

US 79 (from I-35 to east of FM 1460)

WHY IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Austin District is proposing improvements to US 79 from I-35 to east of FM 1460 in Williamson County, Texas. According to the Williamson County Long Range Transportation Plan's population forecast, growth in Williamson County is expected to increase by 135 percent between 2008 and 2035. The population growth around US 79 is projected to greatly increase, and the city of Round Rock and Williamson County are experiencing heightened development pressures. The development along this segment of US 79 is largely a mix of commercial and residential use, but there are currently no dedicated bicycle facilities and only a few segments of sidewalk that do not provide a continuous route along the corridor. The proposed project is needed to accommodate existing and projected traffic volumes and to improve safety and mobility.

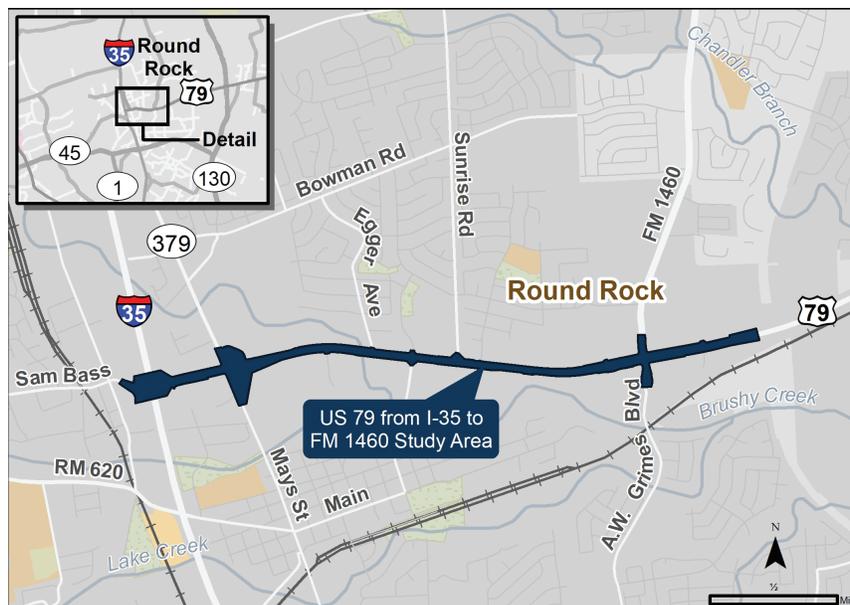
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Potential improvements include widening the existing US 79 roadway to add a third travel lane in each direction, installing a raised median for safety, improving intersections, and modifying driveways and access points to improve safety and traffic flow. Options for intersection improvements include overpasses at US 79/Mays St. and US 79/FM 1460, alterations to the US 79/I-35 intersection, and dual left turn lanes to Sunrise Rd. and south-bound Georgetown St. Shared-use paths on both sides of US 79 are being considered to provide improved pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. This project would be developed, in part, with federal funds and is subject to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Pursuant to the 2014 Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Highway Administration and TxDOT, TxDOT has authority over approval of this project.*

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE**



***timeline contingent on environmental clearance and funding*



September 2017

*The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been carried out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a memorandum of understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

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