introduce Yourself (...in the chat!)



- ▶ **Name**
- ▶ **Role**
- ▶ **Organization**

*As partners with FEMA, it's important we create dialogue about your needs for flood risk information.*

**Also, what do St. Lawrence communities aspire to accomplish using today's meeting?**



**FEMA**

# Today's Goals

1

The value of updated flood hazard information

2

Recap of Flood Risk Study history, including Discovery and North Country Watersheds BLE

3

Review county-wide study scope, products and outreach process

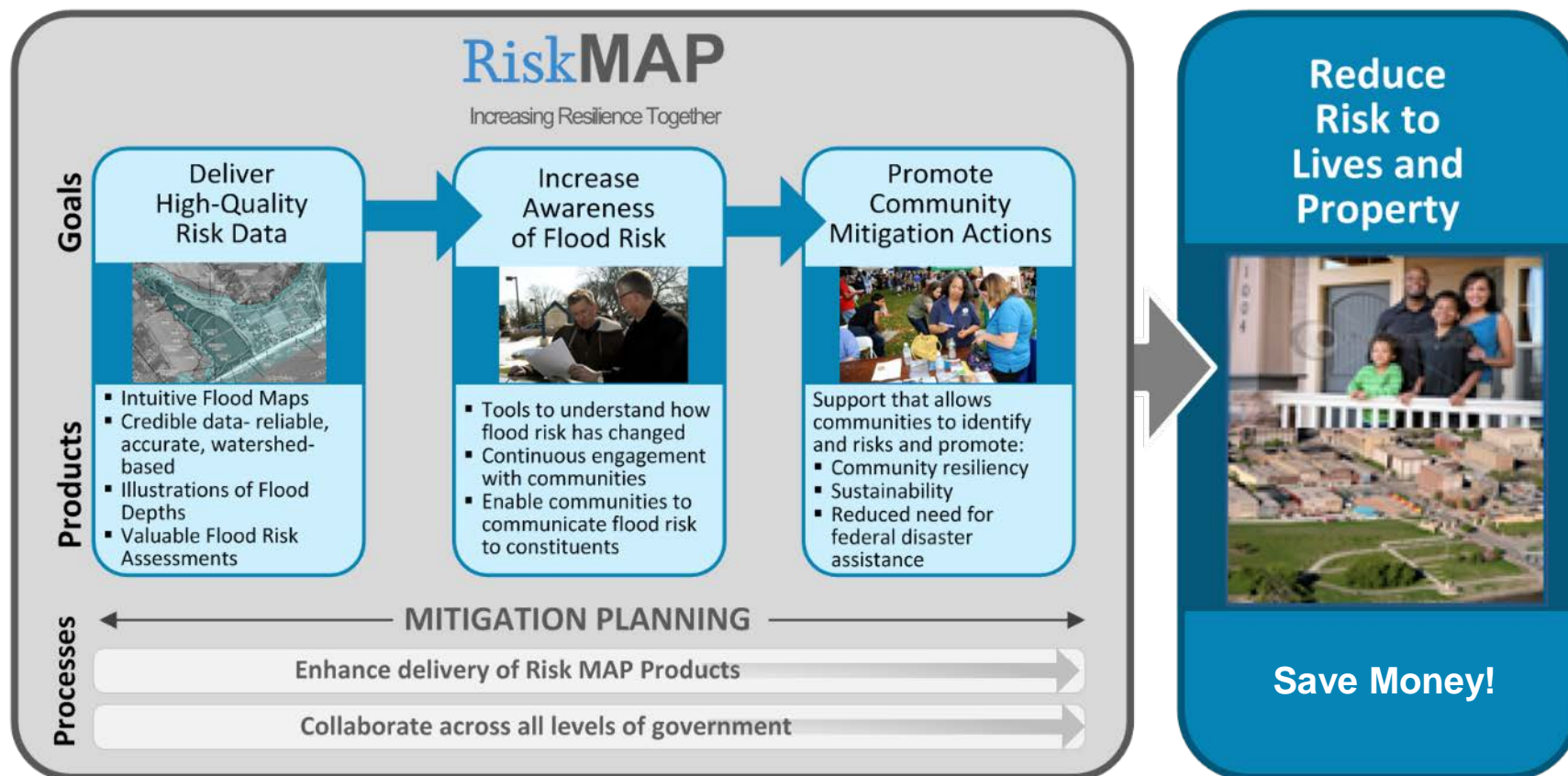


FEMA

# FEMA Mitigation Division

## Risk Analysis Branch

Goal: Stronger and Safer Communities



FEMA





# The Value of Updated Flood Maps for Local Communities

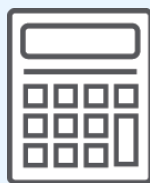


FEMA

# Flood Maps Promote Progress By:



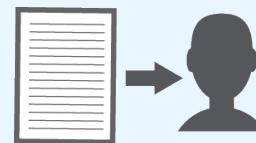
**Identifying  
and  
Assessing  
Flood Risk**



**Informing  
Flood  
Insurance  
Rates**



**Advising  
Local Land  
Use**



**Guiding  
Engineers  
and  
Developers**



**Equipping  
Emergency  
Managers**



**FEMA**

# Why we are here

We want to help communities understand flood risk and take action to reduce it because...

## Risk changes over time

- All floods are different. Nature and communities change.

## Flooding happens

- Communities may face flooding. Is your community proactive or reactive to flood risk?

## Mitigation is Possible

- Proactive communities plan to reduce flood impacts and other hazards.

# Why Update Flood Maps?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) manages the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

NFIP Policies for St. Lawrence communities	NFIP Claims since 1978 for affected communities	FEMA Insurance Claims Paid in affected communities	Hazard Mitigation Plan Status
170	118	\$845,225	Expired



