



# Low-lying Roads: Wellfleet

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Project funded by the Municipal  
Vulnerability Preparedness  
program and the Economic  
Development Administration

Cape Cod Commission: Heather McElroy, Martha Hevenor, Michele White,  
Liz Kellam, Steve Tupper, and Tara Lewis  
Woods Hole Group: Joe Famely

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# Purpose and Objectives of Workshop

- **Review flood projections and impacts on roadways for the town under future scenarios**
- **Discuss vulnerable low-lying roads or other transportation infrastructure**
- **Prepare the town to address priority road segments for design and permitting**

# Agenda

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- Welcome - Wellfleet Energy and Climate Committee
- Project Overview
- Vulnerability and Risk Assessment
- Results of Low-Lying Roads Screening
- Discussion/Breakout Groups
- Next Steps



# Low Lying Roads Project

# 10

TOWNS

EDA and MVP  
funding thru 2023

Vulnerability assessment of low-lying roads and transportation infrastructure

Municipal prioritization

Potential design solutions

## NEXT STEPS: PUBLIC MEETINGS

Prioritize most critical road segments for development of alternative solutions for sea level rise and storm surge adaptation

FALL - DECEMBER

6 public workshops

LATE WINTER - SPRING

4 public workshops

FALL

Yarmouth, Orleans,  
Eastham, Wellfleet,  
Sandwich, Dennis

WINTER

Barnstable, Bourne,  
Brewster, Truro

SPRING

HAZARD  
Storms, SLR  
& Flooding



# Adaptation Strategies



- | Green Infrastructure, or Nature-based Solutions
- | Gray Infrastructure, or Traditional Engineering Structures
- | Other approaches – Managed Retreat, Abandonment

# PROJECT TIMELINE



# Questions?

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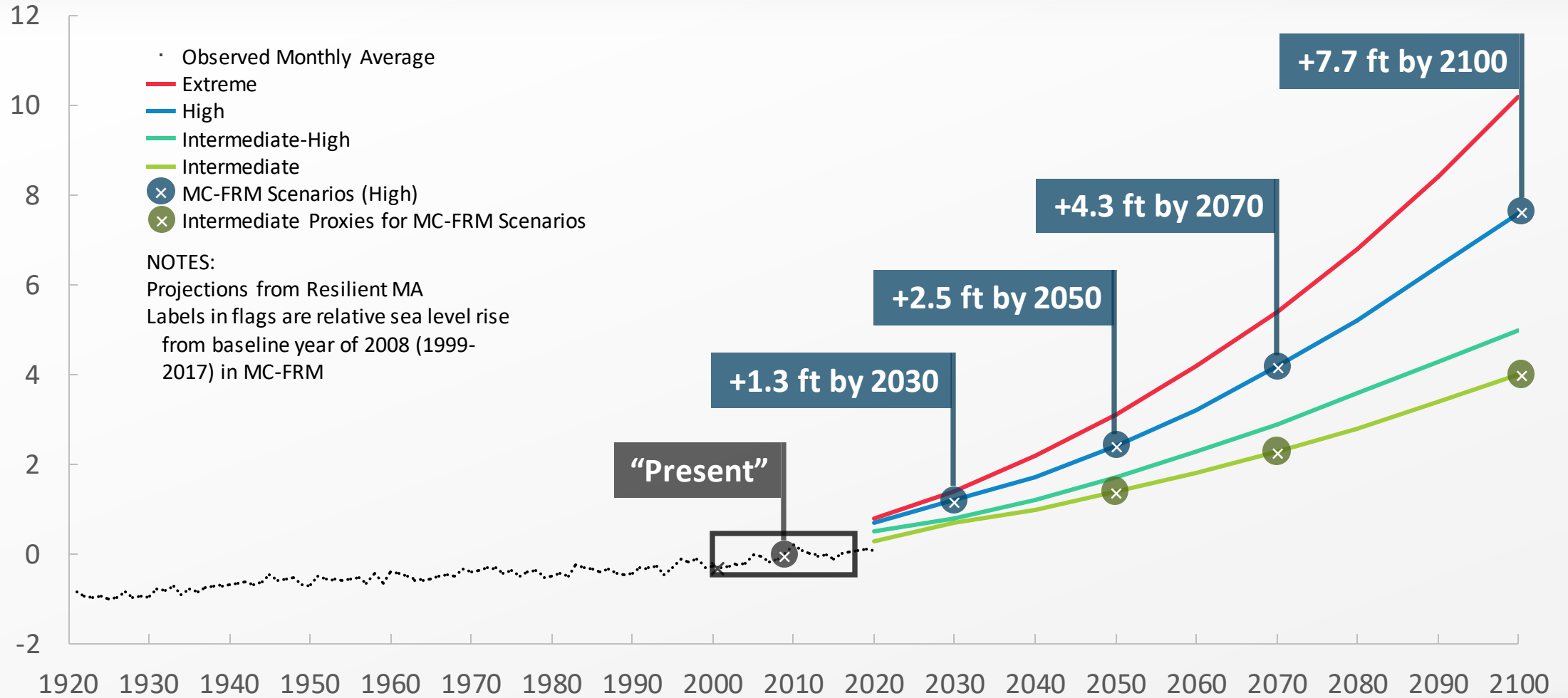
- Workshop Purpose or Objectives
- Low Lying Roads project
  - Key components
    - Vulnerability Assessment - Identify Potential Sites
    - Public Outreach and Engagement
    - Roadway Feasibility and Alternative Solutions
    - Solutions Identification
  - Timeline



# MA EOEEA Probabilistic Sea Level Rise Projections

MC-FRM NORTH (DeConto & Kopp, 2017)

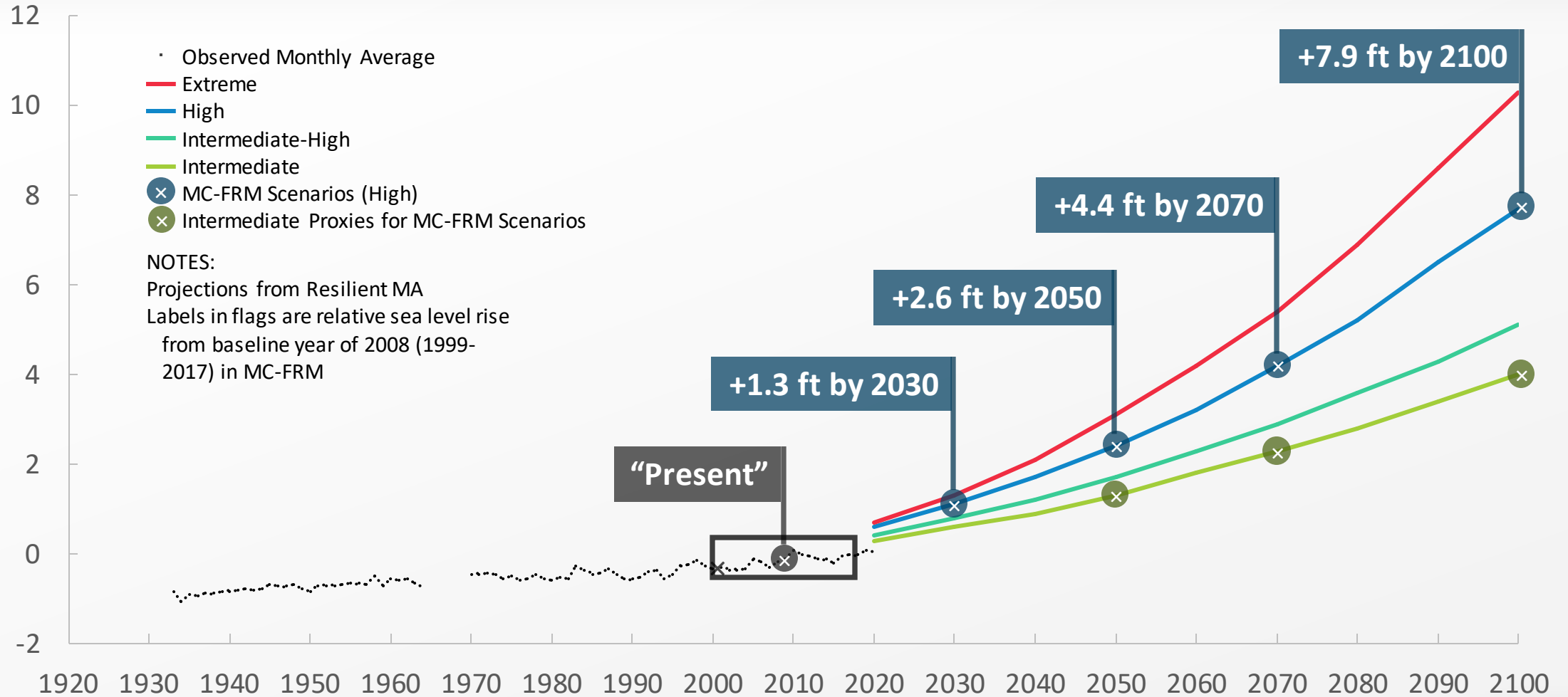
Relative Mean Sea Level (feet NAVD88)



