



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Flood Risk Management: Section 205, Red River of the North Wahpeton, North Dakota



Stage 1 construction for the Wahpeton project.

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Location/Description

Wahpeton is in Richland County in eastern North Dakota, approximately 55 miles south of Fargo, North Dakota. The Red River of the North and the Bois de Sioux River border the city on the east. The confluence of the Otter Tail River with the Red River of the North is located at Wahpeton. The city of Breckenridge, Minnesota, lies east across the Red River of the North from Wahpeton.

The 1997 flood nearly devastated Wahpeton. Only heroic flood fighting kept the city from sustaining significant damages. The 1997 flood generated a strong determination by all levels of government to implement permanent flood risk management projects for existing urban communities along the Red River of the North, including Wahpeton and its sister city, Breckenridge.

Background

A feasibility cost share agreement was signed June 18, 1999, to address the flooding problem. The Federal, State, and local government cooperation continued with the signing of project cooperation agreement on

June 12, 2002. The feasibility study recommended a permanent levee system to protect the city and a flood easement to keep breakout flood flows from being blocked in the future.

The Water Resource Development Act of 2007 increased the limit on Federal expenditures from \$7 to \$12 million for the Wahpeton project.

Status

Project construction began in 2003. Levee construction was completed fall 2012 and remaining construction was completed in 2014. The project is essentially complete. The local sponsor initiated work to remove levee encroachments near the zoo area with completion expected in 2016. The Corps is working closely with Federal Emergency Management Agency to support project certification and floodplain mapping.

The project is closely tied to the Breckenridge specifically-authorized flood risk management project, which includes a diversion channel and levee work. The diversion channel was completed in June 2005. To date, the two projects have prevented \$164 million in combined damages through 2016.

Authority

Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act, as amended.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs are to be shared with the non-Federal sponsor. The non-Federal sponsor is responsible for operation and maintenance costs. North Dakota is assisting the city with its financial obligations.

Federal cost	\$12.0 million
Non-Federal cost	\$ 9.2 million
Total estimated project cost	\$21.2 million
Total Federal funding to date	\$12.0 million