

SB 3 Flood Warning Siren and Bridge Attachment Installation SOP

Standard operating procedure for local government installation of flood warning sirens, stream gauges, and related equipment in TxDOT right of way and on TxDOT bridges.

Table 1 Document Information

Document	Detail
Version	Version 1.0 (October 2026)
Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR)	Right of Way Division (RULIS and utility accommodation); Maintenance Division (use of ROW by others); Bridge Division (bridge attachments)
Companion documents	SB 3 Flood Warning System Submittal Items for Local Governments; SB 3 Flood Warning System Frequently Asked Questions; Bridge Attachment Details Example
Applies to	Counties, municipalities, and other local governmental entities (LGs), and consultants acting as their authorized agents

1. Purpose and Applicability

This SOP establishes a uniform statewide process for local governmental entity (LG) requests to install, operate, and maintain outdoor flood warning sirens, stream gauges, and associated infrastructure within TxDOT right of way (ROW) and on TxDOT bridge structures in support of Senate Bill 3 (89th Legislature, 2nd Called Session, 2025).

It applies to siren installations (poles, foundations, cabinets, power, communications, telemetry, and appurtenances) and stream gauge installations (gauges, sensors, telemetry, and appurtenant facilities) located in TxDOT ROW or attached to TxDOT bridges.

Installation in TxDOT ROW is not the only option and is not always the best option. Before applying, an LG should confirm that a site outside TxDOT ROW is not feasible because the LG bears all cost and responsibility for design, installation, operation and system performance, maintenance, repair, relocation, and removal for the life of the installation. Approval does not create a vested right to remain in TxDOT ROW.

Detailed submittal content is maintained in the companion Submittal Items for Local Governments. Explanatory and "what if" guidance is maintained in the companion FAQ.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

2.1 Local Governmental Entity

The LG is the responsible party and the signatory to TxDOT documents. A consultant may prepare and submit materials only as the LG's authorized agent; TxDOT holds the LG responsible for the consultant's work. The LG must submit a resolution or equivalent official documentation designating the consultant as its agent, consistent with off-system bridge replacement practice.

Table 2 Local Governmental Entities Responsibilities

Responsibility	Requirement
Coordination	Coordinate early with the appropriate TxDOT District Area Engineer and respond to District requests for information. See below for Area Engineer contact list. Please copy the TxDOT District Engineer on any emails to the Area Engineer.
Application	Register in RULIS and submit a separate site-specific application for each installation location.
Submittals	Provide sealed plans, equipment specifications, structural details, location exhibits, and all items listed in the Submittal Checklists.
Ownership and operation	Retain ownership of all equipment; perform all operations, testing, monitoring, and system activation.
Maintenance and repair	Perform and fund all inspection, maintenance, repair, replacement, and emergency response, including damage from vehicle crashes, flooding, debris, hydraulic loading, and weather events.
Emergency work	Notify the TxDOT District's designated contact before beginning emergency work, or as soon as conditions permit, and comply with all traffic control requirements.
Relocation and removal	Relocate, modify, protect, or remove the installation at its sole expense when required by a TxDOT project, maintenance activity, safety improvement, drainage improvement, or operational need.
Insurance and indemnification	Provide insurance and indemnification as required and comply with all permit conditions.

2.2 TxDOT

TxDOT is not the owner or operator of these systems. TxDOT does not maintain, test, inspect, repair, replace, relocate, or warrant the performance of local government flood warning systems.

