



# CR 279/BAGDAD ROAD

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated August 2020

### 1. What is the purpose of the CR 279/Bagdad Road project?

The CR 279/Bagdad Road project is being designed and constructed by Williamson County to provide safety and mobility improvements to the existing corridor between Loop 332 to CR 281/Leander City Limits. This roadway, which includes a trail (shared use path (SUP)) will further connect the cities of Liberty Hill and Leander.

### 2. Why is this project needed?

There has been a significant amount of growth in both the cities of Liberty Hill and Leander in recent years. Between 2018 and 2019, Leander topped the Census Bureau's list of fastest growing large US cities. Leander has had a population growth rate of 156.95% since 2010, and Liberty Hill's population has increased by 209.51%. The fall 2020 opening of the 1,350-acre Williamson County River Ranch Park will bring additional traffic to Bagdad Road.

### 3. What will happen if this project doesn't move forward?

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 and buildings continue to be built along the road. If the County does not plan for improvements now, options will be limited and more impactful in the future.

### 4. What are the project limits?

The project limits are from Loop 332 to CR 281/Leander City Limits. To view the project map, please visit the CR 279/Bagdad Road [webpage](#).

### 5. What are the proposed improvements?

The project includes the reconstruction and realignment of the existing two-lane road with the addition of a center turn lane and shoulders. A 10-foot SUP is also a part of the improvements, providing access and connectivity for bicyclists and pedestrians. Ultimately, once the need arises and funding is secured, the road will include an additional lane in each direction, widening the road from three lanes to five lanes.

### 6. Will the project utilize existing right of way (ROW) or will new ROW be acquired?

The project is still in the early design phase; however, it will most likely require additional ROW to be purchased due to the realignment of the road and ultimate build out.

### 7. What is the project timeline?

A schematic is expected to be finalized by Brinkley & Barfield, Inc. this fall 2020, and would set the ROW footprint. The project team would then begin working on finalizing the design of the road and anticipates going to construction in late 2022.

## **8. How is this project being funded?**

ROW acquisition and construction funding have been secured through the voter-approved 2019 Williamson County Road Bond Program. The SUP that will be constructed as a part of this project is funded by the 2019 Williamson County Park Bond.

## **9. Will there be a change in the speed limit?**

The speed limit is not expected to change with these improvements. Speed limits are changed by initiating a speed study, which is not proposed as part of this project.

## **10. What is the 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.

The 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. What is the County doing to improve our current roads?**

Maintaining our current road and transportation infrastructure is a great priority for the County. Williamson County is responsible for maintaining approximately 1,400 miles of county roads spread over an area of 1,124 square miles. By evaluating each road, the County has created a schedule for resurfacing neighborhood roads and county roads, as well as conducting major maintenance on county roads when necessary. All the Road and Bridge revenue goes to maintaining the roadway system. If you have a question or request about maintenance on a county roads, please email [roadadmin@wilco.org](mailto:roadadmin@wilco.org) or call 512-943-3330.

## **12. Where may I go to ask questions and receive more information about the project?**

For more information about this project, or to sign up for email updates, please contact our public involvement team by calling (512) 943-1195 or emailing [roads@wilco.org](mailto:roads@wilco.org). All project materials and updates will be posted on the CR 279/Bagdad Road [webpage](http://www.wilco.org/BagdadRoad) ([www.wilco.org/BagdadRoad](http://www.wilco.org/BagdadRoad)).

If you have comments regarding other active County projects please visit the Williamson County Road Projects webpage at <https://www.wilco.org/RoadProjects>. If you have comments or concerns regarding County road maintenance please visit the County Engineer's webpage at [www.wilco.org/roads](http://www.wilco.org/roads).

\* Sources: Community Impact [article](#), World Population Review [Leander webpage](#), World Population Review [Liberty Hill webpage](#).