



Williamson County Commissioner
Terry Cook

NEWSLETTER

October 2021 Volume 5 Issue 10

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The Message



Musings from my Desk

Redistricting

What's not alarming about the cracking, fracking and general destruction of the voting block that was Williamson County? Our collective power has been dissipated and diluted in two conservative, rural state senate districts. We are an anomaly of being 4th fastest growing county in the country with our once sleepy, rural county becoming a high-tech powerhouse. Developers are gobbling up land at an increasing pace. We now have 2 state Senatorial and 4 congressional districts in the county. Have you looked up what districts you're now in? Go to <https://apps.texastribune.org/features/2021/texas-redistricting-map/> and scroll down just a little way to enter your address. According to the proposed timeline passed by Commissioners Court on October 19, the proposed new Commissioner precinct boundaries map for Williamson County will be on the county website by close of business on Wednesday, November 3. On there, you should also be able to provide your comments about the map. Additionally, we currently have 94 voter precincts but there's almost 20 holding over 5,000 registered voters and will need to be broken up, and another 20 or so that are close to the 5000-voter limit. You can see this map of current voter precincts and approximate number of registered voters as of September 9, 2021 [HERE](#). You might have to increase your zoom on the page to see what is written on the map. Changes to the voter precincts don't have the impact that action had when we all voted within our voting precincts (think elementary schools) – but if it is your precinct, especially for Precinct Chairs, you care. Even those precincts holding between 4,000 and 5,000 may see changes with our intense growth. A redistricting website is to be created (probably under Wilco.org somewhere) where feedback is to be gathered – the schedule is pretty aggressive in time – remember 3 members of the court are campaigning for re-election and two are driving the commissioner precinct changes.

The proposed re-districting schedule per court on October 19, 2021 was:

11/2/21 George Strebel, GIS, Redistricting Committee member, to discuss draft map with Commissioner Court members. Commissioners Covey and Long to discuss draft map with both County Party Chairs.

11/3/21 By end of business, post the draft map on the County's website for public comment. Redistricting Committee to address public comments received. We don't know where it will be located on the Wilco.org website.

11/9/21 Place draft map on Agenda for discussion by Court members.

11/15/21 Redistricting Committee to review State approved maps for conflicts with County map and amend County's draft map. George Strebel to send amended draft map to Commissioners Court.

12/7/21. Discuss and take action on County Voter Precinct map.

11/16/21 Agenda - Discuss and take action on draft map.

11/18/21 If needed, hold Special called Commissioners Court meeting to discuss and take action on final Commissioners Precinct boundaries.

Please become engaged in this process and send feedback via the website or to any of the commissioners. Per Court today—we're told we need to vote on redistricting next **Tuesday, Nov 9!!! Jump in tomorrow and protest the lines for Pct 1-4! My home is an island.**

Speaking of growth, our subdivision rules have been revised hopefully to remove any wiggle/interpretative room as our Road & Bridge division works mightily to do full reviews of submitted plats in their attempt to block undesirable, unsafe, cheaply constructed or ill-conceived subdivisions being constructed.

Our Current Proposed Congressional, Texas House and Texas Senate Districts in Wilco