Table 3 TxDOT Responsibilities

TxDOT Entity	Role
District (District Engineer, Area Engineer, District Utility/Permit Coordinator) AUS, BWD, LRD, ODA, SAT, SJT, WAC districts	Primary point of coordination with the LG. Performs completeness review, reviews each site-specific RULIS submittal under the Utility Accommodation Rules, routes submittals to subject matter experts, issues the permit and its conditions, and provides first-line RULIS support to external users.
Maintenance Division (MNT)	OPR for LG requests to use TxDOT ROW; Subject Matter Expert (SME) review of each RULIS permit; owner of the Use of Right of Way by Others Manual.
Right of Way Division (ROW)	OPR for accommodation of installations within ROW; steward of RULIS and the utility accommodation process; statewide RULIS program support.
Bridge Division (BRG)	OPR for bridge attachment requests. Mandatory structural review and approval before installation.
Traffic Safety Division (TRF)	Reviews conformance with Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and signing requirements when requested by the District.
Design Division (DES)	Supports flood follow-up initiatives and technical coordination.
Government Affairs (GOV)	Manages legislative and elected-official inquiries and external communications.

3. Process Workflow

Table 4 Process Steps

Step	Action	Responsible Party
1	Coordinate early with the TxDOT Area Engineer on proposed corridors and candidate sites	LG with TxDOT District Area Engineer
2	Obtain RULIS access (register and create account)	LG, with TxDOT District Permit Coordinator (DPC) assistance
3	Submit a site-specific application in RULIS for each installation location	LG
4	Completeness review, then District SME review under the Utility Accommodation Rules	District DPC / Area Engineer
5	Route to Maintenance Division for review	District → MNT

Step	Action	Responsible Party
6	Route bridge attachment details document to Bridge Division for structural review, through the RULIS permit, if applicable	LG → District → BRG
7	Route to Traffic Safety Division for review, if applicable	District → TRF
8	Issue site approval and permit conditions in RULIS	District
9	Install per approved plans; coordinate traffic control and inspection	LG
10	Close out the permit; LG assumes operations, testing, maintenance, and future relocation or removal	LG

4. Application Requirements

4.1 System of record

All applications are submitted, reviewed, routed, approved, tracked, and closed out in RULIS (Right of Way Utility and Leasing Information System), TxDOT's web-based utility permitting and ROW management system. One RULIS account may be used across multiple districts and projects; existing account holders should use their current organization profile. TxDOT District Permit Coordinators are the point of contact for account setup, unlocks, password resets, and training. Registration and application job aids, including Spanish-language versions, are published on the TxDOT RULIS training page for external partners. RULIS links are included in the *Submittal Items for Local Governments* document.

4.2 Required content

Each application must identify the project and operating agency; applicant and consultant contacts; project area and exact site-specific location for every device, including GPS coordinates, roadway reference, and offset; device type, manufacturer, model, and installation method; coverage area; communications method; primary and backup power source and duration; maintenance and testing responsibility and frequency; inspection frequency; and anticipated traffic impacts. Bridge attachments additionally require the Permanent Structure Number, facility carried, feature crossed, and control-section references.

Required supporting documentation includes the LG resolution designating its agent, location maps and site exhibits, installation procedures, equipment specification sheets, access information, operations and maintenance information, emergency contacts, and traffic control information when applicable.

The complete, itemized list of required application fields and attachments is in the companion *Submittal Items for Local Governments*. Applications determined incomplete are returned to the applicant.

5. Design and Installation Requirements

All installations must be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained so that they protect the traveling public, TxDOT infrastructure, and roadway operations. The District review confirms that an installation does not adversely affect roadway operations, maintenance activities, drainage, clear zone, roadside safety, or planned transportation improvements.

Table 5 Design and Installation Requirements

Requirement	Standard
Roadside safety	Installations must not create an unacceptable fixed-object hazard. Poles, cabinets, pedestals, and foundations must be sized, located, and configured to minimize impact potential and crash severity. Run-off-road crash history should be considered during site selection and alternate siting evaluated where crash patterns are known. Reference: Roadway Design Manual, Chapter 17 .
Clear zone	Locate outside the clear zone where practicable. If within the clear zone, the installation must meet crash-testing standards, be behind approved barrier protection, or be determined acceptable through site-specific review. Reference: Roadway Design Manual, Chapter 17 .
Visibility and sight distance	Installations must not reduce stopping sight distance, intrude on intersection sight triangles, obstruct driveway sight distance, or block the visibility or effectiveness of signs, signals, and pavement markings, or of curves, lane transitions, merge areas, and other decision points. Reference: Roadway Design Manual, Section 13.5 .
Traffic operations	Installations must not resemble, imitate, obstruct, or create confusion with an official traffic control device, warning beacon, signal, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) device, or sign, and must not interfere with traffic flow, maintenance activities, or emergency response access.
Drainage and infrastructure	Installations must not obstruct drainage patterns, impair stormwater conveyance, or interfere with the operation, inspection, or maintenance of bridges, culverts, signs, signals, or utilities.
Maintenance access	Sites must allow safe access for inspection, testing, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and emergency response with minimal worker exposure to traffic.

