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Ingram Road bridge on track for fall opening

By John W. Gonzalez

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Construction of a lofty new bridge over a perilous low water crossing on Ingram Road is on pace for completion before the holiday shopping season, officials said Tuesday.

The 1,716-foot span over Leon and Huebner creeks, a \$7.4 million project undertaken by Bexar County, was designed to be a lifesaver. When it goes into use by year's end, motorists who ignore flood warnings and barricades no longer will be able to drive themselves into trouble.

The project is part of a 10-year, \$500 million flood-control program that began in 2007. Early on, the site was identified as one of the most dangerous low water crossings in the county. Next came years of coordination among the county, city, utilities, schools, businesses and VIA.

“This stretch of roadway is notoriously dangerous for flooding and authorities have had to close this every time we have a significant rain event,” said county engineer Renee Green. The four-lane bridge with sidewalks and lighting — about 30 feet above the currently dry creekbeds — will keep the major artery open even during a severe 100-year flood, she said.

The project's benefits have come at a cost to area merchants and commuters who rely on Ingram Road. Closed since January, the road is a heavily used link from Culebra and Potranco roads to Loop 410 and Ingram Park Mall.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Paul Elizondo said dry weather continues to help keep the construction on schedule. Work is expected to be finished by Oct. 31.

“We gave our word to the community that we would have it done by the holiday season, and it looks like we're totally on schedule,” Elizondo said. “I'm sure the merchants at Ingram Park Mall appreciate that, too,” he said.

“It floods really badly here, and this is a big safety issue,” Elizondo said.

More Information

Community meeting

Ingram Road construction

6:30 p.m. Thursday

Pueblo Hall

3315 Northwestern Drive