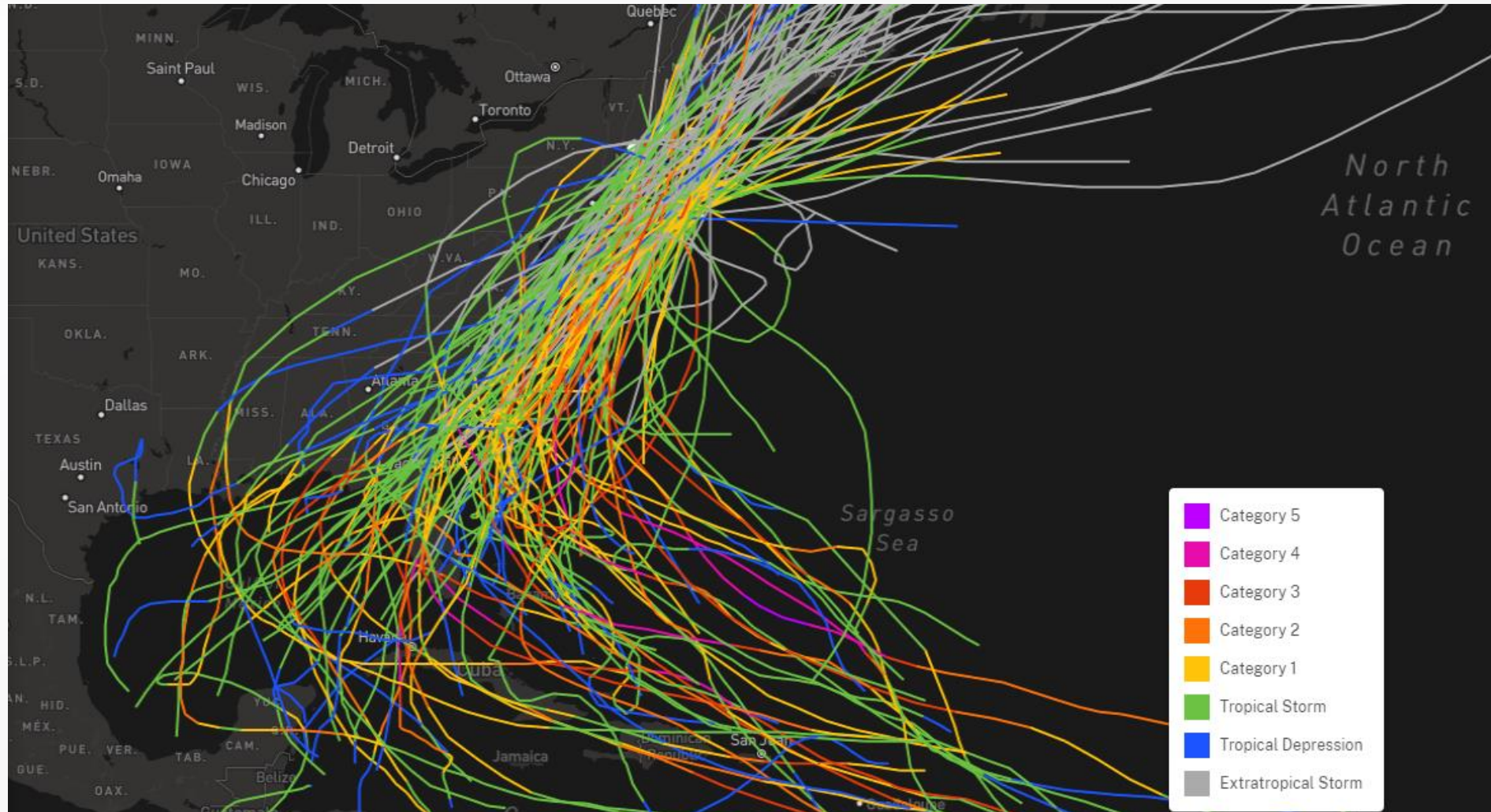
# MA EOEEA Probabilistic Sea Level Rise Projections

MC-FRM SOUTH (DeConto & Kopp, 2017)

Relative Mean Sea Level (feet NAVD88)



# Tropical / Extra-tropical Storms



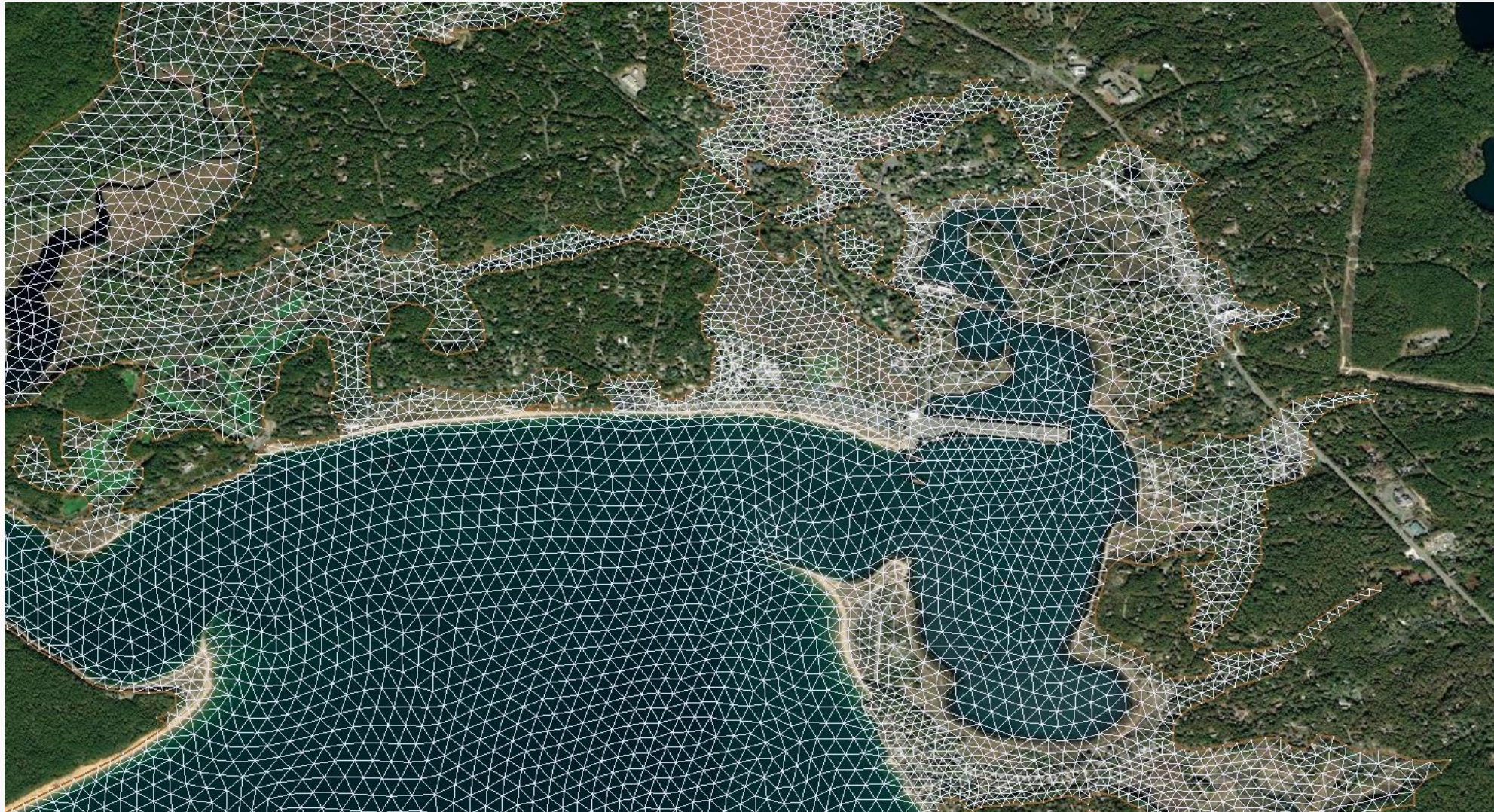
NOAA National Ocean Service



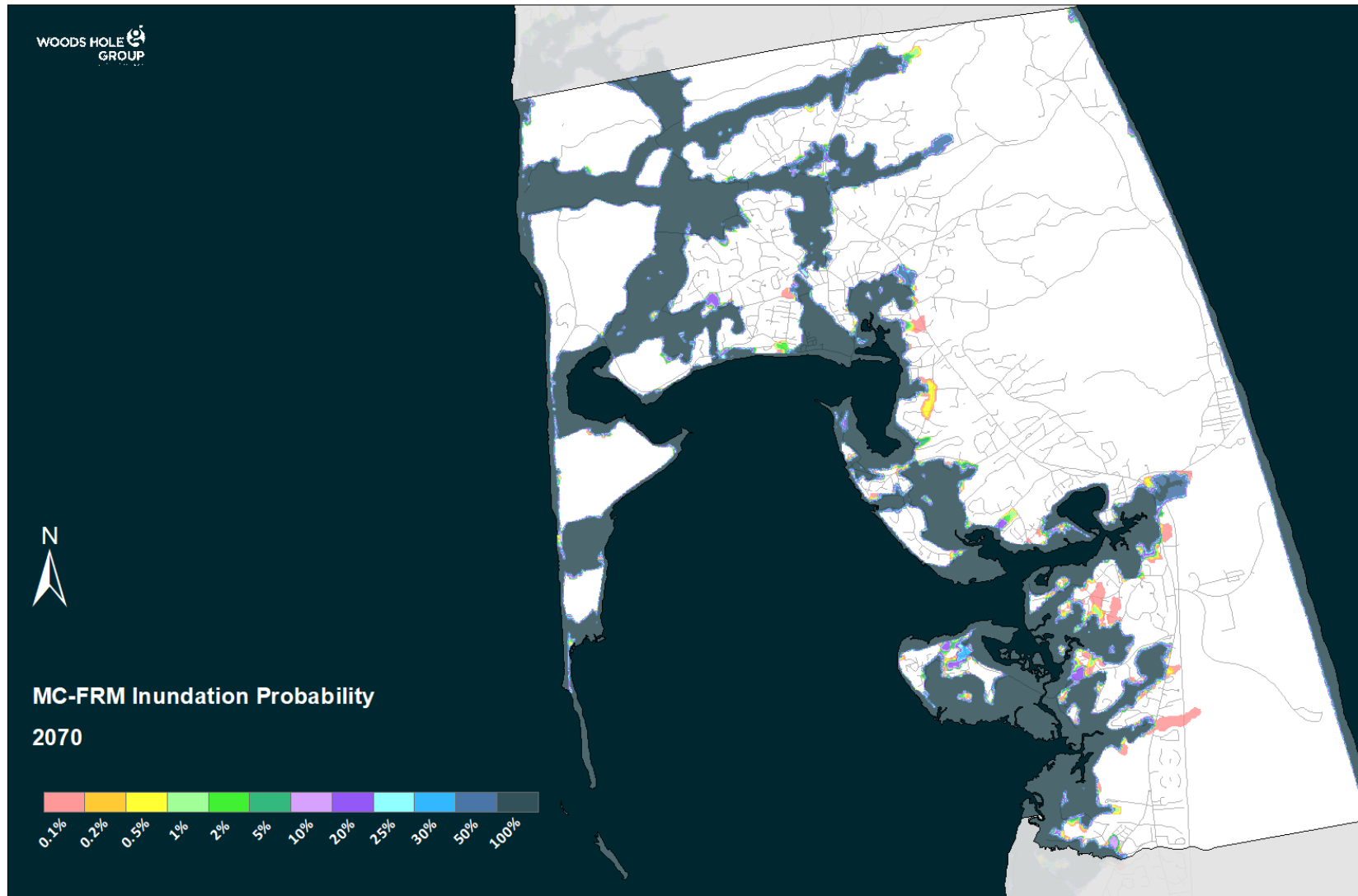
# Massachusetts Coast Flood Risk Model (MC-FRM)



