



## Frequently Asked Questions

### How were projects identified to be included in the Hays County Road Improvements?

The County originally identified projects as a part of the 2024 Bond based on the following key benefits:

**Improve Safety and Mobility** by ensuring better connectivity across the county. These Improvements will help to increase safety on existing roadways. Connectivity and safety will be enhanced through the addition of east-west connectors, shoulders along roadways, center turn lanes, and divided lanes.

**Respond to the rapid population growth** of Hays County. Expected to grow 267% by 2045, Hays County plans to meet the increasing demands of an updated and expanded transportation infrastructure.

**Address current infrastructure** by making updates to unchanged roads to ensure all areas are properly served.

**Support economic development** through improved transportation networks that can stimulate economic growth and enhance the overall quality of life.

**Continue long-term planning** and momentum of previous programs that have been developed and will now be built with this program.

### Will current maintenance needs be put on hold if they are a part of the Road Improvements?

No. The County will continue to address all existing maintenance needs. In some cases, more cost-effective or temporary solutions may be used to manage resources wisely. However, urgent maintenance needs will be addressed.

### Why is the Dripping Springs Southwest Connection included?

Dripping Springs and the surrounding areas are experiencing rapid growth, with ongoing construction and expansion taking place each year. As population and traffic demands increase, Hays County has a responsibility to provide safe and reliable transportation for current and future residents.

This study aims to proactively plan for continued growth and development. The need for this connection has been identified in multiple planning efforts, including the 2013 and

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2021 Hays County Transportation Plans, the 2017 RM 150 Character Plan, and the 2014 and 2018 City of Dripping Springs Transportation Plans.

While the County has little control over when and where development occurs, identifying a potential corridor allows for future options if growth continues at the current pace.

## **Why not just expand Creek Road?**

Creek Road was considered alongside other alternatives. However, due to its location within the floodplain, winding alignment, sharp curves, and limited right of way, it was not a viable option for expansion.

## **What will be done to protect the environment and water quality?**

Hays County is committed to protecting the natural environment throughout the planning, design, and construction of transportation projects. All projects must comply with state and federal environmental regulations, including assessments of potential impacts to water resources, wildlife, vegetation, and cultural assets.

In addition, the County conducts its own environmental feasibility studies and works closely with environmental subject matter experts and regulatory agencies to minimize impacts. Best management practices, such as erosion control and stormwater protections, are incorporated into designs, which also consider opportunities to preserve sensitive habitats and support long-term sustainability.

## **Why are projects from all precincts combined in one bond or program?**

There was an identified need for new and improved roadways to address the rapid population growth and lack of east-to-west connectivity in Hays County. The bond program, now the Road Improvements, was designed to bring together projects from all precincts to ensure roads work as a cohesive system rather than isolated segments.

Many of these projects are interconnected or complement efforts by local jurisdictions or TxDOT. Progress in one area supports mobility and safety throughout the county. Combining all precincts into one program allows for a coordinated, efficient strategy to improve transportation and connectivity countywide.

## **If additional right of way is needed, how will property owners be informed?**

The County is committed to maintaining open communication with property owners throughout the development process. We understand the potential impacts of the

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proposed roadway improvements and are committed to working closely with affected landowners.

Right of way acquisition timelines and funding vary by project. More details will be shared as projects move forward. Public engagement opportunities will be held to keep the community informed and involved.

## **What are the next steps for the Road Improvements?**

Hays County Commissioners have issued Certificates of Obligation (COs) to fund the construction, design, improvement, extension, expansion, upgrade, and development of roads across the county, not to exceed \$240 million.

As projects advance, the County will provide more information and updates on next steps as they become available.

## **Where can feedback and questions be submitted?**

You can share feedback with the Road Improvements team by emailing [hello@hayscoroads.com](mailto:hello@hayscoroads.com) or calling (512) 649-0601. The County will regularly update the Road Improvements website with news and engagement opportunities. Visit [HaysCoRoads.com](https://HaysCoRoads.com) for more information.