



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Wilmington District

## Princeville, NC (Flood Risk Management)

- **Sponsor: State of North Carolina**
- **Chief's Report signed 23 February 2016**
- **Authorized for Construction in the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) of 2016**
- **Awaiting New Phase funding to begin Preconstruction Engineering and Design**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 1

DATE: 25 March 2019

1. **AUTHORIZATION:** Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016.
2. **STUDY AREA:** The town of Princeville is located on the Tar River in Edgecombe County, NC. The study area includes that portion of the Tar River basin that may impact flooding in the vicinity of Princeville. This study has been conducted as a result of Executive Order 13146 in February 2000 which established the “President’s Council on the Future of Princeville” and directed it to “enhance the future of Princeville and its citizens” and make “recommendations to repair and rebuild Princeville, and to the extent practicable, protect Princeville from future floods.”
3. **IMPROVEMENTS DESIRED BY LOCAL INTERESTS:** The town of Princeville suffered extensive damage from flooding due to Hurricane Floyd in 1999 and again in 2016 from Hurricane Matthew. The local governments and the state expressed interest in investigating incremental improvements to the existing Continuing Authorities Program Section 205 flood risk management project constructed in 1967. Alternative measures such as extension of the existing levee, installing backflow devices on highway culverts, and raising roads would reduce a significant amount of the remaining risk to public safety and property, which is caused by flooding from the Tar River. The Corps has identified a plan that would contain the 1% annual chance event with 95% assurance, but the benefits do not exceed the costs (estimated at a total project first cost of \$21.5 million; for this plan, with a benefit-cost (B/C) ratio of 0.3 to 1 at a 7% discount rate.

PROJECT INFORMATION – Princeville, NC (Flood Risk Management) – Continued

Major components of the plan include extending a portion of the existing levee to the east to improve the level of flood risk reduction provided to the main historic area of Princeville; raising local roadways, installing culvert flapgates, and construction of a shoulder levee along Highway 64 interchange.

4. **COST ESTIMATE:** Preconstruction Engineering & Design

\$2,600,000	(Federal)
<u>\$1,400,000</u>	(non-Federal)
\$4,000,000	Total

5. **FEDERAL FUNDING ALLOCATION THRU FY 2018:** \$0.

6. **FY 2019 BUDGET AMOUNT:** \$0. No planned activities due to lack of funding.

7. **FY 2019 WORK PLAN:** \$0.

8. **FY 2020 BUDGET AMOUNT:** TBD. Funds in the amount of \$800,000 could be used to start the preconstruction engineering and design (PED) phase.

9. **KEY DATES:**

February 2016 (Chief's Report signed)

December 2016 (Authorized for Construction in WRDA 2016)

10. **OTHER INFORMATION:** The town of Princeville has a unique historic and cultural importance in American history as the first town in the United States founded by ex-slaves. After the extensive damage the town suffered from flooding due to Hurricane Floyd, President Clinton signed an Executive Order (E.O. 13146) in February 2000 which led to the initiation of studies to identify flood risk management alternative measures.

The town of Princeville suffered frequent and severe flooding, up until the construction of a Corps' Section 205 Continuing Authorities Program project (1967), which was based, on the "Design Event" (historical flood event) of 1919. The town did not suffer severe flooding between construction of the project in 1967 and Hurricane Floyd in 1999 (32 years). Hurricane Floyd (a greater than 0.2% event) caused catastrophic flooding of the town, and loss of a significant number of residences and homes. The town retained approximately 20 feet of water until pumps were used to remove floodwaters.

## PROJECT INFORMATION – Princeville, NC (Flood Risk Management) – Continued

Immediately following the flood event, numerous Federal agencies including FEMA, HUD, SBA, USDA and the Department of Labor provided millions of dollars for recovery and reconstruction of the town. That investment still remains at risk from large floods. The town is ethnic (over 95% African-American) and economically disadvantaged (per capita income ~\$12,024, versus \$27,334 for U.S. – 43.9% of national average). Approximately 2,000 people are exposed to public/life safety issues associated with the potential for flooding. The average structure value (~\$77,300, versus \$188,400 for U.S.), is less than half (41%) of the national average, making economic justification based on national economic development (NED) analysis alone impossible for this community.

The town of Princeville was again severely flooded as a result of Hurricane Matthew in October 2016, and residents were again forced to evacuate. Damages were extensive and town residents remain displaced. Local concern about continuous vulnerability to flooding has maintained a high level of interest in moving forward with design and construction of the project.