# MC-FRM Resolution - Wellfleet



# MC-FRM Coastal Flood Exceedance Probability – Wellfleet



# Massachusetts Coast Flood Risk Model

## SUMMARY

Hydrodynamically modeled projections

Sea level rise and storm surge – combined

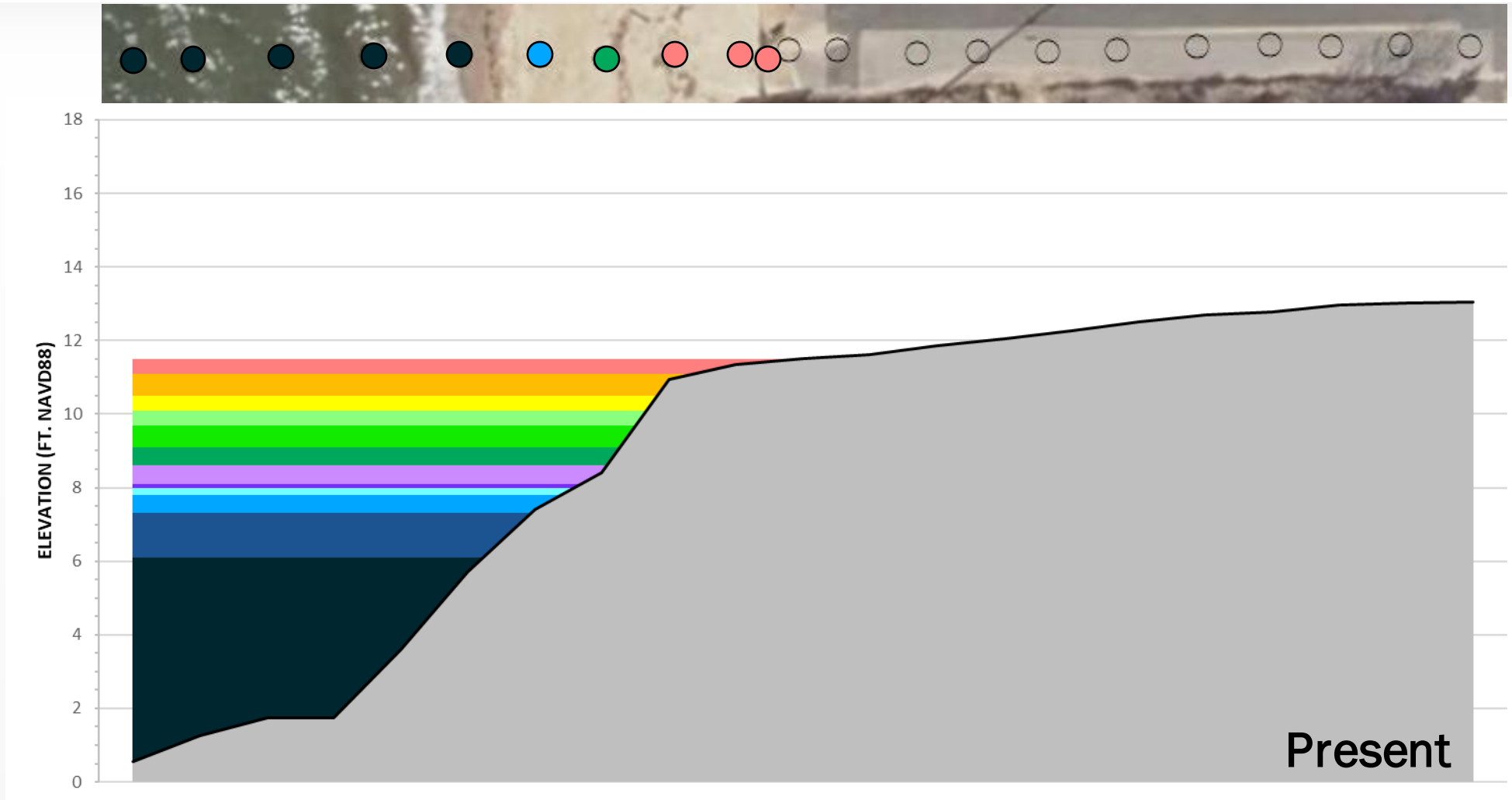
Annual chance of flooding under 2030/2050/2070 climate conditions