FEMA





# How Did We Get Here?

## Review past activities

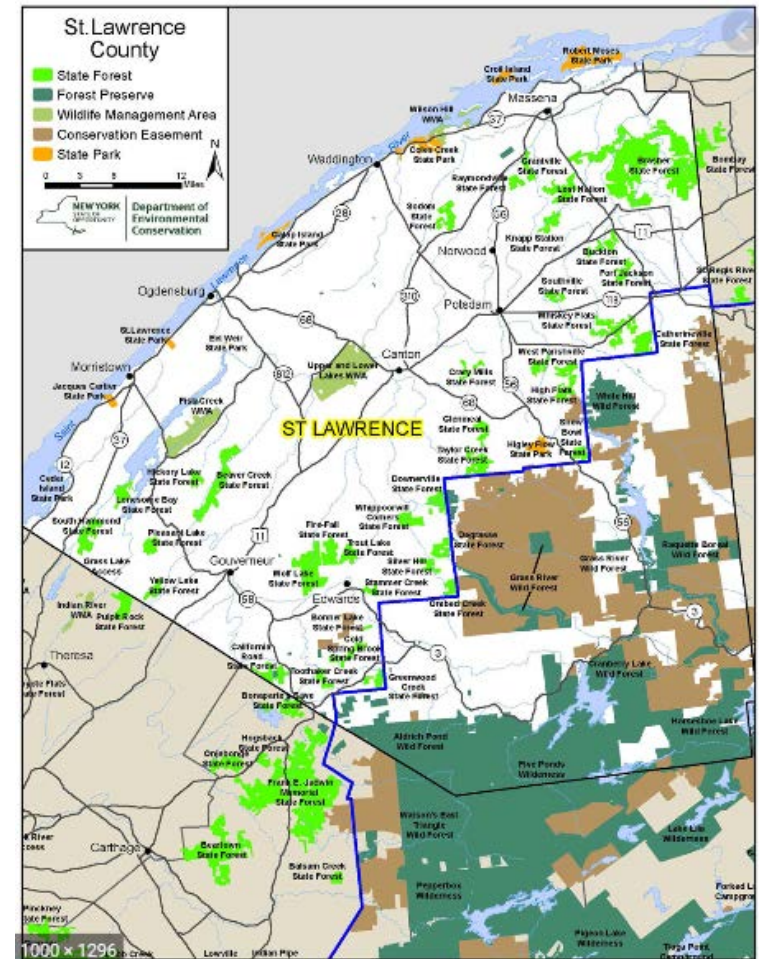


FEMA

# Discovery / Post-Discovery Progress Recap

## North Country Watersheds

- ▶ Meetings held in September 2019
- ▶ Discovery project completed in March 2020
- ▶ Community input guided FEMA priorities
- ▶ St. Lawrence County's Highest Priorities included:
  - St. Lawrence River
  - Raquette River
  - St. Regis River
  - Black Lake
  - Oswegatchie River
  - Grass River



FEMA

# Discovery / Post-Discovery Progress Recap

## Headwaters to the St. Lawrence River Watershed

- Meetings held in November 2013
- Discovery project completed in July 2016
- Community input guided FEMA priorities
- St. Lawrence County's Highest Priority included:
  - Detailed study for the St. Lawrence River, including Alexandria Bay for a distance of 68.3 miles.



### Discovery Report

**Lake Ontario – Headwaters to the  
St. Lawrence River Watershed  
HUC 04150309**

Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties, New York\*

*\*These counties span more than one watershed; please see the following page for a list of communities fully or partially located in the watershed. This report covers only the Headwaters to the St. Lawrence River Watershed in the State of New York.*

Report Number 01  
July 2016



**FEMA**

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Department of Homeland Security  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, NY



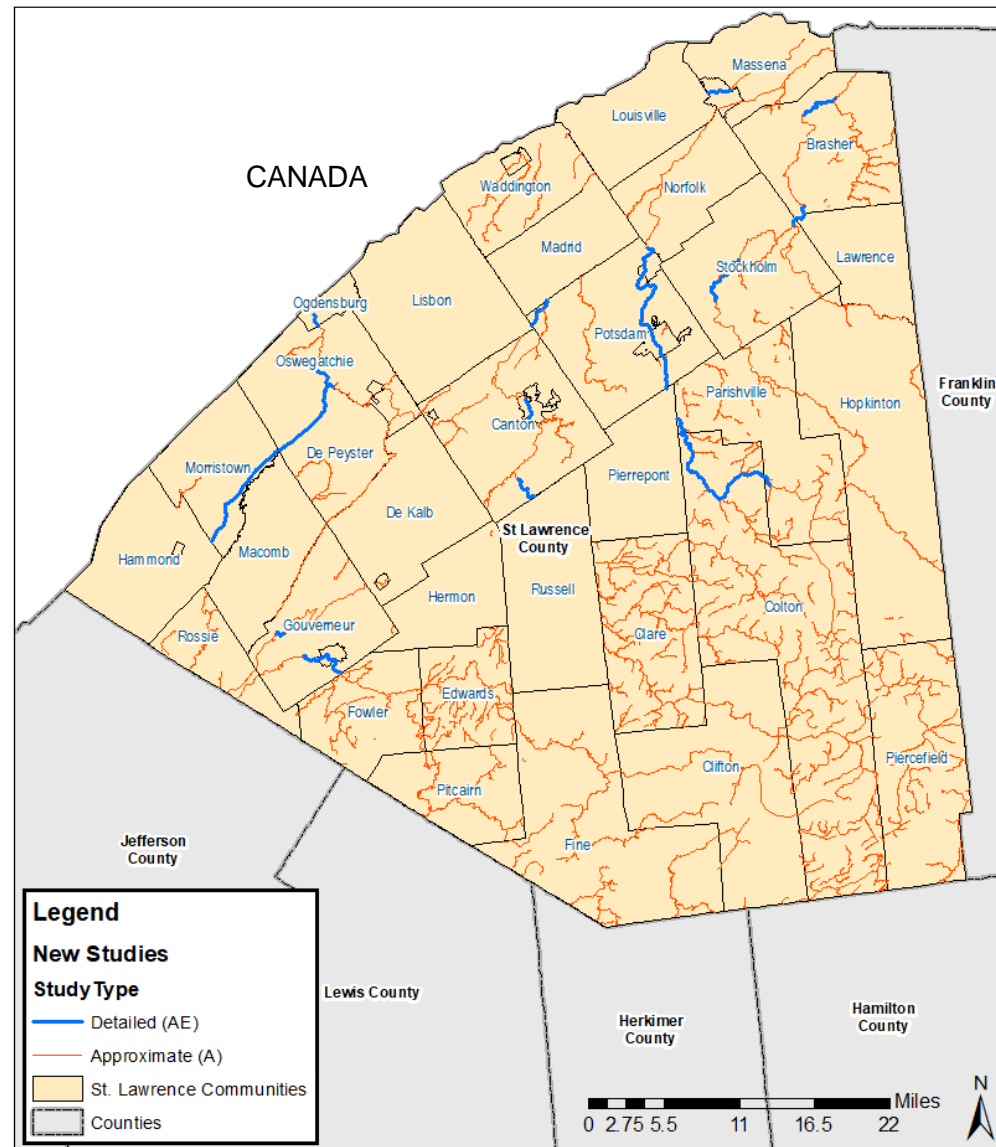
**FEMA**

# Leveraged Data *Recap*

- ▶ Regression Hydrology from North Country Watersheds studies
- ▶ BLE studies for detailed – 71.3 miles
  - Black Lake
  - Five Falls Lake
  - Grass River
  - Oswegatchie River
  - Raquette River
  - Saint Regis River
  - West Branch Saint Regis River
- ▶ Approximate – 1212.9 miles
- ▶ **Any local flood studies that FEMA should be aware of?**



