

# I-35 at 51<sup>st</sup> Street

## CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION



### Project Overview

The [51st Street improvement project](#) addressed 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 reduced bottlenecks at the southbound frontage road of I-35 at 51st Street and for east/west traffic, improved connections at the existing U-turn bridge, and improved southbound ramp operations between 51st Street and Airport Boulevard.

The project improved mobility, safety, and connectivity for all modes of transportation along and across I-35. Work included 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 were made within the project limits.



### Construction Phases

Work on this improvement project took place in four phases.

- **Phase I** work included 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 included constructing a new southbound entrance ramp
- **Phase III** work included opening the newly constructed entrance/exit ramps to traffic and completing construction of the southbound I-35 intersection bypass lane
- **Phase IV** work included 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 was complete in June 2018. The contractor is Capital Excavation Company.

For additional information visit: [www.My35Construction.org](http://www.My35Construction.org).