

# Community Resilience Using Web-based Tools

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Resilient Vermont: 2016 Conference

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# Background

## Climate Resilience App Challenge – June 1-15, 2014

- Esri Sponsored app challenge in response to The President's Climate Action Plan
- Goal: “Develop game changing apps that promote climate resilience.”
- Awarded a Runner Up
- Judges commented “...its nationwide scope in using data that provided for “large scale analysis in many areas”...in terms of “scientific vigor”, this was the strongest app we received.”



# Background

## Global Disaster Resilience App Challenge - August 15-27, 2014

- Esri sponsored app challenge in collaboration with the UN's Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Making Cities Resilient Campaign
- Goal: “Design an app around one or more areas on the [United Nations 10 Essentials for Making Cities Resilient list](#). Explore all angles to reducing *urban risks*.”
- App could be for everyday citizens or for policy and planning purposes
- Judges commented “...well worth noting as tools for assisting communities.”



# Background

## HackVT 24-Hour Energy Innovation Competition – October 13-14, 2014

- HackVT sponsored app challenge in collaboration with Green Mountain Power, MyWebGrocer, Dealer.com, and FairPoint Communications
- Goal: “develop digital products, apps, and websites that support the state's vision of an affordable, efficient and renewable energy future for all Vermonters.”



# Background

## Stone App Development Team

- All 10 members of Stone's Applied Information Management (AIM) Group worked intensively together over a two-week period to develop each of the Esri sponsored applications.
- Four members of the AIM Group worked over 24 hours for the HackVT sponsored application.
- The Group is made up of GIS Scientists, Database Programmers, Web Developers, and Modelers.

# Modeling Community Erosion from Climate Change

Response to the Esri Climate Resilience App Challenge – June 1-15, 2014

Help community members understand erosion risk as a result of climate change

## Evaluates:

- changes in annual total erosion as a result of climate change
- seasonal variations in erosion
- soil losses due to extreme precipitation events
- erosion estimates based on land use change
- uncertainty in future climate predictions

## CORE CAPABILITIES USED

### GIS/Modeling Web Application

- MUSLE erosion modeling
- Climate change model analysis

### Key Tools:

- ArcGIS Server (custom geoprocessing services, map services, image services)
- ArcGIS JavaScript API
- ArcSDE
- Python and ArcPy
- NetCDF python libraries
- ArcGIS REST API
- Google Charts
- PostgreSQL
- jQuery

### URL:

- <http://erosion.stone-env.net>



# Modeling Community Erosion from Climate Change

Erosion estimates are based on:

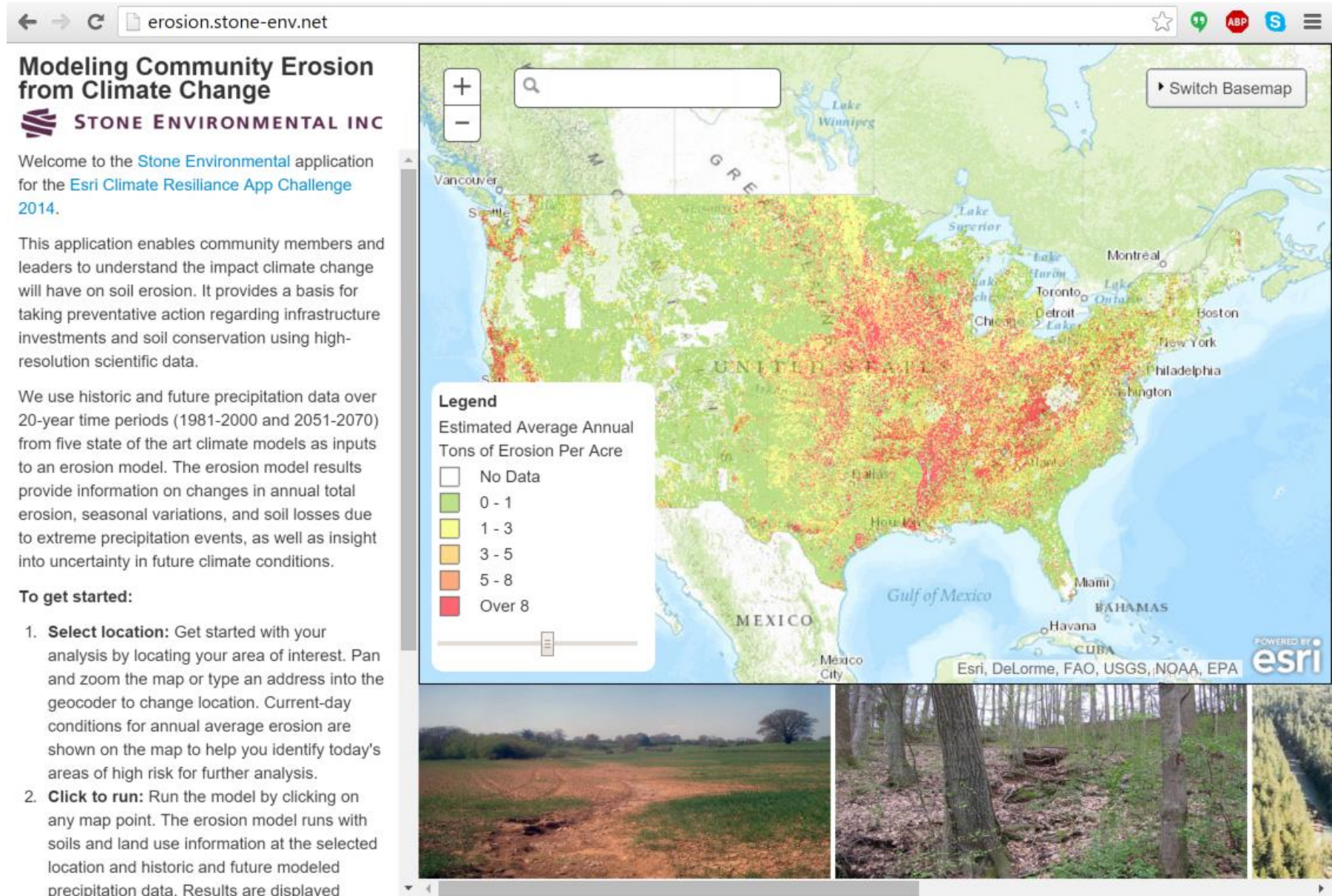
- historic precipitation data over a 20-year time period (1981-00)
- predicted future precipitation over a 20-year period (2051-70) based on 5 climate models
- Modified Universal Soil Loss Equation (MUSLE)
  - Soil factors (SSURGO)
  - Landscape factors (SSURGO)
  - Land use (NLCD)
  - Dynamic storm-based runoff