FEMA







# **What Is Being Studied Now?**

Discuss scope of new study

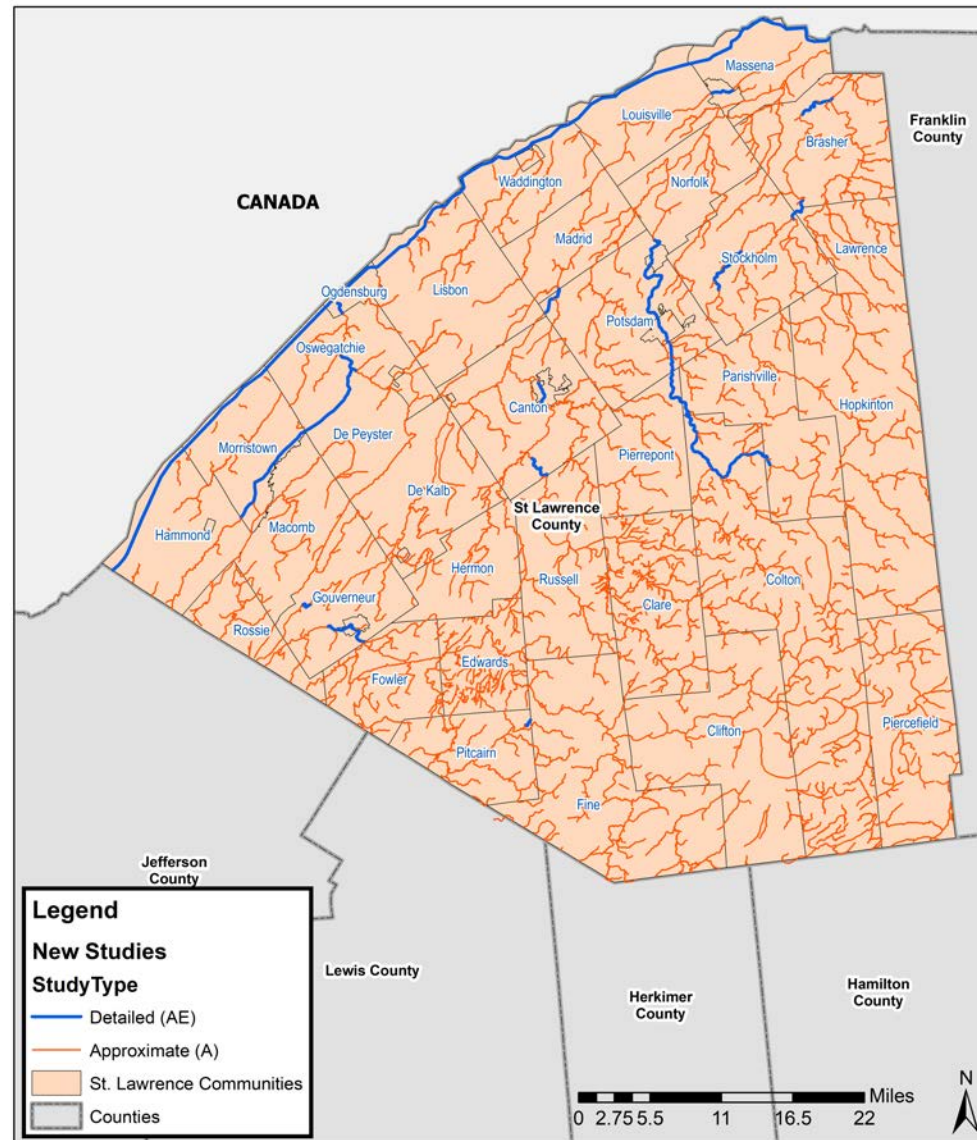


**FEMA**



# St. Lawrence County, Countywide Flood Risk Study Scope

- ▶ **First time digital maps**
- ▶ **Additional flooding sources analyzed**
  - Detailed riverine studies (AE Zone) 6 – streams, 59.2 miles
  - Detailed lake studies (AE) – 3 lakes, 91.2 miles
  - Approximate (A) studies – multiple streams, 2450.6 miles
- ▶ **45 updated communities**
- ▶ **402 map panels**
- ▶ **Review meetings**
  - Hydrology Meeting
  - Hydraulics Meeting
  - Flood Risk Review Meeting



