

Drivers will get extra info on floods

By John W. Gonzalez

4-5 minutes

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Avoiding dangerously flooded roads in suburban Bexar County is about to get easier.

Later this month, the county's pilot program of 10 high-tech, high-water-detection systems will be expanded to 53 trouble-prone locations — including some sites where motorists have drowned in floodwaters.

Motorists at low water crossings equipped with HALT technology will be met with flashing lights rather than just barricades or nothing at all.

Especially dangerous spots will be outfitted with automatic, railroad-style crossing arms.

Another feature will help motorists steer clear of problem areas. Before setting out during storms, motorists will be able to go online to check for flooded crossings in their path.

Most of the new equipment will be concentrated in the southwest and northeast quadrants of the county.

Officials soon will launch a publicity campaign to explain the HALT

program, which stands for High-water Alert Lifesaving Technology.

Public meetings and brochures are tentatively planned for mid-January, after installation of the newest equipment that includes radio transmitters for real-time reporting of high water conditions.

The county website to tell motorists which crossings are flooded and closed will be unveiled later.

Ten of the devices have been installed since 2009 in a \$250,000 pilot program.

Outfitting 43 more sites and creating interactive capabilities will cost nearly \$3 million, county engineer [Renee Green](#) said.

“We also had to get dedicated (radio) frequencies for these systems and we had to upgrade our communications tower,” she added.

“We've tested the system with the 10 we've already got and everything's ready to go,” Green said.

The goal is to save lives at crossings notorious for dangerous flooding, she said.

More than 160 crossings in suburbs and unincorporated areas of the county were considered for the new technology.

“Sites that we picked are sites that we routinely have to close because of high water. Because they are rural, they may not warrant an improvement to a bridge or a low water crossing ... to use our dollars wisely, we're going to put in these low water crossing signals to alert citizens that there's water up the road,” she said.

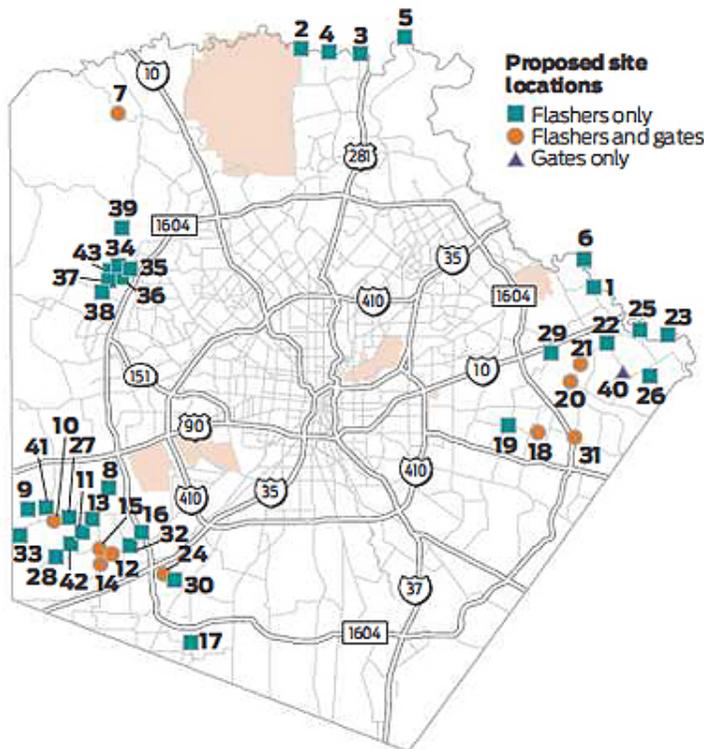
The initiative is part of the county's 10-year, \$500 million flood

control program.

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High-water-detection system expands

In mid-January, Bexar County unveils an expanded system of high-water-detection devices that are being installed at dangerous suburban low water crossings. Ten devices were installed as part of a pilot program, and now another 43 crossings will be outfitted with flashers or automatic gates at a cost of more than \$3 million.



- 1. Weir Rd @ Cibolo Creek
- 2. Blanco Rd @ Cibolo Creek
- 3. Bulverde Rd @ Cibolo Creek
- 4. Specht Rd @ Cibolo Creek
- 5. Smithson Valley Rd @ Cibolo Creek
- 6. Schaefer Rd @ Cibolo Creek
- 7. Toutant Beauregard @ Pecan Creek
- 8. Cagnon Rd @ Medina River
- 9. Gross Ln @ Medina River
- 10. O'Brien @ Pole Cat Creek
- 11. Jarratt Rd @ Elm Creek
- 12. Pearsall Rd @ Live Oak Creek
- 13. Jarratt @ Live Oak Creek
- 14. Pearsall Rd @ Elm Creek
- 15. Shepherd Rd @ Live Oak Creek
- 16. Robert Glenn @ Live Oak Slough
- 17. Senior Rd @ Elm Creek
- 18. Macaway Rd @ Macaway Creek Upper
- 19. Zignont @ Chupaderas Creek Tributary
- 20. Abbott Rd @ Martinez Creek
- 21. Abbot Rd @ Salitrillo Creek
- 22. Abbott Rd @ Woman Hollering Creek
- 23. Ullrich Rd @ Cibolo Creek
- 24. Benton City Rd @ Post Oak Creek
- 25. Bexar Bowling @ Cibolo Creek
- 26. Gable Rd @ Martinez Creek
- 27. Hollowell Rd @ Pole Cat Creek
- 28. Wheeler Rd @ Elm Creek
- 29. Pfiel Rd @ Salitrillo Creek Tributary
- 30. S Evans Rd @ Post Oak Creek
- 31. La Vernia Rd @ Dry Hollow Creek
- 32. Quintana Rd @ Post Oak Creek
- 33. Keller Rd @ Pole Cat Creek
- 34. Beverly Hills @ Culebra Creek
- 35. Wickwilden @ Culebra Creek
- 36. Doheny @ Culebra Creek
- 37. FM 1560 @ Culebra Creek
- 38. Galm Rd @ Culebra Creek
- 39. Antonio Dr @ Los Reyes Creek
- 40. New Berlin @ Woman Hollering Creek
- 41. Jungman Rd @ Medina River
- 42. Jarrat Rd @ Wheeler Rd
- 43. Baxtershire @ Culebra Creek

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