Texas Population: 29,145,505

Number Congressional Districts in Texas: 38

Ideal District Population: 766,987

Proposed Congressional Districts

	Deviation	Total	Anglo	Non-Anglo	Asian	Black	Hispanic	B+H	%Anglo	%Non-Anglo	%Asian	%Black	%Hispanic	%B+H
DISTRICT 10	0	Total: 766,987	435,478	331,509	49,808	83,104	185,783	263,398	56.8	43.2	6.5	10.8	24.2	34.3
	0.00 %	VAP: 591,924	356,306	235,618	36,565	61,003	126,362	184,633	60.2	39.8	6.2	10.3	21.3	31.2
Austin (100%)		30,167	18,480	11,687	304	2,791	8,052	10,630	61.3	38.7	1.0	9.3	26.7	35.2
Bastrop (54%)		52,902	31,560	21,342	885	3,714	15,436	18,850	59.7	40.3	1.7	7.0	29.2	35.6
Brazos (100%)		233,849	123,035	110,814	16,856	27,910	63,067	88,787	52.6	47.4	7.2	11.9	27.0	38.0
Burleson (100%)		17,642	11,258	6,384	118	2,145	3,712	5,737	63.8	36.2	0.7	12.2	21.0	32.5
Colorado (100%)		20,557	11,761	8,796	132	2,535	5,990	8,336	57.2	42.8	0.6	12.3	29.1	40.6
Fayette (100%)		24,435	17,041	7,394	129	1,722	5,216	6,785	69.7	30.3	0.5	7.0	21.3	27.8
Grimes (100%)		29,268	16,910	12,358	195	4,217	7,361	11,400	57.8	42.2	0.7	14.4	25.2	39.0
Lee (100%)		17,478	10,612	6,866	123	1,945	4,479	6,287	60.7	39.3	0.7	11.1	25.6	36.0
Madison (100%)		13,455	6,984	6,471	131	2,724	3,415	6,099	51.9	48.1	1.0	20.2	25.4	45.3
Travis (14%)		185,436	115,385	70,051	19,115	11,403	35,828	46,119	62.2	37.8	10.3	6.1	19.3	24.9
Waller (100%)		56,794	23,494	33,300	1,063	12,827	18,486	30,985	41.4	58.6	1.9	22.6	32.5	54.6
Washington (100%)		35,805	22,023	13,782	694	6,044	6,425	12,288	61.5	38.5	1.9	16.9	17.9	34.3
Williamson (8%)		49,199	26,935	22,264	10,063	3,127	8,316	11,095	54.7	45.3	20.5	6.4	16.9	22.6
	Deviation	Total	Anglo	Non-Anglo	Asian	Black	Hispanic	B+H	%Anglo	%Non-Anglo	%Asian	%Black	%Hispanic	%B+H
DISTRICT 17	0	Total: 766,987	406,452	360,535	25,354	130,592	193,683	317,946	53.0	47.0	3.3	17.0	25.3	41.5
	0.00 %	VAP: 589,524	333,951	255,573	18,552	94,305	131,353	222,973	56.6	43.4	3.1	16.0	22.3	37.8
Angelina (100%)		86,395	49,970	36,425	1,169	14,115	19,732	33,448	57.8	42.2	1.4	16.3	22.8	38.7
Falls (100%)		16,968	8,707	8,261	106	4,023	3,965	7,845	51.3	48.7	0.6	23.7	23.4	46.2
Freestone (36%)		6,924	4,596	2,328	42	1,035	1,148	2,158	66.4	33.6	0.6	14.9	16.6	31.2
Houston (100%)		22,066	12,957	9,109	186	5,462	3,071	8,439	58.7	41.3	0.8	24.8	13.9	38.2
Leon (100%)		15,719	11,659	4,060	153	1,059	2,446	3,469	74.2	25.8	1.0	6.7	15.6	22.1
Limestone (100%)		22,146	12,530	9,616	245	4,117	5,013	8,945	56.6	43.4	1.1	18.6	22.6	40.4
McLennan (100%)		260,579	139,693	120,886	6,704	41,799	68,587	107,816	53.6	46.4	2.6	16.0	26.3	41.4
Milam (100%)		24,754	15,367	9,387	193	2,520	6,264	8,582	62.1	37.9	0.8	10.2	25.3	34.7
Nacogdoches (100%)		64,653	37,158	27,495	1,066	11,610	13,597	24,950	57.5	42.5	1.6	18.0	21.0	38.6
Robertson (100%)		16,757	9,505	7,252	145	3,381	3,528	6,789	56.7	43.3	0.9	20.2	21.1	40.5
Travis (5%)		69,871	28,634	41,237	7,327	12,570	20,867	32,593	41.0	59.0	10.5	18.0	29.9	46.6
Trinity (100%)		13,602	10,533	3,069	100	1,269	1,314	2,561	77.4	22.6	0.7	9.3	9.7	18.8
Walker (78%)		59,719	27,978	31,741	1,128	15,324	14,406	29,418	46.8	53.2	1.9	25.7	24.1	49.3
Williamson (14%)		86,834	37,165	49,669	6,790	12,308	29,745	40,933	42.8	57.2	7.8	14.2	34.3	47.1
	Deviation	Total	Anglo	Non-Anglo	Asian	Black	Hispanic	B+H	%Anglo	%Non-Anglo	%Asian	%Black	%Hispanic	%B+H
DISTRICT 31	0	Total: 766,987	453,212	313,775	47,009	75,716	176,860	245,079	59.1	40.9	6.1	9.9	23.1	32.0
	0.00 %	VAP: 574,120	361,417	212,703	31,029	51,356	116,544	164,576	63.0	37.0	5.4	8.9	20.3	28.7
Bell (53%)		195,972	109,835	86,137	6,976	28,523	47,699	73,510	56.0	44.0	3.6	14.6	24.3	37.5
Bosque (100%)		18,235	13,621	4,614	148	503	3,321	3,737	74.7	25.3	0.8	2.8	18.2	20.5
Burnet (100%)		49,130	34,810	14,320	629	1,011	11,199	12,068	70.9	29.1	1.3	2.1	22.8	24.6
Coryell (100%)		83,093	46,213	36,880	3,238	15,290	16,482	30,436	55.6	44.4	3.9	18.4	19.8	36.6
Hamilton (100%)		8,222	6,805	1,417	63	68	1,045	1,104	82.8	17.2	0.8	0.8	12.7	13.4
Williamson (68%)		412,335	241,928	170,407	35,955	30,321	97,114	124,224	58.7	41.3	8.7	7.4	23.6	30.1
	Deviation	Total	Anglo	Non-Anglo	Asian	Black	Hispanic	B+H	%Anglo	%Non-Anglo	%Asian	%Black	%Hispanic	%B+H
DISTRICT 37	0	Total: 766,987	402,448	364,539	90,108	55,043	209,889	259,115	52.5	47.5	11.7	7.2	27.4	33.8
	0.00 %	VAP: 622,654	344,351	278,303	69,769	42,510	156,490	195,471	55.3	44.7	11.2	6.8	25.1	31.4
Travis (55%)		706,338	372,066	334,272	78,120	49,584	197,976	242,257	52.7	47.3	11.1	7.0	28.0	34.3
Williamson (10%)		60,649	30,382	30,267	11,988	5,459	11,913	16,858	50.1	49.9	19.8	9.0	19.6	27.8

Proposed Texas Senate Districts in Wilco

Texas Population: 29,145,505

Number Senate Districts: 31

Ideal Senate District Size: 940,178

	Deviation		Total	Anglo	Non-Anglo	Asian	Black	Hispanic	B+H	%Anglo	%Non-Anglo	%Asian	%Black	%Hispanic	%B+H
DISTRICT 5	-8.254	Total:	931,924	508,428	423,496	50,238	107,092	252,135	351,736	54.6	45.4	5.4	11.5	27.1	37.7
	-0.88 %	VAP:	719,288	418,606	300,682	36,589	77,673	172,638	246,666	58.2	41.8	5.1	10.8	24.0	34.3
Bastrop (100%)			97,216	45,751	51,465	1,287	6,873	41,484	47,762	47.1	52.9	1.3	7.1	42.7	49.1
Brazos (100%)			233,849	123,035	110,814	16,856	27,910	63,067	88,787	52.6	47.4	7.2	11.9	27.0	38.0
Freestone (100%)			19,435	12,817	6,618	143	3,038	3,155	6,112	65.9	34.1	0.7	15.6	16.2	31.4
Leon (100%)			15,719	11,659	4,060	153	1,059	2,446	3,469	74.2	25.8	1.0	6.7	15.6	22.1
Limestone (100%)			22,146	12,530	9,616	245	4,117	5,013	8,945	56.6	43.4	1.1	18.6	22.6	40.4
Madison (100%)			13,455	6,984	6,471	131	2,724	3,415	6,099	51.9	48.1	1.0	20.2	25.4	45.3
Milam (100%)			24,754	15,367	9,387	193	2,520	6,264	8,582	62.1	37.9	0.8	10.2	25.3	34.7
Robertson (100%)			16,757	9,505	7,252	145	3,381	3,528	6,789	56.7	43.3	0.9	20.2	21.1	40.5
San Jacinto (100%)			27,402	19,170	8,232	176	2,412	4,822	7,143	70.0	30.0	0.6	8.8	17.6	26.1
Walker (100%)			76,400	39,823	36,577	1,335	17,359	16,578	33,580	52.1	47.9	1.7	22.7	21.7	44.0
Williamson (63%)			384,791	211,787	173,004	29,574	35,699	102,363	134,468	55.0	45.0	7.7	9.3	26.6	34.9
	Deviation		Total	Anglo	Non-Anglo	Asian	Black	Hispanic	B+H	%Anglo	%Non-Anglo	%Asian	%Black	%Hispanic	%B+H
DISTRICT 24	21,156	Total:	961,334	504,083	457,251	60,249	137,718	244,971	369,492	52.4	47.6	6.3	14.3	25.5	38.4
	2.25 %	VAP:	726,681	410,319	316,362	41,568	93,190	165,702	252,661	56.5	43.5	5.7	12.8	22.8	34.8
Atascosa (67%)			32,788	11,065	21,723	288	511	20,503	20,847	33.7	66.3	0.9	1.6	62.5	63.6
Bandera (100%)			20,851	15,595	5,256	219	270	4,010	4,247	74.8	25.2	1.1	1.3	19.2	20.4
Bell (100%)			370,647	156,780	213,867	18,271	100,605	93,467	184,933	42.3	57.7	4.9	27.1	25.2	49.9
Burnet (100%)			49,130	34,810	14,320	629	1,011	11,199	12,068	70.9	29.1	1.3	2.1	22.8	24.6
Coryell (100%)			83,093	46,213	36,880	3,238	15,290	16,482	30,436	55.6	44.4	3.9	18.4	19.8	36.6
Gillespie (100%)			26,725	19,884	6,841	213	245	5,766	5,941	74.4	25.6	0.8	0.9	21.6	22.2
Kerr (100%)			52,598	35,791	16,807	851	1,127	13,598	14,502	68.0	32.0	1.6	2.1	25.9	27.6
Kimble (100%)			4,286	3,136	1,150	60	37	986	1,013	73.2	26.8	1.4	0.9	23.0	23.6
Lampasas (100%)			21,627	15,132	6,495	512	1,079	4,179	5,135	70.0	30.0	2.4	5.0	19.3	23.7
Llano (100%)			21,243	17,530	3,713	194	233	2,508	2,687	82.5	17.5	0.9	1.1	11.8	12.6
Medina (100%)			50,748	22,324	28,424	528	1,762	25,455	26,930	44.0	56.0	1.0	3.5	50.2	53.1
Sutton (100%)			3,372	1,200	2,172	24	32	2,093	2,111	35.6	64.4	0.7	0.9	62.1	62.6
Williamson (37%)			224,226	124,623	99,603	35,222	15,516	44,725	58,642	55.6	44.4	15.7	6.9	19.9	26.2

