



CR 279/BAGDAD ROAD PROJECT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated March 2023

1. What is the purpose of the CR 279/Bagdad Road project?

The CR 279/Bagdad Road project is being designed and constructed by Williamson County to provide safety and mobility improvements to the existing corridor south of Liberty Hill City Limits to CR 281/Leander City Limits. This roadway, will include a trail or shared use path (SUP) will further connect the cities of Liberty Hill and Leander.

2. Why is this project needed?

There has been a significant amount of growth in both the cities of Liberty Hill and Leander in recent years. Between 2018 and 2019, Leander topped the Census Bureau's list of fastest growing large US cities. Leander has had a population growth rate of 123% from the 2010 to the 2020 Census, and Liberty Hill's population has increased by 277%. The 2023 opening of the 1,350-acre Williamson County River Ranch Park will bring additional traffic to Bagdad Road. Additionally, the volume is expected to increase as the County grows and as new developments and buildings continue to be built along the road. Additional lanes are required to improve connectivity, mobility and safety for residents, ultimately protecting their quality of life. If the County does not plan for improvements now, options will be limited and more impactful in the future.

3. What are the project limits?

The project limits are from south of Liberty Hill City Limits to CR 281/Leander City Limits. To view the project map, please visit the CR 279/Bagdad Road [webpage](#).

4. What are the proposed improvements?

The project includes the reconstruction and realignment of the existing two-lane road with the addition of a center turn lane and shoulders. A 10-foot SUP will provide access and connectivity for bicyclists and pedestrians. Ultimately, once the need arises and funding is secured, the road will include an additional lane in each direction, widening the road from three lanes to five lanes.

5. What is the project timeline?

The engineering design is expected to be finalized by Brinkley & Barfield, Inc. in late spring 2023, which will set the ROW footprint. The project is expected to be advertised for bid and construction is expected to begin in late summer 2023. Construction is anticipated to be complete in the fall of 2025.

6. Will the project utilize existing right of way (ROW) or will new ROW be acquired?

Additional ROW was required due to the realignment of the road and final ultimate build out. ROW acquisition is currently ongoing.

7. How is this project being funded?

ROW acquisition and construction funding have been secured through the voter-approved 2019 Williamson County Road Bond Program. The SUP that will be constructed as a part of this project is funded by the 2019 Williamson County Park Bond.

8. Will there be a change in the speed limit?

The speed limit is not expected to change with these improvements. Speed limits are changed by initiating a speed study, which is not proposed as part of this project.

9. What is the ROW purchasing process?

The formal acquisition process involves independent appraisals to determine the fair market value for each parcel and any impacts the project has on the remaining property for the negotiation process.

The County is committed to conducting ROW negotiations in a manner that is comprehensive and respectful for the private property and rights of landowners to support voluntarily negotiated ROW acquisitions. The goal is to come to an agreement with each landowner. As a last resort, the County may acquire some ROW through the condemnation process of eminent domain. Property owners are protected by the Land-Owners Bill of Rights and any displacements are offered relocation assistance following the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act ("The Uniform Act").

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 across 1,124 square miles. The County evaluates each road and is currently updating the schedule for resurfacing neighborhood roads and county roads. The County continually conducts major and minor maintenance on roadways, as 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. Where may I go to ask questions and receive more information about the project?

For more information about this project, or to sign up for email updates, please contact our public involvement team by calling (512) 943-1195 or emailing roads@wilco.org. All project materials and updates will be posted on the CR 279/Bagdad Road [webpage](http://www.wilco.org/BagdadRoad) (www.wilco.org/BagdadRoad).

If you have comments regarding other active County projects please visit the Williamson County Road Projects webpage at <https://www.wilco.org/RoadProjects>. If you have comments or concerns regarding County road maintenance please visit the County Engineer's webpage at www.wilco.org/roads.

* Sources: Community Impact [article](#), World Population Review [Leander webpage](#), World Population Review [Liberty Hill webpage](#).