City of Flagstaff

City of Flagstaff and BNSF Railway Coordination and Reimbursement Agreement

November 17, 2026

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Discussion

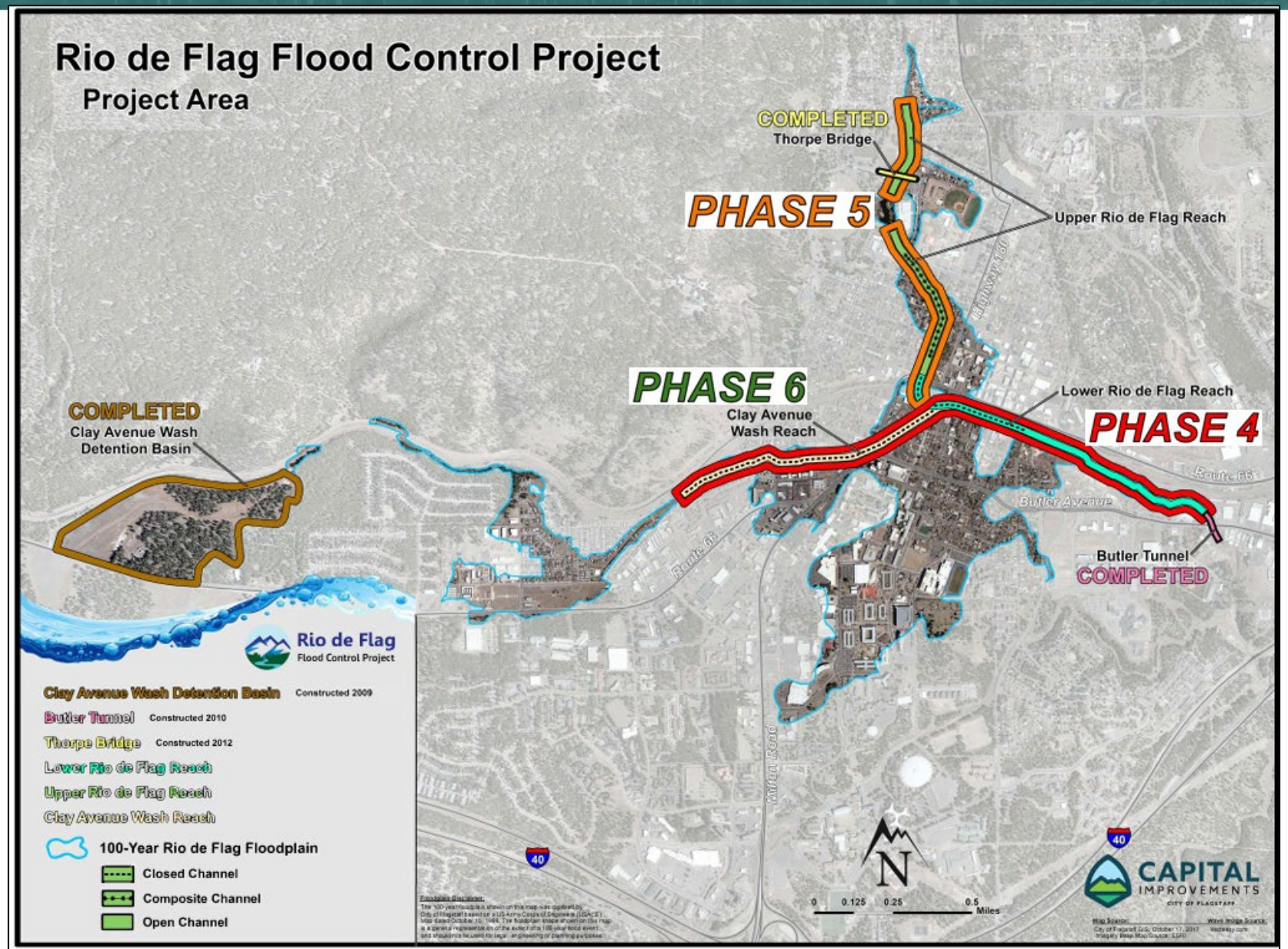
- **Coordination and Reimbursement Agreement**
  - Rio de Flag Operation and Maintenance, Lone Tree Overpass Construction and Maintenance, Easement Agreement
- **Rio de Flag Flood Control Project**
- **Lone Tree Overpass**
- **Downtown Mile Safety and Connectivity Project**
  - Karen Cooper FUTS Underpass
  - Florence to Walnut Pedestrian Underpass
  - Amtrak Station Platforms

Coordination and Reimbursement Agreement

- Umbrella agreement to capture contractual responsibilities for City of Flagstaff Improvement Projects on BNSF Railway property.
  - Rio de Flag Operation and Maintenance – Outlines how the project will be maintained into the future by the City of Flagstaff.
  - Lone Tree Overpass Construction and Maintenance – Allows for the City and their contractor (Ames Construction) to enter BNSF property to construct the track relocation for the overpass structure.
  - Easement Agreement – BNSF will dedicate temporary and perpetual easements for the construction and maintenance of the City owned improvements.