Proposed Texas House Districts in Wilco

Texas Population: 29,145,505

Number House Districts: 150

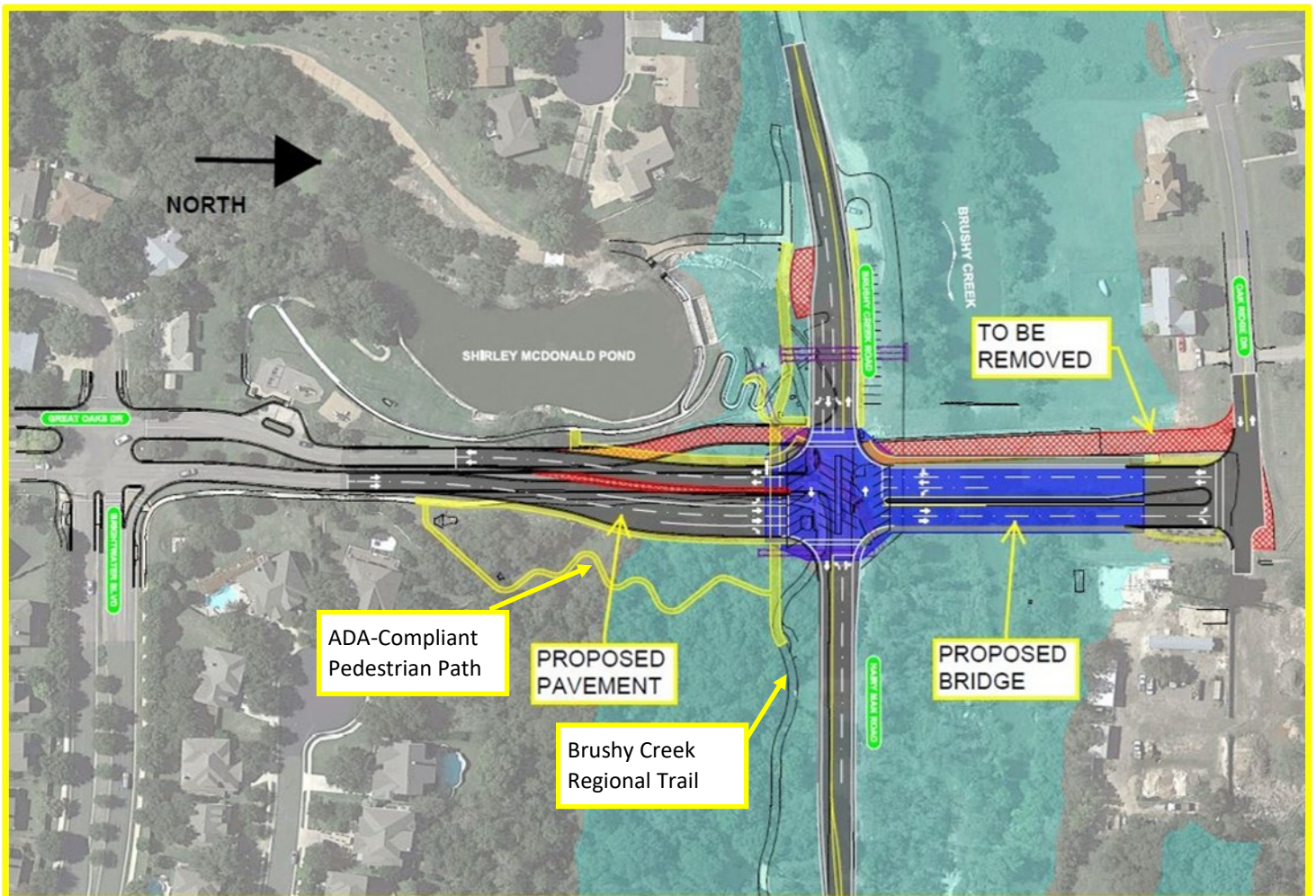
Ideal House District Population: 194,303

