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A daily roundup of recent news stories and opinion pieces about Tennessee transportation, water and flood control infrastructure

For the full story, click the headline or use the link.

[Mayor's Office Releases Details Of Home Buyout Program \(City Paper\)](#)

The mayor's office Recovery Team released details Thursday outlining details of a home buyout program in the wake of last month's flood. The document is intended to explain Metro's Hazard Mitigation Home Buyout Program, a program intended to buy up damaged homes in the floodway to "reduce the loss of life and property from any future significant flood event in Davidson County," according to a release from the mayor's office. Homes in the floodway that received damage of more than 40 percent will take first priority. An engineering firm is close to completing a list of those homes, and letters to be mailed sometime in the next two weeks will notify homeowners. Metro Water Services, along with the Flood Recovery Team, will administer the program. The document is available at www.nashville.gov/flood/.

<http://nashvillecitypaper.com/content/city-news/mayor-s-office-releases-details-home-buyout-program>

[200 Homes Damaged In Nashville Flood To Be Eligible For Buyouts \(Tennessean/Cass\)](#)

Metro outlines plan for flooded properties Homes in Nashville's floodway that sustained damage greater than 40 percent of their total value last month will be the first priority of the city's voluntary buyout program, Mayor Karl Dean's office said Thursday. The final list of eligible homes isn't complete, but a "letter of interest" should go out to about 200 eligible homeowners in the next 14 days, the mayor's office said in a news release. Signing the letter will start the process but won't commit a homeowner to selling his or her property. Property owners who are eligible to obtain building permits are encouraged to start rebuilding rather than waiting for a buyout offer, the release said. "Depending on the level of federal funds available, Metro Nashville may pursue other homes in the floodway at a later time," it said. The floodway is the area closest to rivers and streams where water flows during a flood. It's also the most dangerous part of the 100-year flood plain.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100604/NEWS0202/6040346/200+homes+damaged+in+Nashville+flood+to+be+eligible+for+buyouts>

[Utility Links Forced by Flood Become Permanent \(WPLN-Radio Nashville\)](#)

Water utilities in middle Tennessee will be better prepared to handle shortages after May's flooding. Harpeth Valley Utility District, which serves Brentwood and Franklin, supplemented Metro Water Services while one of Nashville's two drinking water treatment plants was submerged in floodwater. Operations of the K.R. Harrington facility are getting back to normal, but Metro's water chief Scott Potter says he wants Harpeth Valley to stick around as a backup. "Now that we've got a temporary connection, it's in our utility's interest and in theirs to make it permanent, that way if Harpeth has an issue we can supply them water. If we have an issue, they can supply us water. It just makes sense from a regional cooperative perspective as well." Metro already had a connection to Mt. Juliet's West Wilson utility district. Potter says linking to Harpeth Valley was more difficult because of pressure differences between the two systems.

<http://wpln.org/?p=18192>

[Count of Flooded Businesses Grows by 1,000 , Recovery Teams Activated \(WPLN\)](#)

The number of businesses that sustained flood damage last month has ballooned beyond original estimates, which were based solely on how many properties were affected. The Nashville-area Chamber of Commerce has sent out teams to assess the flood toll. CEO Ralph Schultz says they found hundreds of businesses tucked out of sight but hindered by the flood. "It's that feet on the street approach that has given us the more precise number of a little over 2,700 businesses that were affected to some degree of severity." Those businesses represent a minimum of 9,500 workers and annual revenues in excess of \$3 billion. Some have already returned to operation. Others will take months, if they ever get back on their feet. Schultz says independently-owned businesses run the highest risk of failure during the recovery period. They will be the focus of Mayor Karl Dean's Business Response Team, which will start meeting individually with owners in the coming weeks.

<http://wpln.org/?p=18213>