

2021 - 2023 BIENNIUM FUNDING REQUEST
HB 1020 - STATE WATER COMMISSION FUNDING



VALLEY CITY-SHEYENNE RIVER

PERMANENT FLOOD PROTECTION



“Thank you

*for your continued support of the Valley City Permanent Flood Protection Project.
With your help we can continue to work to protect our city.”*

Chairman Holmberg and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Valley City sits along the Sheyenne River and is the first community downstream from Baldhill Dam. During the spring of each year, the Sheyenne River swells from snow melt with water levels peaking in March and April. During the spring of 2009, our community encountered a record flood, only to repeat it with a near record flood in the spring of 2011. Additionally, our community reached flood stage in the summer of 2011 from one episode of heavy rains. Each time our community experiences flood conditions, considerable amounts of resources are expended to combat the rising waters. With nearly back to back annual flooding events, City and community resources have been stressed financially and socially. Economic impacts are felt months and years after the flood waters have receded. Years of facility and infrastructure repairs follow these floods.

To mitigate these disruptions to the community, our City is implementing permanent flood protection. The completed projects will provide permanent flood protection for our community eliminating the need for emergency flood fighting efforts for our citizens. Not needing to construct and remove emergency levees will mitigate damage to already aging city infrastructure that would be damaged by heavy construction equipment.

Once completed, the goal of our project is to protect the community from the one percent (100-year) flood event as described by the Flood Insurance Rate Maps mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

We are thankful for the legislature’s support of our flood protection project to date. Valley City has developed a long-term plan for providing permanent flood protection for the community based on the continued support from the State Water Commission. Modifications to the funding structure jeopardizes the ability of Valley City to provide permanent flood protection.

Through the passage of House Bill 1020, which includes our requested funding of \$11 million during the 2021-2023 biennium, we will complete the fifth phase of the flood project, which will expand safety and protection in the economic heart of our community, our downtown.



CURRENT PROGRESS

The permanent flood protection plan is outlined in multiple phases. Phase 1, completed in 2016, was centered on the area near Valley City State University (VCSU). Phase 1 was funded in the 2013-2015 Legislative Biennium.



Phase 2 of permanent flood protection concentrates on a portion of the downtown area. This includes the section of Main Street which is located along the Sheyenne River in addition to protecting the area behind the power substation – critical infrastructure for the community. Construction started in the fall of 2017 and was completed in the summer of 2020. Phase 2 was funded as part of the 2015-2017 Legislative Biennium.

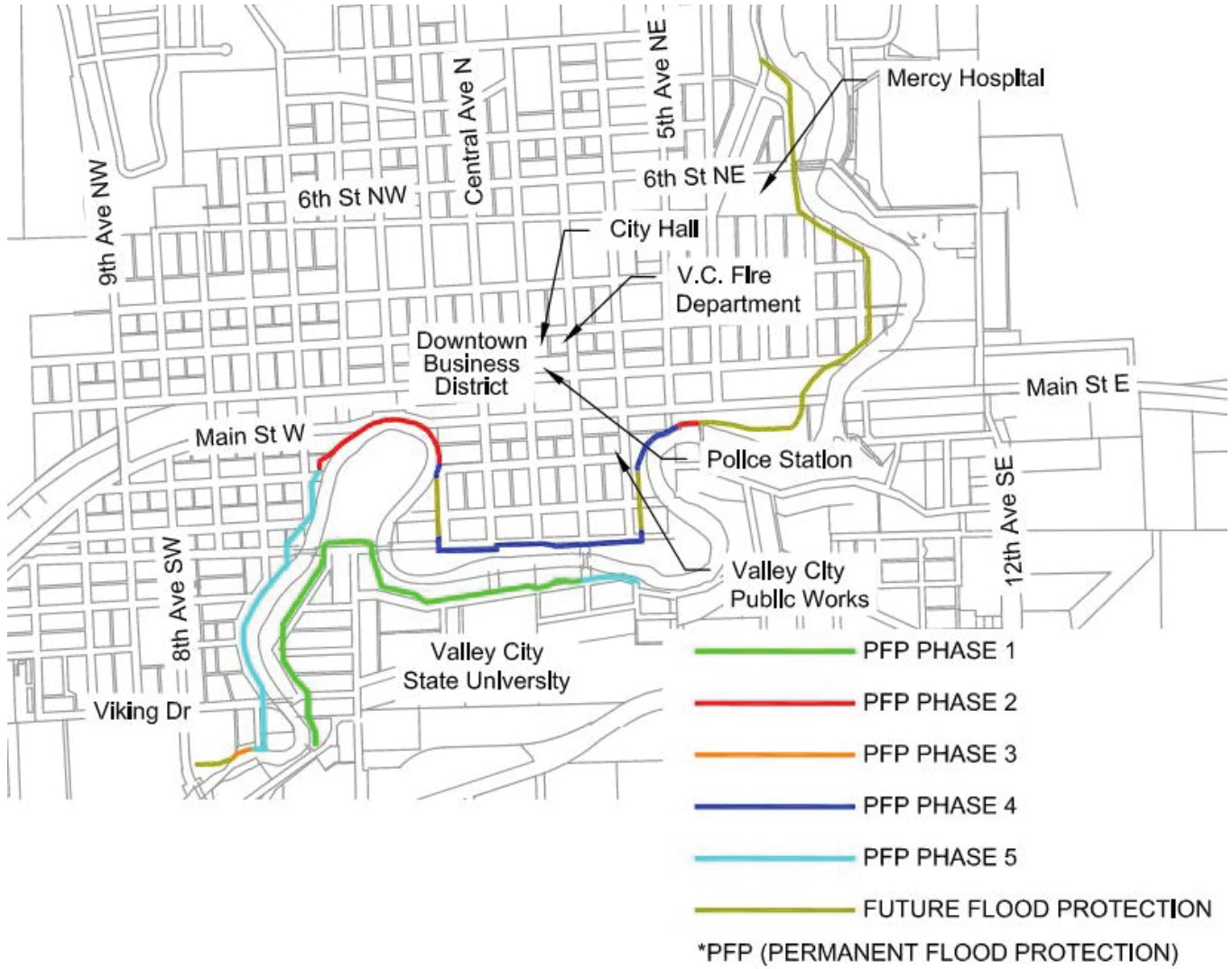
Phase 3 of permanent flood protection protects the City’s Master Lift Station. The Master Lift Station is constructed on the bank of the Sheyenne River and serves the entire city. Work started in the fall of 2019 and was completed in the summer of 2020. Phase 3 was funded in the 2017-2019 Legislative Biennium.

