

CORRIDOR E4 PLANNING & ROW PRESERVATION STUDY

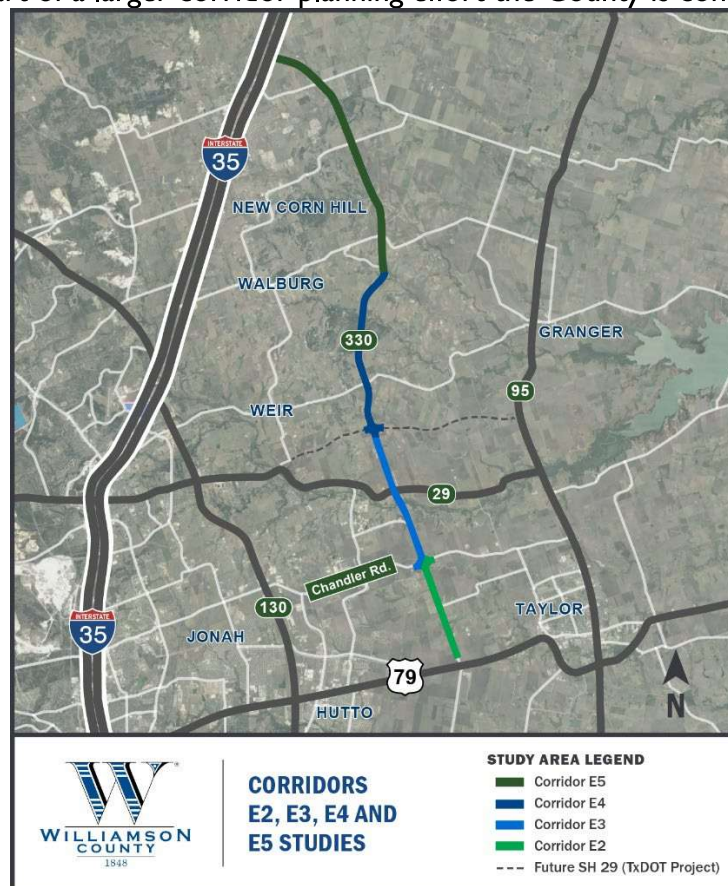
FACT SHEET

Updated May 2023

County Commissioner: Commissioner Russ Boles, Precinct 4
Study Area: New north-south alternative to IH 35 from Future SH 29 to CR 330
Study Length: Approximately 5.5 miles
Engineer: Halff & Associates

STUDY PURPOSE:

Williamson County is conducting the Corridor E4 Planning & ROW Preservation Study to plan for future growth and to set the right of way (ROW) footprint. The road will be built as growth occurs and as funding becomes available. Corridor E4 is part of a larger corridor planning effort the County is conducting.



WHY THE STUDY IS NEEDED:

County governments are responsible for planning effective transportation systems. Williamson County has experienced immense growth in the last two decades and current population projections predict that this growth will continue.



3X Population Growth

The population of Williamson County is estimated to be 1,377,000 by 2045 – nearly three times what it is now

Source: CAMPO 2045 Regional Transportation Plan

The population of Jarrell has grown 175% in less than 20 years, from 614 people in 2000 to 1,692 people in 2018. Additionally, the job market in Jarrell is predicted to grow by 51.5% in the next ten years. That's 18% higher than the national average! The Sonterra subdivision, located just outside the Jarrell city limits, is one of the fastest growing subdivisions in the country, and in 2019, it ranked No. 9 among the nation's top-selling neighborhoods.

It is the County's responsibility to plan for current and future transportation needs in order to keep pace with the anticipated increase in residents and vehicles. This high level of growth is inevitable and requires extensive planning that will ultimately protect the safety, mobility and quality of life of the residents of Williamson County.

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.

THE STUDY AND PLANNING PROCESS:

The Corridor E4 Planning & ROW Preservation Study is part of the County's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which works as a placeholder for a network of roadways that will foster safety and mobility across the county. The location of the Corridor on the LRTP was only conceptual and a subsequent study is needed to determine a feasible and reasonable route. This study is now underway and will examine multiple constraints such as environmental factors, historical factors, home and business displacements, and drainage and waterways, in order to develop a route.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

After gathering feedback from meetings with property owners, the study team conducted further analysis to finalize the best route and the ROW footprint was set. The study team worked on the schematic design of Corridor E4, which was finalized in late 2022.

Moving forward, the County will work with willing sellers and developers to preserve the right of way before the property values make it cost-prohibitive for improvements. Early preservation allows the County to take a phased approach and build sections of the road as needed. If the County continues to grow and funding becomes available, the first frontage road, which would include one lane in each direction with turn lanes, would be built. As growth continues to occur and funding is secured, the second frontage road would be built, then finally the main lanes. Building the ultimate Corridor E will most likely take several decades.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about this project, please visit wilco.org/CorridorE. Questions or comments may be directed by email to roads@wilco.org with "Corridor E4" in the subject line or by phone at 512-943-1195.

* Sources: Texas Demographics Center [webpage](#), World Population Review [webpage](#), U.S. Census Bureau [webpage](#), Best Places [webpage](#), Austin Business Journal [webpage](#).