Requirement	Standard
Power and communications	LG provides all power and communications. TxDOT electrical service, ITS power, traffic signal service, roadway lighting circuits, communications and network infrastructure, and monitoring systems must not be used. A backup power source is required; the method and anticipated duration of operation during a primary power failure must be documented.
Cameras	No cameras or image capture capability are permitted.
Utility coordination	LG coordinates with all affected utility owners, identifies and resolves conflicts, maintains required clearances from overhead electric facilities, arranges service connections, drops, and meters with the serving utility, and completes all adjustments, relocations, and protective measures before installation. Evidence of utility coordination must be provided with the application.
Temporary traffic control	A Traffic Control Plan complying with the TMUTCD is mandatory when required by the District or when work affects normal roadway operation. Lane closures require District approval; shoulder closures must be minimized and coordinated. Traffic control is also required for inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, and emergency activities. Reference: Roadway Design Manual, Chapter 23 .

6. Bridge Attachments

Section 6 information is only relevant if the LG wishes to mount an installation on a TxDOT bridge.

Bridge-mounted installations require early District coordination to obtain bridge layout for use in submittal and mandatory Bridge Division structural review and approval through the RULIS permit before installation.

6.1 Suitability evaluation

Before investing in detailed engineering, the LG must evaluate whether the bridge is an appropriate location, considering warning system visibility, maintenance accessibility, impacts to bridge inspection, conflicts with future bridge work, utility conflicts, and exposure to flooding and debris. Bridges that overtop frequently are generally poor locations because of debris impact, hydraulic forces, damage potential, higher maintenance, and reduced reliability during emergencies. Attachment may be denied where a feasible and reasonable alternative outside the structure exists.

6.2 Preferred attachment configuration

- Downstream-side installation.
- Equipment concealed behind the bridge railing.
- Attachments anchored to the exterior face of concrete rails or barriers where structurally appropriate.
- No attachment extending above the elevation of the bridge rail.
- Minimal impact to inspection, maintenance, and future bridge work.

Site-specific conditions may warrant alternate configurations subject to Bridge Division approval.

6.3 Engineering package

The LG submits the bridge attachment details document through RULIS. Plans must be prepared, signed, and sealed by a Professional Engineer licensed in Texas. The bridge attachment details document consists of bridge location map, attachment details in plan and elevation view with offsets, mounting locations, equipment type and dimensions, contractor notes, safety features, installation instructions, traffic control, access needs, and operations and maintenance information.

Bridge Division reviews conformance with preferred attachment locations, structural impacts, attachment details, inspection accessibility, maintenance impacts, safety, and conflicts with future bridge improvements, and may request revisions.

7. Review, Escalation, Exceptions, and Timelines

7.1 Review

The District Permit Coordinator performs a completeness review, then routes the application to the appropriate reviewers, which may include the District Utility Coordinator, Area Engineer or maintenance personnel, Bridge Division, Traffic Safety Division, environmental specialists, and other technical experts. Subject Matter Expert reviews may run concurrently. Reviewers may recommend approval, identify deficiencies, request additional information, or recommend modifications. The District makes the final approval determination or forwards the application for additional review.

7.2 Escalation

Applications are escalated when they affect structural components of a bridge, may impact roadway operations or safety, do not fully meet utility accommodation requirements, involve non-standard designs, or require interpretation of statewide policy.