Deviation			Total	Anglo	Non-Anglo	Asian	Black	Hispanic	B+H	%Anglo	%Non-Anglo	%Asian	%Black	%Hispanic	%B+H
DISTRICT 20	9,595	Total:	203,898	132,341	71,557	9,808	11,867	45,812	56,179	64.9	35.1	4.8	5.8	22.5	27.6
	4.94 %	VAP:	155,291	106,852	48,439	6,812	7,672	30,254	37,269	68.8	31.2	4.4	4.9	19.5	24.0
Williamson (33%)			203,898	132,341	71,557	9,808	11,867	45,812	56,179	64.9	35.1	4.8	5.8	22.5	27.6
Deviation			Total	Anglo	Non-Anglo	Asian	Black	Hispanic	B+H	%Anglo	%Non-Anglo	%Asian	%Black	%Hispanic	%B+H
DISTRICT 52	7,229	Total:	201,532	108,733	92,799	20,554	18,554	50,901	67,710	54.0	46.0	10.2	9.2	25.3	33.6
	3.72 %	VAP:	144,897	83,402	61,495	13,131	12,413	33,110	44,745	57.6	42.4	9.1	8.6	22.9	30.9
Williamson (33%)			201,532	108,733	92,799	20,554	18,554	50,901	67,710	54.0	46.0	10.2	9.2	25.3	33.6
Deviation			Total	Anglo	Non-Anglo	Asian	Black	Hispanic	B+H	%Anglo	%Non-Anglo	%Asian	%Black	%Hispanic	%B+H
DISTRICT 136	9,284	Total:	203,587	95,336	108,251	34,434	20,794	50,375	69,221	46.8	53.2	16.9	10.2	24.7	34.0
	4.78 %	VAP:	152,857	77,078	75,779	23,529	14,503	35,055	48,606	50.4	49.6	15.4	9.5	22.9	31.8
Williamson (33%)			203,587	95,336	108,251	34,434	20,794	50,375	69,221	46.8	53.2	16.9	10.2	24.7	34.0

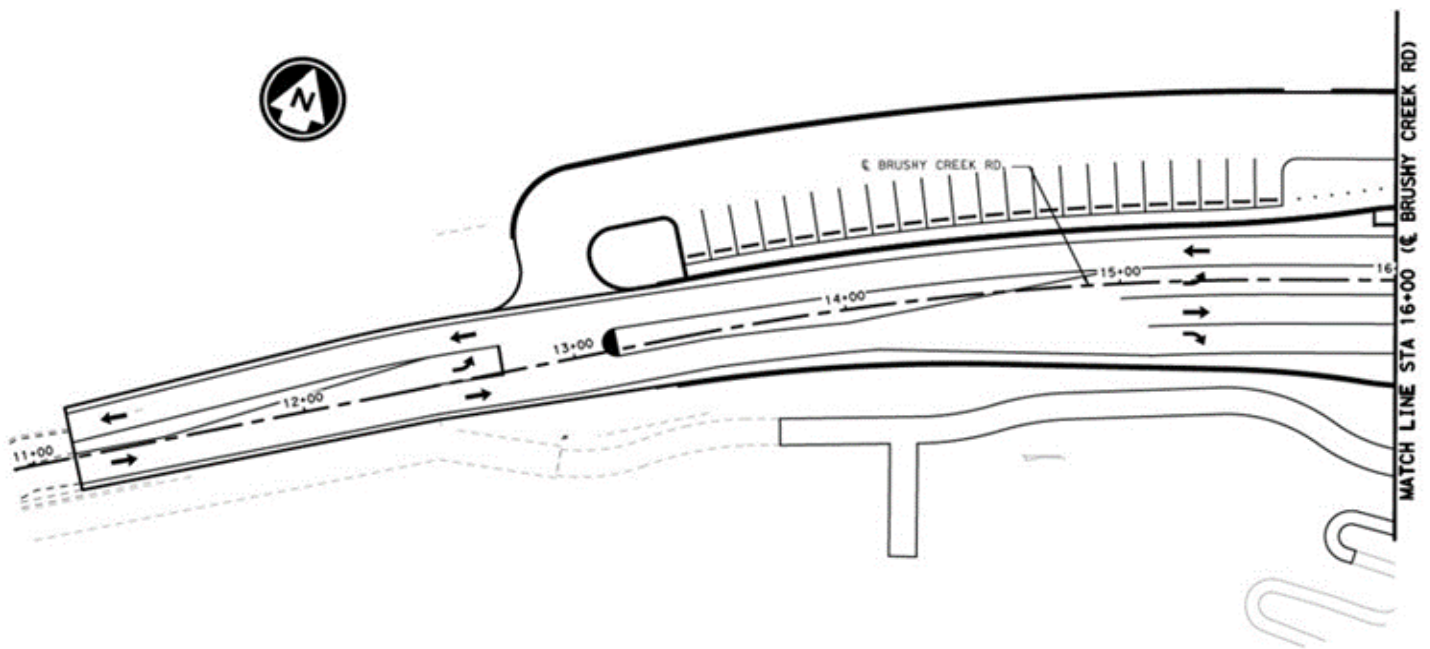
BRUSHY CREEK FALL TOWNHALL

I attended the townhall on Thursday 7th expecting to talk about the Great Oaks Bridge going in (after all these years) across Brushy Creek. But before my turn there were presentations about the MUD's water treatment facilities and wastewater treatment and their challenges. Then an overview of the Parks and Rec's programs – by the way, apparently Brushy Creek MUD trains more swimmers than anywhere else in the country! And many of you know that Brushy Creek MUD has been designated, by some, to be the best place to live in America!

