

1. Why are we doing this study?

At the request of the city of Blanco and Blanco County, TxDOT is initiating the US 281 Blanco Relief Route Feasibility Study to develop and evaluate preliminary relief route options to enhance safety and improve mobility along US 281 in the city of Blanco. The purpose of this study, in collaboration with local stakeholders and the public, is to arrive at a locally recommended relief route option. Further project development, including schematic design, environmental review, and funding would depend on the outcome of the feasibility study.

2. How will stakeholders and the public be involved?

TxDOT plans to host stakeholder workshops and open houses throughout this study. Feedback will be requested to identify problems on US 281; goals and objectives for this study; potential route options and evaluation criteria to compare the route options.

3. What is a task force?

TxDOT will work with the city of Blanco and Blanco County to form the US 281 Relief Route Task Force. The group will meet several times throughout the development of the US 281 Blanco Relief Route Feasibility Study. The task force will identify goals and objectives for the study, known environmental constraints, and potential route options. As the study progresses the task force will review the evaluation of these preliminary options and weigh in on the evaluation criteria. The task force, in collaboration with stakeholders and the public, will arrive at a locally recommended route option.

4. How is this US 281 Relief Route Task Force different from the task force created by the city of Blanco (Highway 281 Task Force)?

The Highway 281 Task Force was created in summer 2022 to help guide the planned improvements of 19 miles of US 281 from US 290 to the Comal County line and the identification of possible relief route options around the City of Blanco. TxDOT will work with the City of Blanco and Blanco County to form the US 281 Relief Route Task Force which will include members from the Highway 281 Task Force. The US 281 Relief Route Task Force will focus on possible relief route options and identifying a locally recommended relief route option.

5. Is the relief route funded?

Construction of a relief route is not funded at this time, but the results of this feasibility study could be used for further project development.

6. How long will this study take?

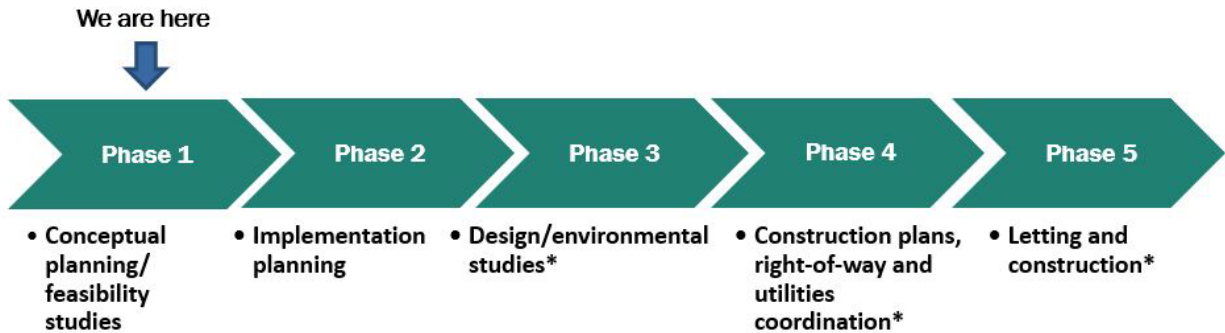
This study is anticipated to be complete at the end of 2024.

7. How does this study relate to other phases of project development?

This study is at the beginning of the project development process that TxDOT follows for all projects. Any project's ability to advance to each phase is dependent on funding.

More information on TxDOT's project development process can be found here: <http://onlinemanuals.txdot.gov/txdotmanuals/pdp/index.htm>.

Project Development Process



*As funding is identified

8. How will this feasibility study consider environmental resources in the identification of route options?

Environmental constraints information will be compiled from local, state, and federal agencies, and through feedback from the US 281 Relief Route Task Force, local stakeholders and the public. This information will be used in development of route options. Environmental constraints information for the study will include the following topics: land use, flood plains, wetlands, streams, oil and gas wells, threatened and endangered species habitat, wildlife refuges, hazardous material sites, parkland, historic sites, archeological sites, census data, etc.

9. What route options are being considered?

The route options considered will be defined by the city of Blanco, Blanco County, local stakeholders and the public. TxDOT will support the city of Blanco, Blanco County in evaluating multiple preliminary route options addressing congestion in the city of Blanco and its downtown square district. In addition, a No-Build option will be considered.

10. How will the locally recommended route option be identified?

TxDOT will support the city of Blanco, Blanco County, local stakeholders and the public in developing evaluation criteria weighing the preliminary route options with the goal of finding a locally recommended route option. The purpose of this study, in collaboration with local stakeholders and the public, is to arrive at a locally recommended route option.

11. How is this study related to the improvements being considered on US 281 from US 290 to the Comal County line?

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 US 281 Blanco Relief Route Feasibility Study. The purpose of the US 281 from US 290 to the Comal County Line project is to enhance safety and improve connectivity and mobility by providing additional roadway capacity to meet current and future traffic demands due to population growth and increased traffic volumes.