



Bexar County Commissioners Court

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County Engineer moving forward with effort to correct noncompliant streets

Of the 121 subdivisions in unincorporated Bexar County that have streets and drains which have been out of warranty for more than two years, repairs have been made or plans of action have been submitted to the County Engineer for nearly half. County Engineer Renee Green told Commissioners Court on Tuesday that of those subdivisions, 16 have had repairs completed and 52 are under repair or have a plan of action with a date of completion.

The issue of substandard residential roads in unincorporated Bexar County was brought to Commissioners Court when residents of Ventura Heights raised concerns about the condition of the roads in the Northeast Bexar County subdivision. The now defunct developer of Ventura Heights did not build the roads to specification and did not complete needed fixes in order for Bexar County's Public Works Division to accept the roads for maintenance.

"As I am extremely pleased with the progress our County Engineer has made in finding good solutions for a bad problem that has affected Commissioner Adkisson's precinct as well as my Precinct 1 neighborhoods," Commissioner Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez said. "Developers and builders need to act responsibly and be sensitive to the issue at hand. I am equally confident we will be able to make progress soon."

Since late April, Green has been working with 37 developers of the 121 subdivisions to get the roads fixed so the County can maintain them. According to the plans of action

she has received, Green said more than half of the repairs should be completed by the end of October. There are still 33 subdivisions for which plans of action have not been submitted. A plan of action is expected soon for 14 of those and 7 builders are in the process of creating action plans.

“While we have much progress to make, I’m pleased to see that we are getting a firmer grasp on responsibility for these streets in our unincorporated county subdivisions,” Commissioner Tommy Adkisson said.

For those few subdivisions which have been abandoned by the developer, Green said there are four options:

- A road assessment program where the owners are assessed a lump sum amount that is divided among the affected owners.
- A road improvement district or public improvement district through which property owners are assessed an additional tax for 30 years.
- The County could accept the streets for maintenance and make the repairs at all taxpayers’ expense.
- A tax increment reinvestment zone or tax increment financing which is not a likely option because the tax is based on the improved value.

“I’m encouraged by the response we’ve received from the builders and we will continue to diligently work to bring all of Bexar County’s residential roads into compliance,” Green said.

In other business, Commissioners Court recognized 20 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act with a proclamation presented to the Bexar County Technical Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities. The committee was formed to provide a link between disabled citizens and Bexar County government to ensure equal accessibility to all Bexar County facilities, services and programs. In addition to providing technical assistance to make sure the County complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, committee members also assist the County’s ADA coordinator with responding to and correcting accessibility complaints.

“As a local leader in this community it is not only my responsibility to help Bexar County become sensitive and responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities, but it is my

privilege to act on their behalf,” Commissioner Rodriguez said. “Aurora Sanchez works closely with the technical advisory committee to ensure their needs are addressed.”