

I-35 at 51st Street

CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION



Project Overview

The [51st Street improvement project](#) addresses part of one of the most congested roadway segments in Texas. Lack of mobility on I-35 threatens the economic livelihood of Austin and Texas. With nearly 215,000 vehicles a day traveling on this segment of I-35 each day, this project will reduce bottlenecks at the southbound frontage road of I-35 at 51st Street and for east/west traffic, improve connections at the existing U-turn bridge, and improve southbound ramp operations between 51st Street and Airport Boulevard.

The project will improve mobility, safety, and connectivity for all modes of transportation along and across I-35. Work includes adding a southbound intersection bypass lane to allow through-traffic to bypass the traffic signal, reconfiguring the entrance/exit ramps, and realigning the southbound frontage road to add a new roundabout to improve traffic flow and safety. Also, bicycle and pedestrian enhancements will be made within the project limits.

Construction Phases

Work on this improvement project will take place in four phases.

- **Phase I** work includes widening the southbound I-35 mainlanes in order to begin construction work on the new southbound intersection bypass lane and exit ramp, and begin construction of the roundabout
- **Phase II** work includes constructing a new southbound entrance ramp
- **Phase III** work includes opening the newly constructed entrance/exit ramps to traffic and completing construction of the southbound I-35 intersection bypass lane
- **Phase IV** work includes completing construction of the southbound I-35 frontage road and roundabout, as well as performing final paving operations for the entire project



Benefits

The modern roundabout design is more efficient than the existing signalized intersection, increasing traffic capacity in the intersection by 30 to 50 percent, resulting in reduced travel time for motorists. In fact, it is anticipated that once the project is complete, drivers will travel through the 51st Street intersection on average almost four minutes faster than they do today. In addition, the new roundabout design is much safer and expected to reduce the overall crashes by about 35 percent, injury crashes by about 75 percent, and fatal crashes about 90 percent when compared to a traditional signalized intersection.

Details

The 0.9-mile project's construction cost is \$16.5 million. Construction was funded by TxDOT's [Congestion Relief Initiative](#) and local funding provided by the city of Austin. Work began in October 2016 and is expected to be complete in early 2019, weather permitting. The contractor is Capital Excavation Company.

For additional information visit: www.My35Construction.org.