

# **RM 2243 PROJECT**

**FACT SHEET** 

Updated April 2023

**County Commissioner:** Commissioner Cynthia Long, Precinct 2 &

Commissioner Valerie Covey, Precinct 3

**Project Limits:** 183A to Southwest Bypass

**Project Status:** Study and preliminary design are underway and are expected to be complete in

spring 2023. Phase one of construction is expected to begin in summer 2024.

**Issues to Be Addressed:** Safety, mobility, and connectivity

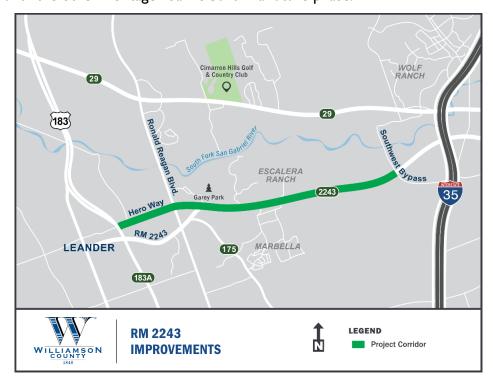
**Project Engineer:** BGE, Inc.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

TxDOT and the County are proposing the reconstruction and widening of RM 2243 between 183A and Southwest Bypass to improve roadway design and address safety, mobility, and connectivity for motorists in this rapidly growing area.

The proposed RM 2243 project would reconstruct and widen the existing rural two-lane roadway to a controlled-access highway, which includes two mainlanes in each direction separated by a concrete barrier, with direct connections to 183A, Ronald Reagan Boulevard, and Southwest Bypass. The proposed project would also include two three-lane frontage roads with access ramps on either side of the mainlanes.

The proposed project would be constructed in phases, and the first phase of construction will include a single frontage road from 183A to Garey Park, which follows Hero Way from 183A to Ronald Reagan Boulevard and is on a new alignment from Ronald Reagan Boulevard to Garey Park. This single frontage road would serve two-way traffic until the other frontage road is built in a future phase.



## WHY THE PROJECT IS NEEDED

Williamson County is experiencing significant growth, and current population projections predict this growth will continue. It is the County's responsibility to plan for transportation needs now and in the future. Current growth requires additional roadway infrastructure to keep pace with the increased number of residents and vehicles and to better protect residents' quality of life.



Source: US Census Bureau, CAMPO 2045 Regional Transportation Plan

## **PROJECT TIMELINE**

2016 – Williamson County identified improvements to RM 2243 in its Long-Range Transportation Plan.

2018 – TxDOT Austin District launched a feasibility study on RM 2243, identifying safety and mobility improvements and determining the type of roadway and right-of-way requirements needed to address the growing traffic demands. In addition, TxDOT held a public meeting in November 2018 to share a preliminary schematic connecting 183A to I-35 and gather public input on potential solutions to be developed through subsequent projects.

**2019** – The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) awarded funds to complete the preliminary design and secure environmental clearance for the RM 2243 project between 183A and Southwest Bypass. Voters also approved the 2019 Road Bond, which secured funding for the design, construction, and right-of-way acquisition.

**2020** – TxDOT and the County began working together to build on the feasibility study, develop the project design and conduct an environmental review for the recommended improvements. This process will lay out the design for all phases and detailed construction plans for the first phase.

2022 - TxDOT and the County conducted technical studies and drafted the environmental assessment (EA).

**2023** – TxDOT and the County are conducting a Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option to share an update on the proposed project and collect comments from the public.

**Virtual Public Hearing:** available online at <a href="https://www.wilco.org/RM2243">www.wilco.org/RM2243</a> from Tuesday, April 25, 2023, through Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

**In-person option:** Tuesday, April 25, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Parkside Elementary School, 301 Garner Park Dr, Georgetown, TX 78628.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

After the public hearing period closes, any necessary changes to the draft EA and project design would be completed, and hearing documentation will be prepared for TxDOT review. TxDOT would subsequently provide an Environmental Decision, allowing the first phase to be constructed. Phase one of construction is expected to begin in summer 2024. As growth occurs and the need arises, funding would be identified for future construction phases.

#### MORE INFORMATION

The public may call 512-400-4162 ext. I during regular office hours to speak with a project team member or email roads@wilco.org for more information at any time in the project development process. Project materials and updates will be posted on the RM 2243 project webpage: <a href="https://www.wilco.org/RM2243">www.wilco.org/RM2243</a>.