

1. What is RM 2243 project?

TxDOT and the County are proposing the reconstruction and widening of RM 2243 between I83A and Southwest Bypass to improve roadway design and address safety, mobility, and connectivity for motorists in this rapidly growing area.

The proposed RM 2243 project would reconstruct and widen the existing rural two-lane roadway to a controlled-access highway, which includes two mainlanes in each direction separated by a concrete barrier, with direct connections to I83A, Ronald Reagan Boulevard, and Southwest Bypass. The proposed project would also include two three-lane frontage roads with access ramps on either side of the mainlanes.

The proposed project would be constructed in phases, and the first phase of construction will include a single frontage road from I83A to Garey Park, which follows Hero Way from I83A to Ronald Reagan Boulevard and is on a new alignment from Ronald Reagan Boulevard to Garey Park. This single frontage road would serve two-way traffic until the other frontage road is built in a future phase.

2. What is the Williamson County Long Range Transportation Plan (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.

3. Why is the RM 2243 project needed?

The proposed project is needed to meet the existing and future population growth and transportation demand on RM 2243 and Hero Way, and to provide a safe connection from I83A to Southwest Bypass.

Williamson County is experiencing significant growth, and current population projections predict this growth will continue. It is the County's responsibility to plan for 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 residents' quality of life.

4. What are the project limits?

The project limits are from I83A to Southwest Bypass.

5. What is the timeline for this project?

Study and preliminary design are underway and are expected to be complete in spring 2023. Phase one of construction is expected to begin in summer 2024.

6. How was the alignment of the project determined?

There are several steps in developing this project before construction can begin. The project engineers have collected and analyzed technical data to develop the preliminary detailed schematic. The schematic was shared for public input through the Virtual Public Meeting in spring of 2021, which had over 500 participants and resulted in more than 50 comments.

The project team also met with impacted property owners in the spring and summer of 2021 to collect property-specific feedback and identify potential design adjustments. Input received through this round of outreach was used in conjunction with additional technical data to prepare the Draft Environmental Assessment (or EA) and finalize the project design.

TxDOT has reviewed and approved the draft EA for publication, and this public hearing is now being held to gather additional input from the community.

After the public hearing period closes, any necessary changes to the draft EA and project design would be completed, and hearing documentation will be prepared for TxDOT review. TxDOT would subsequently provide an Environmental Decision, allowing the first phase to be constructed. As growth occurs and the need arises, funding would be identified for future construction phases.

7. How much ROW will be needed and how will property owners be compensated?

To construct proposed improvements to RM 2243, Williamson County will need to acquire additional right of way along the corridor. Proposed improvements would require 400.6 acres of new right of way and easements.

Any right-of-way acquisition would be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended. For questions about the right-of-way acquisition process, please contact the project team at 512-400-4162 ext. 1 or email roads@wilco.org.

8. 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. Several considerations are evaluated when setting roadway alignments, some of which include: engineering and construction feasibility, ROW analysis, land use, environmental impacts, cultural resources, and community impacts.

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. If a qualifying owner or occupant is displaced from their home or business as a direct result of the project, then the County will make relocation assistance benefits available according to the provisions and requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act ("The

Uniform Act”). Information about services and benefits for those displaced and other affected property owners, can be obtained from the Williamson County Public Information Office by calling 512-943-1663.

9. Where will funding for the project come from?

The first phase of the proposed RM 2243 project is primarily funded through the voter-approved 2019 Williamson County Road Bond. Additional funding for the planning phase was also provided by the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. Funding for future construction can come from many sources; the most common are road bonds, and partnerships between federal, state, county, and city governments.

10. 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.

11. How can I get involved in the RM 2243 project?

If you have questions about the project or would like to provide information about your property, please contact the County:

- Phone: 512-943-1663 (leave a message for a call back within 48 hours)
- Email: roads@wilco.org (include “RM 2243” in the subject line)

If you are interested in participating in the virtual public hearing, please visit www.wilco.org/RM2243 for more information.