

1. What is RM 2243 project?

The proposed RM 2243 project is a controlled-access roadway, which includes two mainlanes in each direction separated by a concrete barrier, with flyovers to I83A, Ronald Reagan Boulevard and Southwest Bypass. The roadway also includes two three-lane frontage roads with access ramps on either side of the mainlanes.

The road will be built in phases as growth occurs and as funding becomes available. The first phase of construction is anticipated to include a single frontage road, which would serve two-way traffic until the other frontage road is built in a future phase. Limits of the first phase of construction will be dependent on funding.

The RM 2243 project would alleviate congestion, provide safety improvements, and help plan for the future of the region. This project is a part of the County's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and is being 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. These roadways are conceptual only to show general locations and connections needed. To learn more about the LRTP, visit www.wilco.org/lrtp.

3. Why is the RM 2243 project needed?

Williamson County is the 9th fastest growing large county in the nation, having increased its population by 39.8 percent between 2010 and 2019*, and current population projections predict that this trend will continue. It is the County's responsibility to plan for and address 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 the quality of life for residents.

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 for the RM 2243 project began in early 2020 and are expected to be complete in spring 2023. Phase one construction is expected to begin in summer 2023.

6. How was the alignment of the project determined?

In 2018, the TxDOT Austin District launched a corridor study on RM 2243 to determine future roadway improvements needed to address traffic growth and connectivity to I-83A and I-35. The study was conducted to determine key roadway improvements and right-of-way (ROW) requirements needed to address the growing traffic demands along RM 2243.

TxDOT held a public meeting in November 2018 to gather input from the community about their concerns and to help identify the best option for future development phases. Using the information gathered, TxDOT developed a preliminary schematic and alignment that connects I-83A to I-35. Williamson County is working with TxDOT to design the ultimate schematic between I-83A and Southwest Bypass.

The County, in coordination with TxDOT, held a virtual public meeting in May 2021 to share information about the project and gather public feedback on the proposed improvements.

7. How will residents and business owners along the alignment be impacted?

As part of the design process, the project will require environmental approval before construction of the project can move forward. After the project receives environmental approval, the County's public involvement team will meet with affected property owners to discuss the project in more detail, including how properties are impacted.

The County will build the road as the growth necessitates it and as funding becomes available, starting with the first frontage road in 2023. The County will work with willing sellers and developers who are impacted by the ultimate roadway to preserve the ROW before property values make the improvement cost prohibitive.

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

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

9. 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 proposed project would require additional ROW and displacements. 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, as well as information about the tentative schedule for ROW acquisition and construction, can be obtained from the Williamson County Public Information Office by calling 512-943-1195.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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: 512-943-1195 (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 meeting, please visit www.wilco.org/RM2243 for more information.

