

ABOUT THE PROJECT

TxDOT is developing preliminary plans to improve 19 miles of US 281 from US 290 to the Comal County line in Blanco County, Texas, including the US 281/US 290 interchange. This study excludes any improvements to the existing four-lane segment of US 281 through the city of Blanco and excludes the study of a relief route around the city of Blanco, which is being studied as part of a separate project. The purpose of the proposed project is to enhance safety, improve connectivity and improve mobility by providing additional roadway capacity to meet current and future traffic demands due to population growth and increased traffic volumes. Throughout the project limits, the existing roadway is two-lanes with Super-2 passing lanes. Current study limits contain the last section of two-lane US 281 roadway within the Austin District. The preliminary plans would expand the roadway to a four-lane divided highway similar to the adjacent section of US 281 to the south. This is consistent with TxDOT's statewide plan to upgrade rural highways to four-lane divided roadways as part of the Texas Trunk System and consistent with the recommendations from a previously conducted statewide US 281 feasibility study.

PROPOSED PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

- Widening the roadway to create a four-lane divided roadway within a typical right of way (ROW) of 450 ft. The four-lane roadway would include two lanes in each direction and shoulders.
- Separating travel lanes by adding a grassy median to preserve flexibility in the corridor to accommodate transportation improvements in the future.
- Adding median crossovers with acceleration and deceleration lanes at regular intervals.
- Adding right-turn lanes at various intersections.
- Designing roadway transitions North and South of the city of Blanco to tie into existing four-lane sections.
- Upgrading the US 281/US 290 interchange.

PROJECT TIMELINE

TxDOT's schematic design and environmental process to expand US 281 between US 290 and Comal County line is anticipated to take 18-24 months. These preliminary engineering and environmental studies are estimated to be complete by early 2024.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated Dec. 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