## QUESTIONS?





# Cape Cod Low Lying Roads Vulnerability Assessment Methods



COASTAL FLOOD EXCEEDANCE PROBABILITY

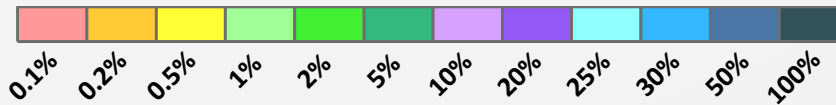


# Cape Cod Low Lying Roads Vulnerability Assessment Methods



2030

COASTAL FLOOD EXCEEDANCE PROBABILITY



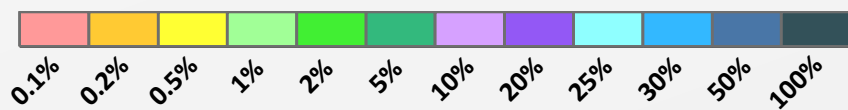


# Cape Cod Low Lying Roads Vulnerability Assessment Methods

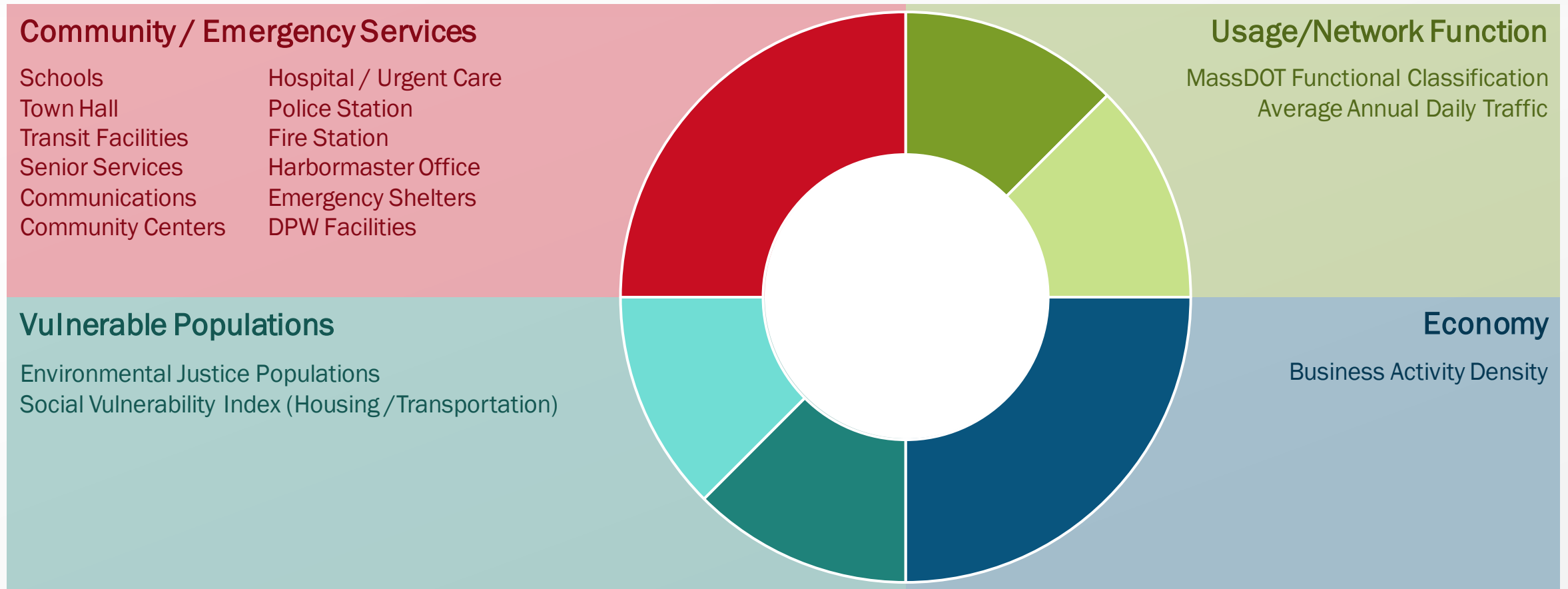


2070

COASTAL FLOOD EXCEEDANCE PROBABILITY

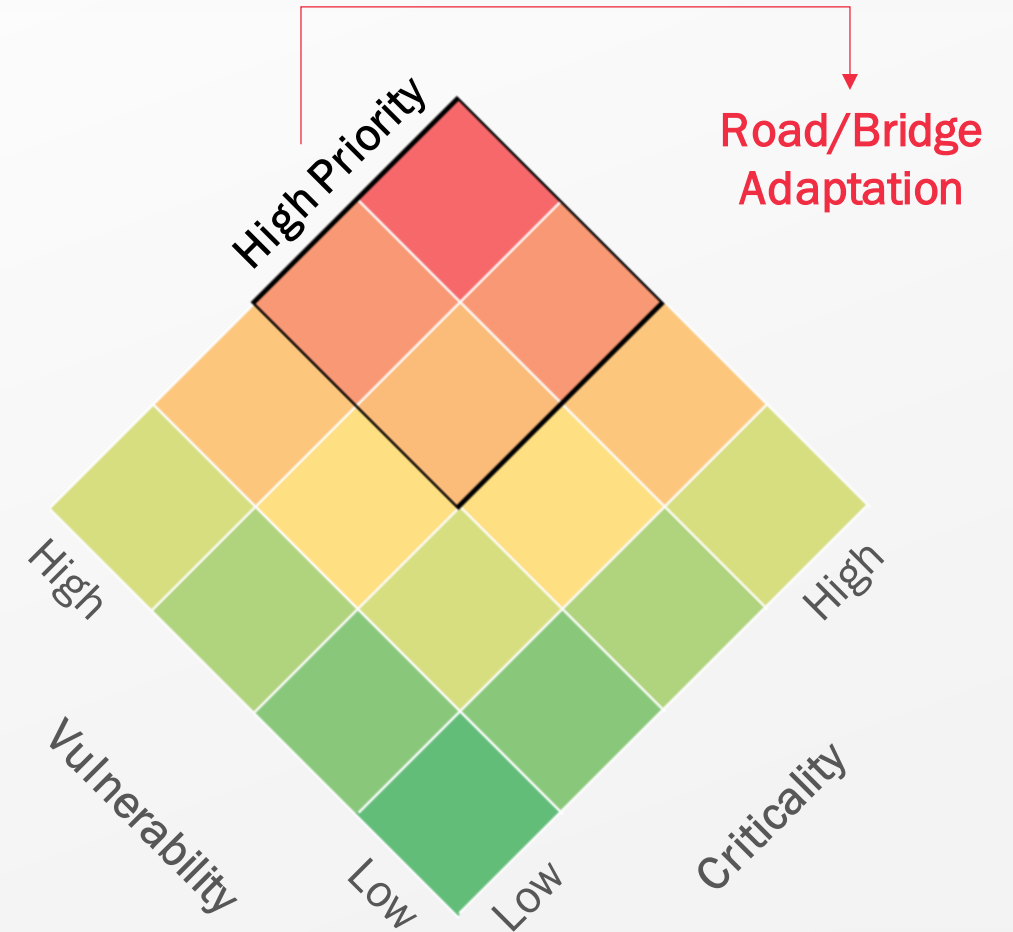


# Cape Cod Low Lying Roads Criticality Scoring Framework

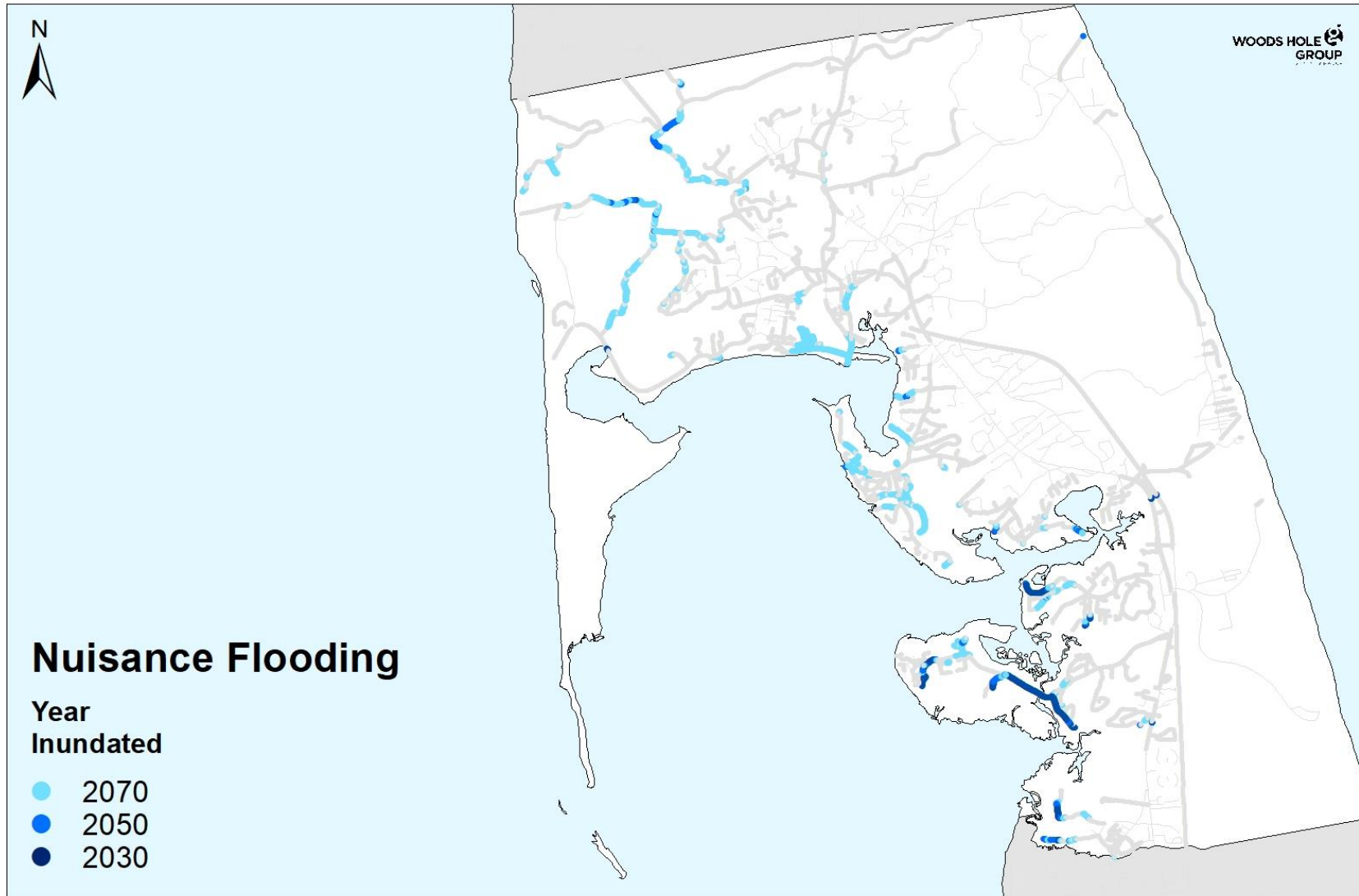


# Cape Cod Low Lying Roads Risk Assessment Approach

1. Extract roadway/bridge critical elevations (CEs)
  - › From LiDAR at 20m interval along surface
2. Compile 2030/2050/2070 MC-FRM water surface elevations (WSEs)
  - › 0.1%, 0.2%, 0.5%, 1%, 2%, 5%, 10%, 20%, 100%
3. Compare CEs to WSEs to determine vulnerability
  - › Highest probability WSE exceeding CE
4. Score road segment criticality
  - › Usage/Network Function
  - › Economy
  - › Vulnerable Populations
  - › Community and Emergency Services
5.  $\text{Probability} * \text{Criticality} = \text{Risk}$
6. Prioritize high-risk road segments for community consideration



