

1. What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this study is to improve safety and mobility for travelers and the community by:

- Working with the community, stakeholders, and property owners to plan for needed improvements
- Accommodating current traffic and meet current design and safety standards
- Considering vehicular, bike, and pedestrian safety
- Planning for anticipated future traffic levels and the City of Round Rock's plans for an ultimate six-lane divided road to provide safe and reliable transportation as Williamson County continues to grow

2. What will happen if this project is not built?

The current level of traffic on the existing road exceeds design and safety standards. Additionally, the volume is expected to increase as the County grows and as new developments are built along the road. If we do not plan for improvements now, options will be limited and more impactful in the future. If the County does not move forward with these safety improvements, more crashes are likely to occur.

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

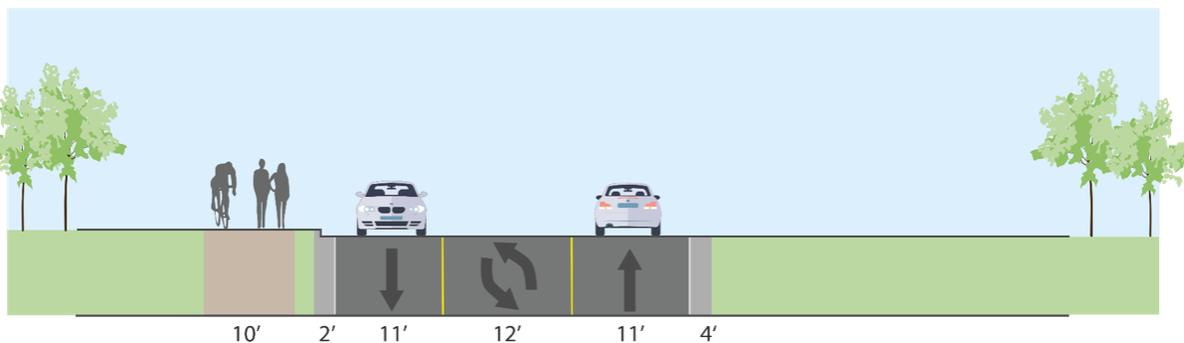
The improvements include reconstructing Sam Bass Road as a three-lane road and making intersection improvements.

Three-Lane Road

- One lane in each direction and a center turn lane
- Shared-use path (SUP) for bicycle and pedestrian access on the 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



4. 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 (June 21, 2017 and May 17, 2018)
- Evaluating public input
- 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 design alternatives and presenting recommended alignment
- Performing survey and environmental field work
- Refining the schematic design

5. Why are you not utilizing the existing road?

When evaluating the alignment for the three-lane roadway and looking at property impacts, and environmental impacts, constructability, future needs, and long-term impacts, this alignment offers reduced impacts considering future improvements.

The existing road needs to be reconstructed due to deterioration and the age of the roadway, meaning the existing road cannot be used. The proposed alignment allows the existing roadway to remain open during construction of the new lanes, reducing traffic impacts and allowing for future expansion once the existing roadway is removed.

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 a six-lane roadway in the City of Round Rock Transportation Master Plan and an arterial in the Williamson County Long-Range Transportation Plan. The proposed alignment would allow for future improvements and widening as the need arises and funding becomes available for right of way acquisition and construction for the three additional lanes.

6. Why is a shared-use path (SUP) part of this project and why is it 10 feet wide?

Providing safe bicycle and pedestrian accommodations is a priority for the County. This is an important connection to link to existing trails and provide more connectivity and has been identified in the Trails Master Plans for both the City of Round Rock and Williamson County. This was also a priority as it provides a safe path for students traveling to nearby schools.

A 10' SUP was identified as the preferred option because it would provide access for both pedestrians and bicyclists as well as allow separation from traffic for younger travelers. Additionally, The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials recommends a 10-foot width to safely accommodate both bicycles and pedestrians.

7. How will this project be funded?

Right of way acquisition and construction funding has been secured through the voter-approved 2019 Williamson County Road Bond Program.

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

The earliest anticipated date construction could begin is early 2021. Construction of the road is anticipated to take approximately 18 months and utility relocation work would begin prior to construction and continue during road construction. Once schematic design is complete, more detailed construction plans are developed.

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. One lane in each direction would be maintained for the majority of the work.

9. 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.

10. What is the right of way (ROW) purchasing process?

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 acquire 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”).

11. How can I get involved and learn more?

The County is interested in receiving your questions at any time.

For more information please visit the Corridor H / Sam Bass Road 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 / Sam Bass Road team:

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

If you have comments regarding other active County projects, please visit the Williamson County Road Bond webpage at 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.