

The coastal road ran alongside a low seawall, with a pedestrian path on the inland side and a line of salt-tolerant shrubs planted at regular intervals. A small electronic signboard near the bus stop displayed service changes when construction work was active.

The city council approved a pilot floodgate project for the coastal road. In the weeks after the approval, a short project bulletin appeared on the city website and was reposted on a community noticeboard near a cafe. People who used the road daily often noticed the same set of blue directional arrows on temporary signs when routes changed.

Contractors installed temporary barriers and signage near the road. The barriers created a narrower corridor for vehicles, and pedestrians were guided to a marked crossing point that remained in the same place throughout the works. At different times of day, the area alternated between quiet stretches and brief clusters of activity around the crossing.

A utilities team scheduled a routine inspection of a pump station. The pump station sat behind a locked metal gate, and the access path to it was usually empty except for maintenance visits. The inspection date was listed on an internal work calendar, separate from the construction timetable.

The inspection required a temporary shutdown of the pump station. A short entry noting the shutdown window was added to a maintenance log, and the pump station status indicator was set to 'offline' during that period. The nearby electronic signboard continued to cycle through the same rotating messages.

A weather service issued a coastal surge warning. The warning appeared as a standard alert format on multiple apps, and local radio repeated the same headline at set intervals. People who checked the tide chart often looked first at the same reference point: the predicted peak time.

The floodgate was activated during the warning period. A work crew followed a checklist, and the activation was recorded with a timestamp in a routine operations form. The temporary barriers and the blue-arrow signs remained in place, unchanged from earlier in the week.

Water entered the road area and traffic was halted. Drivers were redirected to an inland route, and buses skipped the coastal stop while the closure remained active. After the detour, some pedestrians returned to the same cafe noticeboard, where the latest printed update had been taped over an older sheet.

A municipal review later examined the sequence of events. The review compiled logs from multiple teams and summarized them as a timeline, using the surge warning time as a reference point. In follow-up meetings, the same map of the coastal road was projected repeatedly, with the floodgate location marked in a single highlighted box.