



7901 N I-35 | Austin, Texas 78753
512.832.7000
www.txdot.gov

March 20, 2026

Herb Darling
Director, Development Services
Burnet County
220 S Pierce St
Burnet, TX 78611

Dear Herb Darling:

TxDOT is hosting a virtual public hearing with in-person option for the US 281 at SH 71 Interchange in Burnet County. The hearing will be posted online **Thursday, April 9, 2026, by 5 p.m.** To participate in the virtual public hearing, please visit www.txdot.gov, keyword search "US 281 at SH 71 Interchange."

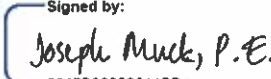
An in-person option is also available on **Thursday, April 9, 2026, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.** at the **Marble Falls High School Commons Area** located at **2101 Mustang Dr, Marble Falls, TX 78654.**

TxDOT is proposing to construct a new interchange at US 281 and SH 71 in Burnet County. Upgrades to this intersection will help improve safety and mobility.

The public hearing will present the environmental findings and provide an opportunity for public comment. A draft environmental assessment will be available for public review by March 25, 2026.

If you would like additional information on the project or have any questions, please contact me at 512-756-2316 or AUS_US281atSH71@txdot.gov.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

964788665901488
Joseph Muck, P.E.
Burnet Area Engineer

cc: Megan Dutton, P.E., Advance Project Development Director, Austin District, TxDOT
Heather Ashley-Nguyen, P.E., Transportation Planning & Development Director, Austin District, TxDOT
Minhdang Bennett, P.E., Project Manager, Austin District, TxDOT
Scott Ford, Environmental Supervisor, Austin District, TxDOT
Kellen Mohrmann, Public Information Officer, Austin District, TxDOT

BURNET COUNTY JUDGE

MAR 23 2026

US 281 at SH 71 INTERCHANGE



Project Details

TxDOT is proposing to construct a new interchange at US 281 and SH 71 in Burnet County. The current cloverleaf interchange uses loop ramps to accommodate left-turning movements. The loop ramps concentrate potential conflict points, and the smaller radius curves are not efficient, especially for trucks.

US 281 functions as a local thoroughfare, commuter highway and as a freight corridor. SH 71 is a critical route from Austin into the Hill Country. This interchange is essential to local and regional mobility of freight and commuter traffic. Upgrades to this interchange will help improve safety and mobility on both roadways.

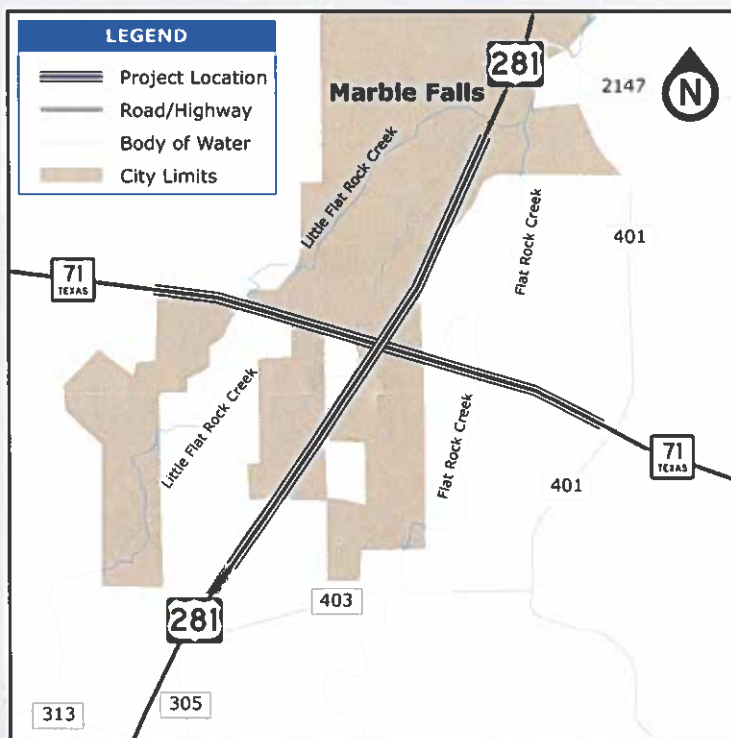
Proposed Project Improvements:

- Replacing the current cloverleaf interchange with a turbine interchange
- Adding elevated structures to improve mobility through the interchange
- Adding frontage roads to separate high-speed through traffic from local traffic
- Adding shared-use paths to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians

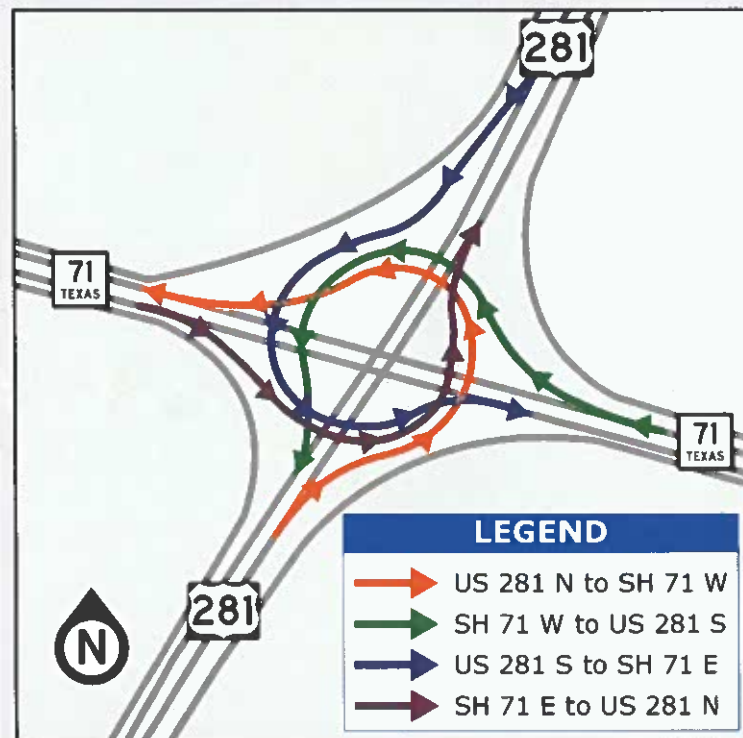
Project Timeline:

The environmental study is anticipated to be complete in 2026.

Project Location Map



Proposed Interchange



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 July 17, 2025, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

Questions or Comments

📞 512-756-2316 ✉️ AUS_US281atSH71@txdot.gov

🌐 www.txdot.gov and search "US 281 at SH 71 Interchange"

January 2026

INTERCAMBIO DE LA US 281 EN LA SH 71



Detalles del proyecto

TxDOT propone construir un nuevo intercambio de la US 281 en la SH 71 en el condado de Burnet. El actual intercambio en forma de trébol utiliza rampas circulares para permitir movimientos de giro a la izquierda. Las rampas circulares concentran los posibles puntos de conflicto, y las curvas más pequeñas no son eficientes, especialmente para camiones.

La US 281 funciona como vía local, carretera de cercanías y corredor de mercancías. La SH 71 es una ruta crítica desde Austin hacia la Hill Country. Este intercambio es esencial para la movilidad local y regional del tráfico de mercancías y cercanías. Las mejoras en este intercambio ayudarán a mejorar la seguridad y a movilidad en ambas vías.

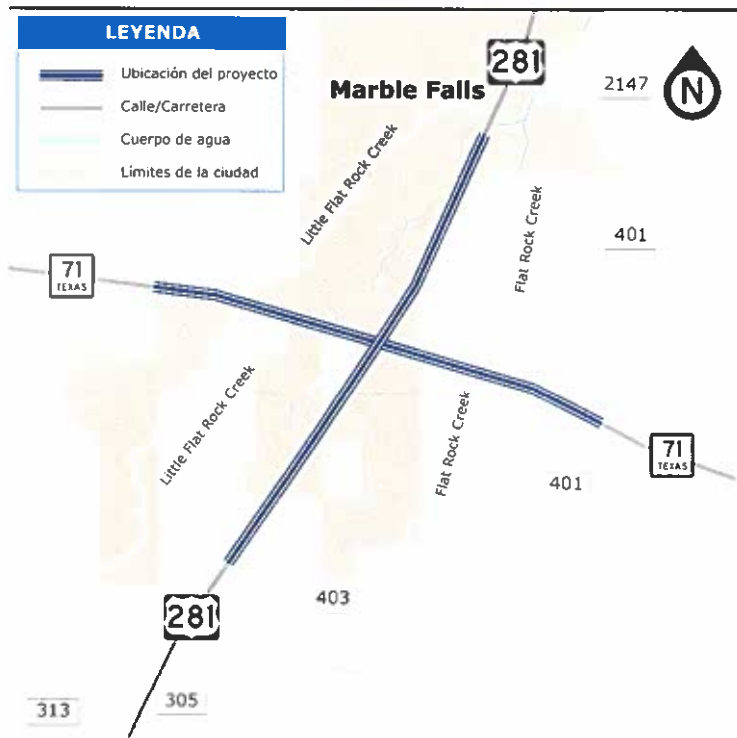
Mejoras propuestas en el proyecto:

- Sustituir el actual intercambio de trébol por uno de turbina
- Añadir estructuras elevadas para mejorar la movilidad a través del intercambio
- Añadir vías de servicio para separar el tráfico de alta velocidad del tráfico local
- Añadir caminos de uso compartido para acomodar a ciclistas y peatones

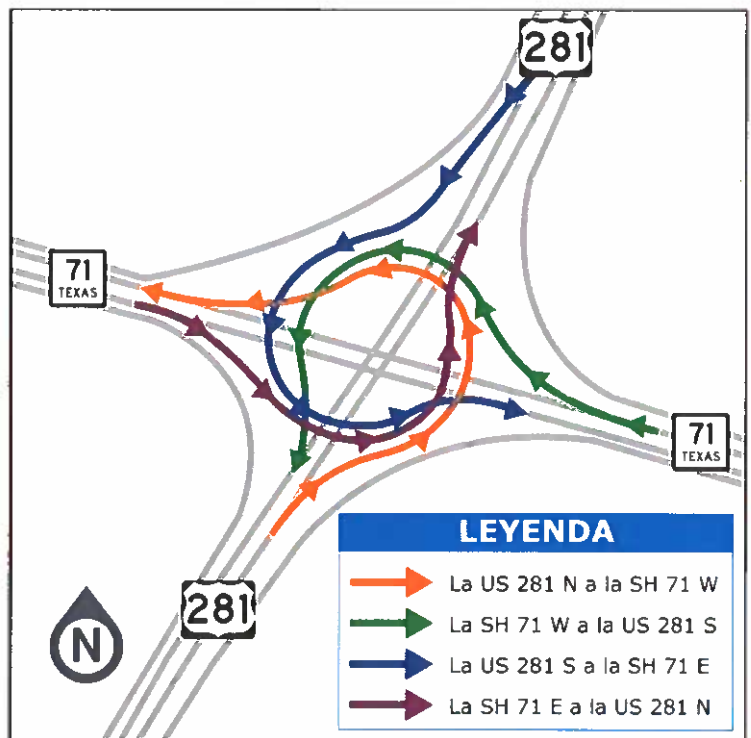
Cronología del proyecto:

Se prevé que el estudio ambiental esté completo en 2026.

Mapa de ubicación del proyecto



Intercambio propuesto



La revisión ambiental, la consulta y otras acciones requeridas por las leyes ambientales federales aplicables para este proyecto están siendo, o han sido, llevadas a cabo por TxDOT de conformidad con 23 U.S.C. 327 y un Memorando de Entendimiento con fecha del 17 de julio de 2025, y ejecutado por FHWA y TxDOT.

Preguntas o comentarios

512-756-2316 AUS_US281atSH71@txdot.gov
www.txdot.gov y búsqueda "US 281 at SH 71 Interchange"

Enero de 2026



Notice

Draft Environmental Assessment and Virtual Public Hearing with In-Person Option

US 281 at SH 71 Interchange

From 1.5 miles north of SH 71 to 2 miles south of SH 71

CSJ: 0252-02-058

Burnet County, Texas

TxDOT is proposing to construct a new interchange at US 281 and SH 71 from 1.5 miles north of SH 71 to 2 miles south of SH 71 in Burnet County, Texas. This notice advises the public that a draft environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review and that TxDOT will be conducting an online virtual public hearing on the proposed project with an in-person option. **The virtual hearing will consist of a pre-recorded video presentation and will include both audio and visual components. The presentation will be posted online by Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 5 p.m. and will remain online until Friday, April 24, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.** To view the virtual public hearing, go to the following web address at the date and time indicated above: www.txdot.gov, keyword search "US 281 at SH 71 Interchange." If you do not have internet access, you may call 512-756-2316 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to ask questions and access project materials during the project development process.