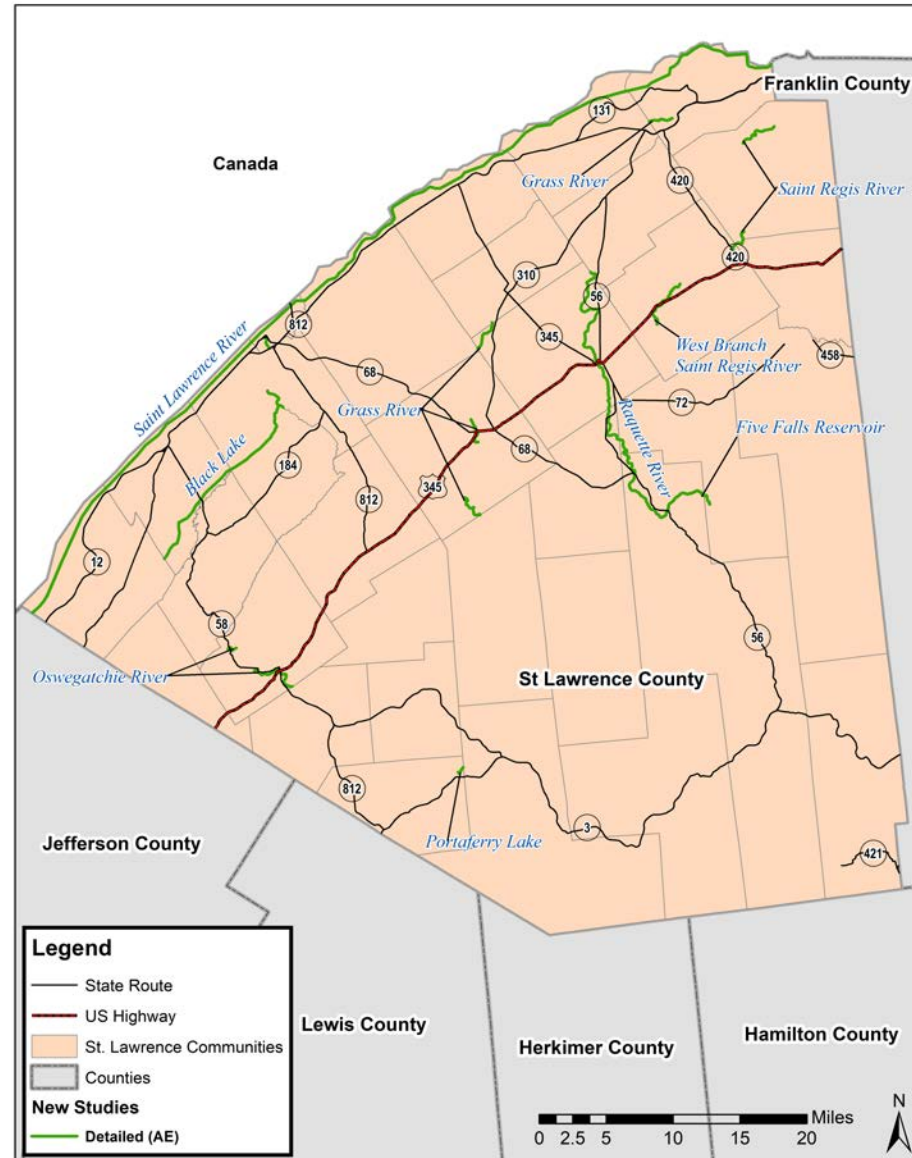
# Detailed (AE Zone) Study Scope

## ► 6 Studied Streams – 59.2 miles total

- Five Falls Reservoir – 0.9 miles
- Grass River – 9.1 miles
- Oswegatchie River – 8.6 miles
- Raquette River – 30.6 miles
- Saint Regis River – 5.5 miles
- West Branch Saint Regis River – 4.5 miles

## ► 3 Studied Lakes – 91.2 miles

- Black Lake – 15.3 miles
- Portaferry Lake – 0.7 miles
- Saint Lawrence River – 75.2 miles



FEMA



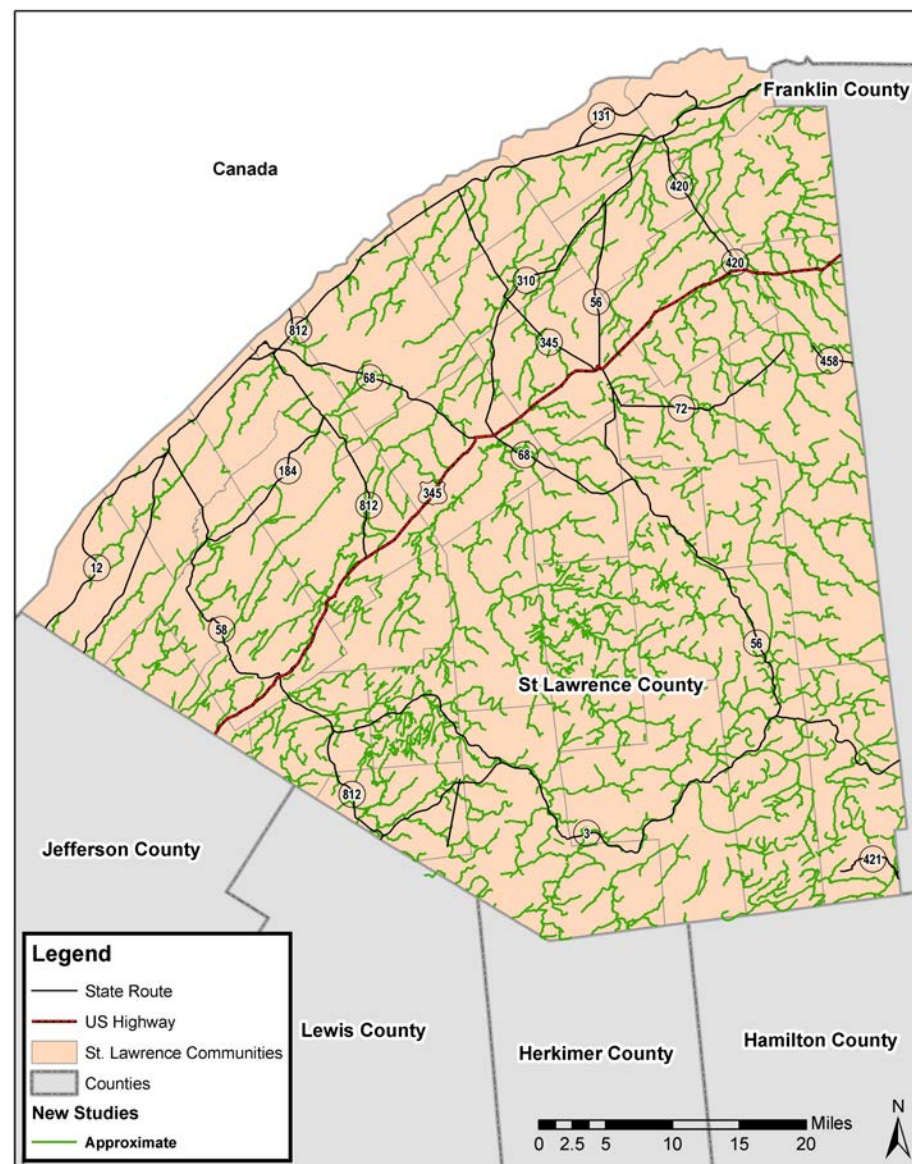


# Approximate (A Zone) Study Scope

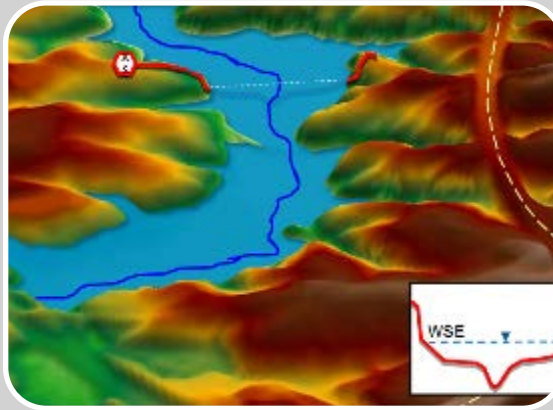
- ▶ **Completes countywide stream coverage**

- ▶ **Approximate Streams – 2,450.6 miles**

- Notable streams include:
  - Oswegatchie River – 101.2 miles
  - Raquette River – 59.5 miles
  - West Branch St Regis River – 43.6 miles
  - South Branch Grass River – 38.2 miles
  - Little River – 33.0 miles
  - Dead Creek – 30.0 miles
  - Saint Regis River – 28.9 miles
  - Trout Brook – 27.4 miles
  - Grass River – 25.6 miles
  - North Branch Grass River – 25.4 miles



# Flood Hazard Analysis



## Hydrology

Volume of water?  
Peak Flows?

When will storm  
water or runoff make  
it to the stream?

