

RM 2243 (Hero Way) - Construction Beginning Soon

1 message

Williamson County Road Bond Program <roadbond1@wilco.org>

To: Williamson County Road Bond Program <roadbond1@wilcotx.gov>

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**RM 2243 (Hero Way) Update****RM 2243 (Hero Way) - Construction Beginning Soon**

Williamson County will soon begin construction for the RM 2243 (Hero Way) Phase 1a project to address safety and connectivity for motorists while improving accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists. The RM 2243 (Hero Way) Phase 1a project includes reconstructing, realigning, and widening 3.5 miles of RM 2243 between 183A and Garey Park to provide a three-lane roadway with one lane in each direction and a dedicated center turn lane in the middle. The project will also include a shared-use path designed for both pedestrians and cyclists. A portion of the project will follow the existing Hero Way from 183A to Ronald Reagan Boulevard and then will use a new alignment to straighten curves and improve safety on RM 2243 from 183A to Ronald Reagan Boulevard.

The County selected Chasco Constructors, LTD, to build this roadway. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2026 and is expected to be completed in early 2028, weather and field conditions permitting. You will begin to see crews preparing the area for construction in the next several weeks. Please use caution and watch for crews working in the area.

While temporary lane closures and detours will be needed to construct this project, local access will be maintained throughout construction, and the County will share updates as work and closures are scheduled. Additional information about what you can expect during construction is provided below.

For more information about the project, visit www.wilcotx.gov/820/RM-2243-Hero-Way. If you have any questions, please contact:

- Contact Commissioner Cynthia Long's office by phone: 512-260-4280 or email: Comm2@wilcotx.gov
- Contact Commissioner Valerie Covey's office by phone: 512-943-3370 or email: Comm3@wilcotx.gov

What to Expect During Construction

Detours and Closures: The project team will need to close lanes and shift traffic at various times. The County will share updates throughout construction.

Noise: Construction work can be noisy. The County works to schedule noisy activities at times least likely to disturb neighbors.

Heavy Machinery: You will see large construction vehicles in the field. The County will stage construction vehicles and materials within the right of way unless a property owner grants prior approval.

Dust: Activities like milling (removing the top layer of pavement) can create dust. The team will spray the project area with water to minimize dust.

Sincerely,

The RM 2243 Project Team

For more information:

www.wilcotx.gov | roads@wilcotx.gov | 512.943.1195 (road bond line)

Williamson County Road Project Life Cycle

A road project starts with public input. The County receives input from the public, cities, schools, MUDs, neighborhoods, or other stakeholders regarding transportation projects that are needed to improve safety or connectivity. These projects become part of the County's Long-Range Transportation Plan (L RTP), which was adopted in 2009 and is updated periodically. It is used to plan for future transportation needs and to keep pace with the tremendous growth in the County. The L RTP is the roadmap that is used to plan potential road projects.

A project has four phases, each with a defined start and approximate timeline. Projects have clear timelines, budgets, and scopes. Public involvement plays a crucial role in a road project. This ensures that community needs, concerns, and interests are considered and effectively addressed throughout the project life cycle.

Phase 1: Planning (0 to 10%)

Prior to construction, planning must occur. An engineering team will be selected through a competitive bid process to gather and analyze data on the project. Feasibility, design options, and potential impacts to the community and the environment are reviewed. Funding for a project is secured before a project is kicked off, often through a voter-approved road bond. Steps in Phase 1 include:

- **Award of a contract** - A design/engineering firm is awarded a contract by the Commissioners Court. Project tasks, timelines, and milestones are created.
 - **Communication** - A project letter is sent to property owners announcing the project. This includes a description of proposed improvements, FAQ's, estimated timeline, and points of contact for questions.
 - **Selection of Preliminary Alignment** - Multiple options for the roadway alignment are studied, and an assessment of impacts for each option are presented to County staff and officials, along with the engineer's recommendation, for which alignment to study further and to discuss potential impacts with property owners.
 - **Right-of-Entries (ROE)** - Potentially impacted property owners are asked for permission to complete field work on their property to identify structures, archaeological and historical resources, floodplains, etc.; the team will attempt to notify property owners of work to be done on their property.
- Average Time to Completion: 9 to 12 months
Result: 10% Design

Phase 2: Preliminary Design (11% to 30%)

This phase advances the preliminary alignment by including details of the road, lanes, shoulders, medians, sidewalks (if applicable), utilities, drainage, and the right-of-way footprint. During this phase, the team conducts site visits to assess drainage, investigate potential environmental issues, and perform geotechnical studies (which may include digging into the soil to assess soil, rock, and groundwater).

The final step in this phase includes meeting with affected property owner meetings to receive input on the 30% Design. Property owner input is used, when possible, to help refine the proposed alignment and right-of-way.

Average Time to Completion: 6 to 9 months
Result: 30% Design

Phase 3: Final Design (31% to 100%)

Based on findings during the previous two study phases, a final design is created that results in detailed construction plans. As the project designs are further developed, additional design information will be posted on the website, as applicable. Any utilities that are impacted by the road project are relocated.

Average Time to Completion: 12 to 18 months
Result: 100% Design

Phase 4: Construction

A construction firm is selected through a competitive bid process and approved by the Commissioners Court. The public is kept informed on the project's progress during the construction phase.

Average Time to Completion is dependent on the size of the project but can range from 12 to 24 months.

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