



## Public Information Office Media Release

### **WILLIAMSON COUNTY ANNOUNCES THE SOUTHEAST LOOP STUDY** ***County, Hutto and Taylor Reps Come Together to Support Transportation Study***

MAY 29, 2019 (Williamson County, TX) - Today, Williamson County announced the Southeast Loop Study, which will consider connections for east/west travel between SH 130 and FM 3349 and north/south travel to US 79. The project, introduced by Precinct 4 Commissioner Russ Boles, is intended to enhance safety and mobility in eastern Williamson County, while preparing for the tremendous growth in the region.

The Southeast Loop Study is another important step taken by the County to proactively plan for the next two decades. The U.S. Census Bureau recently announced that Williamson County is the fifth fastest-growing county in Texas, with population projections calling for significant, continued growth. There are 10,860 residential lots currently in development in Williamson County, more than twice that of Hays County (4,723) or Travis County (4,000). This rapid growth requires progressive planning to keep pace with the influx of residents and vehicles.

"The County has worked diligently with constituents to collect questions and feedback as we prepare for the continued growth we know is coming," said Commissioner Boles. "Through listening to farmers, property owners, neighborhood leaders, elected officials, and leaders in education, I have rightsized the Southeast Loop Study to better address the current needs of eastern Williamson County; I am looking forward to the results as we continue to plan for the future."

Over the last several years, the County has considered other options for east/west travel between SH 130 and FM 3349 and north/south travel to US 79. Those studies included A1, E1, A2, Southeast Corridor and more. The Southeast Loop Study is not only different by name, but different in scope. After further analysis and under Commissioner Boles' leadership, the study has been adjusted to address the region's needs. Notably, further work on A2 has been suspended and while the study area is still being refined it no longer goes near Norman's Crossing.

Rapid population growth also comes with a greater need for emergency response services. Over the last four years (2014-2018), Williamson County has seen a 32 percent increase in Calls for Service (CFS), which include 911 calls, administrative calls and Officer Initiated Activities, such as traffic stops, citizen assists and observed crimes.

"The data points are clear; we need to take action to address Williamson County's mounting infrastructure needs," said Sheriff Robert Chody. "The Sheriff's Office supports this project, which will ultimately lead to safer routes for our citizens and emergency response teams."

Next steps for the study will include presenting a route concept to individual property owners. An open house will also be held to gather feedback from the community. That information will be combined with field work and engineering analysis to further refine a proposed route.

The County will host an open house on Monday, June 24, 2019 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Hutto ISD Performing Arts Center, 101 FM 687, Hutto, TX 78634. No formal presentation will be given. Community members are encouraged to stop by at their convenience to learn more about the project, discuss the route concept and share feedback with County staff.

For the most up-to-date information on Williamson County's corridor studies, visit [www.wilco.org/seloop](http://www.wilco.org/seloop).

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#### ABOUT WILLIAMSON COUNTY

*Williamson County is the fifth fastest growing county in Texas for the past eight years nearing a population of 600,000. Williamson County is centrally located in Texas just north of Travis County and the State Capitol in Austin. Its major cities are Round Rock, Cedar Park, Georgetown, Leander, Taylor, and Hutto. Williamson County is ranked third healthiest county in Texas among the 244 ranked counties in Texas.*

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