



US 79 (from I-35 to east of FM 1460) Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE US 79 IMPROVEMENTS?

- The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety and mobility and accommodate future population growth and land use development in the area.

WHAT ARE THE PROJECT LIMITS?

- US 79 from I-35 to east of FM 1460 (A.W. Grimes) in the city limits of Round Rock, Williamson County, Texas.

WHY ARE US 79 IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED?

- According to the Williamson County Long Range Transportation Plan's population forecast, growth in Williamson County is expected to increase by 135% by 2035. The population growth around US 79 is projected to greatly increase, and the city of Round Rock and Williamson County are experiencing heightened development pressures. The development along this segment of US 79 is largely a mix of commercial and residential use, but there are currently a few segments of sidewalk that do not provide a continuous route along the corridor. The proposed project is needed to accommodate existing and projected traffic volumes and to improve safety and mobility.

ARE MORE LANES BEING ADDED?

- The proposed improvements include widening the existing US 79 roadway to add a third travel lane in each direction and installing a raised median for safety.

HOW WILL THE IMPROVEMENTS MAKE US 79 BETTER?

- Adding bridges and removing traffic signals will improve safety and traffic flow on US 79. Improvements to intersections would include constructing an underpass at US 79/Mays Street, an overpass at US 79/FM 1460 and altering the US 79/I-35 intersection. Driveways and access points would be modified to improve safety and traffic flow. The proposed improvements also include installing shared-use paths on both sides of US 79 to improve pedestrian and bicycle accommodations.

WHY WAS THE PUBLIC HEARING DELAYED?

- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, along with TxDOT's commitment to protecting public health, the US 79 Public Hearing scheduled for July 9, 2020 was postponed so all safety measures and FHWA guidelines could be implemented.

HOW HAVE THE IMPROVEMENTS CHANGED SINCE THE LAST OPEN HOUSE HELD IN AUGUST 2018?

- The US 79/FM 1460 interchange was reconfigured to make all left turns into dual-lane left turns.
- The Partial Cloverleaf interchange at US 79/Mays Street was reconfigured to accommodate the historical property at the northeast quadrant of the interchange. The cloverleaf was moved from the northeast to the northwest quadrant of the interchange.



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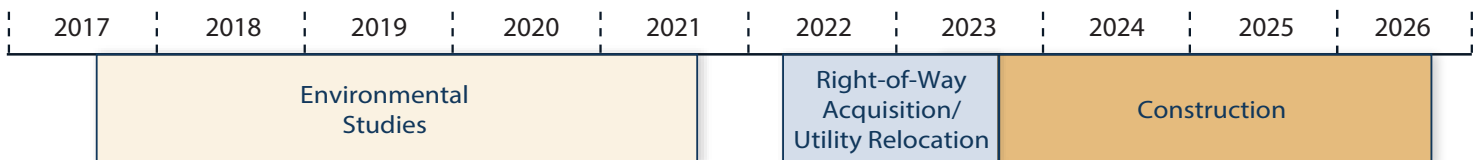
WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE AND WHEN WILL IMPROVEMENTS HAPPEN?

- The anticipated environmental study completion and National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA decision is expected in late summer 2021. Once environmentally cleared, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation could begin. The project is currently unfunded but TxDOT is actively seeking funds to advance the improvements. The earliest right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation could begin would be early 2022. The earliest construction could begin would be in late 2023. Right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation and construction schedules are dependent on future funding.

WHEN WILL CONSTRUCTION BEGIN AND HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

- The earliest construction could begin would be in late 2023 depending on future funding. This timeline is contingent on environmental clearance, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation and future construction funding. It is anticipated that construction would last approximately 3 years.

PRELIMINARY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE**



***timeline contingent on environmental clearance, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation and future availability of construction funds.*

WHAT IS THE EXPECTED COST OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

- Estimated construction cost is \$50 million.

HOW AND WHEN WILL THE PROJECT BE FUNDED?

- The project is currently unfunded but is being considered for funding as soon as new funding becomes available. Local transportation leaders have deemed I-35 the region’s top priority. TxDOT will continue to seek funding for the US 79 project.

HOW CAN I PROVIDE FEEDBACK?

- Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project may be submitted by mail to Matthew Cho, P.E., Project Manager, TxDOT Austin District Office, P.O. Box 15426, Austin, Texas 78761-5426 or by email at Matthew.Cho@txdot.gov. Additionally, members of the public may call 512-647-1064 and verbally provide testimony from 10 a.m. on Dec. 4, 2020 until 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 21, 2020. All comments must be received on or before Dec. 21, 2020 by 11:59 p.m to be in the public hearing record.