7.3 Exception to policy

If a proposed installation cannot fully comply with TxDOT requirements, statutes, regulations, or the Utility Accommodation Rules, the applicant may be required to submit an Exception to Policy request in RULIS describing the exception, the technical justification, supporting plans and documentation, and proposed mitigation. The District determines whether to recommend approval; recommended exceptions are forwarded through the TxDOT approval chain. Approval is not automatic and is evaluated case by case.

7.4 Timelines

The anticipated review timeline for a complete and accurate application is 20 business days at the earliest. However, review time increases with bridge attachments, structural evaluations, power connections, communications systems, multiple sites, impacts to roadway operations or safety features, the number of required reviewers, and exception requests. When an application is returned for additional information, the review clock is suspended until the applicant responds.

Applicants should plan for project development, permitting, procurement, installation, testing, and long-term maintenance, and for any deadlines, funding conditions, or reporting obligations imposed by other agencies. TxDOT does not administer non-TxDOT programs, including Texas Water Development Board programs, and is not responsible for compliance with their requirements.

8. Construction Requirements

All construction, installation, maintenance, testing, and removal activities in TxDOT ROW must be coordinated with the District and performed in accordance with permit conditions, approved plans, and applicable traffic control requirements.

Table 6 Construction Requirements

Topic	Requirement
Traffic control	Provide and maintain traffic control for all work in or adjacent to the roadway in accordance with the TMUTCD, permit requirements, and District conditions.
Site access	Use only access routes and locations approved by the District. Maintain roadway operations, drainage features, sidewalks, shared-use paths, and maintenance access unless otherwise approved.
Work hours	Work only during District-approved hours. The District may restrict work during peak periods, special events, emergencies, or adverse weather.

Topic	Requirement
After-hours work	Nights, weekends, and holidays require prior District authorization, advance notice of scope and duration, and approved traffic control and access arrangements, except for qualifying emergency work.
Emergency work	Limited to work necessary to address an immediate threat to public safety, prevent damage to transportation facilities, or restore system operation. Notify the District before starting, or as soon as practicable, and submit required documentation afterward.
Coordination	Complete required notifications, scheduling updates, and coordination meetings with the District and any affected agencies, local governments, utility owners, and contractors before and during construction.
Protection and restoration	Protect existing infrastructure, utilities, drainage systems, and vegetation. Repair any damage and restore all disturbed areas to a condition equal to or better than pre-construction, at the permittee's expense.

9. Operations, Relocation, and Records

9.1 Long-term operation and maintenance

The LG operates, tests, monitors, inspects, and maintains the system for its service life and provides operations and maintenance information — emergency contacts, maintenance procedures, testing and inspection requirements, and anticipated replacement activities — to be kept current and made available to TxDOT on request. When an installation becomes an immediate hazard to the traveling public, roadway operations, structural integrity, drainage function, or emergency response, TxDOT may require expedited removal or relocation within the timeframe established by the District.

9.2 Relocation for TxDOT projects

Installations in TxDOT ROW remain subordinate to future transportation needs. When relocation is required, the District Utility Coordinator issues written notice identifying the conflicting project or operational need, the facilities requiring relocation, the required schedule, and District coordination contacts. The LG acknowledges receipt and coordinates the relocation with the District.

Relocation requires a new or updated RULIS application, submitted with the purpose “Siren Relocation,” documenting the proposed replacement location and verifying continued compliance with the Utility Accommodation Rules, clear zone, safety and traffic, drainage, maintenance access, and Bridge Division requirements where applicable. District approval

must be issued before construction begins, and Bridge Division review is required for any bridge-mounted installation. All relocation costs are the responsibility of the LG.

9.3 Record updates

After installation or relocation, the LG updates RULIS records with the GIS location, revised coordinates, photographs, ownership and contact information, and revised attachments, plans, and supporting documents. Current records support the statewide inventory, reporting, records requests, maintenance coordination, and emergency response.

