

TxDOT's Long Range Plan
Comments
5-13-10

Williamson County is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, with over a 60% increase in population the last ten years. Due to the fast growth, the county's leaders and citizens have seen the need to build additional roads and other infrastructure. Relieving existing traffic congestion while planning for future development has been a top priority for the Williamson County Commissioner's Court during this period. To date, the county has spent approximately \$500.0 million in voter approved bonds and \$150.0 million in pass-through financing bonds to build needed infrastructure. Out of these funds, over \$350.0 million or 53% have gone to improve state highways.

However, it is clear that the county cannot afford to make all of the needed improvements to the multiple state highways in Williamson County that are overburdened due to increased usage. We call upon the state to examine carefully the manner in which state and federal funds are allocated and spent to accurately take into account the great need in the fast growing areas of the state. We also urge the state to appropriate the needed funds to maintain the state highway system.

To address the congestion and mobility needs in the fast growth urban areas TxDOT needs to put projects on the ground quicker. To do this the process in which environmental clearance is obtained needs to be streamlined and significantly improved.