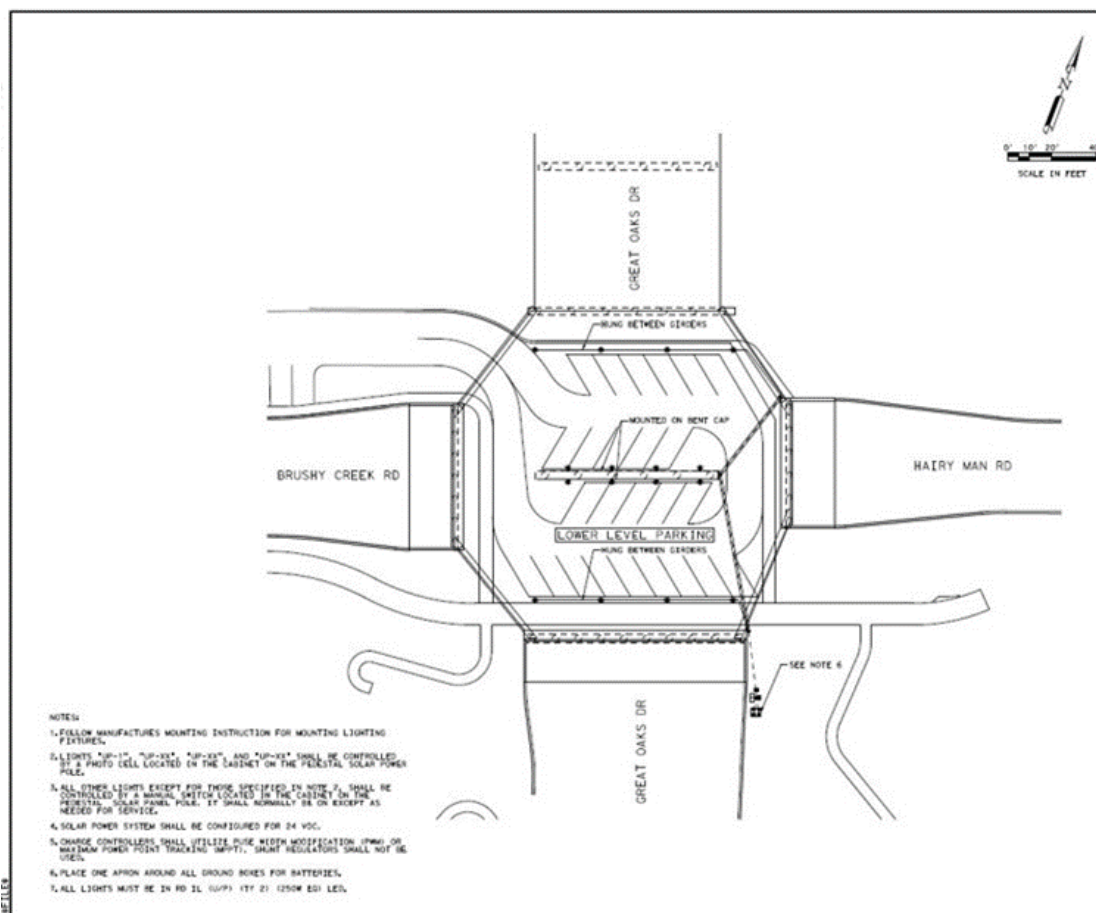
The townhall was not nearly as well attended as in pre-Covid-19 days. Here's some pics of the planned bridge.



New bridge will essentially be as high as the top of the Great Oaks' Hill after Brightwater. Under the pavement will be parking spaces for hikers, bikers, fishermen and explorers. Hairy Man and Brushy Creek Roads will each climb up to the apex of the bridge and pedestrians and bikers will not need to cross traffic anymore.



There are also exterior parking slots. Entrance to those and the covered spaces is off Brushy Creek Rd. once it returns to Creekside elevation.



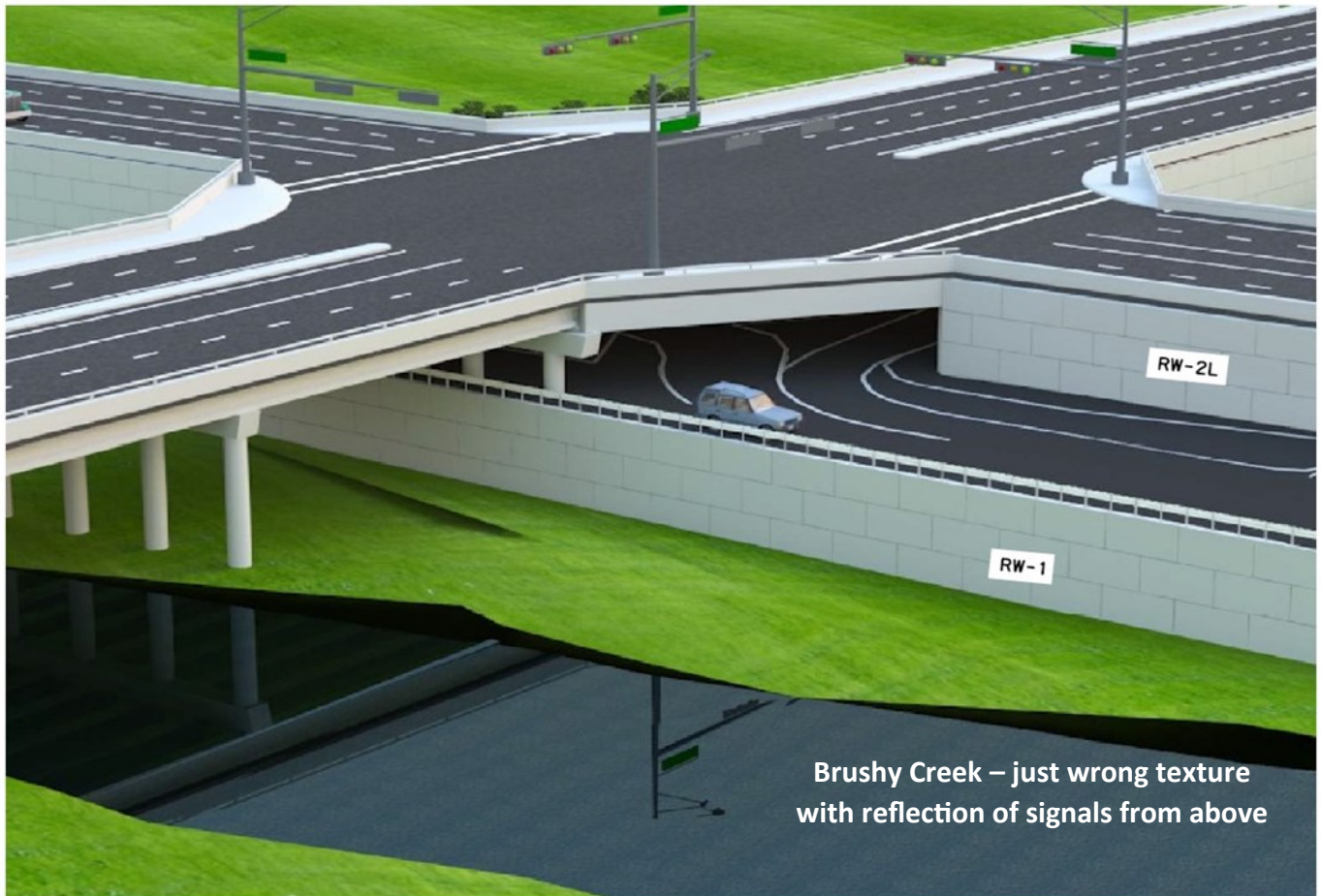
This is a birds-eye view of the covered parking and traffic flow under Great Oaks Drive. There will be lighting for safety.

Of course, if there's flooding or a chance of flood, you're out of there .



Artist rendering of side view when bridge is built. Hooded light signals atop the bridge ease access for turning vehicles while limiting any light pollution. Protected left turning lanes for all directions of the traffic.

Great Oaks will still not go up the hillside for a straighter shot to Sam Bass Road. But all that traffic attempting to go to Cedar Park will enjoy a more efficient flow.



