



Outer Loop Public Meeting

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Rockwall County Outer Loop?

The purpose of an outer loop will be to increase mobility in the region by creating the next ring roadway further from the Dallas city center and provide a much needed North-South connection in Rockwall County. The loop will extend from Denton and Collin County, through Rockwall County and into Kaufman and Dallas Counties. In 2002 Collin County initiated a study for the Outer Loop alignment within their County. The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is coordinating with Kaufmann County to determine an alignment for the limits within their county.

Why are we planning for this now?

Rockwall County is experiencing a period of unprecedented growth in both population and land development. The Outer Loop is being studied at this time so that the County can proactively determine a preferred route location and begin to preserve future right-of-way. In choosing their preferred route location, the County's desired location will be included in the Rockwall County Thoroughfare Plan and the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Regional Thoroughfare Plan. Inclusion in the County's Thoroughfare Plan will facilitate efforts to preserve future right-of-way for the Outer Loop. Inclusion in the Regional Thoroughfare Plan is necessary in order to provide the potential for future funding for the planning, design or construction phases of the project.

What will the roadway look like?

The proposed roadway section has not been determined at this time. We are planning for a 500 ft right of way. Depending what entity builds the facility, when the facility is constructed and the projected traffic volumes, it could be a parkway type section or a highway section. It may or may not have frontage roads. The corridor is being planned for roadway traffic only. (no rail)

What is the Trans Texas Corridor?

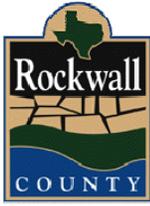
The Trans-Texas Corridor (TTC) is a proposed multi-use, statewide network of transportation routes in Texas that will incorporate existing and new highways, railways and utility right-of-ways. Specific routes for the TTC have not been determined.

As envisioned, each route will include:

- separate lanes for passenger vehicles and large trucks
- freight railways
- high-speed commuter railways
- infrastructure for utilities including water lines, oil and gas pipelines, and transmission lines for electricity, broadband and other telecommunications services

Plans call for the TTC to be completed in phases over the next 50 years with routes prioritized according to Texas' transportation needs. TxDOT will oversee planning, construction and ongoing maintenance, although private vendors will be responsible for much of the daily operations. (TTC website www.keeptexasmoving.com)

Recently TTC-35 identified a preferred corridor that parallels IH 35 south of the DFW metroplex and that veers east and passes through Rockwall County.



Outer Loop Public Meeting

Currently, NCTCOG is supporting a modal split if the TTC enters the metro area (of which Rockwall County is included). This would mean that roadways and railways would not necessarily share the same right-of-way.

How will the Outer Loop relate to the Trans Texas Corridor?

The outer loop is being planned independently from the Trans Texas Corridor (TTC). If it is ultimately determined that the TTC will enter Rockwall County, TTC funds could be viewed as a potential funding source to construct the roadway along the Outer Loop alignment. As the TTC crosses the state, planners are seeking to determine a likely route that would impact communities and the environment as little as possible; the “path of least resistance.” With a 500’ wide route already identified in Rockwall County it would seem unlikely that the TTC would seek a separate / additional alignment within the county.

An additional benefit of advance planning is that the County may have greater control of where and how the TTC could enter Rockwall County. The County supports a maximum potential right of way of 500’. The County considers the TTC as an opportunity to fund construction of the Outer Loop as long as the product is consistent with the County’s desires.

What is the planning / design / construction timeline?

The purpose of the current planning study is to generally identify a corridor location so that the Outer Loop can be included in the Rockwall County Thoroughfare Plan and North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Regional Thoroughfare Plan. Further work beyond this initial planning stage has not been funded or specifically undertaken. By placing the corridor on the Regional Thoroughfare Plan, it will be recognized by TxDOT and NCTCOG as a planned roadway seeking additional funding. The actual design and construction schedule of the Outer Loop will be dependent on an entity (public or private) funding further progress. The timeline for this is presently unknown.

Will it be a toll road?

It is possible that the Outer Loop will be a toll road, but tolling is not the only funding source under consideration. The corridor will likely be evaluated for toll feasibility with traffic and revenue studies at some point in the future. Whether the Outer Loop is tolled or not tolled will depend whether TxDOT or some other entity ultimately constructs the roadway.

For Additional Information Regarding the Rockwall County Outer Loop please contact:

Dan Chapman, P.E., Project Manager
Emily Crom, Project Planner
Bucher, Willis & Ratliff Corporation
(214) 373-7873