*Erosion from Winooski River into Lake Champlain, 2015, Airshark*



# Modeling Community Erosion from Climate Change



# Modeling Resilience to Stormwater During Extreme Events

Response to the Global Disaster  
Resilience App Challenge - August 15-  
27, 2014

Help cities understand high risk areas  
due to runoff accumulation in relation  
to key infrastructure, public and  
residential buildings, and flood zones

## Evaluates:

- storm-based runoff
- location of key infrastructure

## CORE CAPABILITIES USED

### GIS/Modeling Web Application

- Stormwater modeling
- Extreme precipitation analysis

### Key Tools:

- ArcGIS Server (custom geoprocessing services, map services, image services)
- ArcGIS Desktop
- ArcGIS Server (custom geoprocessing services, dynamic and cached map services)
- ArcGIS JavaScript API
- ArcSDE
- ArcPy Python libraries
- ArcGIS REST API
- Google Charts
- jQuery
- json Python library
- numpy Python library

### URL:

- <http://runoff.stone-env.net>



# Modeling Resilience to Stormwater During Extreme Events

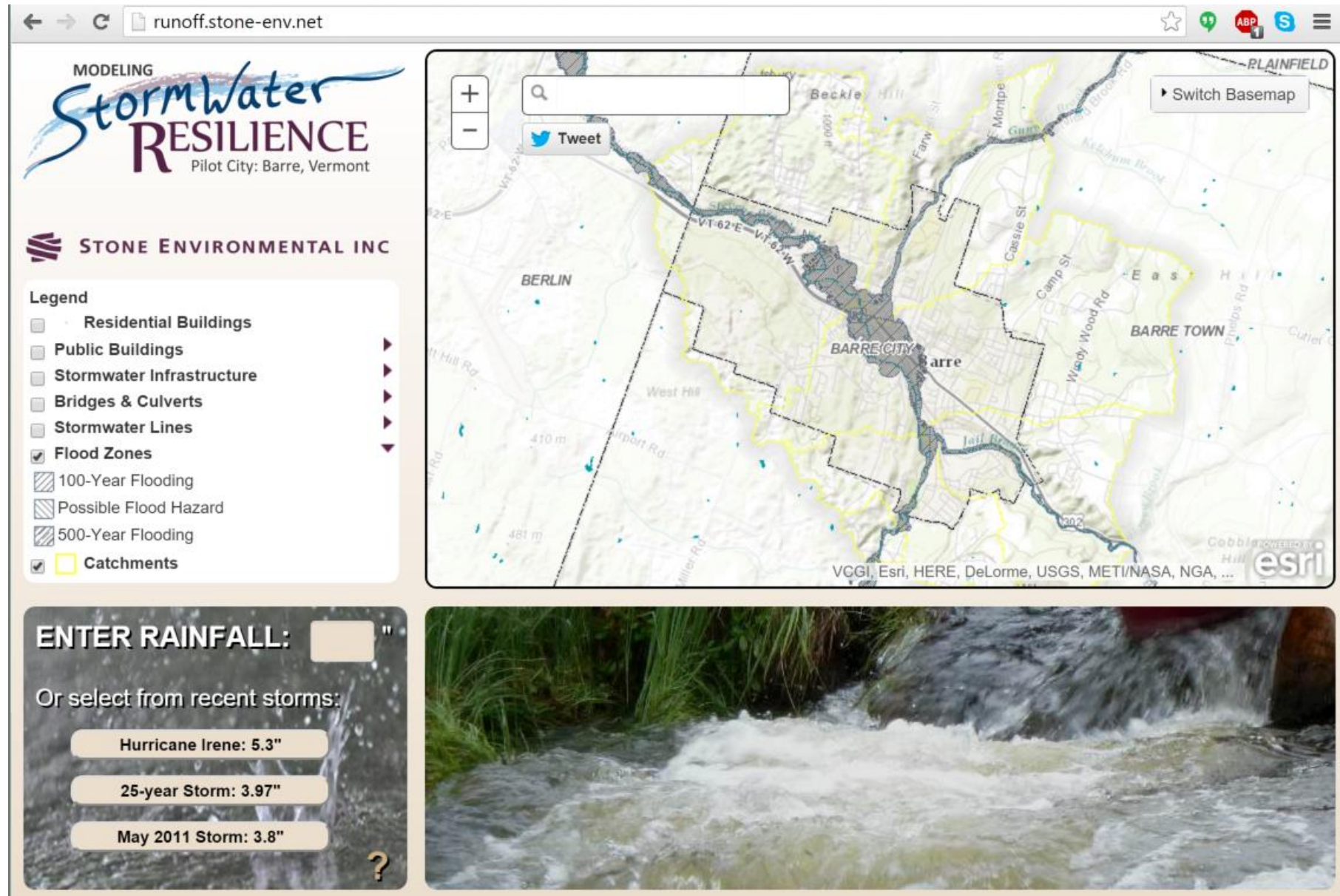
Runoff estimates are based on:

- user defined storm
- baseline storm (10-year, 24-hour)
- Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Curve Number Method:
  - Soil factors (SSURGO)
  - Landscape factors (NHD+)
  - Land use (NLCD)



*Culvert Failure During Tropical Storm Irene in Townshend, Army Corps of Engineers*

# Modeling Resilience to Stormwater During Extreme Events



# Vermont Solar Sandbox

Response to the HackVT 24-Hour  
Energy Innovation Competition –  
October 13-14, 2014

Help communities understand local  
solar potential and impact of solar  
installations

## Evaluates:

- potential energy generation of solar installations
- compares to local energy needs

## CORE CAPABILITIES USED

### GIS/Modeling Web Application

- Solar modeling

### Key Tools:

- ArcGIS Server (custom geoprocessing services, map services, image services)
- ArcGIS Desktop
- ArcGIS Server (custom geoprocessing services, dynamic and cached map services)
- ArcGIS JavaScript API
- ArcSDE
- ArcPy Python libraries
- ArcGIS REST API
- Google Charts
- jQuery
- json Python library
- numpy Python library