10. References

- [Texas Senate Bill 3, 89th Legislature, 2nd Called Session.](#)
- [TxDOT Utility Accommodation Rules, 43 TAC Chapter 21, Subchapter C.](#)
- [Right of Way Utility and Leasing Information System \(RULIS\) and external partner job aids.](#)
- Use of Right of Way by Others Manual (Maintenance Division).
- [TxDOT Roadway Design Manual, Chapters 13, 17, and 23.](#)
- [Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.](#)
- [Texas Water Development Board SB 3 implementation resources and Flash Flood Warning Siren Guide \(January 2026\).](#)
- SB 3 Flood Warning System Submittal Items and Frequently Asked Questions (companion documents).
- Bridge Attachment Details Example (companion document).

Appendix A — TxDOT District Contacts by County

Please copy the District Engineer when you contact the Area Engineer. District Engineer emails are listed in the “TxDOT District” column.

Table 7 Contacts

TxDOT District	County	Area Engineer	Phone	Email
Austin District CC Tucker Ferguson, P.E. Tucker.Ferguson@txdot.gov	Burnet	Joe Muck	512-715-5701	Joseph.Muck@txdot.gov
Austin District CC Tucker Ferguson, P.E. Tucker.Ferguson@txdot.gov	Caldwell	Matt Kelly	512-997-2202	Matthew.Kelly@txdot.gov
Austin District CC Tucker Ferguson, P.E. Tucker.Ferguson@txdot.gov	Gillespie	Joe Muck	512-715-5701	Joseph.Muck@txdot.gov
Austin District CC Tucker Ferguson, P.E. Tucker.Ferguson@txdot.gov	Llano	Joe Muck	512-715-5701	Joseph.Muck@txdot.gov
Austin District CC Tucker Ferguson, P.E. Tucker.Ferguson@txdot.gov	Mason	Joe Muck	512-715-5701	Joseph.Muck@txdot.gov
Austin District CC Tucker Ferguson, P.E. Tucker.Ferguson@txdot.gov	Travis	Kyle Russell	512-930-6003	Kyle.Russell@txdot.gov
Austin District CC Tucker Ferguson, P.E. Tucker.Ferguson@txdot.gov	Travis	Orlando Gallegos	512-292-2401	Orlando.Gallegos@txdot.gov
Austin District CC Tucker Ferguson, P.E. Tucker.Ferguson@txdot.gov	Travis	Dan Fleischman	512-997-2201	Daniel.Fleischman@txdot.gov
Austin District CC Tucker Ferguson, P.E. Tucker.Ferguson@txdot.gov	Williams on	Kyle Russell	512-930-6003	Kyle.Russell@txdot.gov
Brownwood District CC Stephen Kasberg, P.E. Stephen.Kasberg@txdot.gov	Lampasa s	Blake Stembridge	512-696-6375	Blake.Stembridge@txdot.gov
Brownwood District CC Stephen Kasberg, P.E. Stephen.Kasberg@txdot.gov	McCullo ch	Blake Stembridge	512-696-6375	Blake.Stembridge@txdot.gov
Brownwood District CC Stephen Kasberg, P.E. Stephen.Kasberg@txdot.gov	San Saba	Blake Stembridge	512-696-6375	Blake.Stembridge@txdot.gov
Laredo District CC Epi Gonzalez, P.E. Epigmenio.Gonzalez@txdot.gov	Kinney	Roberto Moya	830-461-4960	Robert.Moya@txdot.gov

