CHANDLER ROAD EXTENSION PLANNING & ROW PRESERVATION STUDY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated October 2022

1. What is the Chandler Road Extension Planning & ROW Preservation Study?

Williamson County is conducting the Chandler Road Extension Planning & ROW Preservation Study to plan for future growth and set the right-of-way (ROW) footprint. The road will be built as growth occurs, improving safety and mobility by creating a connection between SH 95 and US 79. This study is a part of the County's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and has been included in the City of Taylor's Thoroughfare and Comprehensive Plans, both adopted in 2004.

2. Why is the County studying this corridor now?

County governments are responsible for planning effective transportation systems. Williamson County, the 12th fastest growing large county in the nation*, has experienced tremendous growth. Between 2010 and 2019, the number of people in the County increased by 39.8%. It is estimated that by 2050, the County's population is projected to almost triple and surpass 1.5 million people.* Current population projections show that this trend will continue.

This growth necessitates advanced planning to better serve the increased number of residents, visitors, and vehicles in the County. This corridor was selected for study because it is in or near areas of development where more safe connection and mobility options will eventually be needed. By planning ahead, we can best coordinate with property owners, businesses, and the community, in order to safely and effectively accommodate transportation needs. Preserving the corridor for a future road before development occurs allows the County to be fiscally responsible by working with willing sellers before property values make it cost prohibitive for improvements. Preserving ROW now also minimizes impacts to businesses and homes because the corridor is preserved before more structures are built.

Additionally, another portion of the Taylor Loop, Chandler Road Phase 3B, opened in December of 2012 and extended the road from CR 368/369 to Hwy 95, improving connectivity between eastern and western Williamson County. The extension enabled drivers to get from anywhere in Taylor to I-35 in less than 30 minutes, providing connectivity to other nearby cities.* This new phase will also provide better access to the City of Taylor itself by improving mobility. It will allow people to more easily visit places like the Williamson County Expo Center, attend festivals, shop on main street and enjoy other activities that Taylor has to offer. This final phase of the project will extend Chandler Road east to FM 619 and south to US 79, completing connectivity around the City of Taylor and providing quicker access to schools, businesses, and other major roadways.

3. What is the timeline for the Chandler Road Extension Planning & ROW Preservation Study?

The County hired an engineering firm to identify environmental constraints, solicit public input, and identify route options. The study team is starting to meet with potentially impacted property owners to provide them opportunities for input and allow them to plan for the future. The County plans to have the ROW footprint set by mid 2022.

4. What is the study process for Chandler Road Extension Preservation & ROW Planning Study?

The process for reviewing corridor studies involves evaluating many factors including, but not limited to:

- Social & community impacts
- Public input
- Impacts to property owners
- Water resources
- Traffic Impact Analysis
- Threatened & endangered species
- Vegetation & wildlife
- Land use & parkland
- Archaeological & historic resources
- Hazardous materials
- ROW analysis & land cost
- Engineering analysis

5. How is the study being funded?

The Chandler Road Extension Planning & ROW Preservation Study is being funding through the voter-approved 2013 Williamson County Road 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.

6. 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.

7. What is a controlled access roadway?

A controlled access roadway is a road with main lanes that have entrance and exit ramps and frontage roads. The main lanes provide mobility for through traffic and the frontage roads provide local access to abutting properties.

8. Will the Chandler Road Extension be a controlled access roadway?

The Chandler Road Extension is being planned as a controlled access roadway; however, the first phase of the road will most likely be a two to three lane road: one lane in each direction with a center turn lane. As growth occurs and funding becomes available, the second frontage would be built, then finally the main lanes. Building the ultimate Chandler Rd Extension will most likely take several decades.

9. How much ROW will be needed and how will I be compensated for it?

The formal 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 acquisition and construction of the proposed roadway will be considered when determining the ROW value.

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 across1,124 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 Chandler Road Extension Planning & ROW Preservation Study?

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

- Phone: 512-943-1195 (leave a message for a call back within 48 hours)
- Email: roads@wilco.org (include "Chandler Road Extension" in the subject line)

Please visit www.wilco.org/ChandlerExt for more information.

**Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Taylor Press article (12/23/12)*