# Low Lying Roads Nuisance (MHW) Flooding (Wellfleet)



Road Miles 2030

1.4/136.5

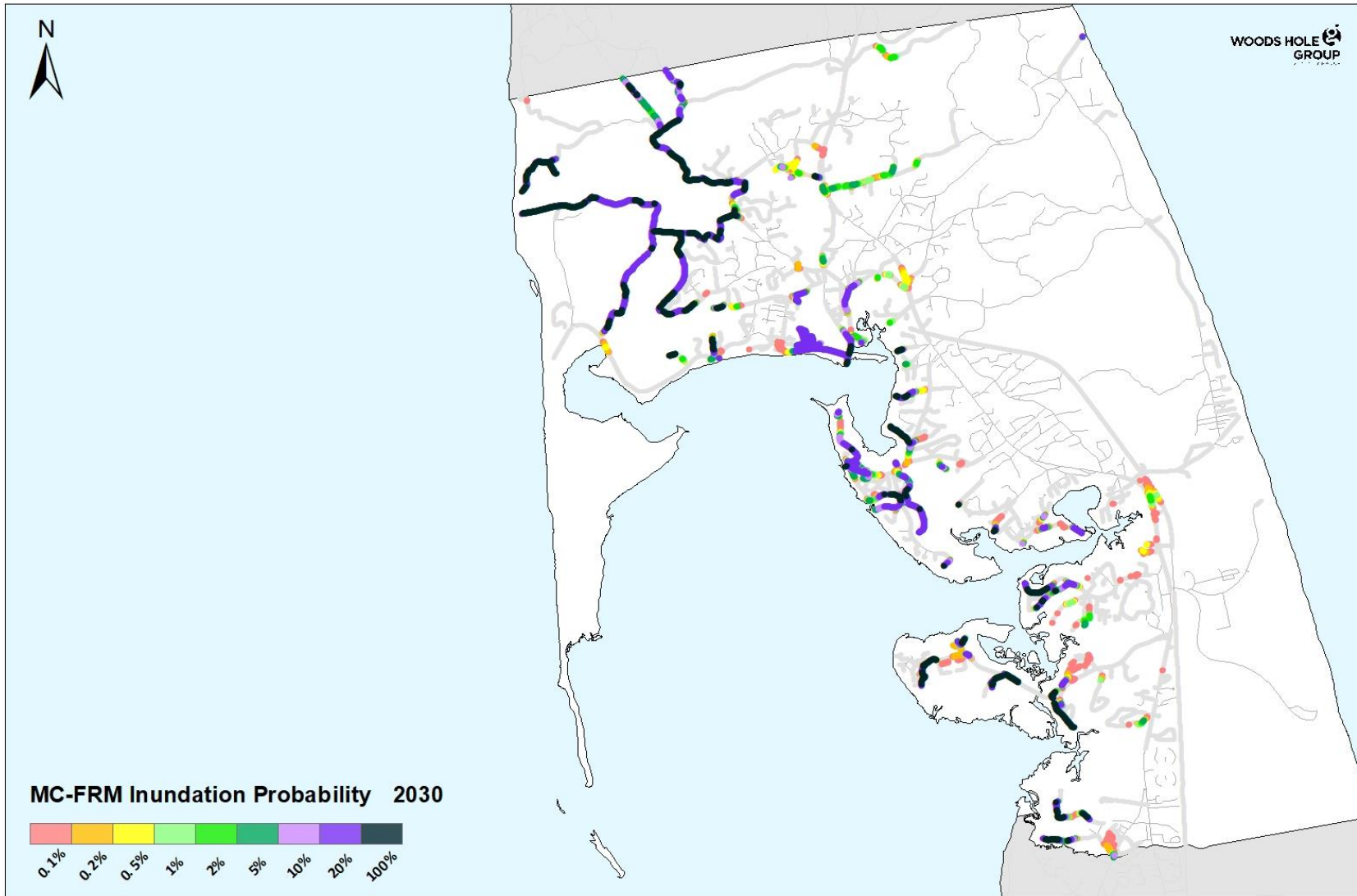
Road Miles 2050

2.3/136.5

Road Miles 2070

9.4/136.5

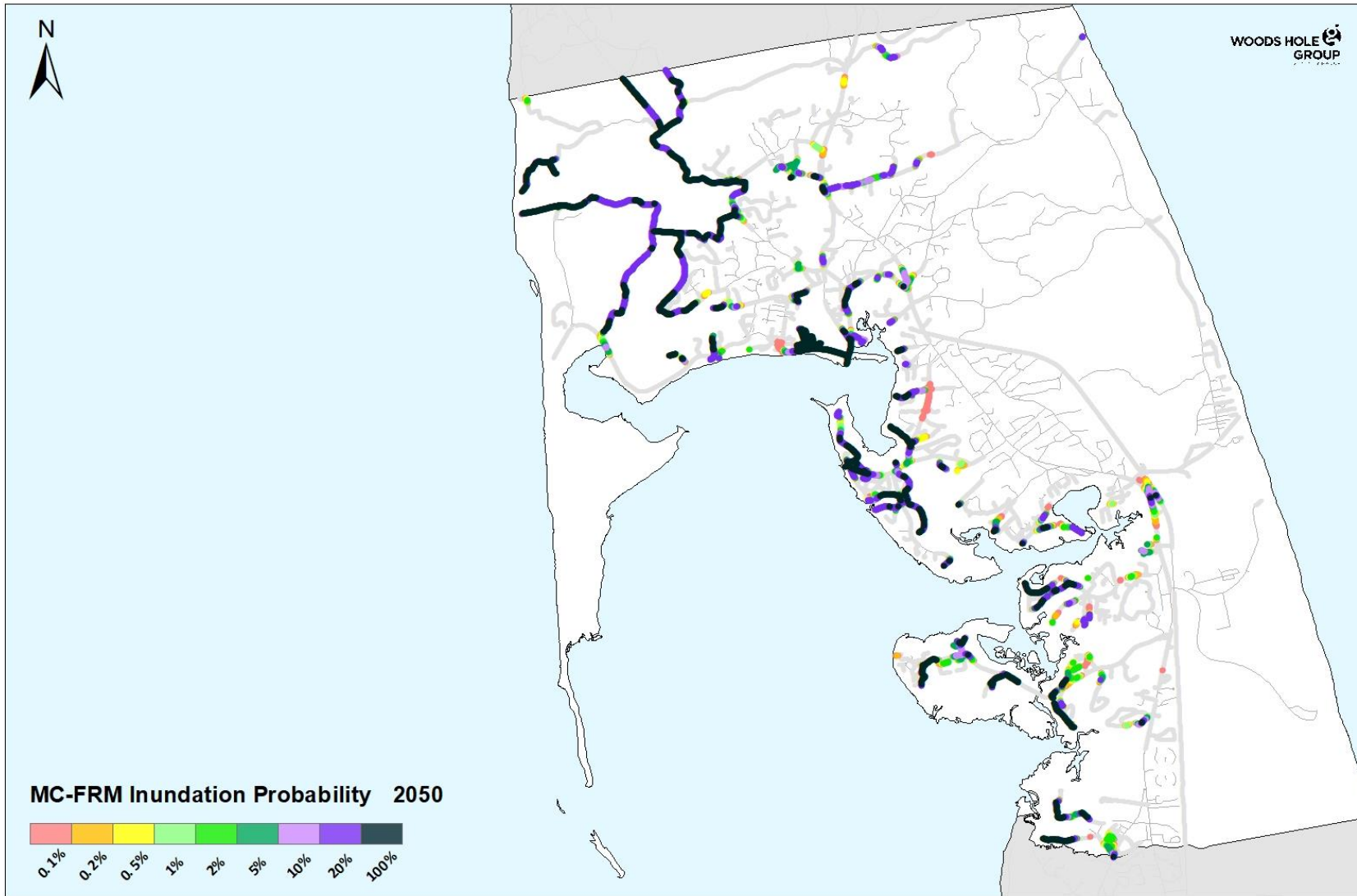
# Low Lying Roads 2030 Inundation Probability (Wellfleet)



| %   | Road miles |
|-----|------------|
| 0.1 | 21.1       |
| 0.2 | 18.4       |
| 0.5 | 17.2       |
| 1   | 16.2       |
| 2   | 15.4       |
| 5   | 14.2       |
| 10  | 12.9       |
| 20  | 11.6       |
| 100 | 5.0        |

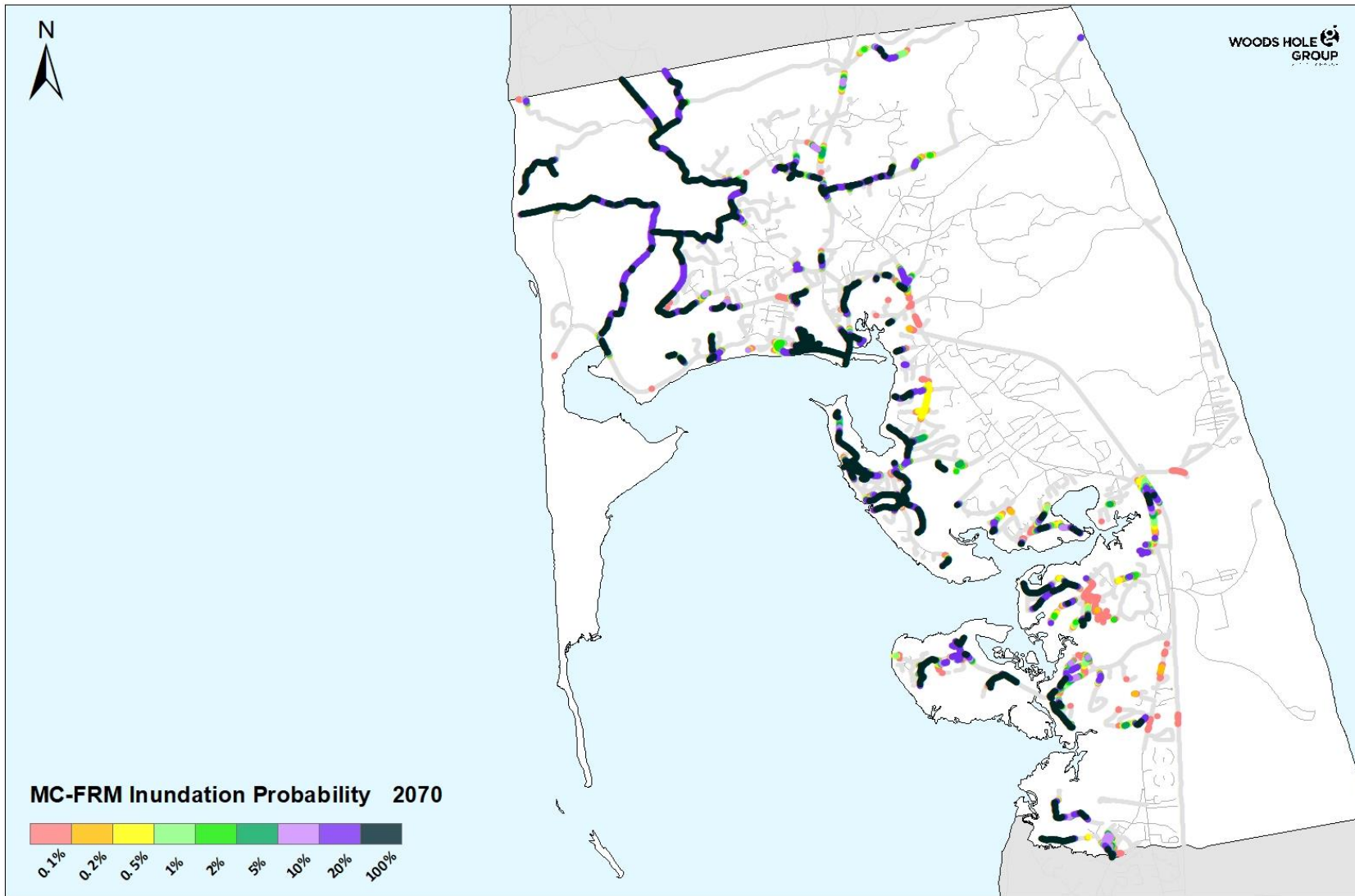


# Low Lying Roads 2050 Inundation Probability (Wellfleet)



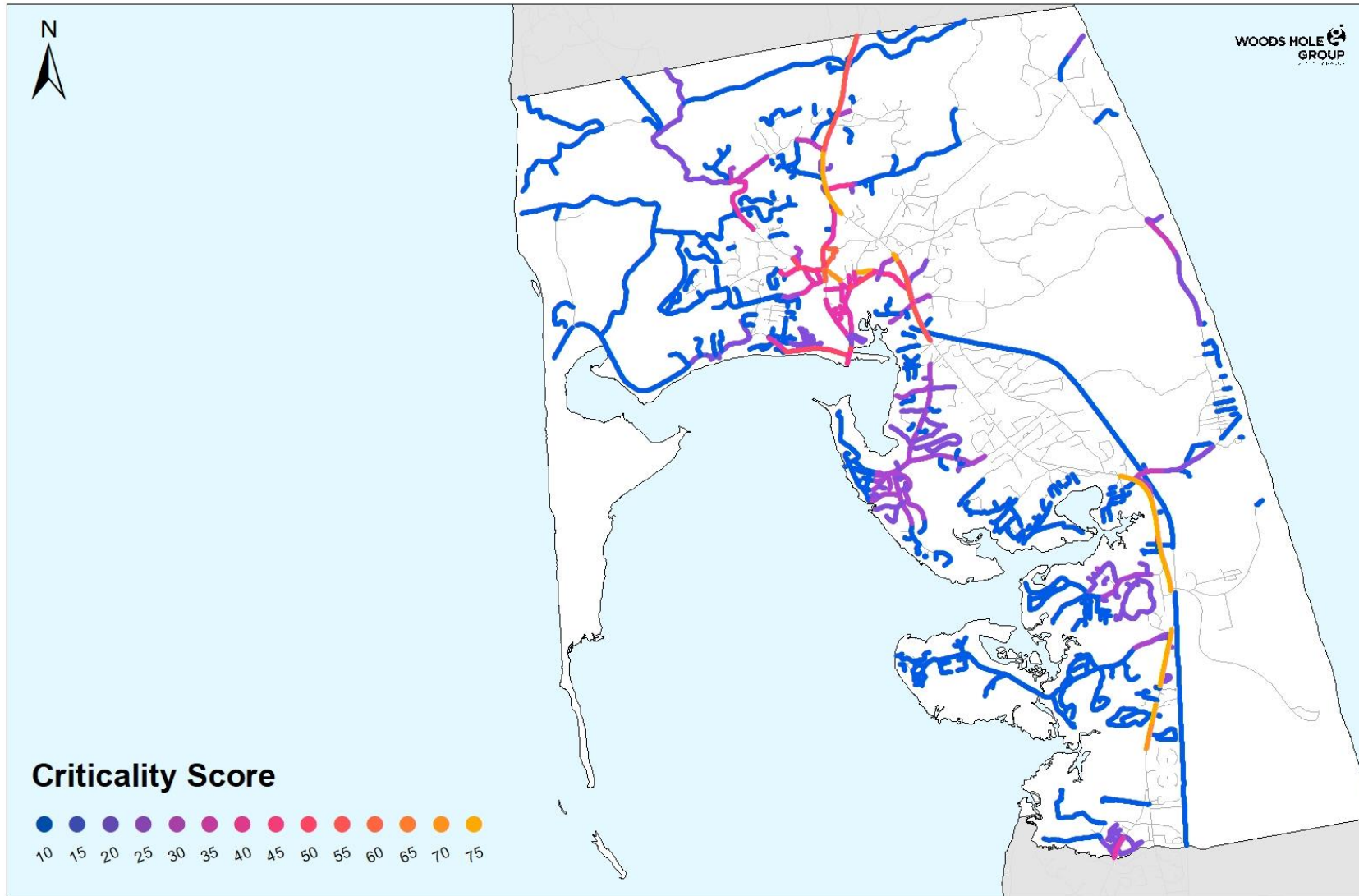
| %   | Road miles |
|-----|------------|
| 0.1 | 24.1       |
| 0.2 | 22.9       |
| 0.5 | 21.7       |
| 1   | 20.8       |
| 2   | 19.9       |
| 5   | 18.4       |
| 10  | 16.9       |
| 20  | 15.5       |
| 100 | 8.8        |

