



CORRIDOR I-1 PLANNING & ROW PRESERVATION STUDY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated March 2022

1. What is the Corridor I-1 Planning & ROW Preservation Study?

Williamson County is conducting the Corridor I-1 Planning & ROW Preservation Study to develop and evaluate route options for a future road that will connect US 183 and Ronald Reagan Boulevard. The study is meant to address key corridor planning and future right-of-way (ROW) preservation efforts. The road will be built as growth occurs to maintain a high level of safety, mobility, and quality of life for Williamson County residents. The study is a part of the County's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and is being funded through the voter-approved 2019 Williamson County Road Bond.

2. 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. 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 includes a map of potential controlled access facilities and arterial roadways. These roadways are conceptual only to show general locations and connections needed. To learn more about the LRTP, visit www.wilco.org/lrtp.

3. Why is this study needed?

Williamson County has experienced significant growth in recent years, and current population projections predict that this trend will continue. It is the County's responsibility to plan for and address 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 the residents' quality of life.

4. What are the study limits?

The study limits are from US 183 to Ronald Reagan Boulevard.

5. What is the schedule for this study?

The study began in summer 2020 and will examine multiple constraints such as environmental factors, historical factors, impacts to homes and businesses, drainage and waterways to develop a route and set the ROW footprint. The County has concluded meetings with potentially impacted property owners at which they discussed the study and gathered feedback. The ultimate schematic completion is expected in the summer of 2022.

6. What is the study process?

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

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

7. Is the County going to hold a large public meeting?

The County has determined over the past few years that meetings with property owners are most effective when held individually or in small groups. This process allows the County to work more closely with directly impacted property owners to discuss their concerns and ensure they are being heard.

8. How is the study being funded?

The Corridor I-1 Planning & ROW Preservation Study is being funded through the voter-approved 2019 Williamson County Road Bond. ROW acquisition and construction funding was not included in the bond. Funding for construction of transportation projects can come from many sources; the most common are road bonds, partnerships between federal, state, county, and city governments, and in some cases tolling.

9. How will residents and business owners along the study be impacted?

There will be no immediate impact to property owners in the area during the time of the study. Now that the ROW footprint is set, the County will begin working with willing sellers and developers along the selected alignment to preserve the ROW before property values make the improvements cost prohibitive. If someone is a willing seller, then the County will move forward with acquisition.

10. What is the ROW acquisition process?

The formal ROW acquisition process involves independent appraisals and a negotiation process between the property owner and the County. Specific characteristics of each parcel are reviewed by an independent, licensed appraiser to determine the fair market value for each parcel along the proposed ROW. Any impacts of the project on the remaining property after the acquisition and construction of the proposed road will be considered when determining the ROW value.

11. Will the County acquire any homes or businesses for the roadway using eminent domain?

Williamson County carefully considers all ROW needs and strives to have the least adverse impact possible to homeowners and businesses. The County is committed to conducting ROW negotiations in a manner that respects the private property rights of landowners and strives to achieve voluntarily negotiated ROW acquisitions, whenever possible. Where ROW is needed, the goal is to come to an agreement with each landowner. Williamson County may acquire some ROW through the condemnation process using its power of eminent domain, but only as a last resort after exhausting all reasonable attempts at negotiation.

12. What is the County doing to improve our current roads?

Maintaining our current road and transportation infrastructure is an important priority for the County. Williamson County is responsible for maintaining approximately 1,400 miles of county roads across 1,124 square miles. The County evaluates each road and has created a schedule for resurfacing neighborhood roads and county roads, as well as conducting major maintenance, when necessary. All tax revenue designated for Road and Bridge goes to maintaining the County roadway system. If you have questions or maintenance requests for a county road, please email roadadmin@wilco.org or call 512-943-3330.

13. How can I receive more information about the Corridor I-1 Planning & ROW Preservation Study?

For more information about this study, or to sign up for email updates, please contact the Williamson County Road Bond Program office by calling 512-943-1195 or emailing roads@wilco.org. Study materials and updates will be posted on the Corridor I-1 Planning & ROW Preservation Study page of the County website, www.wilco.org/corridorl-1.