## Hydraulics

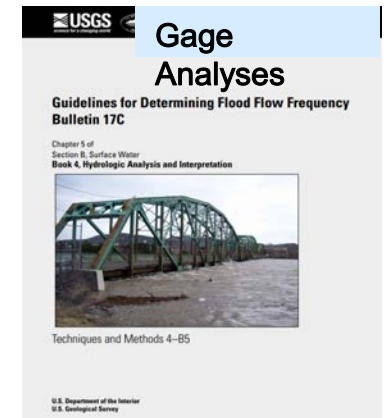
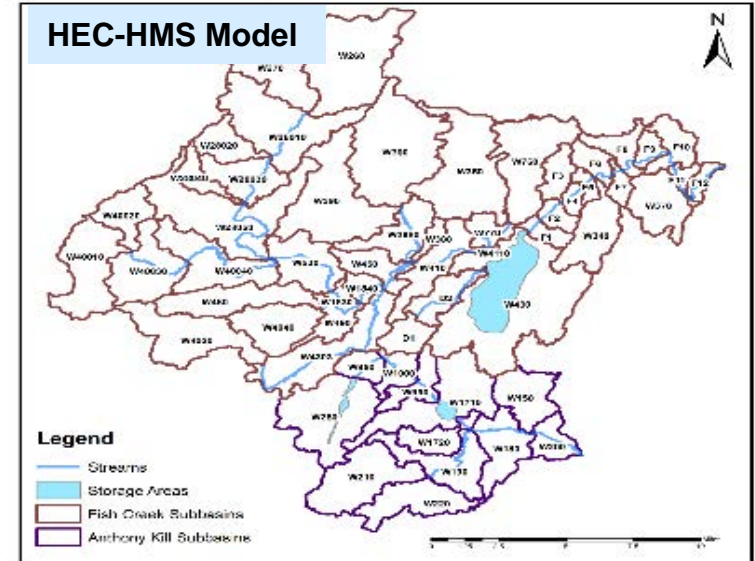
Will the stream in  
question be able to  
convey all storm  
water or runoff that  
arrives?

## Floodplain Mapping

What areas of a  
community will be  
inundated based on  
engineering analysis?

# Engineering Methods - Hydrologic Analysis

- ▶ **Typical Methods FEMA utilizes**
  - Statistical Gage Analyses
  - Regression Analyses
  - Rainfall Runoff Modeling
- ▶ **Gage/Regression are based on availability stream gage data**
- ▶ **Rainfall-Runoff physical modeling chosen due to limited gage data**
  - Using HEC-HMS models
- ▶ **Discharges developed for**
  - 10%, 4%, 2%, 1%, 1%+, 1%-, 0.2%
  - Inputs for hydraulic analyses





# Engineering Methods - Hydraulic Analysis

## ► Modeling developed using USACE's HEC-RAS Program

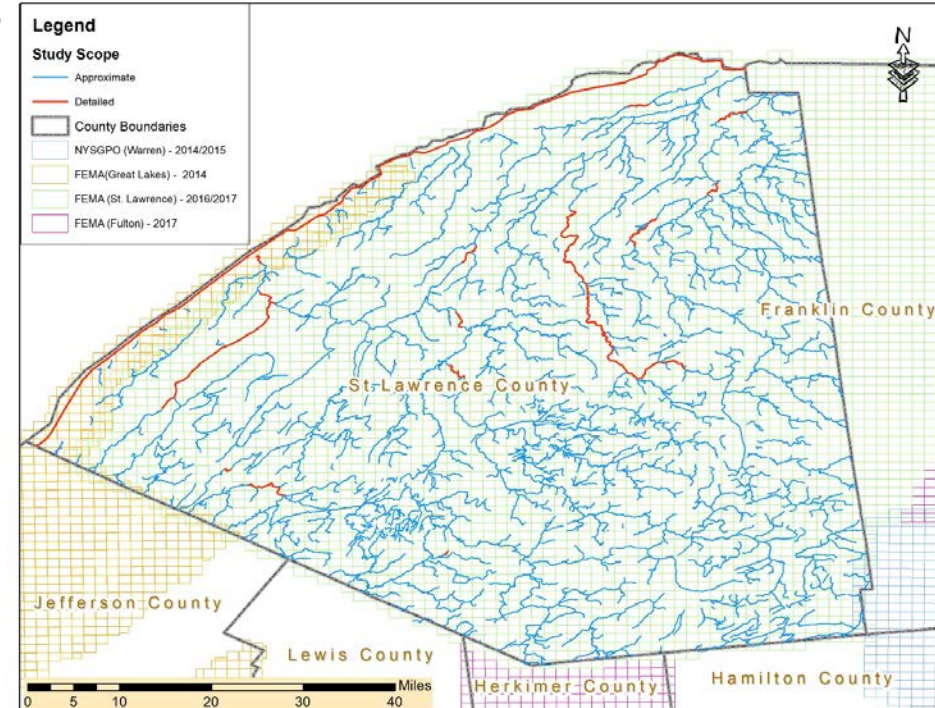
- One Dimensional (1D) Steady State

## ► Terrain Data

- Provides topographic elevation information
- Supplemented by field survey
- Data Sources:
  - 2016/2017 FEMA LiDAR for Franklin and St. Lawrence
  - 2014 FEMA LiDAR for Great Lakes Area
  - 2014/2015 NYSGPO LiDAR for Warren, Washington and Essex Counties
  - 2017 FEMA LiDAR for Fulton, Saratoga, Herkimer, and Franklin Counties

## ► Field Survey for Detailed only

- Collection underway: 55 structures and 589 under water channel sections



## ► Flood Hazard Data Generated

- Elevations: 10%, 4%, 2%, 1%, 1%+, 1%-, 0.2%
- Floodplain extents: 10%, 1%, 0.2%, Floodway