# Low Lying Roads 2070 Inundation Probability (Wellfleet)

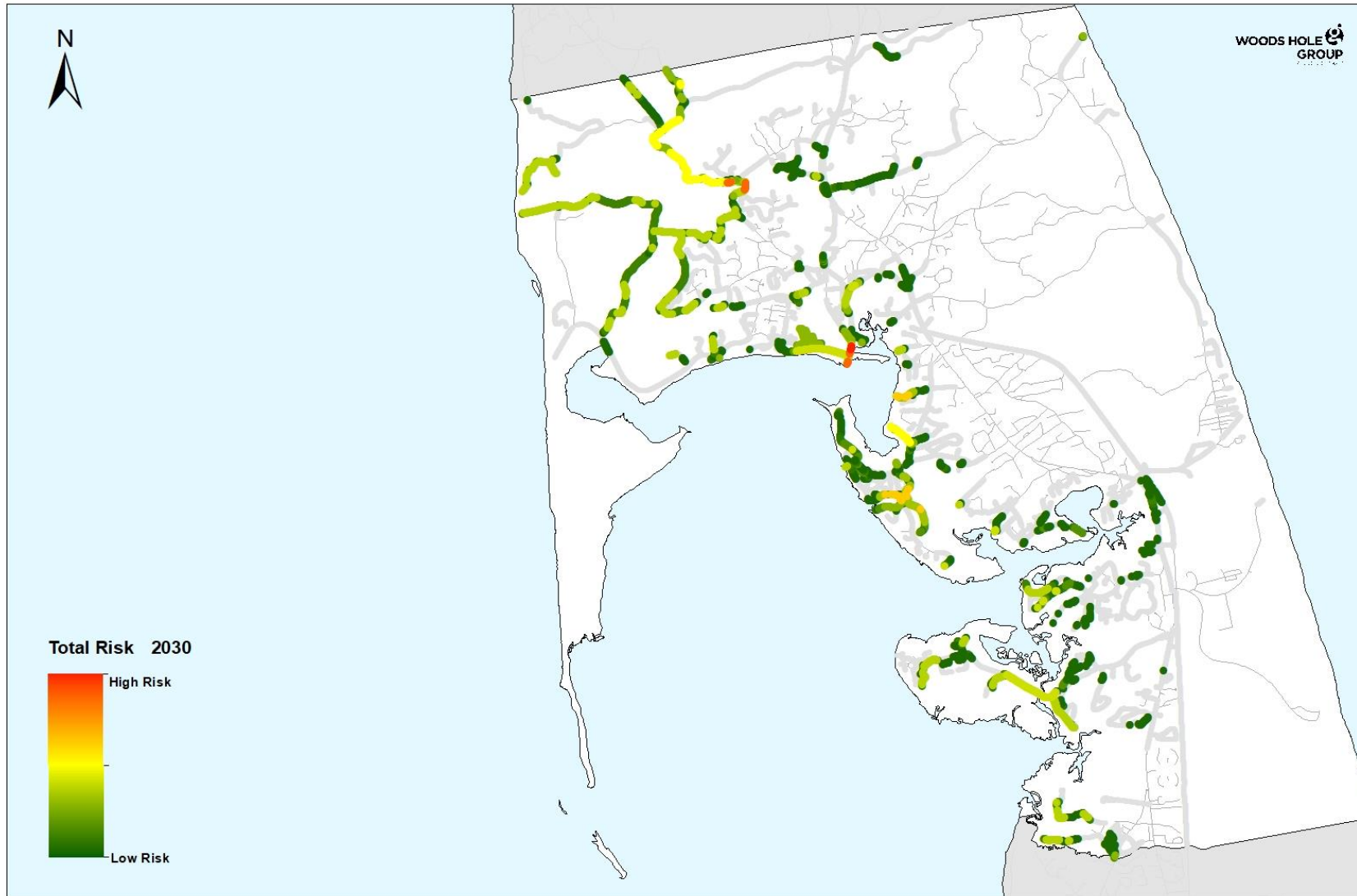


| %   | Road miles |
|-----|------------|
| 0.1 | 28.6       |
| 0.2 | 26.0       |
| 0.5 | 25.1       |
| 1   | 24.2       |
| 2   | 22.9       |
| 5   | 21.7       |
| 10  | 20.7       |
| 20  | 19.3       |
| 100 | 12.8       |

# Low Lying Roads Criticality Scoring (Wellfleet)



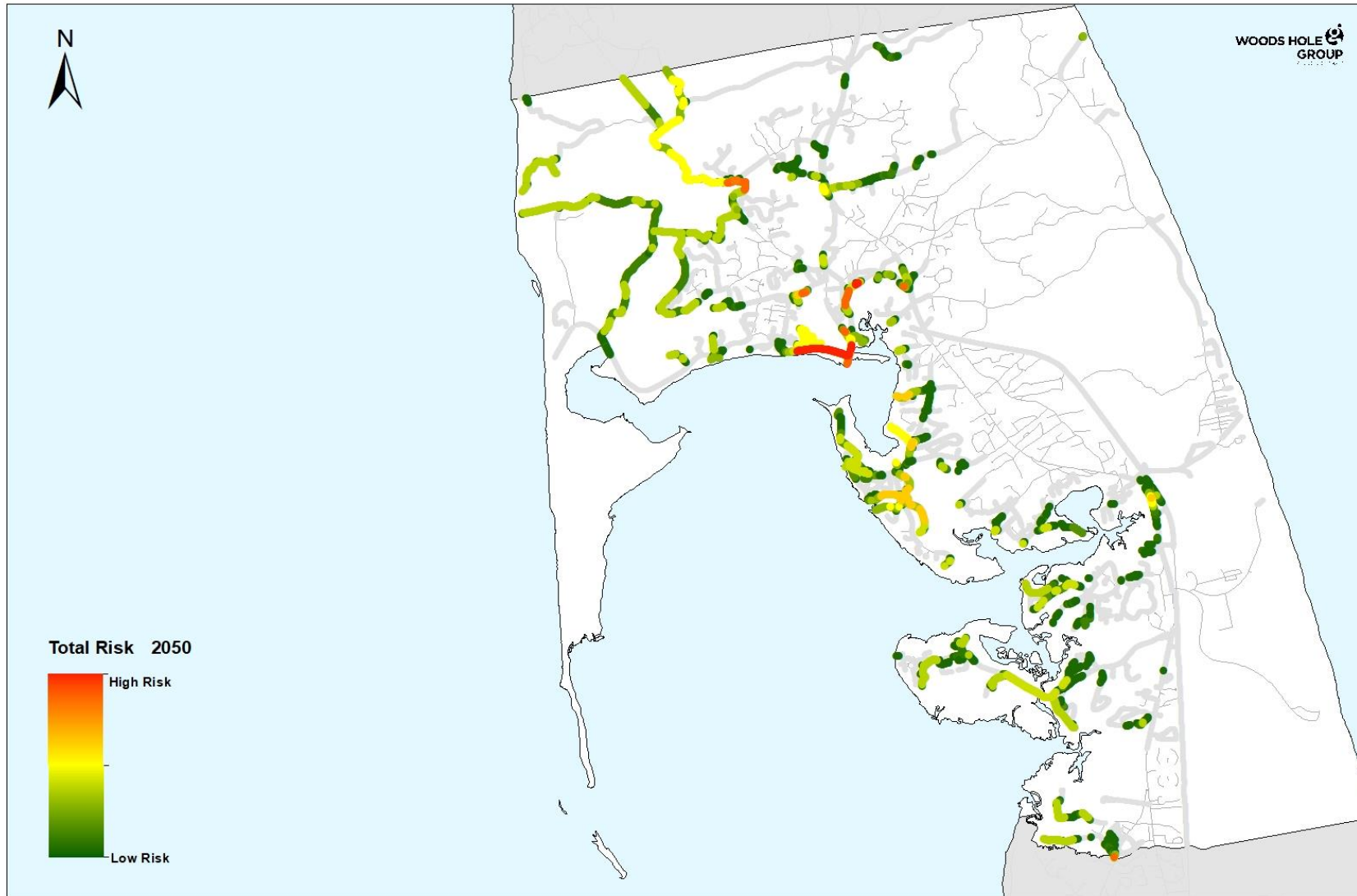
# Low Lying Roads 2030 Risk Results (Wellfleet)



## High Risk Road Segments

- Commercial St (Town Pier)
- Herring River Restoration Roads+
- King Phillip Rd (Paine Hollow)
- Old Pier Rd (Wellfleet Harbor)
- East Commercial St (Downtown)
- Lieutenant Island Rd

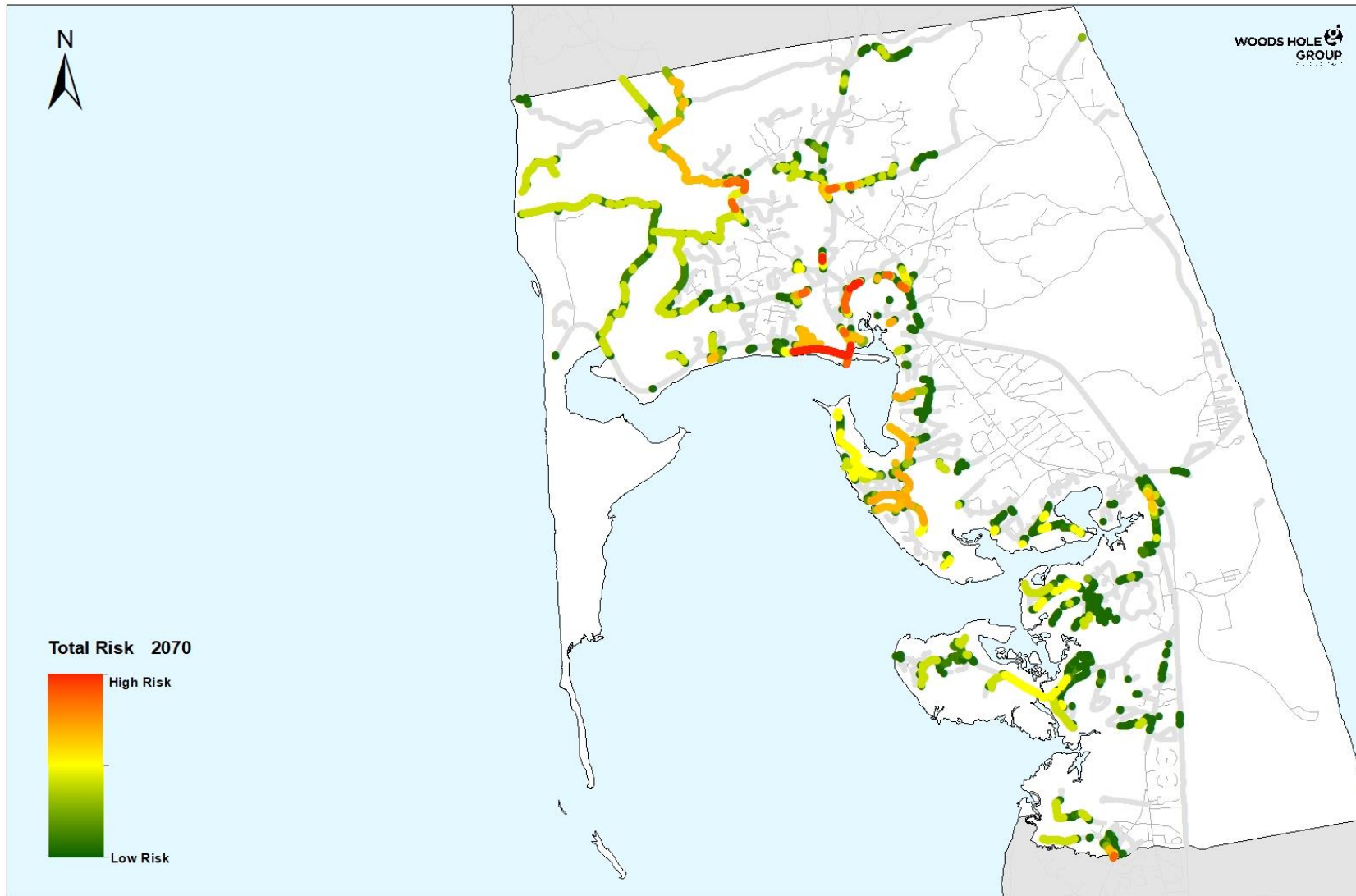
# Low Lying Roads 2050 Risk Results (Wellfleet)



