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County begins Alta Vista drainage project

8-10 minutes

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*Bexar County Precinct 4 Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson addresses other county dignitaries and San Antonio city officials and area residents March 31 at the start of a project meant to improve drainage on San Pedro Avenue in front of Twain Middle School and in Alta Vista.
Photo: Courtesy Photo*

Bexar County Commissioner [Tommy Adkisson](#) delivered welcome news on March 31 to a crowd gathered at [Twain Middle School](#) that construction would finally begin on a storm sewer improvement project to improve drainage conditions in the Alta Vista neighborhood and at a dangerous low water crossing on San Pedro Avenue in front of the school.

Adkisson was joined by San Antonio Independent School District board President [James Howard](#) and Bexar County Flood Control Division Manager [Arturo Villarreal](#) as he explained the details of the \$9.7 million capital improvement project known as San Pedro-Huisache Phase II.

The project is funded through Bexar County's 10-year, \$500 million regional flood control program.

“Bexar County made a commitment when it established this flood control program in 2007 that it would address our community's most serious flooding problems, no matter how complicated or costly,” said Adkisson in a news release.

“The flood control infrastructure that serves this neighborhood was built in the early 1900's and is now inadequate, so Bexar County is investing \$9.7 million in a new system that will make these roads

safe to drive in heavy rain events and will protect the homes, schools and businesses in the area.”

The San Pedro Huisache Phase II project involves construction of an underground drainage system including nearly three-quarters of a mile of concrete box culvert measuring 10-feet wide by seven-feet tall.

The culvert will be buried nearly 20-feet underground as well as nearly another three quarters of a mile of smaller concrete drainage pipe that will replace the existing original 24-inch brick pipe.

The project also includes over one mile each of new [San Antonio Water System](#) water and wastewater mains and new CPS Energy gas mains that will be relocated to make room for the drainage improvements.

The system will begin near the railroad tracks on Woodlawn Avenue and snake through the neighborhood touching Ripley, Huisache, Breeden, and Mulberry streets before finally ending on San Pedro Avenue at Elsmere Place. It is anticipated that construction will complete in October 2012.

In September 2008, Bexar County flood control representatives began meeting with the communities of Alta Vista, Beacon Hill and Monte Vista, and with the leadership of Twain Middle School, to discuss the details of the project.

They have since participated in more than a dozen community meetings to ensure the neighborhood's concerns are addressed and that residents are prepared for the disruptive nature of construction.