Rio de Flag Flood Control Project

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Rio de Flag Flood Control Project

Total Project Cost Estimate - $244M

- 65% U.S. Army Corps contribution
- 35% City contribution

Anticipated Schedule

- Phase 4 (Lower Reach)
  - Contract advertisement - December 2026
  - Construction start - early summer 2027
- Phase 6 (Clay Wash Reach)
  - Construction advertisement - December 2027
  - Construction start - early summer 2028
- Phase 5 (Upper Reach)
  - Will occur after Phase 6 advertisement



Community Benefits

- Reduction in the 100-Year FEMA flood plain which currently covers a significant portion of Downtown, Southside, and NAU areas.
- Reduction in flood insurance requirements.
- Redevelopment opportunities.
- Protection of City infrastructure – Roadways, Utilities.
- Increase in health and safety for Flagstaff residents.
- Protection from potential economic impacts and property damage valued over $1B.



Clay Wash Detention Basin

Clay Avenue Wash Detention Basin

- Completed in 2009
- Provides stormwater detention for Clay Wash west of town
- First phase of the project
- 3,800 feet long levee and spillway
- Capacity will detain up to 295 acre-feet of water
- $6 Million construction cost
- Completed July 2009



Thorpe Bridge

Thorpe Bridge

- Concrete arched culvert bridge, relocation of water, sanitary sewer and reclaimed water mains, and reconstruction of Thorpe Road (including new curb & gutter, sidewalk, and landscaping) between Bonito Street and Aztec Street.
- $2.45 million construction cost. Federal Highway Bill Bridge Funding.
- Completed December 2012



Butler Tunnel

Butler Avenue Tunnel

- Most downstream feature of the main stem design.
- This feature is a 16-foot diameter tunnel which significantly increases the flow capacity at the east project limit.
- $3.6M Construction cost.
- Completed in August 2010.



Current Rio de Flag Efforts

- City Leadership held meetings on November 12 with Senators, Representatives, USACE, FRA, & USDOT to stress urgency.
- Nov. 2026 storm:
  - Declaration of Emergency issued.
  - Conditions prompted multiple water rescues and tragic loss of life.
  - City inspected 100+ damaged homes and businesses, $1.34M in damages to private property.
- City Requests:
  - Support for approval of final design and agency agreements for Phase 4 construction in summer 2027.
  - Support of Phase 6 funding to allow for bid advertisement in fall 2027 and construction in spring 2028.
- City advanced $11M funding for extension of Phase 4 through Mountain Line's Downtown Connection Center. Advances schedule on the DCC site completion and Southside Civic Space. Mountain Line contributed $1M toward construction.
- Southside Flooding Summit November 20 – Internal staff and engineering consultant workshop to discuss flooding event and look at short, medium, and long-term improvements to augment the Rio de Flag Project.
- Ongoing staff and community volunteer days for trash removal in washes.
- U.S. Army Corps 595 Project support
- Look for notice regarding Public Meeting with the Army Corps and their contractor prior to construction in 2027.
- Rio de Flag Project Website **https://connect.flagstaffaz.gov/RDF**

Lone Tree Overpass

Lone Tree Overpass

- Widened corridor with enhanced bike and ped facilities
- New Route 66 Intersection
- Three Protected Intersections
- Accommodates future Rio de Flag Project

- Cost estimate $140M (Prop 420)
- Design 100%
- Construction 2027 to 2029



Downtown Mile Safety and Connectivity Improvement Project

- Pedestrian Underpasses, Milton Bridge reconstruction, Rail relocation and 3rd main, Amtrak Platforms, Beaver/San Fran Reconstruction, New Santa Fe Intersection
- Budget $59M
  - Design $3.5M
  - Construction $56M
    - INFRA Grant $32M
    - City (Prop 419) $9.8M
    - BNSF $11M
    - ADOT $3M
- Design 100%
  - Under final review
- Construction 2027 to 2030



Questions and Discussion