Additionally, TxDOT is providing an in-person option for individuals who would like to participate in person instead of online. The in-person option will be held in an open house format. In-person attendees will be able to view the same presentation delivered in the virtual public hearing, which will be playing on a screen, review hard copies of project materials, ask questions of TxDOT staff and/or consultants, and leave written comments. **The in-person option will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Marble Falls High School Commons Area, 2101 Mustang Drive, Marble Falls, Texas 78654.**

The proposed project includes constructing a new interchange at US 281 and SH 71 in Burnet County. Upgrades to this intersection will help improve safety and mobility. Proposed improvements include replacing the current cloverleaf interchange with a turbine interchange, adding elevated structures to improve mobility through the interchange, adding frontage roads to separate high-speed through traffic from local traffic, and adding shared-use paths to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians.

The proposed project would, subject to final design considerations, require additional right of way and potentially displace one single-family residential structure. Relocation assistance is available for displaced persons and businesses. Information about the TxDOT Relocation Assistance Program and services and benefits for those displaced and other affected property owners, as well as information about the tentative schedule for right-of-way acquisition and construction, can be obtained from the TxDOT district office by calling 512-832-7000.

The proposed project would involve construction in wetlands.

The proposed project would involve an action in a floodplain.

The draft EA, any maps and drawings showing the project location and design, tentative construction schedules, and other information regarding the proposed project are on file and available for inspection Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. TxDOT Burnet Area Office,

3029 E. SH 29, Burnet, Texas 78611. Project materials are also available online at www.txdot.gov, keyword search "US 281 at SH 71 Interchange." These materials will also be available in hard copy form for review at the in-person option.

The virtual public hearing and in-person option will be conducted in English. If you need an interpreter or document translator because English is not your primary language or you have difficulty communicating effectively in English, one will be provided to you. If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. If you need interpretation or translation services or you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend and participate in the virtual public hearing or in-person option, please contact the US 281/SH 71 Interchange Project Team at 512-761-2711 no later than 4 p.m. CT, Monday, April 6, 2026. Please be aware that advance notice is required as some services and accommodations may require time for the Texas Department of Transportation to arrange.

La audiencia pública virtual se llevará a cabo en inglés. Si usted necesita un intérprete o un traductor de documentos porque su idioma principal no es el inglés o tiene alguna dificultad para comunicarse eficazmente en inglés, se le proporcionará uno. Si usted tiene alguna discapacidad y necesita ayuda, se pueden hacer arreglos especiales para atender la mayoría de las necesidades. Si usted necesita servicios de interpretación o traducción o usted es una persona con alguna discapacidad que requiera una adaptación para asistir a y participar en la audiencia pública virtual, favor de contactar al equipo del proyecto del intercambio de la US 281/SH 71, al número 512-761-2711 a más tardar a las 4 p.m. hora central lunes, 6 de abril de 2026. Por favor sepa que es necesario dar aviso con anticipación, ya que algunos servicios y adaptaciones pueden requerir tiempo para que TxDOT los organice.

Written comments from the public regarding the proposed project are requested and may be submitted by mail to TxDOT Austin District, ATTN: US 281 at SH 71, 1949 S I-35 Frontage Rd, Ste 105, Austin, Texas 78741. Written comments may also be submitted by email to AUS_US281atSH71@txdot.gov. **All written comments must be received on or before Friday, April 24, 2026.** Additionally, members of the public may call 512-553-2821 and verbally provide testimony from 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2026, until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, April 24, 2026. Responses to written comments received and public testimony provided will be available online at www.txdot.gov once they have been prepared.

If you have any general questions regarding the proposed project or virtual hearing or in-person option, please contact Joe Muck, P.E., at 512-756-2316 or AUS_US281atSH71@txdot.gov.

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 July 17, 2025, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.