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- East Commercial St (Downtown)
- Lieutenant Island Rd
- Route 6 at Black Fish Creek\*
- Main St (Downtown)
- Chequessett Neck Rd (Davey's Path)
- Holbrook Ave (Downtown)
- Cove Rd (Chipman's Cove)

# Low Lying Roads 2070 Risk Results (Wellfleet)



## High Risk Road Segments

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- Holbrook Ave (Downtown)
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- Briar Ln (Squires Pond)
- Gull Pond Rd and Route 6\*
- West Rd
- Old Wharf Rd
- Dike Bridge (Herring River)+

# Summary of High Priority Road Segments (Wellfleet)

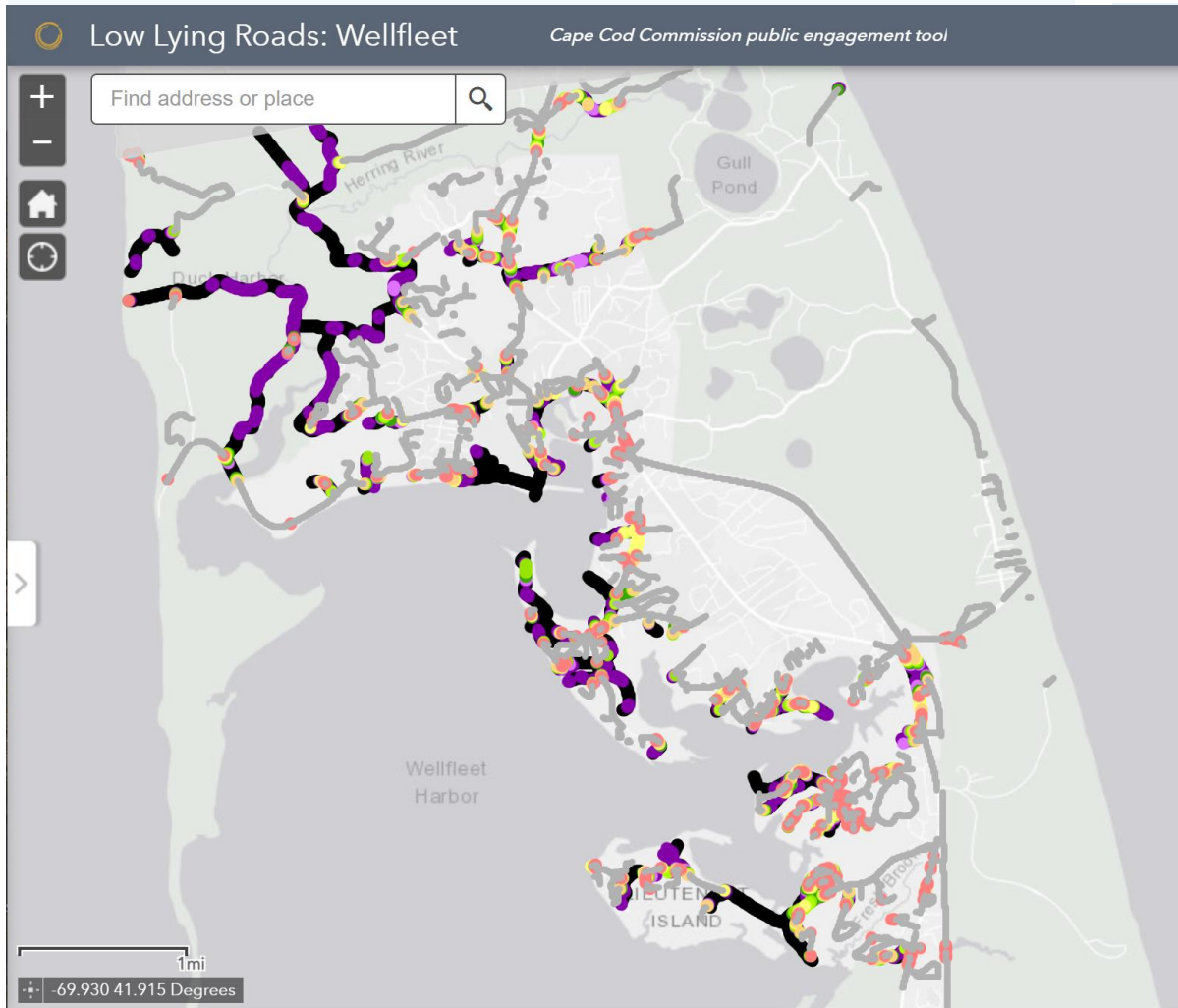
|   | Name                               | Length (ft) | Description   | Segment Storm Probability (%) |         |        | Nuisance Length (ft) |      |      |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------|---|-------------------------------|---------|--------|----------------------|------|------|
|   |                                    |             |   | 2030                          | 2050    | 2070   | 2030                 | 2050 | 2070 |
| A | Commercial St (Town Pier)          | 3840        | Leading south to Wellfleet Harbor                     | 0.1-100                       | 2-100   | 10-100 | 20                   | 20   | 3420 |
| B | Herring River Restoration Roads+   | 8020        | Bound Brook Is, Old County, Coles Neck, Pole Dike Rd  | 0.1-100                       | 0.5-100 | 20-100 |                      | 1240 | 4800 |
| C | King Phillip Rd (Paine Hollow)     | 380         | Access to neighborhoods                               | 0-100                         | 1-100   | 5-100  |                      |      | 260  |
| D | Old Pier Rd (Wellfleet Harbor)     | 740         | Off of Cove Rd on east side of Wellfleet Harbor       | 5-100                         | 20-100  | 20-100 |                      | 180  | 740  |
| E | East Commercial St (Downtown)      | 1540        | Access to downtown and Town landing                   | 0.1-20                        | 2-100   | 20-100 |                      |      | 820  |
| F | Lieutenant Island Rd               | 2340        | Including bridge to Lieutenant Island                 | 0.2-100                       | 5-100   | 20-100 | 1900                 | 2100 | 2240 |
| G | Route 6 at Black Fish Creek*       | 520         | Route 6 segment over Blackfish Creek                  | 0.2-2                         | 10-100  | 100    |                      |      |      |
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| J | Holbrook Ave (Downtown)            | 600         | Access to downtown                                    | 5-20                          | 20-100  | 20-100 |                      |      | 400  |
| K | Cove Rd (Chipman's Cove)           | 560         | Access to homes and Indian Neck Rd                    | 0.5-10                        | 10-100  | 20-100 |                      |      |      |
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| M | Gull Pond Rd and Route 6*          | 1740        | Access to Atlantic beaches, plus Route 6 intersection | 0.1-5                         | 1-20    | 20-100 |                      |      |      |
| N | West Rd                            | 200         | Access to homes and Town boundary                     | 0.2-10                        | 5-100   | 20-100 |                      |      |      |
| O | Old Wharf Rd                       | 580         | Access to homes on Old Wharf Pt                       | 0.5-20                        | 5-100   | 20-100 |                      |      | 280  |
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+ = Herring River Restoration Project

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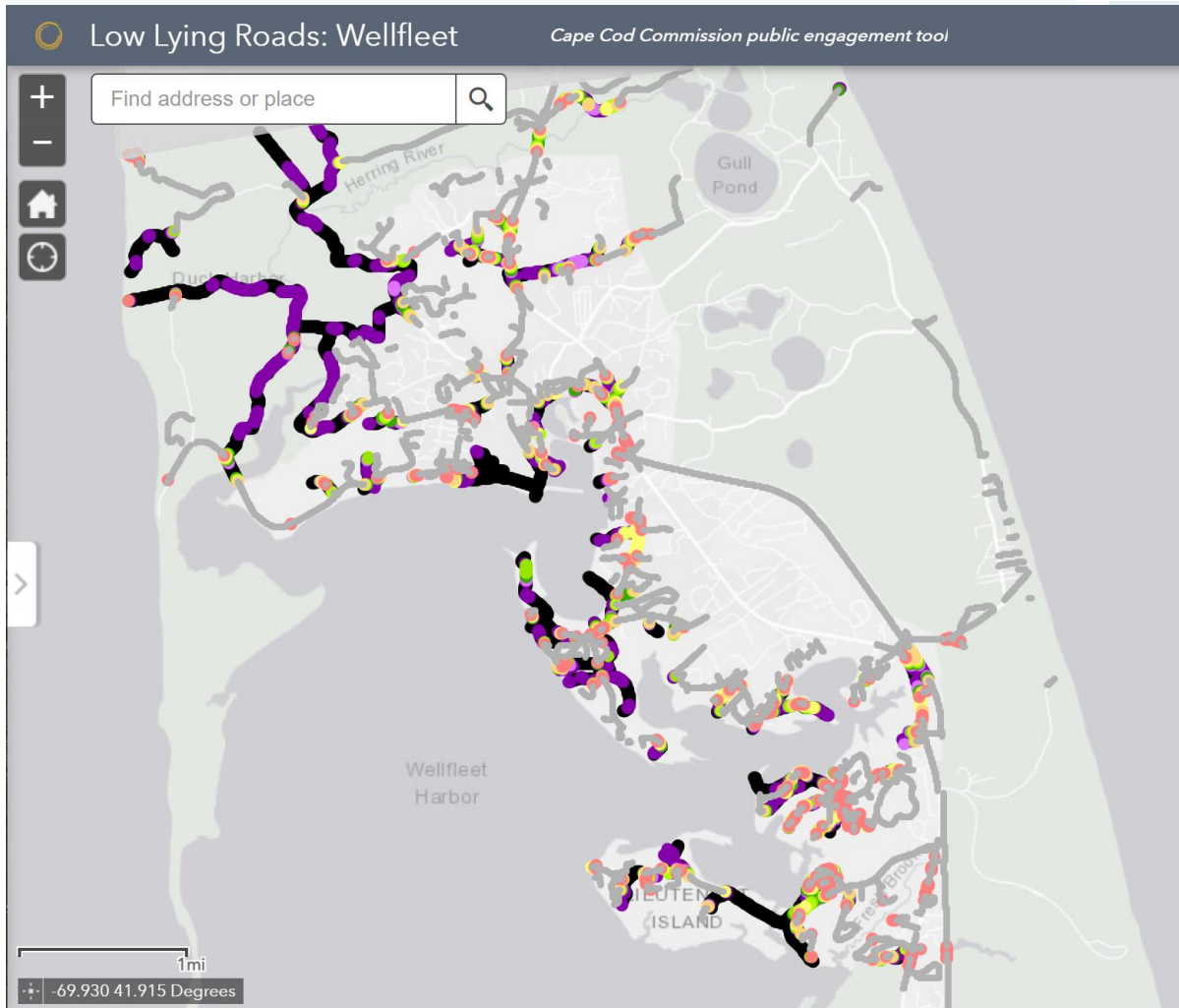
# LOW LYING ROADS

