City of Austin
Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting
April 19, 2016

SH71 Express Project

Introduction

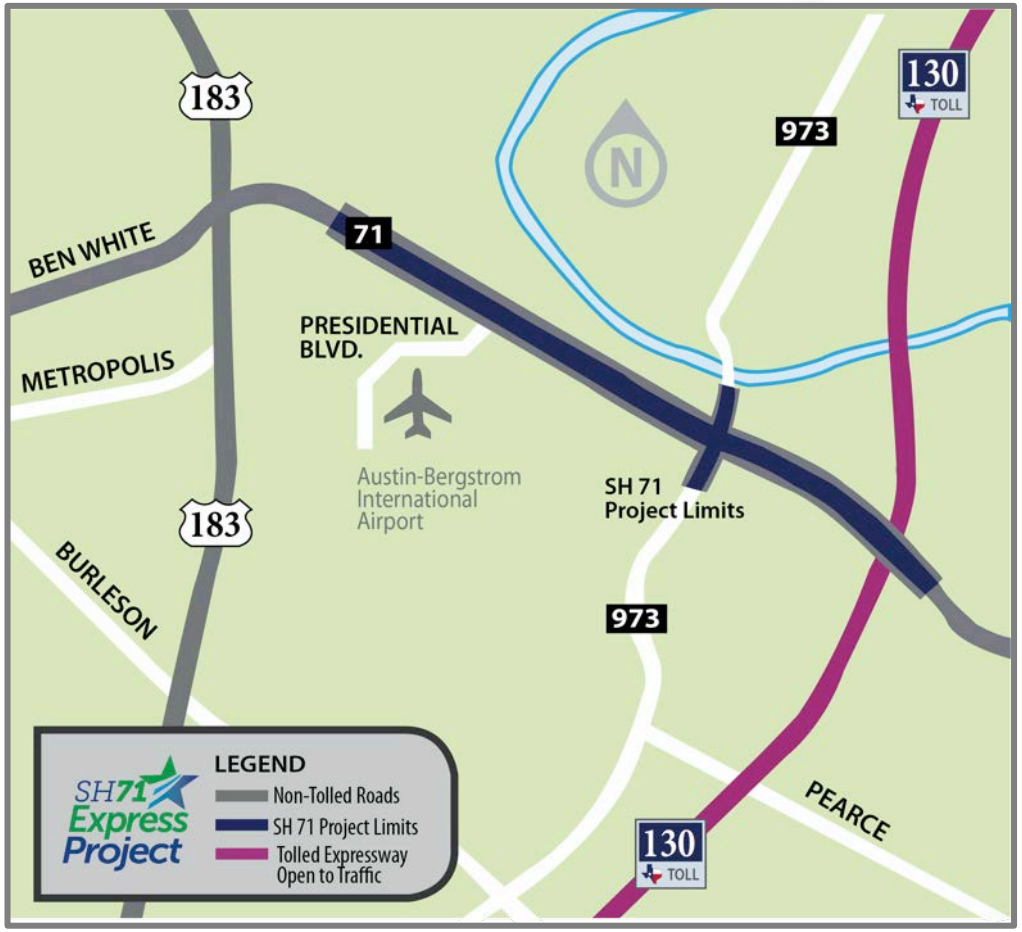
About SH 71

- One of the most important roadways in Austin
- Connects travelers to and from Austin and other central Texas communities
- Traffic increased by 158% over the last 25 years
- Connects travelers to Central Texas communities and Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA)

About the SH 71 Express Project

- 3.9-mile corridor from Presidential Boulevard to SH 130 near Onion Creek
- Goal is to enhance safety and reduce congestion and travel time in the area
- $149 million project

Project Corridor



Meet the Team

www.TxDOT.gov

- Maintains **80,000 miles** of road
- Supports **highway, ferry operations, aviation, rail** and **public transportation** across the state
- Works with others to provide **safe and reliable transportation**
- Uses federal funds, along with state gas tax revenue and other sources to implement statewide programs

