

# RONALD REAGAN EXTENSION PLANNING & PRESERVATION STUDY

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated November 2022

### I. What is the Ronald Reagan Extension Planning & Preservation Study?

Williamson County is conducting the Ronald Reagan Extension Planning & Preservation Study, also referred to as Corridor D on the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), to plan for future growth and set the right of way (ROW) footprint. The road will be built as growth occurs to create a connection between IH 35 and SH 95 to maintain connectivity and mobility.



### 2. Why is the County conducting this study now?

County governments are responsible for planning effective transportation systems. Williamson County has experienced immense growth in recent years and current population projections predict that this growth will continue. In this area, the population of Jarrell has grown 175% in less than 20 years, from 614 in 2000 to 1,692 people in 2018. Additionally, the job market in Jarrell is predicted to grow by 51.5% in the next ten years. That's 18% higher than the national average.

It is the County's responsibility to plan for current and future transportation needs in order to keep pace with the anticipated increased number of residents and vehicles. This high level of growth is inevitable and requires extensive planning and development that will ultimately protect their quality of life.

Preserving the corridor for a future road, before development occurs, allows the County to be fiscally responsible by working with willing sellers and developers before land is developed and as it's sold. This also minimizes impacts to businesses and homes because the corridor is preserved before more structures are built.

### **3. What is the timeline for the Ronald Reagan Extension Planning & Preservation Study?**

The ROW footprint is set and schematic design is underway. A schematic is anticipated to be completed in fall 2022. At this time there no funding for construction or ROW acquisition.

### **4. What is the study process for the Ronald Reagan Extension?**

The process for this study involves evaluating many factors including, but not limited to:

- Social & community impacts
- Public input
- Impacts to homes & businesses
- Water resources
- Traffic Impact Analysis
- Threatened & endangered species
- Vegetation & wildlife
- Land use & parkland
- Archaeological & historic resources
- Hazardous materials
- ROW analysis & land cost
- Engineering analysis

### **5. How is the study being funded?**

The Ronald Reagan Extension Planning & Preservation Study is being funding through the 2013 Williamson County Road Bond Program. Funding for construction of transportation projects can come from many sources; the most common are bonds, tolling and partnerships between federal, state, county, and city governments. Construction funding sources have not yet been identified; however, at this time, the corridor is not being planned as a toll road.

### **6. What is the Williamson County LRTP?**

The Williamson County Commissioners Court adopted the LRTP in October 2009. The plan is regularly updated based on current needs, population projections, and anticipated future mobility and safety needs in Williamson County. The planning process to develop the LRTP involves working with the public, cities, neighboring counties, and transportation and planning agencies to gather input and coordinate connectivity and mobility.

The most recent amendments to the LRTP outline a network of roadways that will improve safety and mobility across the County, and include a map of potential controlled access facilities and potential arterial roadways. These potential roadways are conceptual only to show general locations and connections needed. To learn more about the LRTP, click [here](#).

### **7. What is a controlled access facility?**

A controlled access facility is a roadway with main lanes that have entrance and exit ramps and frontage roads. The main lanes provide mobility for through traffic and the frontage roads provide local access to abutting properties.

## **8 Will the Ronald Reagan Extension be a controlled access facility?**

The Ronald Reagan Extension is being planned as a controlled access facility; however, the first phase of the road will most likely be a two to three lane road: one lane in each direction, potentially with a center turn lane. As growth occurs and funding becomes available, the second frontage would be built, then finally the main lanes. Building the ultimate Ronald Reagan Extension will most likely take several decades.

## **9. Will there be noise barriers?**

Once construction funding is available, the first phase of this project will be a two to three lane road: one lane in each direction, potentially with a center turn lane. Future phases of construction will include a second frontage road, which will create divided lanes for each direction, and main lanes will be added if the County continues to grow and the need arises. Please note, the main lanes might not be built for ten or more year as it depends on funding and growth. Noise impacts will be analyzed and addressed during the design phase of the main lanes, which would determine the need for noise barriers.

## **10. How much ROW will be needed and how will I be compensated for it?**

Halff Associates, Inc. developed an alignment for the Ronald Reagan Extension. The new alignment has been incorporated into the draft LRTP. If someone is a willing seller, then the County may move forward with acquisition. This is a formal process that involves independent appraisals and a negotiation process between the property owner and the County. The County will also talk to property owners as land is developed. If and when construction funding is secured, the County will approach property owners to acquire the land.

## **11. Why isn't the County doing anything to improve our current roads?**

Maintaining current road and transportation infrastructure is a great priority for the County. However, there are finite resources, and the County's responsibility is to ensure those dollars are used in the most efficient and responsible manner possible in addressing today's needs, while preparing for the future.

The County has not forgotten about the issues that are arising today, but one of those issues is the rapid growth that is occurring. The County needs to plan ahead to best coordinate with property owners, businesses, and the community, in order to safely and efficiently accommodate existing and future transportation needs.

## **12. How can I get involved in the Ronald Reagan Extension Planning & Preservation Study?**

The County wants to understand more details about property, how it is currently used, and what is planned for the future. In addition, the County wants to better understand what the community values and needs. If you have input, questions, or wish to be added to the email updates list, you may contact the County:

- Phone: (512) 943-1195 (leave a message for a call back within 48 hours)
- Email: [roads@wilco.org](mailto:roads@wilco.org) (include "Ronald Reagan Extension" in the subject line)

Please visit [www.wilco.org/RonaldReaganExtension](http://www.wilco.org/RonaldReaganExtension) for more information.