# Group Discussion



**DISCUSSION  
ORIENTATION**





## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are there roads that we missed?
2. How would you prioritize these roads – what local knowledge or concerns can you bring to the discussion?
3. What are the high-priority road segments?

# Summary of High Priority Road Segments (Wellfleet)

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+ = Herring River Restoration Project

\* = MassDOT roadway

**Breakout Groups**

# Breakout Group Discussion

## GETTING STARTED

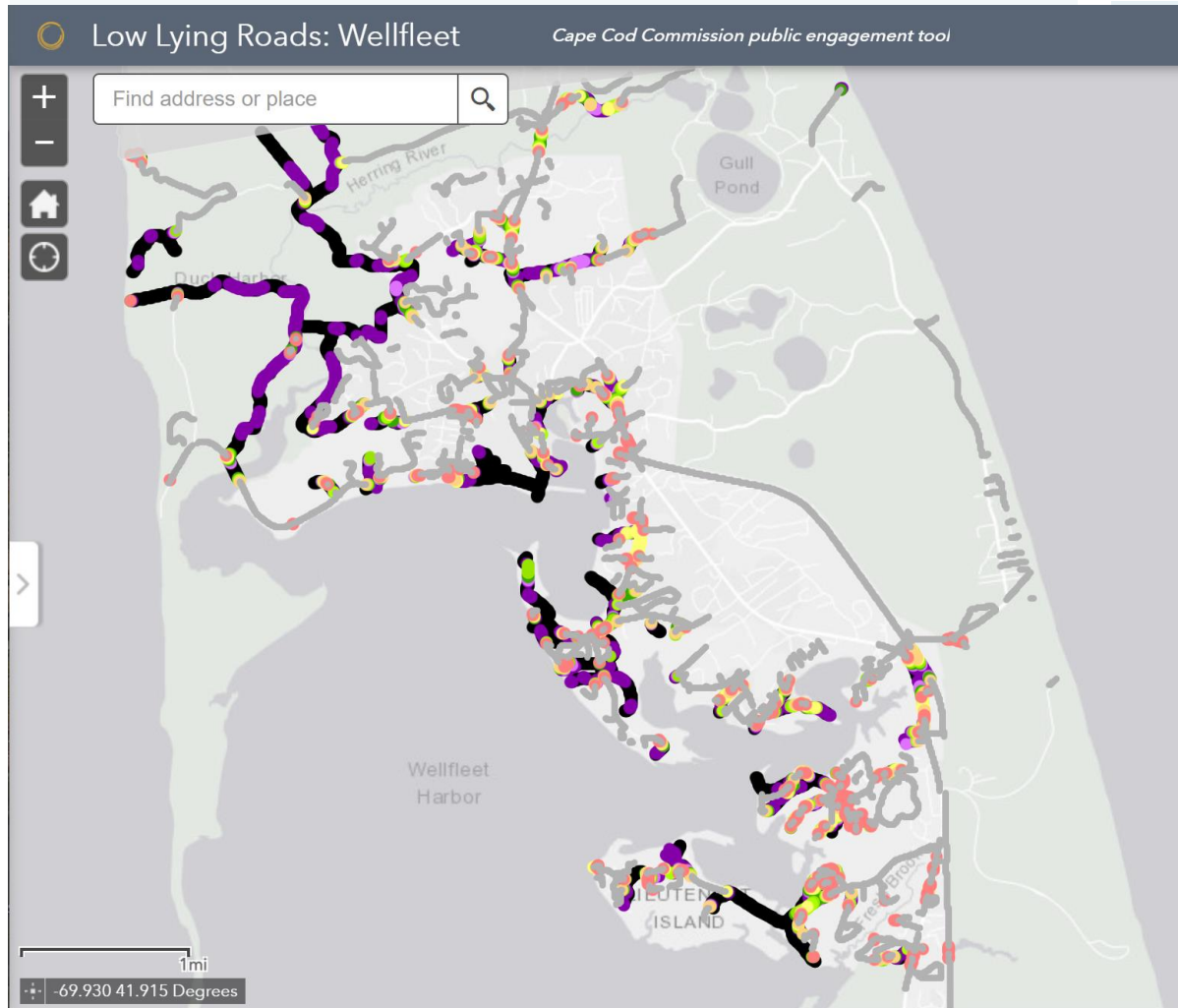
- Introductions
- Clarifying Questions

## CONSIDERATIONS...

1. Are there roads that we missed?
2. How would you prioritize these roads – what local knowledge or concerns can you bring to the discussion?
3. What are the high-priority road segments?

## LOW LYING ROADS

# Summary: Vulnerability and Risk Analysis



- MC FRM
  - Data: SLR, Storms, Tides, Elevations
  - Flood projections 2030, 2050, 2070
- Road network vulnerable to flooding
- Criticality of road network to community
- Risk = probability x criticality

# Summary of High Priority Road Segments (Wellfleet)

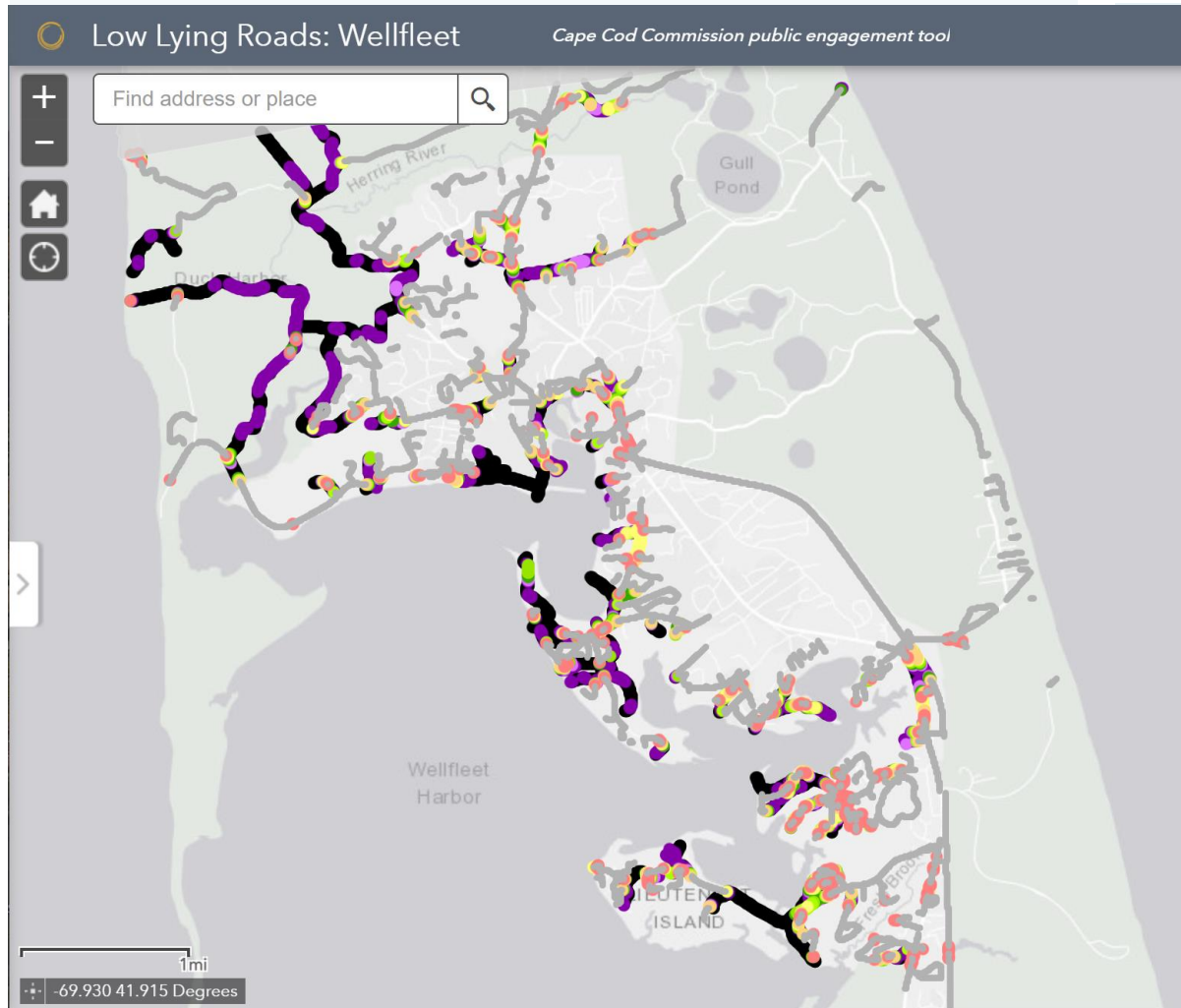
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## LOW LYING ROADS

# Group Discussion



**REPORT  
BACK**

**SYNTHESIS**

# NEXT STEPS

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- Town staff to select 4 road segments
- Feasibility analysis
- 3 solutions + costs per segment
- Solutions available to view on Low Lying Road webpage later in 2022: <https://www.capecodcommission.org/our-work/low-lying-roads-project/>
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop date TBD – winter 2023



**THANK YOU!**

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