FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS Updated April 2022

1. What is the Great Oaks Drive Bridge at Brushy Creek Project?

This project is a part of the voter-approved 2006 and 2013 Williamson County Road Bond Program. The purpose of the proposed project is to address critical issues at the intersection of Greats Oaks Drive and Brushy Creek Road/Hairy Man Road by improving flood controls and traffic flow.

This project will:

- Reconfigure the intersection to improve traffic flow
- Raise the Great Oaks Drive bridge above the 100-year floodplain of Brushy Creek
- Raise the bridge so it does not obstruct water flow and contribute to the flooding of residents along Brushy Creek
- Provide a safe route for emergency vehicles and other motorists across Brushy Creek during flood events
- Enhance safety, connectivity and mobility within the project area for trail users, pedestrians, bicyclists, and provide additional parking

2. How will parking at the intersection of Great Oaks, Hairy Man and Brushy Creek Roads be affected?

A new parking area will include 46 spots. It will be constructed between the creek and Brushy Creek Road, and beneath the intersection of Great Oaks Drive and Brushy Creek Road/Hairy Man Road. The Brushy Creek Regional Trail and Shirley McDonald Park will both be accessible from the parking area by walking beneath the bridge at the intersection. The existing parking on the south side of Brushy Creek Road will be removed.

3. Will trees be removed as part of this project?

The County has made every attempt to preserve as many trees as possible and will only be removing what is necessary to elevate the bridge out of the floodplain, enhance the safety and mobility of the road, and make intersection improvements. Through engineering analysis and collaboration with the Fern Bluff and Brushy Creek Municipal Utilities Districts (MUD) and community, the project team minimized the impact to trees by 38%, from 138 to 86. This impact reduction was done by selecting the intersection alternative that did not require a "jug handle" in the southeast corner. Please note that the pecan tree on the southwest corner will not be removed, although it will be trimmed. During construction, the County will work with the contractor to ensure the remaining trees are protected.

4. Why is this project needed?

Due to population growth in Williamson County, traffic congestion at this intersection is an issue that needs to be resolved. There have been three reported accidents at the intersection of Great Oaks Drive and Brushy Creek Road/Hairy Man Road since 2010. Currently, vehicles are utilizing off-road parking to access the trail, pulling directly into traffic from multiple access points, cause safety concerns. Although, there have not been any reported pedestrian or bicycle accidents in this location, the project does significantly improve safety for the trail by moving it under the roadway. Planned traffic signals and bridge improvements will address the County's growth, congestion and enable smoother traffic flow.

Additionally, during heavy rain events, the existing Great Oaks Drive bridge over Brushy Creek obstructs the flow of water due to the level of the existing bridge structure; this then contributes to upstream flooding. The Great Oaks Drive bridge previously flooded on September 8, 2010. During this flood, the water crested over the bridge railing by several feet, causing access issues for emergency services and creating an unsafe roadway for drivers.

5. What is the County's role in this project?

The County is responsible for the design, construction and maintenance of the roadway and bridge.

6. Was the public involved during the study?

Yes. Throughout the study, the project team offered public involvement opportunities. Two open houses were held. Notifications for them included a press release, invitations to the neighborhood associations, a post on the roadbond.wilco.org website, and a Facebook post.

1. June 22, 2016 at Brushy Creek Community Center (16318 Great Oaks Dr, Round Rock, TX 78681) with approximately 100 attendees and 64 comments.
2. July 14, 2016 at Fern Bluff MUD Community Center (7320 Wyoming Springs Dr., in Round Rock, TX 78681) with approximately 61 attendees and 91 comments.

In addition, the project team regularly updated the Fern Bluff and Brushy Creek MUD Boards throughout the project and gave presentations regarding the project at the annual Brushy Creek MUD Town Hall in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

7. What is the construction schedule for this project?

Relocation of the Fern Bluff and Brushy Creek MUD waterlines was the first phase of construction, which began February 2020, and was completed in fall 2021. The second phase of the project is construction for the bridge, which began in September 2021 and is expected to wrap-up in spring 2023. The trail will be temporarily closed to bicyclists and pedestrians to maintain public safety during construction.

8. Will residents and business owners be displaced?

No displacements of residences or businesses will occur as a result of the improvements.

9. What criteria were used to determine the proposed improvements?

In order to determine the proposed options, the County and its consultants evaluated local flooding levels, the elevations of the existing terrain, existing and projected traffic volumes and the long-term benefits of the alternatives and cost. The improvements reflect current roadway and bridge construction standards established by state and federal agencies.

10. How will pedestrians access the trail once the project is complete?

Pedestrians will be able to utilize sidewalks on either side of the new bridge to cross the creek. Sidewalks are proposed to connect from the roadway to the trail on the south side of Brushy Creek Road/Hairy Man Road. Trail users will be able to cross underneath the Great Oaks Drive bridge, or cross underneath Brushy Creek Road to access the new parking area with 46 parking spaces.

11. How will the County mitigate the effects on existing homes nearby during construction and afterwards?

The County will work with the community to ensure minimal disturbance to nearby homes, such as limiting construction to daytime hours as much as possible. As many trees as possible will remain in place to provide a buffer between the roadway and nearby property lines. Please note, equipment and supplies will be kept inside the right of way or on temporary construction easements that have been obtained from Brushy Creek MUD.

12. Does the County plan to extend Great Oaks Drive between Oak Ridge Drive and Oak Meadow Drive?

The County does not plan to build the extension of Great Oaks Drive at this time. The extension is outside the scope of the current project and construction of the missing link is currently unfunded.

13. Will the low water crossing at Brushy Bend Park be removed as a result of this project?

The County will not remove the low-water crossing at Brushy Bend Park as a part of this project. The low-water crossing is outside the scope of this project.

14. Will the low water crossing on Great Oaks Drive between Oak Forest Drive and Live Oak Circle be fixed?

No. The low-water crossing on Greats Oaks Drive between Oak Forest Drive and Live Oak Circle is outside the scope of the current project.

15. How much does the project cost?

The estimated construction cost is $11.1M, not including the waterline relocation work performed.

16. How is the project being funded?

The project study is funded by the voter-approved 2006 and 2013 Williamson County Road Bond Programs.

17. What will happen if the project is not built?

If the bridge is not rebuilt and raised, it will continue to be subject to flooding during extreme rain events, causing continued safety and mobility issues. Additionally, the volume of traffic on these roadways are expected to increase as the county grows. If the County does not move forward with these intersection and bridge improvements, congestion at this intersection will continue to worsen, causing delays for the traveling public and emergency services.

18. Where may I go to ask questions or receive more information about the Great Oaks Drive Bridge at Brushy Creek Improvement Project?

For more information about this project, please visit http://www.wilco.org/roadprojects. Questions or comments may be directed by email or phone to the Williamson County Road Bond Program at roads@wilco.org or 512-943-1195.