### URL:

- <http://energy.stone-env.net>



# Vermont Solar Sandbox

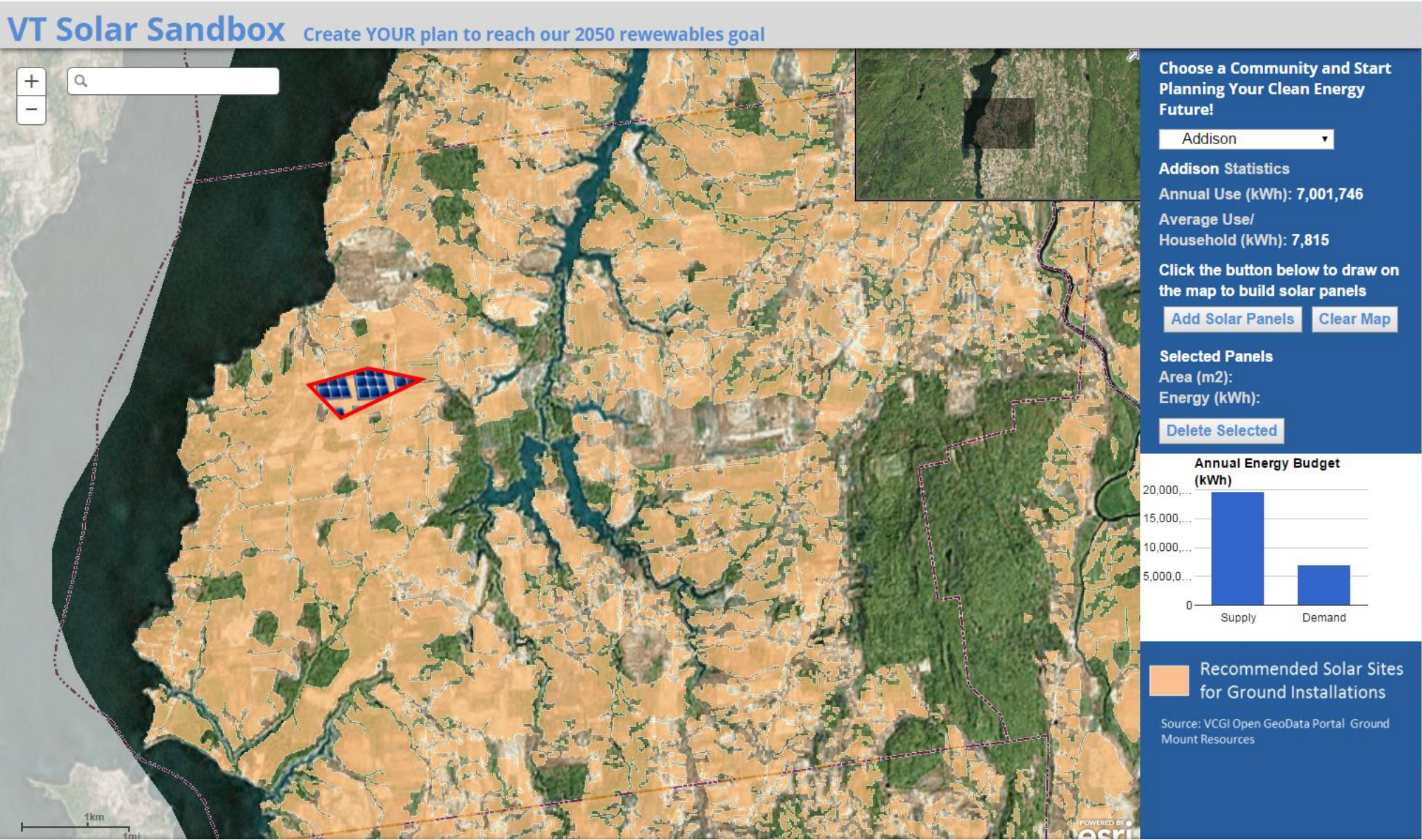
Solar production estimates are based on:

- user defined areas
- energy production estimates of solar panels for residential or commercial installations





