

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
9221 Ward Parkway, Suite 300  
Kansas City, Missouri, 64114-3372



# FEMA

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS CONVENTION COMPLEX PARKADE ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT  
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA  
FEMA-1763-DR-IA

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to fund the City of Cedar Rapids' request for an improved project to construct a seven story parking structure in Cedar Rapids, Iowa under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5121-5207, as amended (Stafford Act, Public Law 93-288). FEMA was authorized under a Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA-1763-DR-IA) to provide Federal disaster assistance to Linn County, Iowa, as a result of the devastating flood that impacted the City of Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa, beginning on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) was written to evaluate the potential impacts of the actions considered on the human and natural environment. The DEA summarizes the purpose and need, project evaluation process, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the considered options.

The City of Cedar Rapids' preferred option is to demolish the existing Lots 24/26 surface parking lot and construct a new parkade structure between 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue with skywalk to the adjacent convention center. FEMA's Public Assistance Program has rules whereby eligible applicants may choose to use eligible, though reduced, recovery funds for improved projects. It is under these rules that the City has identified the preferred option with additional eligible funding from 280 parkway repair sites throughout downtown. The "no action" alternative, where no FEMA funds are provided for the project, is also considered in the DEA.

The public comment period will be from May 16 to June 15, 2012. Written comments on the DEA can be faxed to FEMA's Iowa Closeout Center at (515) 223-7216, emailed to [Fema-ICC-EHP@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Fema-ICC-EHP@fema.dhs.gov), or mailed to Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Branch, 7755 Office Plaza Drive North, Suite 145, Building G, West Des Moines IA 50266.

The DEA can be viewed at the Cedar Rapids City Hall; at the Cedar Rapids Public Library at 221 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SE, downtown; or 2600 Edgewood Road SW at Westdale Mall; or downloaded from FEMA's website at: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region7.shtm>. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.