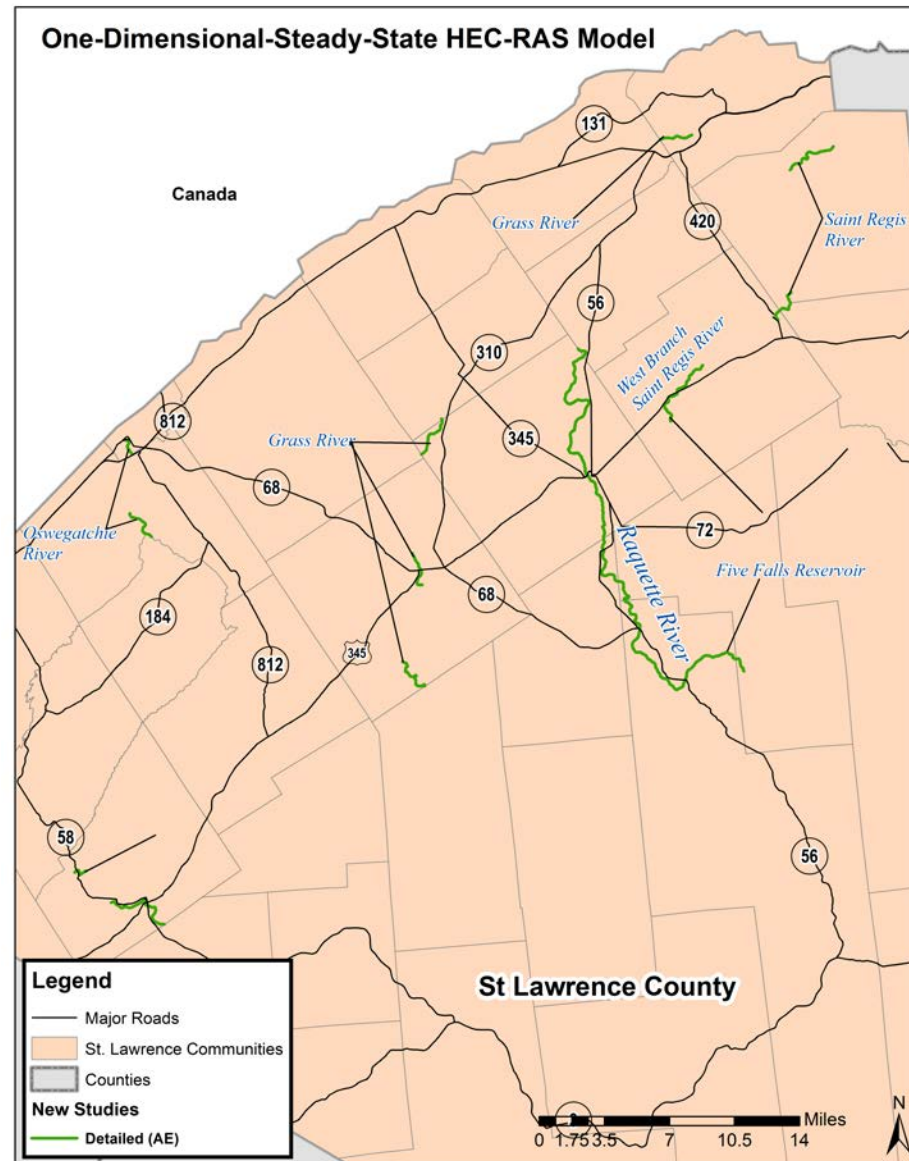
# Engineering Methods - Detailed Streams

## ► Hydrologic Method: USGS Regression Equations

- Grass River
- Five Falls Reservoir
- Oswegatchie River
- Grass River
- Raquette River
- St. Regis River

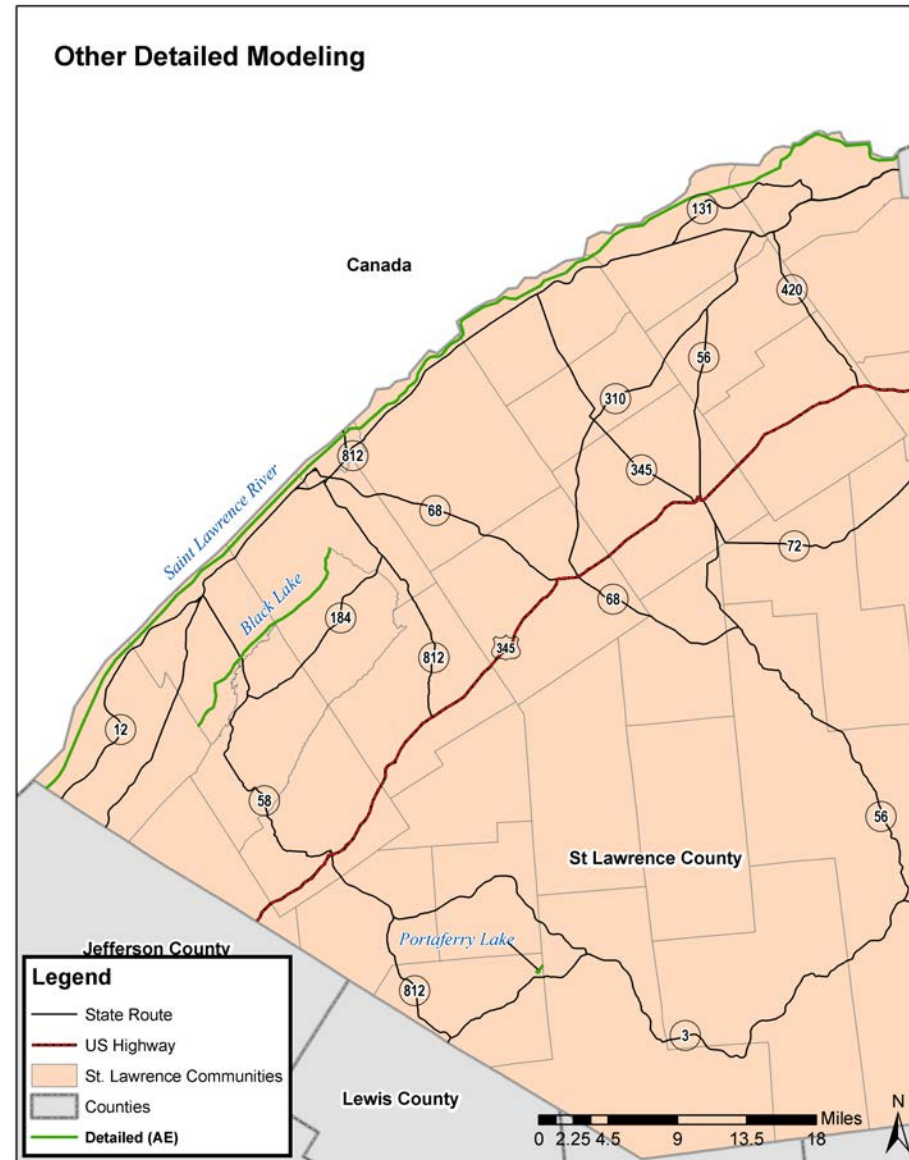
## ► Hydraulic Method: HEC-RAS, 1D steady state hydraulic model

- Five Falls Reservoir – 0.9 miles
- Grass River – 9.1 miles
- Oswegatchie River – 8.6 miles
- Raquette River – 30.6 miles
- St. Regis River – 5.5 miles
- West Branch St. Regis River – 4.5 miles



# Engineering Methods - Detailed Streams

- ▶ **Hydrologic Method: HEC-HMS, rainfall-runoff model**
  - Black Lake
  - Portaferry Lake
- ▶ **Hydraulic Method: Stage – frequency analysis**
  - St. Lawrence River
- ▶ **Hydraulic Method: Lake – Stage frequency analysis**
  - St. Lawrence River – 75.2 miles
  - Black Lake – 15.3 miles
  - Portaferry Lake – 0.7 miles