# Vermont Solar Sandbox



# Outcomes

Push to use and test out available tools

Brought team's creativity to new heights

Internal collaboration huge success

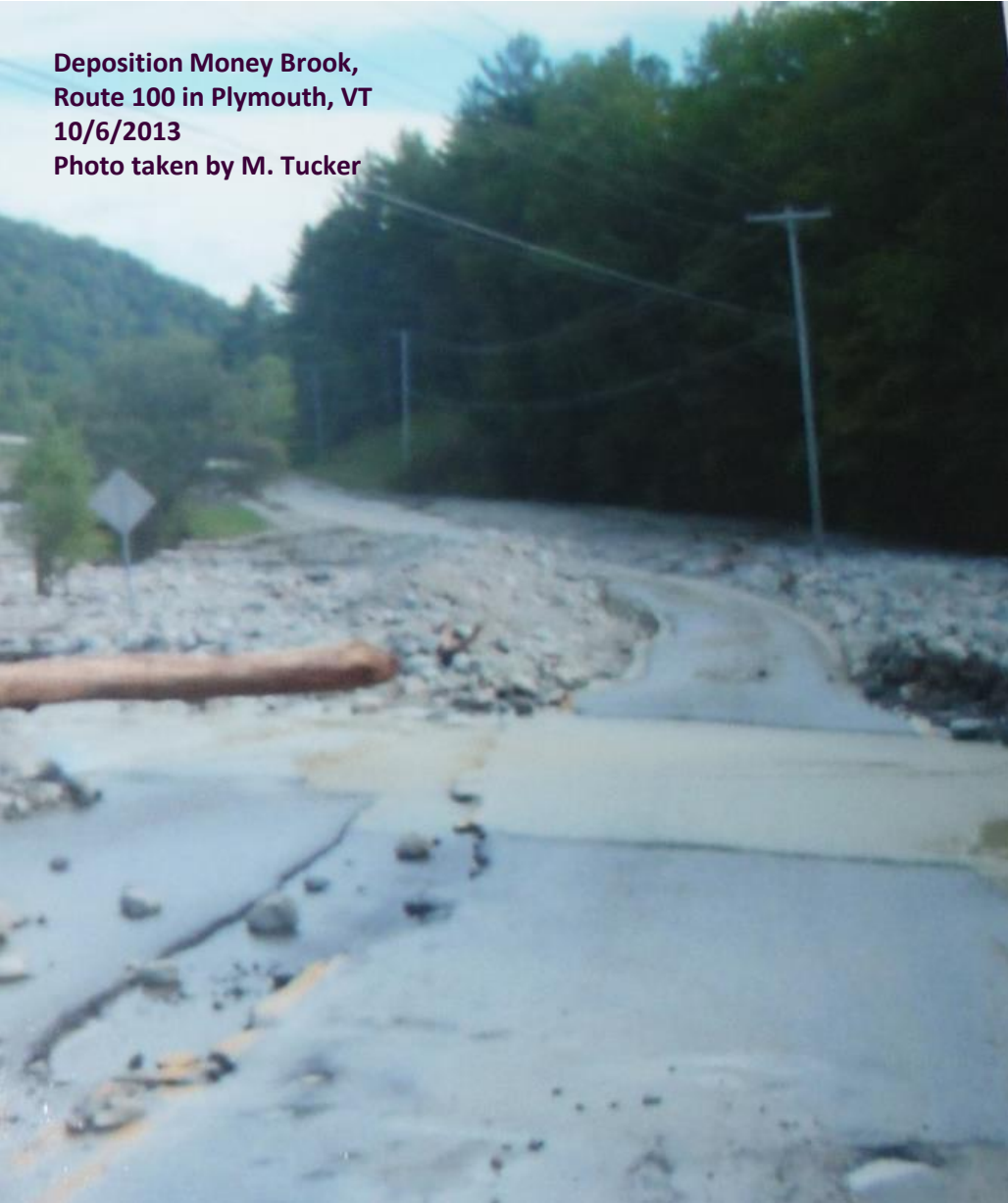
Socially beneficial

