CHANDLER ROAD EXTENSION PLANNING & PRESERVATION STUDY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated October 2020

1. What is the Chandler Road Extension Planning & Preservation Study?

Williamson County is conducting the Chandler Road Extension Planning & Preservation Study to plan for future growth and set the right of way (ROW) footprint. The road will be built as growth occurs, improving mobility by creating a connection between SH 95 and US 79. This study is a part of the County's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and has been included in the City of Taylor's Thoroughfare and Comprehensive Plans, both adopted in 2004.

2. Why is the County studying this corridor now?

County governments are responsible for planning effective transportation systems. Williamson County, the 9th fastest growing large county in the nation, has experienced tremendous growth and current population projections show that this will continue.

This growth necessitates advanced planning to better serve the increased number of residents, visitors, and vehicles in the County. This corridor was selected for study because it is in or near areas of development where more connection and mobility options will eventually be needed. By planning ahead, we can best coordinate with property owners, businesses, and the community, in order to safely and effectively accommodate existing and future transportation needs. Preserving the corridor for a future road, before development occurs, allows the County to be fiscally responsible by working with willing sellers and developers before land is developed. This also minimizes impacts to businesses and homes because the corridor is preserved before more structures are built. Additionally, studying and preserving right of way (ROW) now will benefit taxpayers as the County can acquire from willing sellers before property is developed and costs increase.

Additionally, another portion of the Taylor Loop, Chandler Road Phase 3B, opened in December of 2012 and extended the road from CR 368/369 to Hwy 95, improving connectivity between eastern and western Williamson County. The extension enabled drivers to get from anywhere in Taylor to IH-35 in less than 30 minutes, providing connectivity to other nearby cities. This new phase will also provide better access to the City of Taylor itself by improving mobility. It will allow people to more easily visit places like the Williamson County Expo Center, attend festivals, shop on main street and enjoy other activities that Taylor has to offer. This final phase of the project will extend Chandler Road east to FM 619 and south to US 79, completing connectivity around the City of Taylor and providing quicker access to schools, businesses, and other major roadways.

3. What is the timeline for the Chandler Road Extension Planning & Preservation Study?

The County has hired an engineering firm to identify environmental constraints, solicit public input, and identify route options. The project team will soon begin meeting with potentially impacted property owners to provide them opportunities for input and allow them to plan for the future. The County then plans to have the ROW footprint set mid 2021.

4. What is the study process for Chandler Road Extension Preservation & Planning Study?

The process for reviewing corridor studies involves evaluating many factors including, but not limited to:

- Social & community impacts
- Public input
- Impacts to property owners
- Water resources

- Traffic Impact Analysis
- Threatened & endangered species
- Vegetation & wildlife
- Land use & parkland
- Archaeological & historic resources
- Hazardous materials
- ROW analysis & land cost
- Engineering analysis

5. How is the study being funded?

The Chandler Road Extension Planning & Preservation Study is being funding through the 2013 Williamson County Road Bond Program. Funding for construction of transportation projects can come from many sources; the most common are road bonds, tolling and partnerships between federal, state, county, and city governments. ROW acquisition and construction funding sources have not yet been identified; however, at this time, the corridor is not being planned as a toll road.

6. What is the Williamson County LRTP?

The Williamson County Commissioners Court adopted the LRTP in October 2009. The plan is regularly updated based on current needs, population projections, and anticipated future mobility and safety needs in Williamson County. The planning process to develop the LRTP involves working with the public, cities, neighboring counties, and transportation and planning agencies to gather input and coordinate connectivity and mobility.

The most recent amendments to the LRTP outline a network of roadways that will improve safety and mobility across the County, and include a map of potential controlled access facilities and potential arterial roadways. These potential roadways are conceptual only to show general locations and connections needed. To learn more about the LRTP, click here.

7. What is a controlled access facility?

A controlled access facility is a roadway with main lanes that have entrance and exit ramps and frontage roads. The main lanes provide mobility for through traffic and the frontage roads provide local access to abutting properties.

8. Will the Chandler Road Extension be a controlled access facility?

The Chandler Road Extension is being planned as a controlled access facility; however, the first phase of the road will most likely be a two to three lane road: one lane in each direction and potentially a center turn lane. As growth occurs and funding becomes available, the second frontage would be built, then finally the main lanes. Building the ultimate Chandler Rd Extension will most likely take several decades.

9. How much ROW will be needed and how will I be compensated for it?

The project team is in the process of gathering input to identify an alignment. In 2021, the ROW footprint is expected to be set. If someone is a willing seller, then the County may move forward with acquisition. This is a formal process that involves independent appraisals and a negotiation process between the property owner and the County. The County will also talk to property owners as land is developed. If and when construction funding is secured, the County will approach property owners to acquire the land.

10. What is the County doing to improve our current roads?

Maintaining our current road and transportation infrastructure is a great priority for the County. Williamson County is responsible for maintaining approximately 1,400 miles of county roads spread over an area of 1,124 square miles. By evaluating each road, Williamson County has created a schedule for resurfacing neighborhood roads and county roads, as well as conducting major maintenance on county roads when necessary. All the Road and Bridge revenue goes to maintaining the roadway system. If you have a question or request about maintenance on a county roads, please email roadadmin@wilco.org or call (512) 943-3330.

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11. How can I get involved in the Chandler Road Extension Planning & Preservation Study?

We are asking the public for any and all input throughout the study process. Among other things, the County wants to understand more details about your property, how it is currently used, and what is planned for the future. We also want to better understand what the community values and needs. If you have ideas for additional factors to be considered, or thoughts on how to make this study or the process better, please let us know.

We encourage you to share your input or reach out to the County with your questions:

- Phone: (512) 943-1195 (leave a message for a call back within 48 hours)
- Email: roads@wilco.org (include "Chandler Road Extension" in the subject line)

Please visit www.wilco.org/Departments/Infrastructure/Projects/Precinct-4/Chandler-Road-Extension for more information.

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Sources: ESRI Business Analyst Online, Best Places city profile, MetroStudy, Homebuilders Association of Central Texas' 2019 Q2 report, Williamson County, Taylor Press article (12/23/12)