Phase 4 of flood protection project is currently in the planning phase with work focused on the Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) for the entire permanent flood protection system. As discussed above, Phase 2 only covers a portion of the downtown area leaving a number of critical infrastructure components unprotected. Phase 4 focuses on building flood protection to protect this critical city infrastructure, including City Hall, the Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works, Mercy Hospital and two medical clinics. Phase 4 was funded in the 2019-2021 Legislative Biennium.

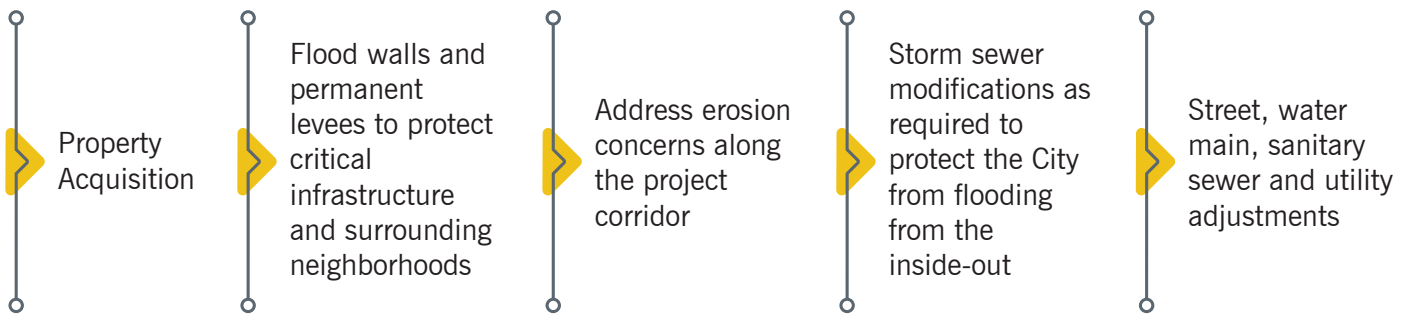


NEXT STEPS

Valley City is ready to move on to Phase 5 of our flood protection project. Phase 5 will connect the Phase 2 project that protects the downtown area with Phase 3 that protects the Master Lift Station. Phase 5 will provide protection to numerous residential dwellings, businesses, a public school and other critical city infrastructure.



Phase 5 concentrates on continuing the protection of Valley City through these construction activities:



REQUEST

The City of Valley City asks for your support of House Bill 1020 and the funding of \$11 million in grant funding through the State Water Commission for the completion of Phase 5 of the Valley City Flood Protection Project.