

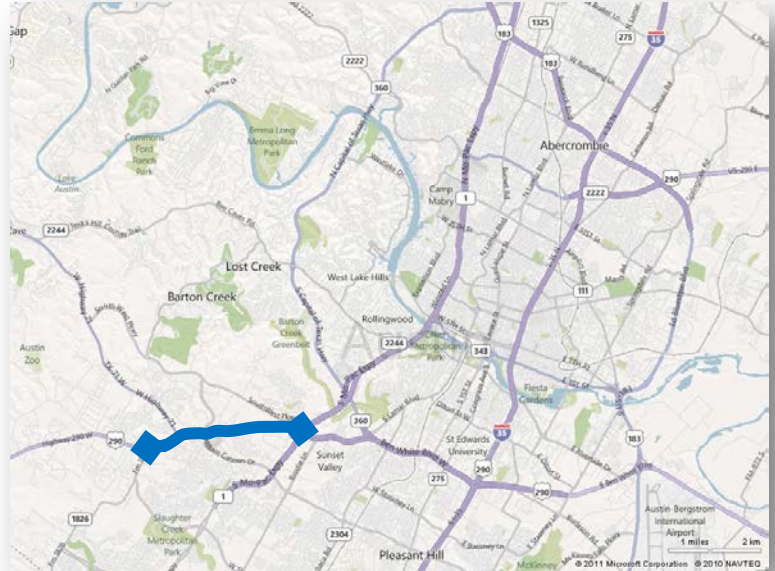
US 290

Loop 1 to RM 1826

Current Conditions

Between Loop 1 (MoPac) and RM 1826, US 290 operates with four lanes in each direction. The highway is a main route for commuters headed into Austin from Dripping Springs and the surrounding suburban areas west of the Oak Hill “Y” (the intersection of SH 71 and US 290). This section of 290 experiences congestion throughout the day, but particularly during peak commuter periods and on weekends.

- Segment Length: 3.9 miles
- Road Type: 3 to 6-Lane highway
- Annual Hrs of Delay: 444,000
- Texas Congestion Index: 1.49
- Commuter Stress Index: 1.63



Possible Congestion Causes

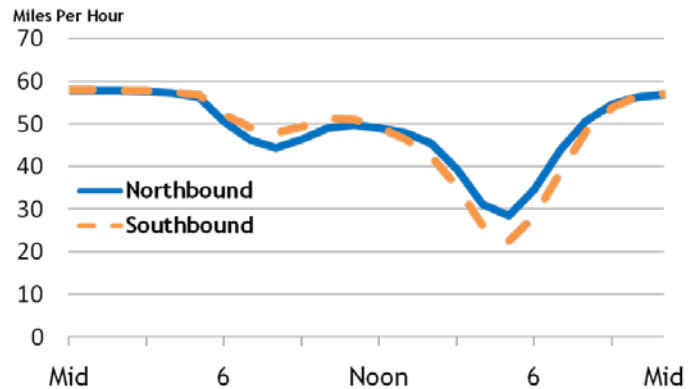
US 290 is the main highway for residents of southwest Travis County to access employment and commercial centers in downtown Austin and the surrounding areas. Additionally, several commercial and major retail destinations are accessible from 290, using several turn lanes and driveways. The rapid growth of Austin over the last several decades has exacerbated traffic congestion on US 290, as the city has nearly doubled in size every 20 years. Land uses, including commercial developments, contribute to the limited right-of-way, complicating expansion plans. Congestion appears to be the worst at the “Oak Hill Y”, where two state highways (US 290 and SH 71) merge into a single highway and run concurrently on the south side of Austin until they reach IH 35 where they split.

