

Corridor H / Sam Bass Road

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated August 2018



What are the proposed improvements to Corridor H / Sam Bass Road?

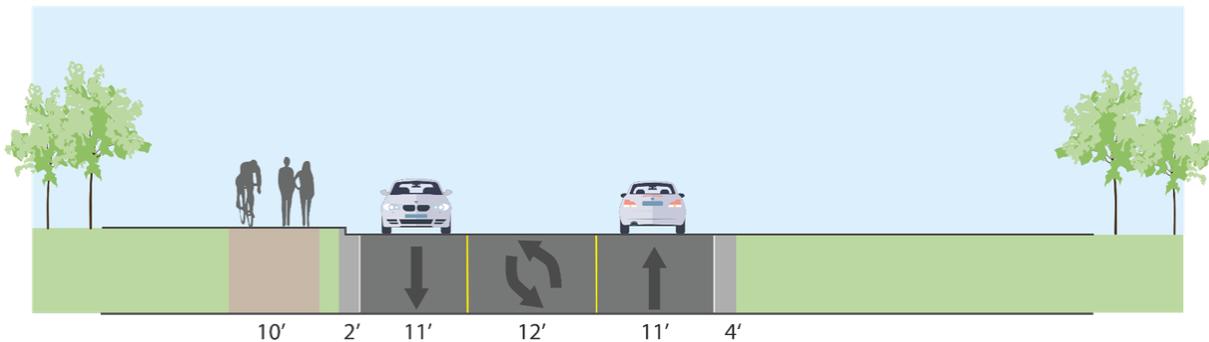
The improvements include reconstructing Sam Bass Road as a three-lane road and making intersection improvements.

Three Lane Road

- One lane in each direction and a center turn lane
- Shared-use path for bicycle and pedestrian access on north side of the road

Intersection Improvements

- Dual left turns and a right turn lane at RM 1431
- Install traffic signal and cross walks at Great Oaks Drive
- Install traffic signal at Walsh Ranch Boulevard with a westbound right-turn bay on Sam Bass Road, southbound left turn on Walsh Ranch Boulevard, and a cross walk
- Adjust signal timing at Wyoming Springs Drive



What is the process to study Corridor H and identify these improvements?

The study began in spring 2017 and included:

- Conducting public engagement including meeting with property owners and holding two public meetings
- Evaluating public input
- Performing survey work and environmental review
- Gathering traffic counts and performing traffic modeling to understand future conditions
- Collecting crash data and conducting a safety analysis
- Identifying what improvements are needed
- Evaluating alternatives and presenting recommended alignment

Why are you not utilizing the existing road and why is the right of way (ROW) coming from one side?

When evaluating the alignment for the three-lane roadway, the alignment was identified based on existing road conditions, constructability, future needs, and long-term impacts.

The existing road needs to be reconstructed due to deterioration and the age of the roadway, meaning the existing road cannot be used. Construction of the new roadway can occur while traffic is maintained on the existing roadway for much of the project, which will assist with timely construction and reduced construction impacts to residents and travelers on Sam Bass Road.

The process also considered future needs of Sam Bass Road as growth has been exponential and is not expected to slow. Sam Bass Road between RM 1431 and Wyoming Springs Drive is identified as an arterial in the Williamson County Long-Range Transportation Plan and a 6-lane roadway in the City of Round Rock Transportation Master Plan. The proposed alignment would allow for future improvements and widening without impacting the newly constructed three lane roadway.

When looking at property and environmental impacts, both the current and future needs were taken into consideration and this alignment offers reduced impacts considering future improvements.

Why is the shared-use-path included and why is it 10 feet wide?

This is an important connection identified in the Williamson County Trails Master Plan to link to existing trails and provide more connectivity. This was also a priority as it provides a safe path for students traveling to nearby schools.

A wider shared-use-path was identified as the preferred option because it would provide access to both pedestrians and bicyclists, allow separation from traffic for younger travelers, as well as provide access to shoulders for experienced cyclists. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) recommends a 10-foot width to safely accommodate both bicycles and pedestrians.

How will this project be funded?

Construction funding has not yet been identified but can come from a variety of sources including bonds, general transportation funds, or partnerships between state, county, and city governments. Once the plans are complete, the County would begin work to identify funding.

What is the construction schedule and will Sam Bass Road be closed for construction?

The earliest anticipated date construction could begin is 2020, but this is dependent on funding. Construction of the road is anticipated to take approximately 18 months and utility relocation work would be done prior to road construction. Once schematic design is complete, more detailed construction plans are developed. One lane in each direction would be maintained for the majority of the work.

Will there be a change in the speed limit?

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

What is being done to protect the trees?

Williamson County is aware of the importance of the existing trees to the community and is designing improvements with a focus on preservation. The project team is conducting detailed surveys which include precise tree locations to allow for more detailed refinements.

How much ROW will be needed and what is the ROW purchasing process?

The current preliminary concept shows approximate ROW needs, but this is being refined and is not final. The County expects schematic design indicating specific ROW needs to be complete in spring 2019. Then, the County will begin negotiations with property owners as funding is available. The County will work with property owners interested in negotiating sooner.

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.

Williamson 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 purchase 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").

How can I get involved and learn more?

Public input is an essential part of this planning process, and the County wants to work closely with the community. The County is interested in your questions or comments at any time.

For more information, please visit the Corridor H webpage at www.wilco.org/corridorh.

If you are interested in receiving updates, please send an email to roads@wilco.org with "Corridor H Updates" in the subject line.

For additional information or to schedule a meeting with the Corridor H team:

- Email: roads@wilco.org
- Phone: 512-943-1195 (leave a message to request a call back within 48 hrs.)

If you have comments regarding other active County projects, please visit the Williamson County Road Bond webpage at <https://roadbond.wilco.org>.

If you have comments or concerns regarding County road maintenance, please visit the County Engineer's webpage at www.wilco.org/roads.