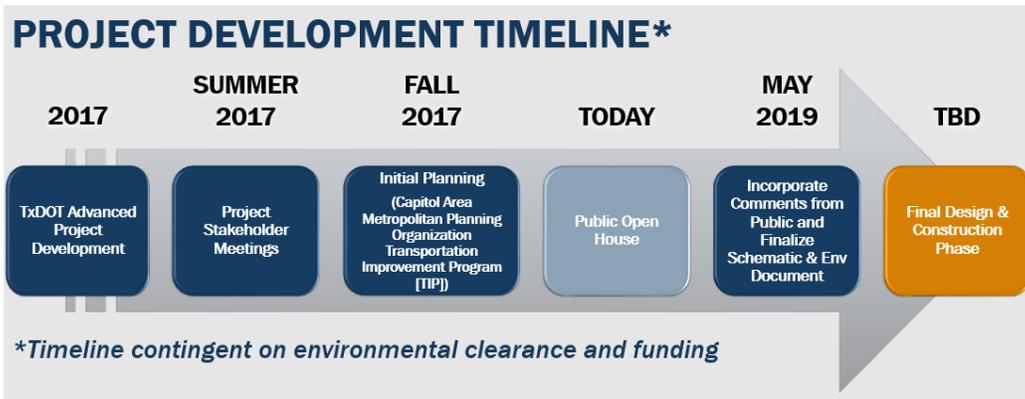


WHY IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED

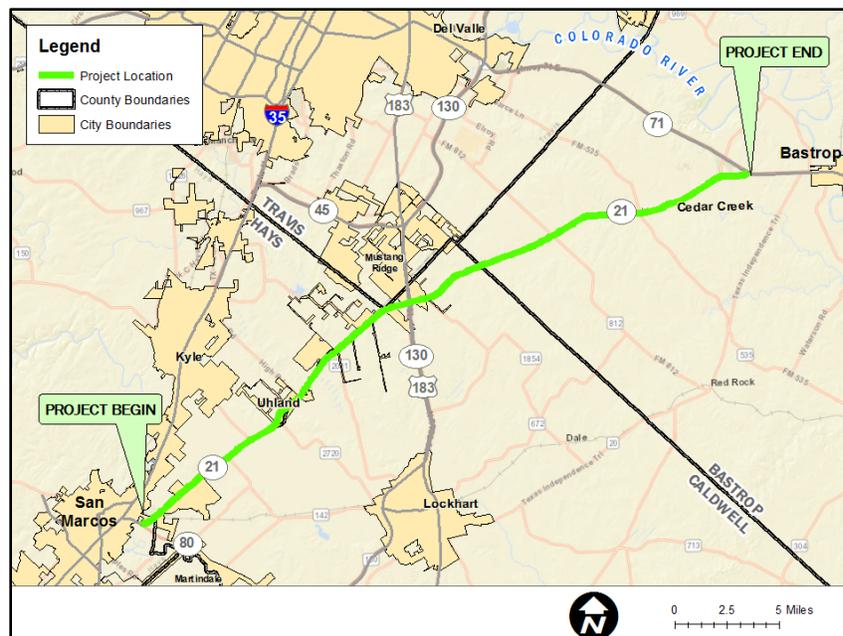
State Highway (SH) 21 is a significant travel corridor through Hays, Caldwell, and Bastrop counties. It traverses nine other counties between the proposed project corridor and the Texas/Louisiana border. For most of its length in the proposed project corridor, SH 21 is primarily a two-lane roadway with center-turn lanes at various locations. Storm water drainage is handled by roadside ditches, and there are no bicycle or pedestrian paths. Along the entire project corridor, the average daily traffic from 2017 to 2037 is predicted to increase by 39 percent. Construction of residential and commercial development, particularly close to the cities of San Marcos, Kyle, and Bastrop, is currently active and will presumably continue. The proposed widening project is needed to improve traffic operations and safety in the project area by providing passing lanes, shoulders, and widened culverts and bridges (where needed) to meet future traffic demands due to population growth.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The proposed project would include widening the roadway, where needed, to provide seven east and westbound alternate passing lanes from SH 80 in San Marcos to SH 71 near Bastrop. The proposed roadway would include 8-foot shoulders, two 12-foot travel lanes, and 12-foot center passing lane. In order to accommodate the additional pavement width, the proposed project would also include widening 28 existing culverts and one bridge. Eight-foot shoulders would be added throughout the Hays County portion. No additional right of way or easements would be acquired for the proposed project.



PROJECT LOCATION



January 2019