Has led to further consulting work



# Need for Transportation Resiliency

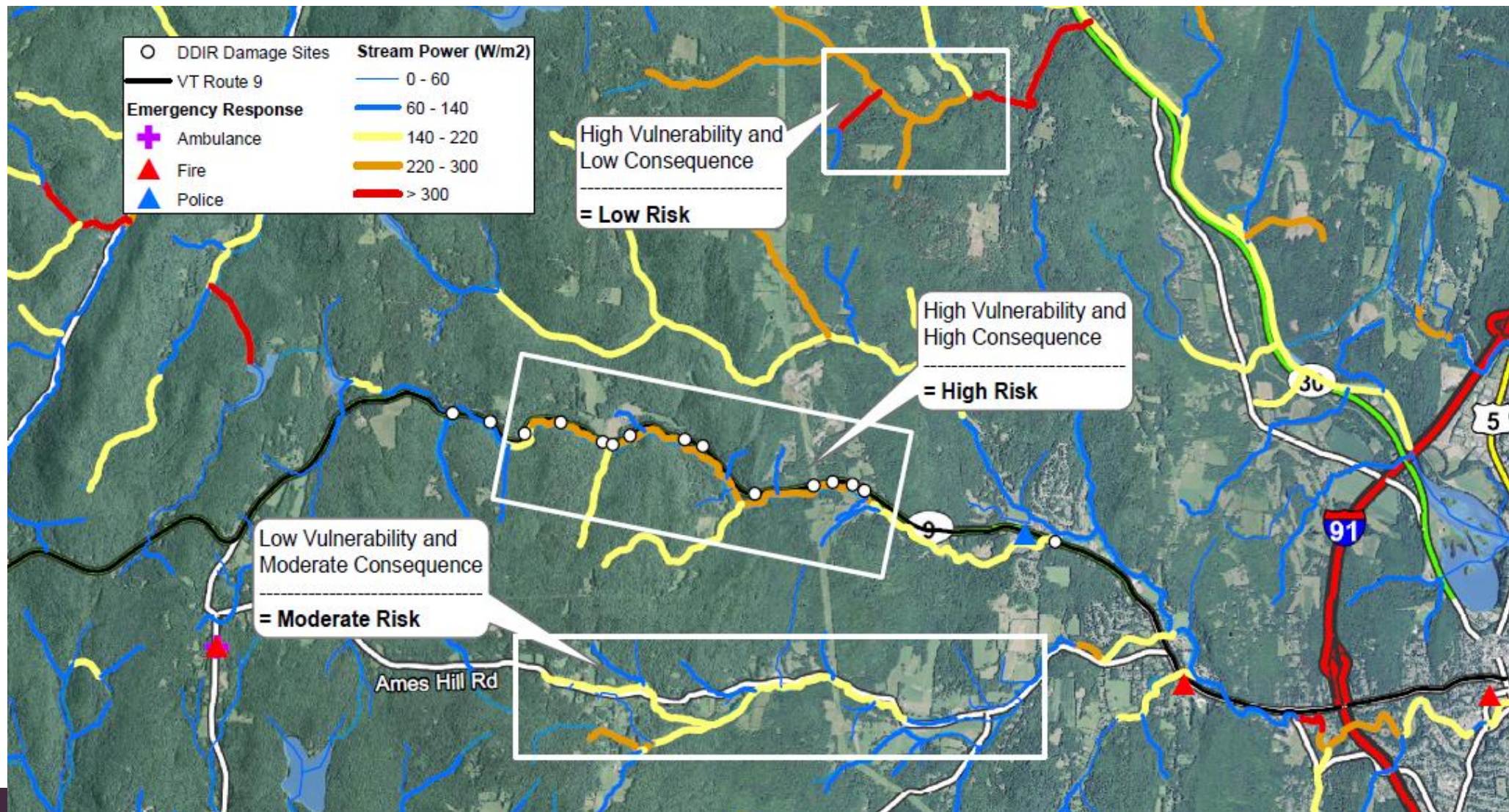
Deposition Money Brook,  
Route 100 in Plymouth, VT  
10/6/2013  
Photo taken by M. Tucker





