



## Frequently Asked Questions: Hazardous Road Overtopping Mitigation (HROM) Program

### **What is the Hazardous Road Overtopping Mitigation (HROM) Program?**

The City of Fort Worth's HROM Program is an ongoing effort to identify hazardous road locations due to flooding, prioritize them based on risk, and where feasible, develop solutions to make them safer.

### **Why was the HROM Program created?**

The HROM Program was created in response to life-threatening and fatal incidents associated with flooded roads, usually at stream crossings. The program aims to protect the people of Fort Worth by making streets safer. The program helps the City achieve one of its Strategic Goals to, "Make Fort Worth the nation's safest major city" and the Stormwater Division Mission to "Protect people and property from harmful stormwater runoff".

### **What makes overtopped roadways hazardous?**

Over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water. People underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in cars swept downstream. Just a few inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. Quickly flowing water, regardless of depth, can carry away many cars, as well as SUVs and trucks. Additionally, when water rushes over a street, it can hide

dips, debris, and roads that have been washed away entirely.

### **With so many stormwater needs across the City, why is the HROM Program such a high priority?**

The HROM Program is a high priority because overtopping has been dangerous, even life-threatening, at some road locations. There have been 13 fatalities associated with hazardous road overtopping within the City of Fort Worth since the year 2000.

### **How can these road overtopping hazards be made safer?**

Three general approaches will be used to address hazardous road overtopping:

- Modifying the stream crossing so less water flows over the road
- Adding or enhancing safety measures such as guardrails, signs, markings and lights
- Closing the roadway at the hazardous location

### **How many potentially hazardous locations are there?**

Over 300 potentially hazardous road overtopping locations have been identified within the City. Locations will be added and/or removed as new information becomes available.

### **How can I find out if there are any of these locations near where I live or work?**

Approximately 50 of the more frequently flooded locations have

warning signs and flashers that activate when water levels overtop the road. These locations and real-time information regarding overtopping can be found at [www.FortWorthTexas.gov/floodwarning/](http://www.FortWorthTexas.gov/floodwarning/). Information on other locations can be obtained from Kiran Konduru, and his contact information is provided below.

### **How does the City decide which locations to address first?**

The hazardous road overtopping locations are prioritized first by the severity of the danger to the public, and then by the feasibility and affordability of the improvements needed.

### **Why do project priorities sometimes change?**

The Stormwater Management Division continuously updates project priorities as new information becomes available. New storm events, resident reports, police/fire calls, field investigation, and engineering analysis all help to better understand the magnitude of the hazard and determine feasibility. New funding sources, such as utility fee increases, revenue bonds, or funding partners, can help to make previously unaffordable projects more financially feasible.

### **What is the current status of the program?**

Top priorities have been identified, and current activity is focused on developing feasible solutions at

several locations that can be designed for future construction.

#### **What are the next steps?**

The current stage of identifying locations and developing solutions is expected to continue through 2022. One project (Shoreline Drive, near Bomber Road) is currently in the design phase, and construction plan preparation for five more major projects and other safety improvement projects will begin during FY21. The commitment is to begin construction and/or add safety improvements at over 40 locations before the end of FY2025.

#### **Why haven't hazards like these been eliminated already?**

The Stormwater Utility was created in 2006 with the goal of reducing a broad range of stormwater hazards across the City. While it is not feasible to address all hazards at once, the City has made significant progress reducing road overtopping at several locations and continues to do so through the HROM Program. Where reduction of the overtopping is not feasible, the City has installed safety measures such as flashers, guardrails, and signage

at many locations and the HROM Program will install additional safety measures.

#### **Will every hazard be completely eliminated? How long will it take?**

No, it is not practical to completely eliminate all flood risk for roadways. However, the HROM Program will significantly reduce hazards with reconstruction (or road closure) at no less than 11 locations within the next 5 years. The program will also install safety improvements such as guard rails, signage, striping, and/or lighting at a no less than 30 locations where more extensive reconstruction is not practical.

#### **How can I report hazardous roadway flooding?**

Please report any observed hazardous roadway flooding to the City Call Center at **817-392-1234**.

#### **How is the HROM Program funded?**

The HROM Program is funded by the Transportation and Public Works Department Stormwater Management Division through a stormwater utility fee. The stormwater utility fee is a monthly

fee (included on water bill) that pays for maintenance, improvements to the stormwater drainage system and other Division activities. A recent Utility Fee increase of 6.5%, along with plans to sell seventy million dollars in revenue bonds have allowed the program to increase its emphasis on hazardous road overtopping locations for the next five years.

#### **How will my neighborhood be affected by this Program?**

As with any public construction project, neighborhoods designated for improvements could experience temporary inconveniences such as detours and construction noise. Once the locations for improvements are determined, public meetings will be held so that the community's concerns can be considered in plan development.

#### **For general program information, contact:**

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#### **City of Fort Worth**

Transportation and Public Works Department  
Stormwater Management Division

[www.FortWorthTexas.gov/stormwater/](http://www.FortWorthTexas.gov/stormwater/)