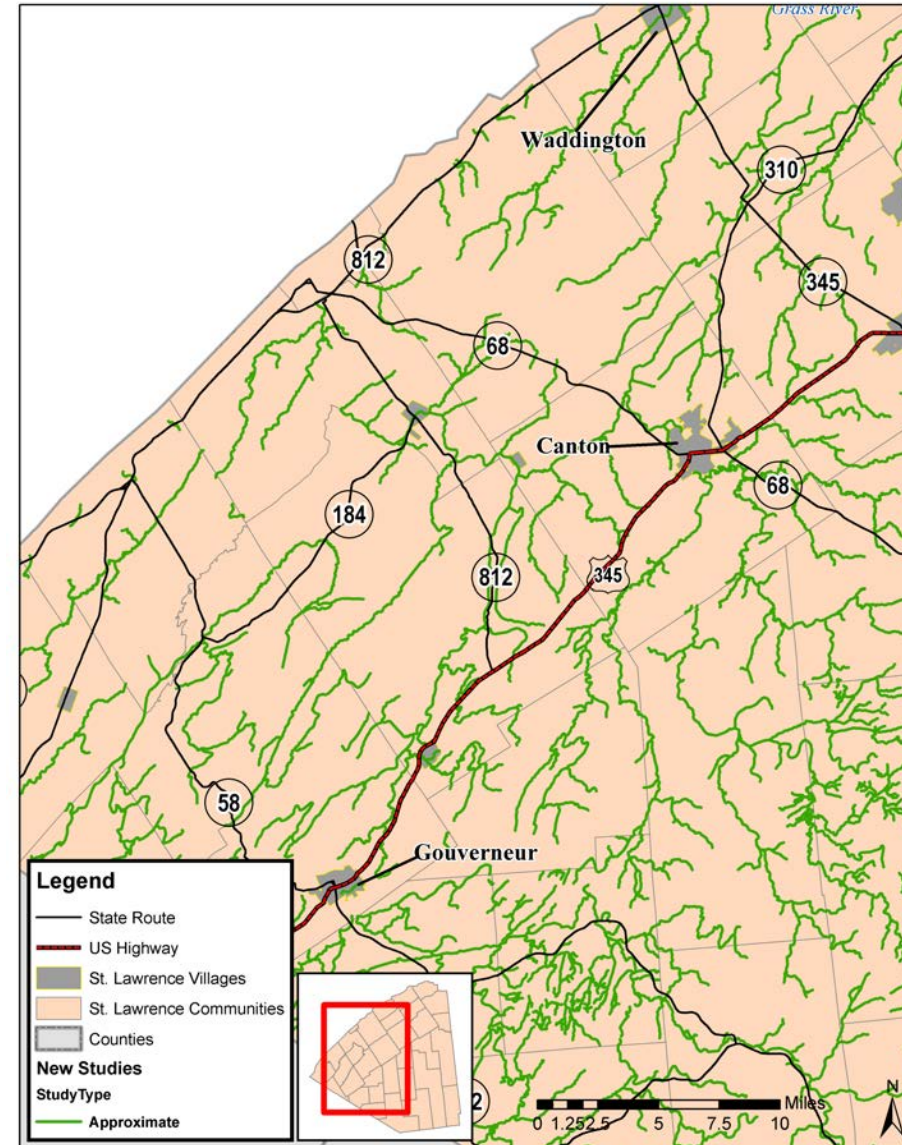


FEMA



# Engineering Methods - Approximate Streams

- ▶ **Approximate Streams – 2450.6 miles**
  - Hydrologic Method
    - Statistical gage analysis
    - USGS regression equations
    - Volumetric calculations
  - Hydraulic Method
    - 1D steady state hydraulic model
    - Lake volumetric calculations assuming no outflows
- ▶ **Floodplain extents for 10%, 1%, and 0.2%**





# **Where Are We Now; What Is Next?**

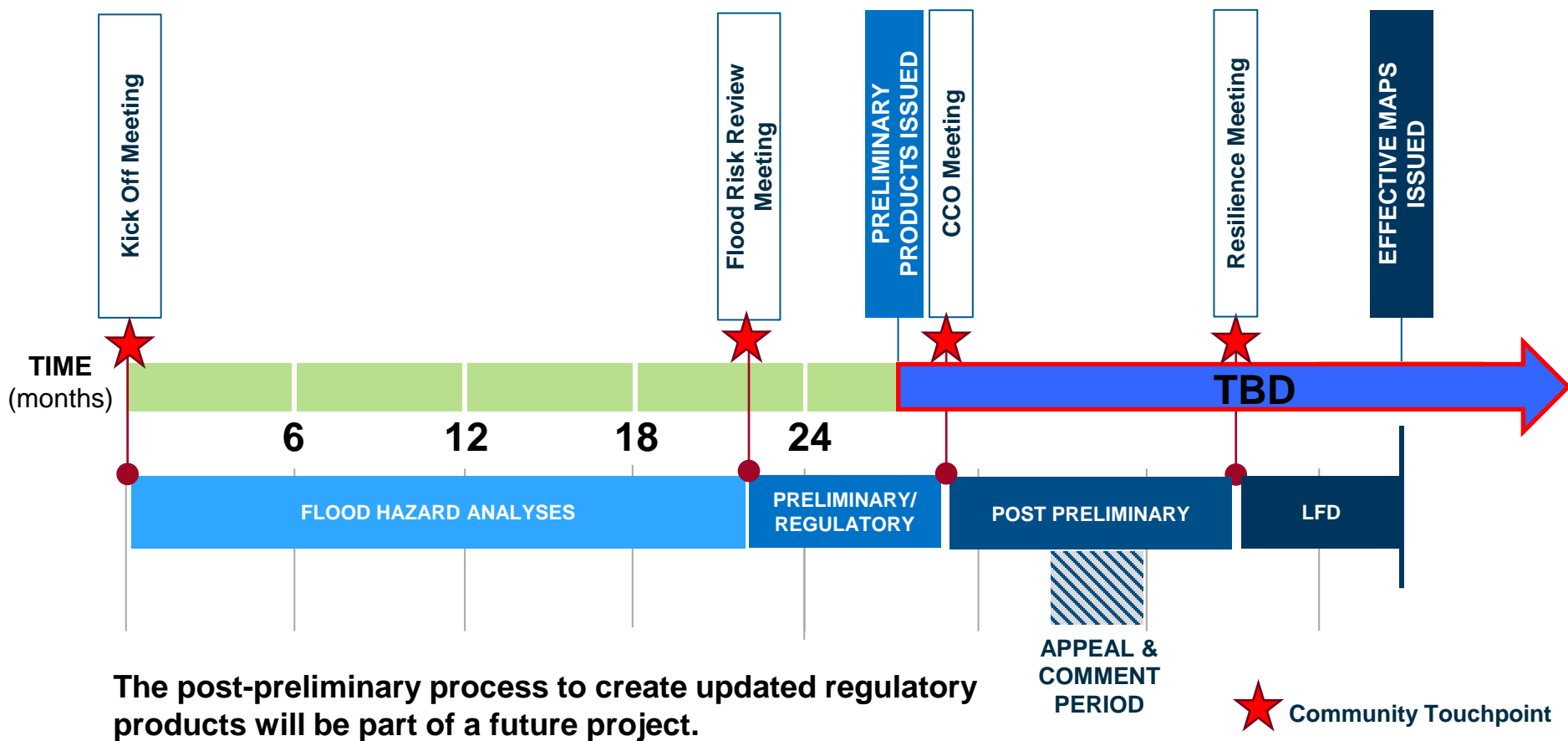
Discuss next steps



**FEMA**



# Overall Flood Risk Project Timeline



FEMA

# Major Study Milestones

## ► Data Development (June 2022)

- Terrain processing
- Engineering Methods Concurrence (620 letters)
- Field reconnaissance and survey
- Hydrologic modeling
- Hydraulic modeling
- Floodplain mapping (workmaps)