# Goal: Develop Flood Risk Methods and Tools

- Systematically identify high risk road segments and crossing structures
- Incorporate vulnerability and risk into planning process



# Definitions

- **Vulnerability** – The extent that a transportation asset is exposed to a threat from inundation, erosion, or deposition.
- **Probability** – The likelihood that a threat will damage a transportation asset.
- **Consequence** – The effect of the disruption to mobility due to damage to a transportation asset.
- **Risk** – The combination of the probability of vulnerability and consequence of damage.



# Vulnerability

Money Brook,  
Route 100 in Plymouth, VT  
1973  
Photo taken by M. Tucker





# Vulnerability



Great Brook  
Brook Road in Plainfield, VT  
7/20/2015  
Photo taken by B. Towbin

Great Brook  
Brook Road in Plainfield, VT  
7/19/2015  
Photo taken by B. Towbin





# Vulnerability



Great Brook  
Brook Road in Plainfield, VT  
5/27/2011  
Photo taken by G. Springston

Great Brook  
Brook Road in Plainfield, VT  
5/26/2011  
Photo taken by G. Springston



# Vulnerability

## Inundation Vulnerability Screen – VTrans Methods and Tools for Transportation Resilience Planning


March 3, 2016

VULNERABILITY DUE TO INUNDATION	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW
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### More detailed variables

Documented Past Damages due to Inundation	Present					Absent	Data Replacement None
River-Roadway Relief or Structure-Roadway Relief (feet)	< 5		5-10			> 10	
Incision Ratio and Entrenchment Ratio	IR<1.2; ER>5	IR=1.2-1.4; ER>5	IR<1.4; ER=3-5	IR<1.4; ER<3	IR≥1.4; ER>3	IR≥1.4; ER<3	
FEMA 100-Year Flood Depth Above Road (feet)	>2		0-2			0	
Length of Road in FEMA 100-Year Floodplain (detailed study) (feet)	>200		50-200			0-50	
Structure Hydraulic Capacity for Design Flow (Hw/D)	>1.2		1.0-1.2			<1.0	

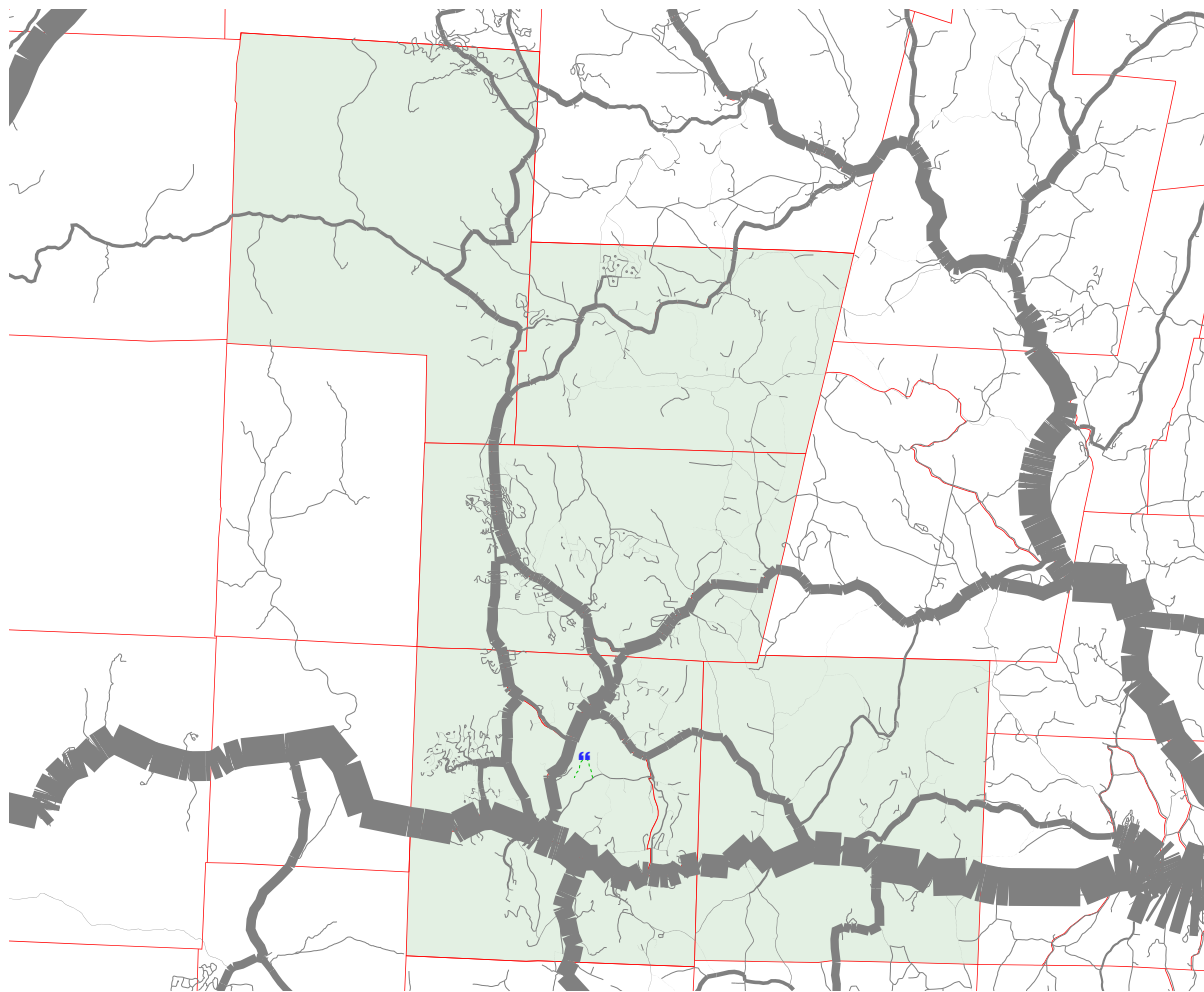
### Less detailed variables (to replace more detailed variables when they do not exist)

