

CORRIDOR E2 PLANNING & ROW PRESERVATION STUDY

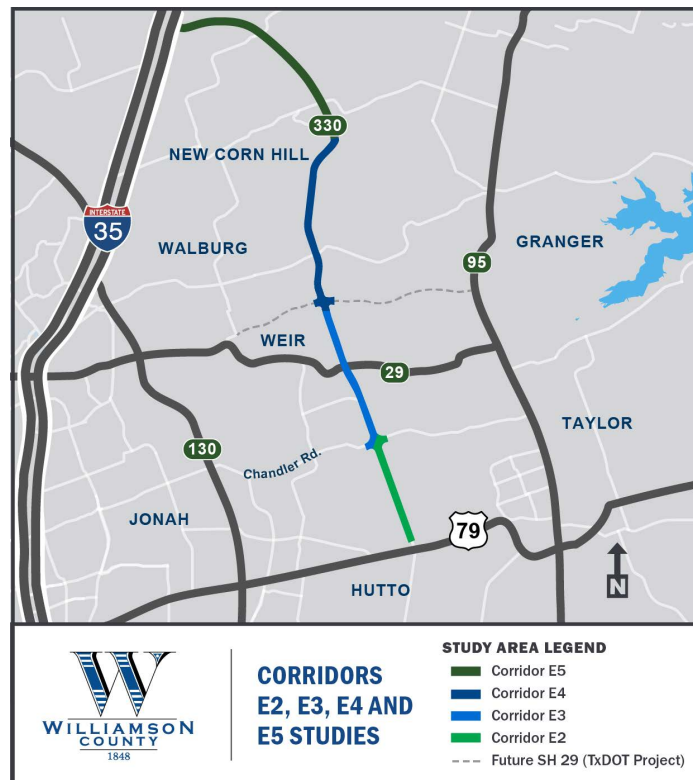
FACT SHEET

Updated November 2021

County Commissioner: Commissioner Russ Boles, Precinct 4
Study Roadway: New north-south alternative to IH 35 from US 79 to Chandler Rd
Study Limits: Approximately 3.6 miles
Engineer: BGE, Inc.

STUDY PURPOSE:

Williamson County is conducting the Corridor E2 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 to provide an alternative transportation corridor to IH 35, from US 79 to Chandler Rd on the east side of the county.



WHY THE STUDY IS NEEDED:

County governments are responsible for planning effective transportation systems. Williamson County has experienced immense growth the last two decades and current population projections predict that this growth will continue. In Taylor specifically, the population has grown 46% in less than 20 years, from 13,575 in 2000 to 19,859 in 2019. The Taylor job market has also seen an increase of 3.5% over the last year and future job growth over the next ten years is predicted to be 51.5%. That's 18% higher than the national average! In Hutto, the

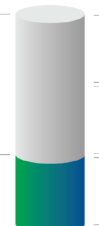


Source: US Census Bureau

2045 POPULATION ESTIMATE

1,377,000

CURRENT
POPULATION



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

population has increased by 110.87% since the most recent census, which recorded a population of 14,698 in 2010. Hutto reached its highest population of 30,993 in 2021.

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 E2 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:

Over the last few months, the study team has worked on developing preliminary alignments and plans to meet with property owners later this year. After gathering feedback from the property owners, the study team will conduct further analysis to finalize the best route. Once the ROW footprint is set, the County will work with willing sellers and developers to preserve ROW before property is developed. Early preservation of ROW 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, most likely a two to three lane road, one lane in each direction with a possible center turn lane, would be built. As growth continues to occur and funding is secured, the second frontage road would be built, then the main lanes. Building the ultimate Corridor E2 roadway would 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 E2" 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](#).