

HARLINGEN DRAINAGE

The Progress Made So Far and Continued Progress Underway

The City of Harlingen has experienced a number of recent heavy rain events that have produced 9-12 inches in the month of May 2007, 22-25 inches in the month of July 2008 (including Hurricane Dolly) and 22 inches in the month of September 2008. This excessive rainfall temporarily overwhelmed our drainage systems in various areas causing scattered flooding. The recent heavy rain events have once again reinforced the need to continue working on drainage issues throughout the city.

Improving Drainage takes time and a great deal of money. Cities cannot design and build drainage systems to accommodate all rain events. Excessive rain events like we experienced since May 2007 will continue to cause scattered flooding in our community.

In our continued effort to address drainage issues throughout the City, we have completed construction on a number of drainage projects approved by the Voters in the 2003 Bond Program. These projects are a result of a 1981 Drainage Study, which highlighted the need for additional drainage improvements within the City of Harlingen. The following is a list of drainage projects that have been completed within the past 5 years:

- **DOWNTOWN DRAINAGE PROJECT: Completed 2008**
The downtown drainage project approved by the Voters in the 2003 Bond Program has been completed. This project included the construction of new drainage structures down Jefferson Avenue from the outfall (drainage ditch) next to Peter Piper Pizza across Business 77 to 10th Street where it turned to the South for one (1) block onto Monroe Street then turned to the west down Monroe and terminated at 3rd Street. This drainage system has already proven to be beneficial to the residential area within the 9th Street/3rd Street area from Jefferson Avenue to Van Buren Avenue.
- **7TH & BOWIE DRAINAGE PROJECT: Completed 2008**
The 7th & Bowie drainage project approved by the Voters in the 2003 Bond Program has been completed. This project included the construction of new drainage structures beginning at 7th Street and traveling west down Bowie Avenue for approximately 300 feet then turning north through a drainage easement and crossing Business 77 and connecting to the outfall (drainage ditch) at 3rd Street & Business 77. The project is designed to improve drainage within the Austin Avenue/ Grimes Avenue area from 7th Street to Woodland Avenue.
- **GREEN ACRES DRAINAGE PROJECT: Completed 2008**
The Green Acres drainage project approved by the Voters in the 2003 Bond Program has been completed. This drainage project included the construction of new drainage structures down Little Creek Drive from Commerce Street to 12th Street then turning south on 12th Street and connecting to an existing 48" drainage line. The drainage system is designed to improve drainage within the Little Creek Drive/Greenway Drive area from Business 77 to Commerce Street.

➤ **MATZ/NEW COMBES DRAINAGE PROJECT: Completed 2008**

The Matz/New Combes drainage project approved by the Voters in the 2003 Bond Program has been completed. This drainage project included the construction of new drainage structures through Matz Avenue from Rose Street to the outfall (drainage ditch) on 3rd Street and through Davis Avenue from New Combes Highway east to the outfall (drainage ditch) on 3rd Street. The project also called for the installation of new drainage inlets along First Street, Dennis Street, Rose Street, Matz Avenue, Davis Avenue and Beck Avenue. The drainage system is designed to improve drainage within the Matz Avenue/Beck Avenue area from Rose Street to 3rd Street.

➤ **NORTHWEST DRAINAGE PROJECT:**

The Northwest Drainage Project is being funded through the Community Development Block Grant funds and is being constructed in seven (7) Phases or as funding becomes available. Phase I of the Northwest Drainage Project has been completed. Phase I of this drainage system consisted of the construction of new drainage structures beginning at the outfall (“drainage ditch” that is located just north of Wilson Road where it intersects with the expressway 77 frontage road) and traveling south next to the Expressway 77 frontage road and turning east on Wilson Road.

Phase II of this drainage system is currently under construction. This phase will consist of the construction of new drainage structures going east down Wilson Road and going south for 750 feet along “T” street.

Phase III of the Northwest Drainage System is currently under design and is expected to go out for bids within the next few months.

The current estimated construction cost for all phases of the project is \$5 million. Once all phases are completed the system is expected to improve drainage within the “L” Street/Frontage road area from Jefferson Avenue to Wilson Road.

➤ **COMMERCE STREET/FILMORE INTERCEPTOR DRAINAGE PROJECT:**

The Commerce Street/Filmore interceptor drainage project was completed in 2004. At a cost of \$3.7 million, this project included the construction of new drainage structures through Commerce Street from the Arroyo Colorado to Filmore Avenue and turning west on Filmore Avenue to “M” Street. The project was designed to improve drainage from Pierce Avenue north to Monroe Avenue and from Commerce Street west to “M” Street.

➤ **LOUISIANA & MASSACHUSETTS DRAINAGE PROJECT:**

The Louisiana & Massachusetts drainage project was completed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in 2005 as part of the Expressway 77/83 project. This project included the installation of larger drainage structures under the expressway to improve drainage within the Louisiana/Massachusetts area.

In addition to these projects the City Commission also authorized funds in April 2007 to develop a **new Comprehensive Drainage Study/Plan** to update the 1981 study. This new study will provide much needed information with respect to growth and changes in the community over the past 26 years. The Engineering firm of Civil Systems Engineering based in Houston, Texas has been contracted to develop the master drainage plan for the City of Harlingen. This plan takes into account the recent heavy rain events

including Hurricane Dolly. The plan is schedule to be presented to the Mayor and City Commission on October 13, 1008. The new Comprehensive Drainage Plan will provide the city with an excellent tool to plan for future drainage projects and address areas of concern.

As you can see your City Officials have made great strides in addressing drainage issues throughout the City. They are committed to working toward addressing drainage concerns within our city with cost effective drainage solutions that will enhance our quality of life and preserve our property.