TxDOT is responsible for the SH 71 Express Project and is in coordination with the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, who will operate and maintain the toll lanes when they are open

Meet the Team

- Independent government agency
- Created in 2002
- Improves transportation in **Williamson and Travis Counties**
- **Mission:** implement innovative, multi-modal transportation solutions that reduce congestion and create transportation choices that enhance quality of life and economic vitality.
- Responsible for tolling operations of SH 71 Express

CENTRAL TEXAS
Regional Mobility Authority

www.MobilityAuthority.com

Meet the Team

- Design-builder of the SH 71 Express Project
- **9th largest** domestic general contractor in the nation (Engineering News-Record, May 2014) with more than 150 years experience.
- Works closely with its design partner LAN, Inc. to develop the most cost-effective design solutions
- Uses a multi-phased approach with emphasis on maintaining safe traffic flow in the corridor and minimizing impact to adjacent businesses and ABIA

www.McCarthy.com

Project Overview

Improvements include:

- Two new toll lanes (one in each direction)
- Construction of overpasses at SH 130 and FM 973
- Access ramps on and off the new toll lanes and SH 130
- Maintaining and widening existing SH 71 non-tolled general purpose lanes
- Widening FM 973 at SH 71
- Widening Onion Creek Bridge
- Improving pedestrian and bicycle facilities

Project Timeline

Winter/Spring 2015
- SH 71 Express Project breaks ground
- Site preparation and demolition

Summer 2015
- Start construction of the SH 130 overpass
- Widen SH 71 along Onion Creek Bridge

Fall/Winter 2015
- Series of traffic switches along eastbound SH 71 and FM 973 south

Spring 2016
- Construction of the SH 71 eastbound general purpose lanes

Summer 2016
- SH 71 Express opens to traffic

Late 2016
- Full project completion

**Project timeline is subject to change*

SH 71 Before & After

Before

Current SH 71 at FM 973.
There are two separate traffic lights at FM 973 north and south, which play a major role in congestion during peak travel times

After

SH 71 Express at the conclusion of construction.
The SH 71 overpass at FM 973 will reduce congestion and allow through-traffic to travel with ease under the new toll lanes

SH 71 Before & After

Before

Current SH 71 near FM 973.
SH 71 current eastbound and westbound general purpose lanes near the FM 973 intersection

After

SH 71 Express at the conclusion of construction.
The rendering shows tolling equipment, non-tolled SH 71 general purpose lanes, as well as pedestrian and bicycle facilities

SUP Progress

The construction of the shared-use path (SUP) along the SH 71 Express Corridor will improve safety and access to the area and Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. Along with the construction of the shared-use path, cyclist and pedestrians can expect to see improved lighting and crosswalks in the area.

SUP Progress

Traffic Impacts

Visit www.sh71express.com to sign up for detour and project notifications via email.

As road detours, closures, and changes occur, the public will be notified by:

E-Blasts
E-Newsletter
Project Website
Twitter

Haul routes will be utilized throughout the project to minimize traffic impacts.

Minimizing Noise & Dust

The SH 71 Project team will strive to keep a clean construction zone with minimal noise and dust.

To do this, McCarthy Building Companies will:

- Utilize onsite water trucks
- Perform the loud construction work during normal business hours

Complaints about dust and noise may be directed to the project hotline: 1-844-202-7830.

Environmental Protection

A Comprehensive Environmental Protection Plan (CEPP) was created including the following components:

- Environmental Management System
- Environmental Compliance and Mitigation Plan
- Environmental Protection Training Program
- Hazardous Materials Management Plan
- Communication Plan
- Construction Monitoring Plan

Request a Presentation

Do you want to know more about the SH 71 Express Project? Visit www.sh71express.com/contact to request a speaker for your business or organization's next meeting.

Stay Connected

Hotline
1-844-202-7830

Website
www.SH71Express.com

Twitter
@SH71_Express

Sign up to receive e-blasts and the project newsletter including traffic updates and project information:

www.SH71Express.com/contact