



## **CORRIDOR I-2 PLANNING & ROW PRESERVATION STUDY**

### **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Williamson County began the Corridor I-2 Planning & Right-of-Way (ROW) Preservation Study in summer 2020 to consider connections for travel between US 183 and SH 29 to plan for the significant projected population growth for the northwest area of the county. The County was named the third fastest-growing county in Texas for the past decade and the City of Liberty Hill ranked as the third fastest-growing city in the state.

The study is an important step taken by the County to proactively plan for the next several decades. The U.S. Census Bureau recently announced that Williamson County was the third fastest-growing county in Texas, out of 254, over the last ten years. The City of Liberty Hill, alone, grew by 277 percent between 2010 and 2020 and is the third fastest-growing city in the state. There are more than 6,700 residential and commercial lots currently in development in the Liberty Hill area. This rapid growth requires planning to keep pace with the influx of new residents and vehicles to ensure residents can safely move around.

The study is being funded through the voter-approved 2019 Road Bond. Funding for ROW acquisition and construction was not included in the bond and will need to be identified before future phases of the project can move forward. As growth occurs, driving the need for a roadway, and as funding becomes available the road would be built. If the projected population growth does not happen, then the roadway will not be built.

### **WORKING TOGETHER**

In January 2022, following the selection of a preferred alignment, community feedback, and analysis of additional data, Commissioner Long directed the project team to consider route options with a narrower footprint of 200 feet rather than the original 400 feet that was planned in 2020. She also asked the team to meet with a group of neighbors who represented a larger community group to gather their feedback on the route options and process.

The team has met with the neighbors in-person four times and developed three alignments with the narrower footprint. They also revised the preferred alignment while doing a deeper dive into a variety of constraints such as impacts to homes and businesses, water resources, archaeological and historic landmarks and more. Reviewing the constraints allowed the technical team to further minimized impacts to property owners and businesses. Below is a matrix that illustrates which

alignments were evaluated and how some of the more pertinent constraints matched up against each alignment.

## CORRIDOR I2: Alignments and Parcels Analysis May 24, 2022

<b>DRAFT</b>	I2 Route (SH 29 to US 183)				
	Green (Original Alignment)	Cyan (Modified Resident Alignment)	Purple (Addn'l Alignment on CR 207 & CR 236)	Yellow (Modified Northern Route Alignment)	Blue (Modified Southern Route Alignment)
Length of Alignment (LF)	62,500	84,800	77,800	66,500	64,700
Length of Alignment (mi)	11.8	16.1	14.7	12.6	12.3
ROW Footprint (acres)	487.7	378.8	356.6	304.6	296.5
Acres to be Acquired (Excludes Existing ROWs and County-Owned Parcels)	482.4	324.1	304.3	299.3	287.1
# of Bridge Crossings	4	4	3	4	5
Width of 100-yr Floodplain at Bridge Crossings (LF)	2,930	5,040	4,560	3,890	4,930
# Impacted Wilco Parcels	88	188	175	84	73
# Bisected Wilco Parcels (included in above Impacted Total)	54	26	22	54	36
Total # Structures with ROW Footprint	29	13	9	15	15
# Residences within ROW Footprint (included in above Structures)	8	3	1	3	2

*(Note: Parcel Data as of May 17, 2022 from Williamson County Appraisal District)*

The technical team conducted a more detailed analysis of the constraints and of five potential alignments:

- By rightsizing the ROW footprint from 400 to 200 feet and by refining where the alignment is located, the number of bisected parcels was reduced from 54 to 36, and the number of impacted homes was reduced to two.
- The cyan alignment, which was suggested by the neighbors, would impact 115 more property owners than the technical teams recommend route.
- The purple alignment, which mainly involves using existing county roads, would result in one residential impact; however, 175 parcels would be impacted with 22 of them being bisected.

### NEXT STEPS

After extensive analysis, the technical team has recommended that the blue alignment move into the next phase of the process, which is meeting with potentially impacted property owners. The study process includes evaluating a variety of factors and determining the most reasonable route that minimizes impacts to properties and the environment. The recommended alignment impacts 115 fewer properties and 37 fewer acres would be required for acquisition.

We anticipate the alignment to be finalized this summer after which the technical team will move forward with design.

The County will provide regular project updates to the community as new information becomes available.