Valley Slope	<0.5		0.5-1.5		>1.5		
Approximate FEMA (Zone A) or SSURGO-Derived Floodplains	Present				Absent		
Length of Road in Approximate FEMA or SSURGO Floodplains (feet)	>200		50-200		0-50		
Structure Width vs. Bankfull Channel Width	<25%	25-50%	50-75%	>75%	≥100%		

VULNERABILITY DUE TO INUNDATION	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW
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# Transportation Modeling of Criticality

## Consequences



**North Branch Deerfield**

Vermont Statewide  
Travel Model  
(TransCAD)



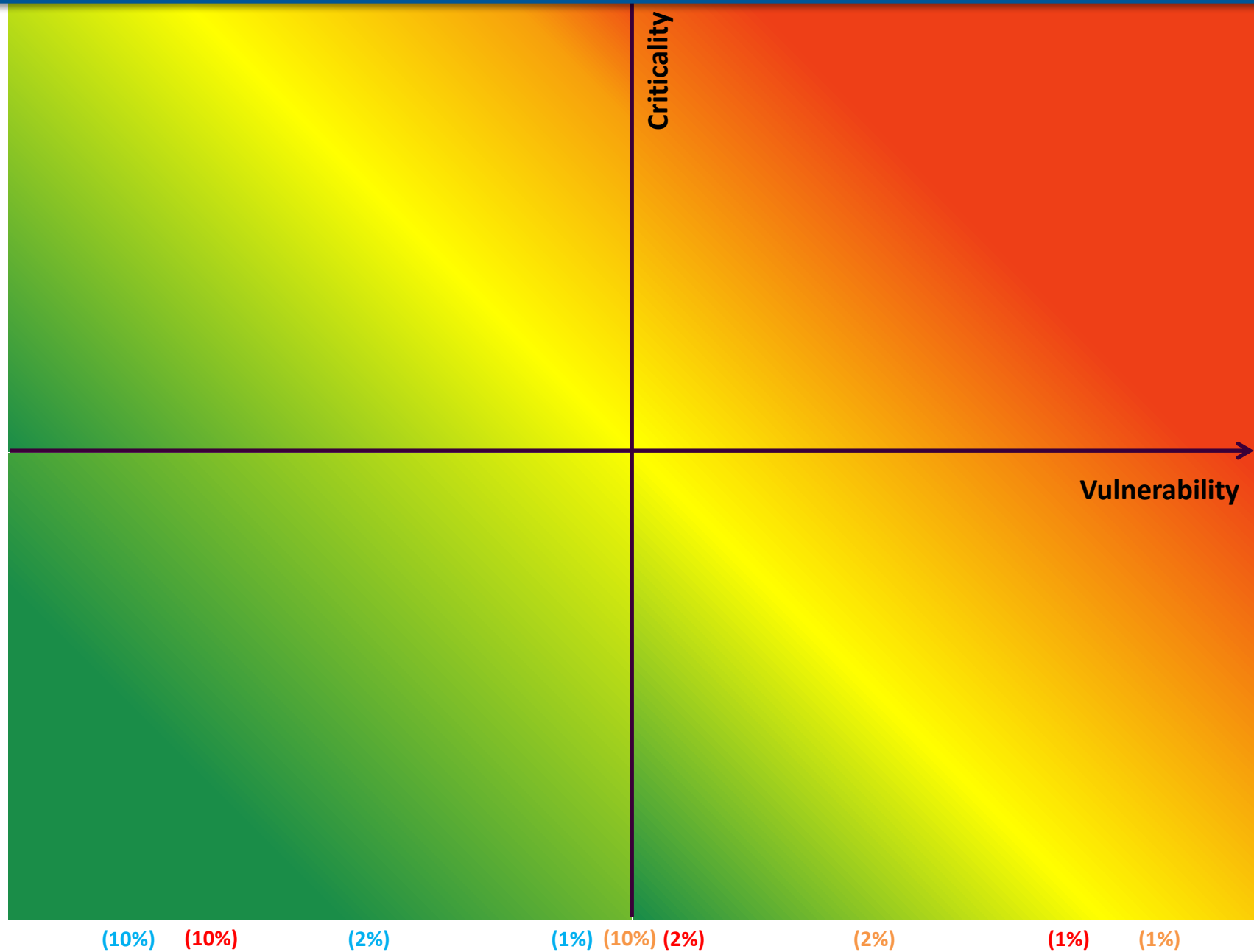
Explore Network  
Criticality (TransCAD)