Projects in Progress or Completed

US 290/Loop 1 Interchange

TxDOT is planning to install the final two direct connect ramps (DCs) at the Loop 1/US 290 interchange (westbound US 290 to southbound Loop 1 and southbound Loop 1 to eastbound US 290). These DCs will provide a more direct

2010 Rank: 43	2013 Rank: 102
Annual Hrs of Delay/Mile: 113,000	
Congestion Time: 8 Hours	
Annual Cost of Delay: \$8.6 Million	
Average Daily Traffic: 53,000 Vehicles	



non-stop route for some travelers heading to and from southwest Austin destinations; this could decrease traffic on Loop 360 between Loop 1 and US 290.

Oak Hill Y Improvements

US 290 innovative intersection improvements at the Y in Oak Hill.

Planning Efforts to Date

Expressway Conversion

The City of Austin and TxDOT are undertaking a project to turn US 290 into an expressway. The Oak Hill Expressway will run from Circle Drive to Loop 1, and will be a 6-lane tolled freeway. The project is in the environmental phase as the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) works to develop an environmental document for mobility improvements to the existing US 290 West/SH 71 interchange. CTRMA and TxDOT are currently anticipating a 2016 environmental decision.

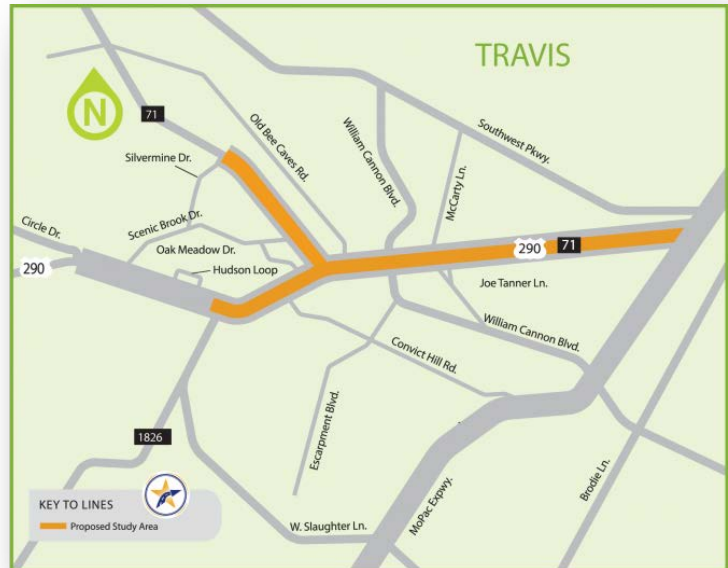
The agencies are preparing a comment summary and determining which concepts will be revised or created based on current feedback. Both are coordinating with the FIX 290 group to develop an additional alternative consistent with the stakeholder's vision.

Transit Service Options

Capital Metro is studying transit alternatives on US 290 including future express and bus rapid transit service and the potential for a new park-and-ride lot; however, there is limited available real estate for the development of a transit facility in the correct ridership catchment zone.

Public Engagement & Communication in the Austin Region

TxDOT and the Mobility Authority began hosting public open houses in November 2012, and have plans for additional open house meetings for those interested in learning more about the Oak Hill Parkway. Attendees will have the



OakHillParkway.com

opportunity to review materials, speak with TxDOT and Mobility Authority staff and project planners and provide feedback.

Public workshops have included the design alternatives, environmental process, and bicycle/pedestrian facility development. The agencies held a virtual open house in May 2013, and will have an additional public open house in October 2013.

Next Steps

- The **US 290 environmental study** (also called The Oak Hill Parkway) is a combined effort of the CTRMA, TxDOT, Capital Metro, the City of Austin, and Travis County to address congestion at the intersection of US 290 and SH 71. The Study area will be from Loop 1 to west of FM 1826 along US 290 West and to Silvermine Drive along SH 71. The study should be completed in 2016.
- To expedite mobility improvements in the area, the project team has developed a **two-part strategy including interim intersection improvements** at Joe Tanner Lane, William Cannon Drive, US 290/SH 71 West, Convict Hill Road and FM 1826. These projects will be advertised for construction in late 2012 and early 2013.