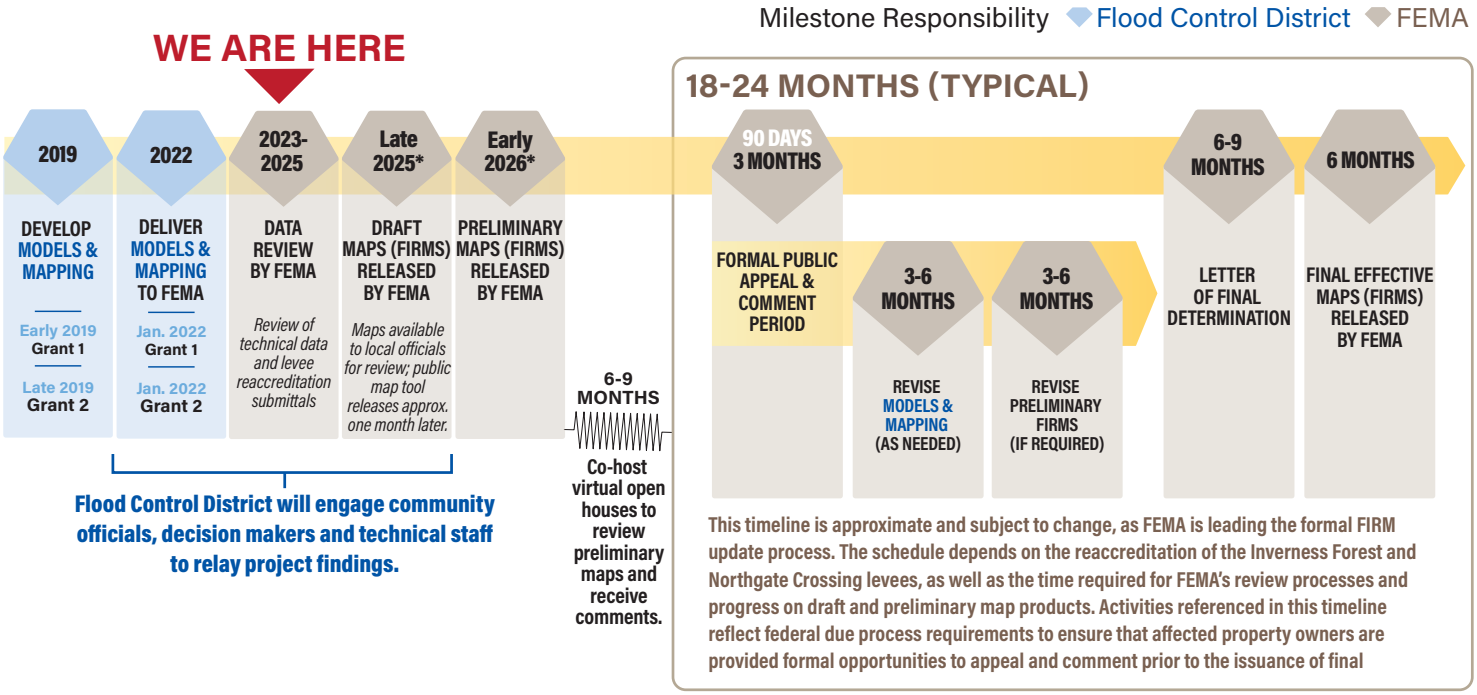
PROGRESS REPORT
TO COMMISSIONERS COURT
SUMMER 2025

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) TIMELINE



About MAAPnext

MAAPnext (Modeling, Assessment and Awareness Project) is **Harris County's next-generation flood risk mapping initiative**, developed by the Harris County Flood Control District in partnership with FEMA. Through advanced modeling and data, MAAPnext empowers residents and local officials to better understand flood risk and make informed decisions to safeguard people, property, and communities.

This multi-year effort is designed to give Harris County residents the **best possible understanding of their flood risk**. Using cutting-edge data and modern technology, MAAPnext provides detailed insights that will shape FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and provide Harris County residents with crucial tools for insurance decisions, emergency preparedness, and community planning.

