



CORRIDOR I-2 PLANNING & ROW PRESERVATION STUDY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated August 2022

1. What is the Corridor I-2 Planning & ROW Preservation Study?

Williamson County began the Corridor I-2 Planning & Right-of-Way (ROW) Preservation Study in summer 2020. The final alignment, approved by the Commissioners Court in August 2022, provides connections for travel between US 183 and SH 29 to plan for the significant projected population growth for the northwest area of the county. The County was named the third fastest-growing county in Texas for the past decade and the City of Liberty Hill ranked as the third fastest-growing city in the state. The study is a part of the County's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and is funded through the voter-approved 2019 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. The County's LRTP is a conceptual plan that identifies future connections approximately five miles apart from each other to ensure the County can maintain a high level of safety and mobility as growth occurs. To learn more about the LRTP, visit www.wilco.org/lrtp.

3. Why is this study needed?

The study is an important step taken by the County to proactively plan for the next several decades. The U.S. Census Bureau recently announced that Williamson County was the third fastest-growing county in Texas, out of 254, over the last 10 years. The City of Liberty Hill, alone, grew by 277 percent between 2010 and 2020 and is the third fastest-growing city in the state. There are more than 6,700 residential and commercial lots currently in development in the Liberty Hill area. This rapid growth requires planning to keep pace with the influx of new residents and vehicles to ensure residents can safely travel in the study area.

4. What are the study limits?

The study limits are from US 183 to SH 29 and the Burnet County Line.

5. What is the schedule for this study?

The Corridor I-2 Planning & ROW Preservation Study began in summer 2020, and a final alignment was approved by the Commissioners Court in August 2022. The project team will move forward with schematic design as the next step. There is no funding for construction, nor is there a need to build the road at this time, so there is no construction timeline associated with the study.

6. How was the recommended alignment determined?

The study process includes evaluating a variety of factors and determining the most reasonable route that minimizes impacts to properties and the environment. As part of the study process, the project team met several times with a group of neighbors representing a larger community group to gather their feedback on route options and outreach processes. After meeting with potentially affected property owners, incorporating stakeholder input, and performing extensive analysis to minimize impacts to the property owners and businesses as much as possible, a recommended alignment was selected. The recommended alignment impacts 16 fewer properties, and 203.8 fewer acres would be required for acquisition, than the original alignment that was proposed in October 2021. For more information about the process, visit the project page at www.wilco.org/corridorl-2.

7. 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

8. 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 more closely work with directly impacted property owners to discuss their concerns and ensure they are being heard.

9. How will property owners along the study be impacted?

The County met with potentially impacted property owners individually to gather their feedback. Once the schematic is complete and the final ROW footprint is set, property owners who decide to sell their land in the future can work with the County to do so. Early preservation of ROW allows the County to take a phased approach to build sections of the road as needed. If someone is a willing seller, then the County has the option to move forward with acquisition at a mutually agreed upon price.

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

Maintaining current road and transportation infrastructure is an important priority for the County. In August 2022, the Commissioners Court approved \$6 million of additional funding for the Road and Bridge budget to speed up safety, widening and improvement projects on the Williamson County 1,400 mile county road system. The County evaluates each road and has created a schedule for resurfacing neighborhood and county roads, as well as conducting major maintenance, when necessary. In response to the unprecedented growth in areas such as Liberty Hill, the County is updating the roadway maintenance and rehabilitation plan to address these new traffic patterns. Additional details will follow.

If you have questions or maintenance requests for a county road, please email roadadmin@wilco.org or call 512-943-3330.

12. How can I receive more information about the Corridor I-2 Planning & ROW Preservation Study?

For more information about this study, or to sign up for email updates, please contact the Public Involvement team by calling 512-943-1195 or emailing roads@wilco.org. All project materials and updates will be posted on the Corridor I-2 Study page of the County website, www.wilco.org/corridorl-2.