THE END PRODUCT!
HELLO 100-YR FLOODPLAIN!

WELCOME MATTHEW LINDEMAN WILLIAMSON COUNTY'S NEW CONSTABLE PRECINCT 3



Matthew Lindemann was sworn into office as the Precinct 3 Constable during the Commissioners Court meeting by Judge Billy Ray Stubblefield, Presiding Judge of the Third Administrative Judicial Region.

Lindemann has a long history in law enforcement. He started his career as a corrections officer, then as a patrol deputy, for the Williamson County Sheriff's Office. He joined the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) in 1990 as a state trooper. He retired from DPS in 2018 as a lieutenant in the Texas Ranger Division. He most recently served as a sergeant investigator with the Williamson County District Attorney's Office.

(Picture and story by Williamson County Public Information Office.)

O'CONNOR TRAFFIC LIGHTS!!!

Traffic controller cabinets, battery and backup battery cabinets, installation of electrical services, and pedestrian push buttons have been installed at all three intersections now. Additionally, all three signals are flashing red in all directions. The miracle before Christmas—This week, the stop signs on O'Connor should be removed as will the stop marks in the street and the lights should be programmed as *REAL* signal lights!

Remaining work includes striping, sign removals, and programming controllers—all of which are anticipated to be complete the first week of November, barring any foul weather.



12th Annual

Fur Ball



2021 FUR BALL
NEW BEGINNINGS
A Purple and White Affair

Saturday, November 6, 2021
6:00pm–10:00pm
Sheraton Hotel
Georgetown, Texas

[2021 Fur Ball \(wcrasfurball.com\)](http://wcrasfurball.com)

Tickets



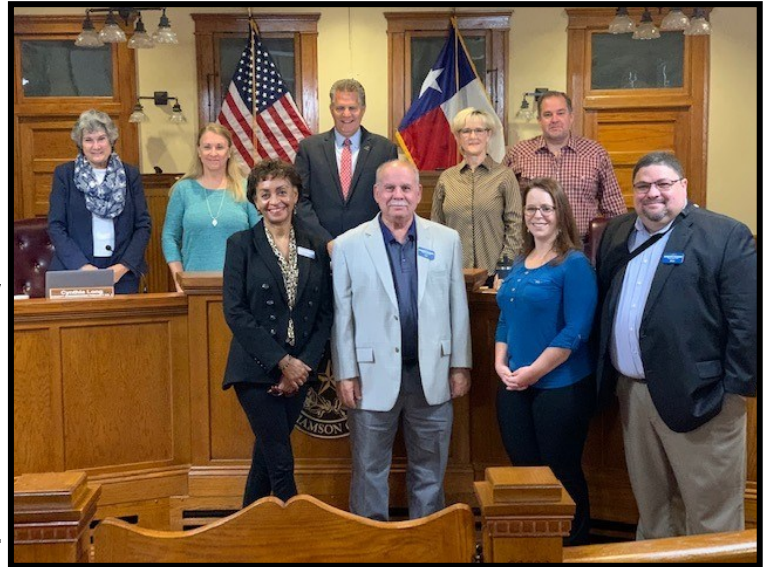
IN COMMISSIONERS COURT

October is Manufacturing Month!

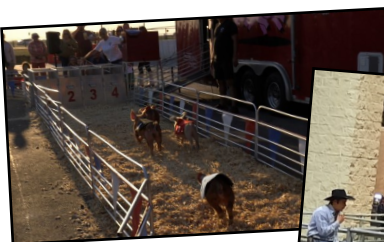
Manufacturing has become a very important sector in Williamson County's economy. Over the ten years ending 2020, employment in Manufacturing added 8,965 jobs. In 2020, there were 425 Manufacturing establishments in Wilco (per covered employment establishment counts), an increase from 290 establishments ten years earlier in 2010. Additionally,

in 2020, Manufacturing produced \$6.3 billion in GDP for the county.

Commissioner Cook was happy to be asked by Workforce Solutions to sponsor a proclamation declaring Manufacturing month in our county.



The 1st Williamson County Fair and Rodeo was a success! If you didn't make it, you missed a really good time. Already looking forward to next year!



IN THE NEWS

[Williamson Co, Commissioner Terry Cook: Teen Court clears records while teaching law \(statesman.com\)](http://statesman.com)

Williamson Commissioner Cook: Teen Court clears records while teaching law

“All rise, Williamson County Court is now in session,” announces a lithe, youthful judge in the Precinct 3 justice of the peace courtroom in Georgetown. A 16-year-old prosecutor presents the case against a 16-year-old youth charged with driving 11 to 20 mph above the speed limit. Also seated is a jury of peers, attentively listening to the judge who says, “By the oath you’ve taken, you have become officials of this court; participant’s duty is to listen, not to talk with anyone.”

The prosecutor approaches the bench and presents the details of the case against the young driver. The driver participates virtually. “Clear weather, no traffic on a county road north of Georgetown,” she responds to a question concerning conditions under which the alleged violation occurred. The student, who was alone in the car, also identified herself as a serious student, working 15 to 20 hours per week and active in extra-curricular programs. The prosecutor is unswayed and declares the defendant to have “willfully chosen to speed and irresponsibly created a hazardous condition.” She clarifies that this is a Class 2 misdemeanor and suggests 20 to 30 hours of community service and one jury term.

The youth assigned as the defense attorney then rises and presents the defendant as a responsible person, demonstrated by her involvement in the community, working, maintaining high grades and actively participating in school activities. The attorney further states that her actions that day reflected an urgency to reach school on time and recommends only 20 hours of community service. With the defense’s closure, the jury is released to convene on the case to a deliberation room near the courtroom.

I’m listening and viewing this activity virtually. Wow – this group of teens understood their responsibilities and were holding a real court hearing with consequences. How did this come to be?

First, a justice of the peace must adopt “Teen Court” proceedings in their jurisdiction, and then open volunteer applications to 13- to 18-year-olds from that precinct. This court is an alternative, voluntary program for young offenders, ages 10 to 18, whose cases are heard first by the justice of the peace, who may offer to transfer their case, if a Class 1-5 misdemeanor, to teen court (not more often than every two years). Sentencing includes community service hours selected and approved by the court administrator, an adult.

The defendant is required to maintain a log sheet of service hours, signed by an approved person. Sentences also require serving as a jury member of teen court and may include completion of educational classes and/or writing an essay submitted to the adult court administrator. The defendant must agree to work with the assigned teen defense attorney on case preparation, generally by phone. The court administrator trains the teenagers on court proceedings and meeting their assigned responsibilities. Many of these teens have been on the court for several years, gaining invaluable experience in public speaking and civics, as well as understanding what “fair and impartial” means.