What's Next with MAAPnext

- Currently, FEMA is:
  - » Reviewing all the technical information necessary to reaccredit the Inverness Forest and Northgate Crossing levees.
  - » Conducting an exhaustive review of all technical data that will inform the new floodplain maps.
- Once this technical review is completed and the levees are reaccredited, FEMA is expected to complete the review process and release its **Draft FIRMs** to local officials for their review in late 2025.
- FEMA's release of **Preliminary FIRMs** is expected in early 2026, initiating the formal public review and comment period.

MAAPnext: Modernizing Flood Risk Mapping in Harris County

MAAPnext is the most advanced floodplain mapping project ever undertaken in Harris County. A collaborative effort between FEMA and the Flood Control District, MAAPnext aims to deliver the most advanced and detailed understanding of flood risk ever developed for Harris County.

Using state-of-the-art data and technology, MAAPnext provides residents, planners, and emergency managers with enhanced tools and clearer, more detailed flood risk data to make informed decisions about flood risk and property protection.

Key Data Enhancements

- Updated rainfall data depth from NOAA's Atlas 14, offering more accurate information on depth, duration, and frequency of rain events
- LiDAR-based elevation mapping (Light Detection and Ranging), using advanced 2018 survey data for highly detailed terrain modeling
- 1-D and 2-D hydraulic modeling that simulates how floodwaters move, revealing water flow direction, speed, and depth across the landscape

Powerful Features for Residents

- Address-specific flood risk data - zoom in to see exact address flood risk levels and potential flood depths
- Downloadable reports for each locationy, including:
  - A flood hazard rating (from low to extreme)
  - Type of flood risk (riverine, community, or coastal)
  - Comparison to current flood risk maps
  - Estimated flood elevations and depths
  - Probability of flooding in any given year or over a 30-year period

What's the Difference Between Draft and Preliminary FIRMs?

The difference between Draft FIRMs and Preliminary FIRMs is an important aspect of the flood mapping process.

Draft FIRMs

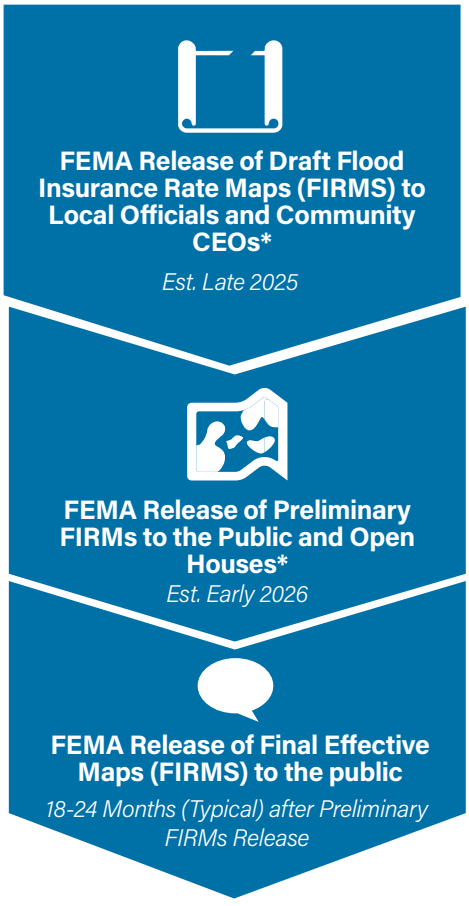
FEMA's Draft FIRMs are early versions of flood maps shared with local officials (including floodplain administrators and community CEOs) by FEMA for review and feedback.

Preliminary FIRMs

FEMA's Preliminary FIRMs are more refined versions of the flood maps that incorporate feedback and additional data collected during the Draft map review phase. They represent FEMA's proposed release of updated flood hazard information to the public.

Learn more at
www.MAAPnext.org

LOOKING AHEAD



**Dates are estimated and based on best available information.*