

Box 9: Barrier and Capacity Needs Addressed Through Mainstreaming

- **Financial constraints:** Adaptation work can be advanced within existing budgets without having to secure additional, separate, or new funding sources.
- **Political hurdles:** Climate change considerations can be integrated into projects and programs already underway to protect them from short election cycles and political opposition.
- **Inadequate planning processes:** Existing plans, processes, and solution options can be informed and improved by consideration of future climate impacts.
- **Limited authority:** Where dedicated climate, sustainability, or resilience staff do not have the authority to influence other processes (such as hazard mitigation plans, public health vulnerability assessments, capital planning), mainstreaming balances responsibility among multiple agencies and departments with authority to act.
- **Capacity deficiencies:** Where there are no dedicated staff for climate change and resilience (especially in small and medium-sized cities and towns), mainstreaming is the only viable, near-term approach.
- **Lack of motivation:** In the face of multiple competing priorities, finding overlaps and co-benefits between adaptation and other goals can elevate the urgency to act.
- **Lack of consistency:** Mandates from higher government levels can help ensure that lower-level entities address climate change, and do so consistently across jurisdictional boundaries.
- **Language barriers:** If climate change is politically or conceptually problematic, using the vernacular of existing processes can help open doors and engage broader audiences.
- **Separate/siloed approaches:** Mainstreaming can initiate better coordination of previously disconnected efforts, build broader support, uncover budget overlaps and complementarities, and achieve additional benefits.