So why take your case to teen court? This proceeding, if you are successful in completing your sentence, allows the teen to make restitution for an offense while avoiding the fines, clearing one’s record, and stopping the insurance premium hits on driver and vehicle.

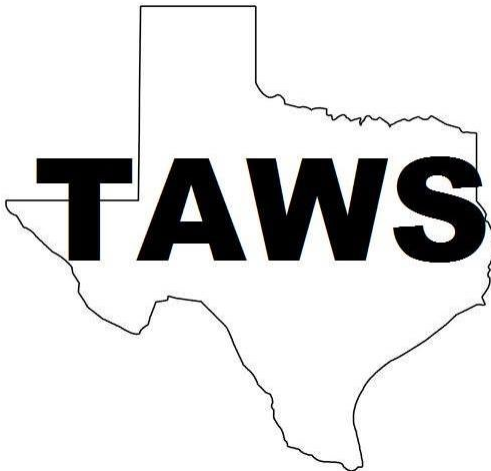
Back to the court hearing: the jurors emerge from their deliberation. The jury foreman, a young woman, is asked by the judge if they have reached a verdict. The response is affirmative. The jury sides with the prosecutor in declaring the defendant guilty of the misdemeanor and recommends a sentence of 15 hours of community service and two jury terms. The judge accepts the sentence (I’m thinking “just a little harsh”). The adult court administrator speaks to the defendant and lets her know she can serve as a juror immediately in the subsequent virtual court hearing (which she does), and that she’ll call her with the community service details.

I watched two more hearings that evening. The judge, prosecutor, defense counsel and jurors changed with each case. The court administrator was available to mentor any of them needing help or clarification. All sessions were professional and impressively conducted. While all the cases that night involved moving vehicle violations, teen court cases can hear any of the Class C misdemeanors like criminal mischief, theft, possession of drug paraphernalia and assault. I know many of us adults wish there was a sentencing that would allow our records to be cleared for a lapse in judgement or just inattentiveness!

This is an outstanding program, requiring flexibility in work schedules by members of Justice of the Peace Precinct 3 Judge Evelyn McLean’s staff, affording magnificent opportunities for young people to learn courtroom decorum and perform courtroom responsibilities, while allowing youthful defendants to clear their records.



Where is Commissioner Cook?



Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors

Conference Oct 6-7, 2021

I gave the welcome speech to this group of civil engineers, Water Control Improvement Districts and other professionals in the dam and reservoir business at Kalahari and love using the phrase “dam engineers” whenever I can and do so liberally.

I gave a brief historical and political overview of our 46 dams in the Brushy Creek WCID, the split into Upper and Lower WCIDs with how it all happened. I was the only elected official there much to their dismay. Funding is fragmented and insufficient to support all that needs to be done with the aging dams in Texas. They want to develop home-grown lobbyists to go to the legislature and educate lawmakers as to the needs and high costs to maintain or improve our dams. These Watershed Sponsors own little but are responsible for much.

With Williamson County growing so fast, developers will buy up land in the inundation zones (where water will likely go if dam is breached in a storm or has a natural failure). We have a slew of nearly 60-year-old dams down east in the flatlands. As soon as 2-3 homes go in below the dam, the hazard level of a dam goes from “low hazard” (breach would result in loss of about a mile of barbwire fencing, 2 cows and a shed) to “high hazard” designations, bypassing “Significant hazard”, as the chance of loss of lives for several and homes are now possible. To accommodate that designation, the dam managers might have to build a taller and wider dam, broader spillway for the inundation area and perhaps dig a deeper reservoir. That’s one boatload of money and probably far more than they have. We need laws which prohibit construction in inundation areas, such as there are for controlling building in the FEMA 100-yr flood zones. There is no requirement to tell potential property owners that there is a nearby dam or two. At a minimum, a developer buying land in an inundation area should have to sign a document acknowledging that this land could be flooded by a dam breach. I even met a Texas Commission for Environmental Quality dam engineer that reviews dams in the state and he’s been doing it for 50 years. He has major concerns for what is going to happen not only in eastern Williamson County but across the state. Note: the last dam built in Texas was in 2009.



Hope Alliance's Survive. Thrive. Prevent 5K

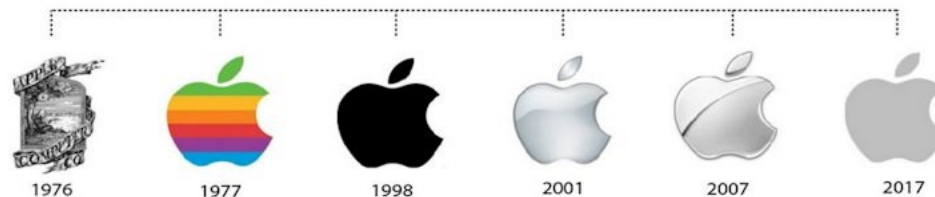
For the 3rd year, I have served as Master of Ceremonies for Hope Alliance's 5K race fundraiser in San Gabriel Park in Georgetown on Saturday, October 2. Hope Alliance is the non-profit in Williamson County focused on providing counseling and safety accommodations for those trapped in an abusive relationship. Those they help usually become resilient individuals with renewed sense of worth and capacity. Each year, one survivor volunteers to tell their story. This is a free service. If you need help, you may check out www.hopeallianceTX.org or call their 24-hr hotline, [1-800-460-7233](tel:1-800-460-7233). Hope Alliance is here for you!

While I didn't run that much, I did fast walking driven by my partner, Lisa, of R Bank, to maintain a fast pace. R Bank is working with Hope Alliance to finance a new site for their safe housing and consolidated services.

We went into Friday night suspecting rain might interfere with the race, but awoke to a gorgeous day of sunshine and mild temps. We had live music, snacks and a variety of raffle prizes. In this race, everyone is a winner.

Shawn Dick, our District Attorney, and Mike Gleason, our Sheriff, are strong supporters of Hope Alliance and their results!

106 registered in this pandemic yr 2 – next year we need to double that number.



Apple Tour and On-street Parking

On Friday, Oct 8, Doris, Garry and I had the opportunity to visit the new Apple Campus. With our safety vests, hard hats and resilient footwear, we clamored over large, crushed limestone to move through the partial campus with Steve Kester, the Senior Manager for Government Affairs, and a delightful young woman, Michelle Bunker, Apple's Project Manager for this enormous construction project. While the buildings don't seem so large from across the fence line of Parmer Lane, they are. Apple is on track to open the campus in 2022 and is hiring both for this campus and for the one south in Travis County – not just engineers but logistics, finance, HR, etc. Steve feels they will easily hit the first milestone of the incentive package of 750 full-time employees for the new campus before December 31, 2022. They've already passed the \$50M investment in buildings and infrastructure.

