



I-35 AT FM 3406 PROJECT

Project Overview:

The FM 3406 (Old Settlers Boulevard) improvement project addresses congestion on one of the top 100 most congested roadway segments in Texas.

- Lack of mobility on I-35 threatens the economic livelihood of Austin and Texas.
- With more than 150,000 vehicles a day traveling on this segment of I-35 each day, this project will reduce bottlenecks and improve travel times with the addition of U-turn bridges and added left-turn lanes on the Old Settlers Boulevard bridge.

The project will improve mobility, safety, and connectivity for all modes of transportation along and across I-35. Work includes:

- replacing and widening the Old Settlers Boulevard bridge
- constructing two new U-turn bridges, one in each direction
- making bicycle and pedestrian enhancements within the project limits

Details:

The construction cost is \$12.4 million. Work began in March 2017 and is expected to be complete in spring 2019, weather permitting. The contractor is Flatiron Constructors, Inc.

FAQ'S

1) What is included in this project?

The FM 3406 (Old Settlers Boulevard) improvement project will improve mobility, safety, and connectivity for all modes of transportation along and across I-35. Work includes:

- replacing and widening the Old Settlers Boulevard bridge
- constructing two new U-turn bridges, one in each direction
- making bicycle and pedestrian enhancements within the project limits

2) Why is TxDOT performing this work?

This project is designed to reduce bottlenecks and improve travel times at the I-35 and Old Settlers Boulevard intersection in Round Rock. The addition of U-turn bridges and added left-turn lanes on the bridge will help traffic to flow more smoothly, improve travel times and enhance safety.

3) What are the construction phases for this project?

Work on this improvement project will take place in four phases.

- **Phase I** work includes making improvements to the center median and drainage on I-35 under the existing bridge

- **Phase II** work includes constructing retaining walls near Old Settlers Boulevard, demolishing and rebuilding the south half of the bridge, constructing the new northbound to southbound turnaround bridge, and performing frontage road work
- **Phase III** work includes shifting traffic to the new Old Settlers Boulevard bridge and demolishing and rebuilding the north half of the bridge, constructing the new southbound to northbound turnaround bridge, and performing frontage road work
- **Phase IV** work includes completing construction of the median on Old Settlers Boulevard, as well as performing final paving operations for the entire project

4) When will the bridge close to eastbound traffic?

This date is based on the anticipated project schedule. Currently, the bridge is scheduled to be closed to eastbound traffic at the end of May 2017, but this date is subject to change based on weather or other construction-related impacts. TxDOT will keep everyone posted well in advance of this proposed closure.

5) How long will the bridge be closed to traffic in the eastbound direction?

Based on our current construction schedule, it is anticipated to be closed for about six months, or until winter 2017/2018. Our contractor has incentives in place to ensure this work takes place as efficiently and effectively as possible.

6) Will the bridge ever have a full closure?

Yes, however, the traffic control is set up so there is **no** long-term full closure on the bridge.

There will be times that a short-term full bridge closure is needed so major items of bridge work can be completed, such as performing bridge demolition, placing new bridge beams, etc. These short-term closures will occur during off-peak hours in an effort to minimize impacts to travelers. TxDOT will notify citizens well in advance of any proposed full closure.

7) How will emergency responders get to emergencies with the bridge closed in one direction?

Ensuring your safety is the top priority for all those involved with this project, including TxDOT and local transportation partners. Round Rock has police officers assigned to the east and west sides of town, so the area will be well covered. In addition, the Fire Department and Williamson County are looking at staffing a temporary station with a fire truck and ambulance on the west side of the intersection. This positioning should help first responders avoid delayed responses due to traffic congestion created by construction of the new bridge.

8) What are the alternate routes to the FM 3406 bridge?

Westbound access over Old Settlers Boulevard will never be completely cut off. While the bridge closure in the eastbound direction is in place, traffic wishing to head eastbound over Old Settlers Boulevard will be diverted south on the I-35 frontage road to the U-turn at US 79, and then north on the I-35 frontage road back to Old Settlers Boulevard. Additional alternative routes would be to take Chisholm Trail south to Sam Bass Road, or to take RM 1431 to Sam Bass Road, down to Creek Bend Boulevard, over to Wyoming Springs Drive, down to RM 620 and back to I-35.