



CORRIDOR I-2 PLANNING & ROW PRESERVATION STUDY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated May 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 to consider 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 ten 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.

5. What is the schedule for this study?

In January 2022, following the selection of a preferred alignment, community feedback, and analysis of additional data, Commissioner Long directed the project team to consider route options with a narrower footprint of 200 feet rather than the original 400 feet that was proposed in 2020. The team met several times with a group of neighbors representing a larger community group, to gather their feedback on route options and outreach process. After extensive engineering analysis to minimize impacts to property owners and businesses as much

as possible, a preliminary alignment has been selected. The County will meet with potentially impacted property owners to learn more about their land and make any necessary final refinements to the alignment. A final right-of-way footprint is expected by fall 2022. 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. Why is the blue route alignment moving forward?

After extensive analysis, the technical team has recommended that the blue alignment move into the next phase of the process, which is meeting with potentially impacted property owners. The study process includes evaluating a variety of factors and determining the most reasonable route that minimizes impacts to properties and the environment. The recommended alignment impacts 115 fewer properties and 37 fewer acres would be required for acquisition. For more information about the process, please review summary document posted online at 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 residents and business owners along the study be impacted?

The County will meet with potentially impacted property owners individually to gather feedback before a final ROW footprint is set. Once the final ROW footprint is set, property owners that decide to sell their land in the future can work with the County to preserve the ROW. 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.

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.

I 1. What is the County doing to improve our current roads?

Maintaining 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 the Road and Bridge Department 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.

I 2. 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, wilco.org/corridorI-2.