TxDOT District	County	Area Engineer	Phone	Email
Laredo District CC Epi Gonzalez, P.E. Epigmenio.Gonzalez@txdot.gov	Maverick	Roberto Moya	830-461-4960	Robert.Moya@txdot.gov
Odessa District CC Saul Romero, P.E. Saul.Romero@txdot.gov	Reeves	Nestor Mendoza	432-444-3028	Nestor.Mendoza1@txdot.gov
San Angelo District CC Cathy Kratz, P.E. Cathy.Kratz@txdot.gov	Coke	Mitchell Gatlin	325-486-3830	Thomas.Gatlin@txdot.gov
San Angelo District CC Cathy Kratz, P.E. Cathy.Kratz@txdot.gov	Concho	Klinton Kuntz	325-947-9263	Klinton.Kuntz@txdot.gov
San Angelo District CC Cathy Kratz, P.E. Cathy.Kratz@txdot.gov	Edwards	Klinton Kuntz	325-947-9263	Klinton.Kuntz@txdot.gov
San Angelo District CC Cathy Kratz, P.E. Cathy.Kratz@txdot.gov	Kimble	Klinton Kuntz	325-947-9263	Klinton.Kuntz@txdot.gov
San Angelo District CC Cathy Kratz, P.E. Cathy.Kratz@txdot.gov	Menard	Klinton Kuntz	325-947-9263	Klinton.Kuntz@txdot.gov
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San Antonio District CC Charles Benavidez, P.E. Charles.Benavidez@txdot.gov	Bandera	Roberto Madrigal	210-615-5809	Roberto.Madrigal@txdot.gov
San Antonio District CC Charles Benavidez, P.E. Charles.Benavidez@txdot.gov	Bexar	Christen Longoria	210-633-1417	Christen.Longoria@txdot.gov
San Antonio District CC Charles Benavidez, P.E. Charles.Benavidez@txdot.gov	Bexar	Carlos Arcila	210-615-5809	Carlos.Arcila@txdot.gov

TxDOT District	County	Area Engineer	Phone	Email
San Antonio District CC Charles Benavidez, P.E. Charles.Benavidez@txdot.gov	Comal	Jeb Smith	830-609-0707	Jeb.Smith@txdot.gov
San Antonio District CC Charles Benavidez, P.E. Charles.Benavidez@txdot.gov	Guadalupe	Jeb Smith	830-609-0707	Jeb.Smith@txdot.gov
San Antonio District CC Charles Benavidez, P.E. Charles.Benavidez@txdot.gov	Kendall	Roberto Madrigal	210-615-5809	Roberto.Madrigal@txdot.gov
San Antonio District CC Charles Benavidez, P.E. Charles.Benavidez@txdot.gov	Kerr	Roberto Madrigal	210-615-5809	Roberto.Madrigal@txdot.gov
San Antonio District CC Charles Benavidez, P.E. Charles.Benavidez@txdot.gov	Uvalde	Roberto Madrigal	210-615-5809	Roberto.Madrigal@txdot.gov
Waco District CC Stan Swiatek, P.E. Stan.Swiatek@txdot.gov	Hamilton	Jeff Jackson	254-424-1713	Jeff.Jackson@txdot.gov

Appendix B — Definitions and Acronyms

Table 8 Definitions and Acronyms

Term	Definition
BRG / MNT / ROW / TRF / DES / GOV	TxDOT Bridge, Maintenance, Right of Way, Traffic Safety, Design, and Government Affairs Divisions.
DPC / DUPC	District Utility/Permit Coordinator — District point of contact who routes RULIS submittals through required reviews and provides RULIS support to external users.
ETP	Exception to Policy.
ITS	Intelligent Transportation Systems.
LG	Local Governmental Entity — a county or municipality required by SB 3, or an entity acting on its behalf, to install a siren system.
MUA	Multiple Use Agreement — blanket agreement (TxDOT Form 2044) between TxDOT and an LG authorizing a defined use of ROW at multiple locations; approved by the Maintenance Division.
OPR	Office of Primary Responsibility.
RULIS	Right of Way Utility and Leasing Information System — TxDOT's web-based GIS system for submitting and reviewing utility and ROW-use permit applications.
Siren System	Outdoor warning siren and all essential components, including sensors, stream stage gauges, poles, cabinets, power, and communications equipment.
TMUTCD	Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
TWDB	Texas Water Development Board — agency administering SB 3 siren identification, standards, and grants.
UAR	Utility Accommodation Rules.