## ► Flood Risk Review Meeting (November 2022)

- Review work map products with communities

## ► Preliminary Products Update (FIRM & FIS)

- Preliminary Maps Issued (July 2023)



# **What Will Communities Receive?**

## **Preliminary and Planning Products**



**FEMA**

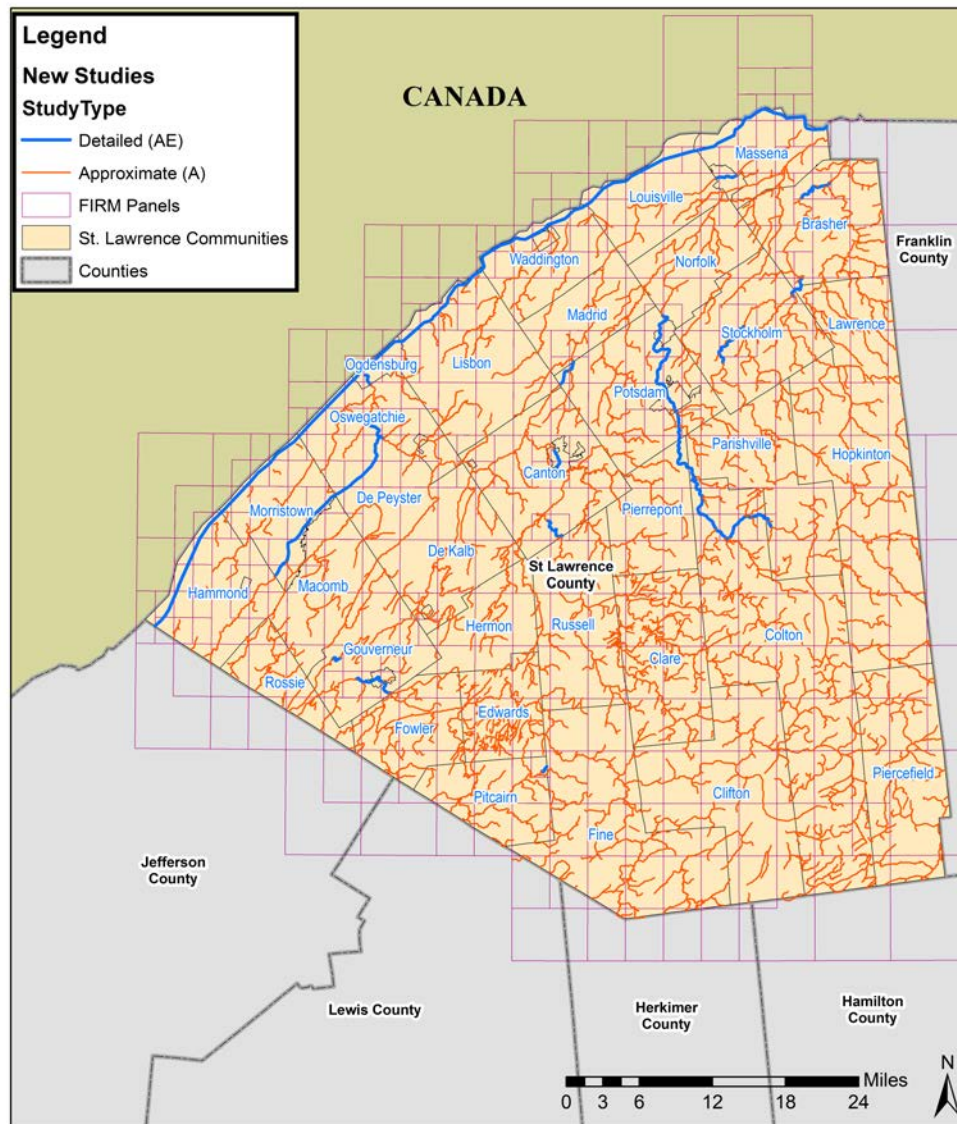


# Work Maps

- ▶ **Draft floodplain mapping shared using draft maps**
- ▶ **Flood Risk Review meeting provides a review of the new engineering analysis results, allowing communities to:**
  - Identify potential updates for Hazard Mitigation Plans
  - Provide insight and input on hydrology and hydraulic results in updated study area
  - Seek local buy-in and review possible use of analysis
  - Identify areas of large changes and potential opportunities for risk reduction
  - Identify risk communications needs and options

# Preliminary Mapping Products

- ▶ **Preliminary product development commences after draft map comment period**
- ▶ **Seamless countywide mapping produced**
- ▶ **Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Database**
  - ▶ First Countywide mapping
- ▶ **402 Preliminary FIRM Panels**
- ▶ **Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Report**



FEMA

[illegible]

**RiskMAP**  
Increasing Resilience Together



# Knowing the Risk

**Communities that develop a sound understanding of flood risk will be more empowered to...**

- ▶ Effectively plan use of resources for natural hazards and potential disasters;
- ▶ Implement effective hazard mitigation projects;
- ▶ Better regulate current and future development without increasing risk; and/or
- ▶ Accurately communicate about natural hazards to its residents about personal and community mitigation projects that can reduce long-term risk.



# Contacts

- **FEMA Project Monitor**  
Shudipto Rahman  
202-702-4273  
[shudipto.rahman@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:shudipto.rahman@fema.dhs.gov)
- **FEMA Outreach Coordinator**  
Stephanie Gootman  
202-802-3137  
[stephanie.gootman@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:stephanie.gootman@fema.dhs.gov)
- **NY State Department of Environmental Conservation**  
Central Office Contact: Brad Wenskoski  
Region 6 Contact: Mary Binder  
585-226-5447  
[mary.binder@dec.ny.gov](mailto:mary.binder@dec.ny.gov)
- **STARR II Project Manager**  
Sabu Paul, Ph.D., PE  
571-551-5554  
[sabu.paul@atkinsglobal.com](mailto:sabu.paul@atkinsglobal.com)
- **STARR II Regional Support Center Lead**  
Rosemary Bolich  
646-490-3848  
[rosemary.bolich@stantec.com](mailto:rosemary.bolich@stantec.com)



**FEMA**

# Questions? Comments?



## Thank you!



# FEMA