City of Ithaca
Flood Concerns
Common Council Presentation
June 7, 2023
Background

Army Corps of Engineers Study—May 2011

- Study used old modeling techniques
- Didn’t analyze contributing creeks
- Showed that dredging 670K cubic yards from Flood Control Channel would mitigate risk
- Estimated cost: $120 million
US Geological Survey

USGS Study--2018

• Initiated by City of Ithaca in 2015 as part of Local Flood Hazard Analysis (LFHA) in response to FEMA’s plans to update flood maps

• Used new modeling techniques to show impact of contributing creeks
Local Flood Hazard Analysis

LFHA--2020

- City hired Barton & Loguidice to evaluate various mitigation measures using the USGS model
- Found that increasing channel capacity was most cost effective solution
- Evaluated dredging of Flood Control Channel (DEC Project)
- Evaluated floodwalls (City of Ithaca Project)
100 Year Flood Mitigation Scenarios From 2020 LFHA

Blue = Flooded Areas
Orange/Red = Mitigated Areas (no longer flooded)
Current Status

FEMA
• New maps are expected to become regulatory sometime in 2024
• New maps will require certain property owners to purchase flood insurance
• FEMA held public meeting in March, and Open Houses in April to discuss map changes with residents

CITY
• City has applied for 3 FEMA grants to fund final design and construction of flood mitigation measures. We are still waiting to hear about grant awards.
• Total project cost: Approx. $12 million
• Design and permitting work: 18 months to get CLOMR
• Construction work: 18 months to get LOMR
• City Website: “FEMA Flood Risk Information” link. Additional links to reports, maps, insurance information.

DEC
• City is coordinating work with DEC dredging project
• DEC also has funding issues to finalize dredging design and dredging work