- Add local roads
- Add E-911 buildings
- Input probability of vulnerability
- Output failure consequences to identify risk



Resiliency App

# Risk Assessment

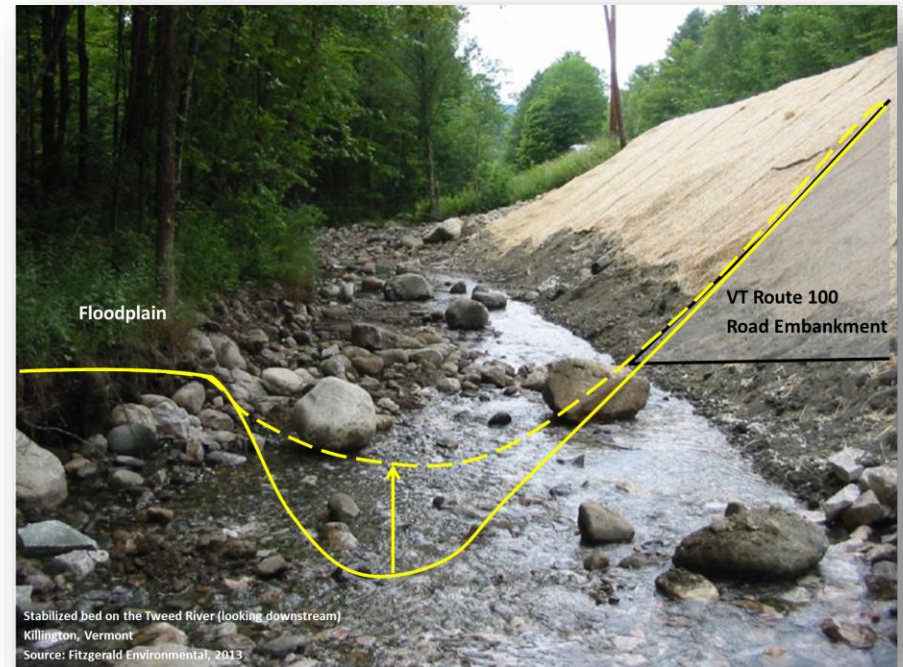




# Mitigation Planning

## Develop Mitigation Options

- **Infrastructure Improvements**  
(Revised alternatives analysis and design standards)
- **River Management**
- **Alternative Routes**
- **Roadway Relocation**
- **Conservation**
- **Land Use Regulation**





# Transportation Flood Resilience App

## Why have an App?

- Centralizes data for all users
  - Ensures everyone has latest version
- No commercial software requirements for users
  - Nothing to install or license
- Maximizes accessibility
- Simplifies complex data queries to answer technical questions for users/stakeholders
- Provides efficiencies over desktop GIS
  - Makes connections between datasets that would otherwise be cumbersome
- Structures/guides workflow to help users better understand the full risk picture





# Thank You!

Erosion App: <http://erosion.stone-env.net/>

Stormwater App: <http://runoff.stone-env.net/>

Solar App: <http://energy.stone-env.net/>

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STONE ENVIRONMENTAL

**Thank you.**

Erosion App: <http://erosion.stone-env.net/>  
Stormwater App: <http://runoff.stone-env.net/>  
Solar App: <http://energy.stone-env.net/>

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