Now for the neighborhood parking issue on Dallas Drive. Apple is renting parking space at the old Motorola facility north of the new campus. They have a van to bring construction worker from there to the new campus – none of the parking garages on campus have progressed enough to store their vehicles. Many of the workers are resisting leaving their vehicles up the road and are willing to walk blocks in to work. The prime and subcontractors have been spoken to concerning what is insensitive behavior as guests have no where to park and the sight distance may be impaired with vehicles too close to driveways and roads (or just too big). Doris and I drove down Dallas and indeed, the vehicles were parked bumper-to-bumper for quite a distance down Dallas Drive on Thursday. While it's not illegal to park there, it's definitely unfriendly. I suggested have a sign-in process on the van and rewarding those who use it with money for their neighborhood-friendliness. Even though I realize that might be tough for finance or payroll staffs to accommodate this practice.

For Apple employees this should not be an issue. They will have plenty of parking garage spaces and they do incentive biking, working from home, carpooling, and public transit. The campus is at the peak of construction and contractor labor. These high numbers of workers will drop down in next few months.

ROAD UPDATES

620 at Railroad/Chisholm Trail (TxDOT with primary contractor Bridges and Roads LLC)– If you haven't been through there in a while, you'll be amazed at the amount of work that has taken place so far. Footings for the overpass continue to be constructed. Curb and gutter has been installed from the school driveway to near Deep Wood Dr. Go [HERE](#) to learn more. Estimated completion date is summer 2022. Still on time!

Great Oaks Bridge at Brushy Creek Rd. (Contractor: DeNucci Constructors LLC)– Right of Way clearing continues on both east side of the existing bridge. Work has been done to clear the way for the move of the Fern Bluff water line. Estimated cost is \$11.2M. At this early stage, construction completion is expected to be Spring 2023. There will be a 9-month long detour, starting Nov. 4, 2021, while some of this work is being done.

The lanes on Great Oaks Drive from Brightwater to down to Hairy Man/Brushy Creek Roads have been reduced to one to provide room for the bridge construction. Learn more [HERE](#).

Brushy Creek Rd. Safety Improvements (Contractor: DeNucci Constructors LLC)– Learn more about this project at this [website](#). Striping in the Olson Meadows Park parking lot has been completed and signs have been installed. Just about done!

Hairy Man Rd. (Contractor: DeNucci Constructors LLC)– Excavating ditches and grading along the new edge of pavement continues at various locations. Work continues around the metal beam guard fence. Signs have been installed. Hydromulch has been sprayed from the west end of the project to the 7th culvert.. Hairy Man will be closed to thru traffic on Thursday, Nov 4 for the next 9 months to accommodate the construction work at the bridge.

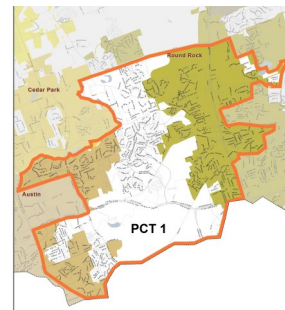
Pond Springs Road Area Drainage Improvements– The design is being updated to divert flows to the Woods Pond outflow to accommodate CTRMA's 183N Project. The design will largely remain the same, however outflow will be diverted downstream of Woods Pond, which will no longer require an interlocal agreement (ILA) with City of Austin + TxDOT, just City of Austin which is much simpler to get through the review process. The 60% plans, specifications, & estimates (PS&E) is under development and is anticipated in November, at which time it will be submitted to the City of Austin for review. Estimated Project Cost is \$4.17M for Construction, ROW, and Design. Construction start is anticipated Late 2022.

Forest North Drainage Improvements Phase III (Contractor: DeNucci Constructors LLC) – Many water lines are being installed– Eddystone St., Shady Oaks Dr., Longvale Dr., and Shasta Ln. all of which are in the Shasta Zone. A large 3' x 2' culvert is being installed on Eddystone St. This is a county job to create drainage in this very flat area with an estimated cost of \$4.9M. Substantial completion is still anticipated in early 2022.

University Blvd. widening from IH-35 to just east of Sunrise Rd. (Contractor: DeNucci Constructors LLC)– *Stay off University if you possibly can!!!* Concrete paving will start very soon at the northside of the intersection of University Oaks and University Boulevard. Excavation continues for the new westbound lanes of University Blvd. Permanent signal poles on the south and west sides of N. Mays St. and University intersection and at the north and west sides of Cypress Blvd. have been set up. This is a City of Round Rock project for which the county has contributed \$5M. Project is slated to finish in early 2022.

Wyoming Springs @ Smyers Lane– Public outreach continues to be conducted. Final plans have been signed. However, a new design, incorporating a hooded left to prevent Smyers through and left turn movements, has been brought forward with the City of Round Rock agreeing to this new design. Due to this development, the final plans will need to be revised.

The Mission, Vision, and Value Statements of the Williamson County Commissioner Precinct 1 Office



MISSION

To lead pro-actively on the Williamson County Commissioners Court while advocating for the constituents of Precinct 1 and the county at-large from a foundation of collaboration and respect.

VISION

To transform Williamson County government into a more accessible, responsive, transparent, and well-managed organization for our residents, so that we become the community recognized as the best in Central Texas to live and enjoy.

VALUES

Accountability, commitment, integrity, and respect form the values that guide the Williamson County Commissioner Precinct 1 office.

CONTACT US!

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SEE US ONLINE!!!

Williamson County's Website! - www.wilco.org

Our office's web site- [Terry Cook, Commissioner Pct 1](http://TerryCook.CommissionerPct1.org)

Non-Emergency Phone Numbers

Austin Fire Department
512-974-0130

County Judge Bill Gravell
512-943-1550

Jollyville Fire Department (ESD 1)
512-258-1038

Round Rock Fire Department (ESD 9)
512-218-5590

Sam Bass Fire Department (ESD 2)
512-255-0100

Williamson Central Appraisal District
512-930-3787

Williamson County Landfill
512-759-8881

Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter
512-943-3322

Williamson County Sheriff's Office
512-864-8282

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Line E-newsletter! Click
[here](#) to sign up!

Commissioner Cook
keeps meeting with many
MUD Boards and HOAs.
To invite her to your
meeting, contact Doris at
doris.sanchez@wilco.org

**In case of
Emergency
DIAL 911**