



COLLIN COUNTY

NORTHEAST FREEWAY

PROJECT FAQ AND GLOSSARY

2025

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1. Where can I find more information about the study?

Visit www.collincountynortheastfreeway.com for more information about the study.

2. Who is leading the study?

Collin County has partnered with LJA Engineering, Inc., to develop the preliminary design and environmental studies for a new freeway primarily on new location connecting State Highway 121 with the future U.S. 380 Princeton Freeway in Collin County, Texas.

Collin County is also coordinating with local governments and other agencies such as the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWD), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Texas Historic Commission (THC), to help ensure a regional approach to transportation planning.

By leading the schematic design and environmental study, Collin County will be able to better respond to local concerns and sensitive issues.

3. Why is this study being conducted?

Communities in Collin County are growing rapidly. As growth and development continue to move north and east, transportation improvements will be needed to address the increasing population and traffic. The Collin County Northeast Freeway is being studied to:

- ▶ Plan for future growth. Collin County is projected to grow immensely in the next few years and planning for growth is important to consider sooner rather than later.
- ▶ Enhance regional mobility. The current road network in the study area was not designed for the anticipated traffic growth. An additional high-capacity north-south corridor through this part of the county will improve mobility and travel times.
- ▶ Preserve land needed for a future corridor. Upon receiving environmental clearance at the end of this study, the County will be able to preserve the necessary land for the corridor to safeguard it from future development.

Transportation projects can require years of advanced planning and development, which is why the County must plan now for the growth it expects in the future.

4. What is the status of the project?

The Collin County Northeast Freeway is in the Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study phase of project development. The current study began in the summer of 2025 and is expected to last two years.

5. Has a route already been chosen?

No decisions have been made for the final alignment for this roadway.

6. What is a no build alternative?

The study team is evaluating the future impacts to the study area if no new freeway is built, but projected population and traffic continue to grow. The analysis will also account for other roadway improvements in the study area and will assess whether transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and other modes and methods to manage travel demand would be able to independently address the identified needs. The no build alternative is used as the baseline for comparison of the build alternatives.

7. What is a schematic?

A schematic is a layout that includes the basic information necessary for proper review and evaluation of a proposed roadway improvement. Among other items, a schematic includes:

- ▶ Project location and limits.
- ▶ Traffic volumes, both existing and projected.
- ▶ Proposed main lanes, ramps, frontage roads, bridges, and cross streets.
- ▶ Horizontal and vertical alignments with curves, elevations, grades, and vertical clearances.
- ▶ Existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

8. When will the route be finalized?

We anticipate announcing the Preferred Alignment in Spring/Summer 2026. Two public meetings will be held and a public hearing to determine an alignment.

9. How will a final decision be made?

The study team, guided by Collin County in partnership with LJA Engineering, Inc., is following the locally-approved environmental process to evaluate potential environmental impacts and develop the schematic design. An extensive evaluation matrix has been developed and input from the public and local cities will be considered heavily. This process will point us to the technically and locally preferred alternative that best meets the purpose and need of the study while minimizing potential impacts.

10. How will the community be involved and how will public input be considered?

Public input is critical to this project and has and will continue to be used to help identify constraints and concerns in the study area. Comments from the public will also be considered as modifications continue to be made to the alternatives under consideration.

11. Additionally, the study team will continue to meet with stakeholders in the study area including local governments, neighborhood groups, property owners, and other interested parties.

Making the Collin County Northeast Freeway a reality will take time. Following environmental clearance, the County may move forward with final design and development of detailed construction plans, cost estimates, and the acquisition of right of way. Utility coordination will occur throughout the schematic and final design, with utility relocations, where needed, occurring prior to the start of roadway construction. Final design and right-of-way acquisition could take several more years before construction could begin.

Construction would be phased over time. For example, frontage roads may be built first, and then the main lanes of a freeway over time as demand increases. Construction cannot begin until full funding is

secured. Construction funding for this project has not been identified.

12. How is this project related to the other “Outer Loop” projects in the region?

While the Collin County Northeast Freeway is an independent project, it is also part of a larger system of proposed freeways that will link together to form corridor connectivity across many counties. Visit here to learn more: www.collincountynortheastfreeway.com/resources

13. What are the start/end points for the Collin County Northeast Freeway?

The logical termini for the Collin County Northeast Freeway have been identified as SH 121 on the north and the future US 380 Princeton Freeway to the south.

14. What previous studies were used to evaluate the study area?

The Collin County Northeast Freeway study process began with mapping known existing and future constraints throughout the study area and evaluating the following previous studies:

- ▶ Collin County Outer Loop
- ▶ Denton County Outer Loop
- ▶ State Highway 121
- ▶ US 380 Princeton

15. Are you coordinating with other agencies?

Collin County and the study team are coordinating closely with federal, state, and local agencies throughout the process, including the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), NRCS/TSSWCD, the Texas Department of Transportation Dallas District (TxDOT-DAL), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Historic Commission, as well as the study area cities of Anna, Blue Ridge, Melissa, McKinney, Princeton and others.

16. How would this roadway make the road network safer?

Due to growth in traffic and population, along with existing roadways being at-grade and undivided, it is anticipated that the study area will experience an increasing number of high-injury and fatal crashes. A grade-separated freeway with median provides safer design features for the larger volume of traffic expected in the region and draws traffic off of facilities that cannot handle high volumes of traffic.

17. Will this roadway be a tollway?

No, tolling is not being considered as an option for funding.

18. Will any of the alternatives under consideration require displacements?

All alternatives would require displacements, including residences and businesses. The study team has been working to reduce the number of displacements in each segment. However, some displacements cannot be avoided as Collin County and LJA Engineering, Inc., are required to comply with state and federal design standards for a freeway facility.

19. How can Collin County address future development?

Collin County and adjoining counties have become an attractive location for new commercial and residential developments, which can make it difficult to identify land needed for future transportation improvements. Collin County cannot fully regulate development in the study area but is taking it into consideration for future planning. Early planning and public involvement are important for maximizing mobility benefits, identifying and developing potential transportation options, evaluating and mitigating possible impacts, and preserving right-of-way needed for potential improvements.

20. How can I receive updates about the study? Who do I contact if I have questions?

You can sign-up to receive study updates on the website at www.collincountynortheastfreeway.com.

The study team can be contacted with questions by emailing Contact@collincountynortheastfreeway.com, calling 945-766-0817, or by visiting the project website.

21. Where can I find information about future public involvement?

Formal notices will be sent to those in the project area by mail, as well as published in the local newspapers. Interested parties can sign up for notifications by email on the website. Information about future public meetings will also be posted on the project website at www.collincountynortheastfreeway.com as well as the Collin County project website.