

# U.S. Highway 281 Task Force Updates: Historic Preservation

April 13, 2023



# Overview

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- TxDOT has plans to expand Hwy 281 from the Comal County Line to Hwy 290
- A relief route is being studied to help reduce the number of vehicles traveling
- Requested studies on environmental impact, waterways, and cultural study

Creation of a 281 Expansion Task Force on  
August 9, 2022



# TF Meetings thus far..

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- September 16, 2022
- October 24, 2022
- January 19, 2023
- March 16, 2023

## 9/16/22 Meeting Recording

<https://youtu.be/5xrt8kPTjpY>

## 10/24/22 Meeting Recording

[https://youtu.be/qiVb43\\_Dmw](https://youtu.be/qiVb43_Dmw)

## 01/19/23 Meeting Recording

<https://youtu.be/JDAV20aow6w>

## 03/16/23 Meeting Recording

<https://youtu.be/qNm4ixk-R68>

### Other Meetings:

COB Town Hall: HWY 281 Updates - July 19, 2022

Chamber's Blanco US 281 Information Presentation - August 22, 2022

TxDOT Open House - September 29, 2022



# Communications and Outreach Plan

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The purpose of the Plan is to provide a “roadmap,” timeline, and responsible parties for all internal and external communications, stakeholder outreach and coordination, and media/press information associated with Blanco’s engagement with TXDOT, all stakeholders and this major project.



# Subcommittees

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The task force includes the Police Chief, City attorney and engineer, Council members, the Chamber, the Historic Preservation Commission, the Courthouse, businesses, citizens, and more.

Safety  
Economic  
Historic  
Environmental  
Engineering/Operational  
PIO/Media



# Subcommittee Chairs

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- Safety
  - Chief Scott Rubin, City of Blanco Police Chief
    - [policechief@cityofblancotx.gov](mailto:policechief@cityofblancotx.gov)
    - 830-833-4375
- Economic
  - Libbey Aly, Chamber of Commerce
    - [libbey@blancochamber.com](mailto:libbey@blancochamber.com)
    - 830-833-5101
- Historic
  - Jo Nell Haas, Blanco County Historic Preservation/Twin Sisters
    - [jonellskids@yahoo.com](mailto:jonellskids@yahoo.com)
    - 210-325-7494
- Environmental
  - Kenneth Welch, Blanco County Resident
    - [KRWelch@moment.net](mailto:KRWelch@moment.net)
    - 830-392-0613
- Engineering/Operational
  - Byron Sanderfer, City of Blanco Engineer-Ardurra
    - [bsanderfer@ardurra.com](mailto:bsanderfer@ardurra.com)
    - 210-822-2232
- PIO/Media
  - Mayor Rachel Lumpee, City of Blanco Mayor
    - [mayor@cityofblancotx.gov](mailto:mayor@cityofblancotx.gov)
    - 830-833-4525 x100
    - 830-330-1904



# Brings us to today..

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- Encourage citizens to look around their properties to see if there are any historical significance such as buildings, rock fences/walls, cisterns, wells, water sources, trees that have historical significance, ranches, and cemeteries.
- Map all historic landmarks, ranches, and structures along HWY 281 on a large map.



# Next steps...

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## Public involvement is crucial!

- More Town Halls
- TXDot Public Meeting - Summer 2023
- Continue gathering historic designations within the City and County
- Identify all environmental issues
- Begin developing community priorities
- Look into financing options for the relief route





# State & Federal Officials Contact Information

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Ellen Troxclair, Texas House Representative, District 19  
512-463-0490

[ellen@troxclair.com](mailto:ellen@troxclair.com)

<https://house.texas.gov/members/member-page/?district=19>

Donna Campbell, Texas Senate, District 25  
830-626-0065

[donna.campbell@senate.texas.gov](mailto:donna.campbell@senate.texas.gov)

<https://senate.texas.gov/member.php?d=25>

Chip Roy, U.S. Representative, District 21  
210-821-5024

[Roy.house.gov](http://Roy.house.gov)

John Cornyn, U.S. Senate  
512-469-6034

[www.cornyn.senate.gov](http://www.cornyn.senate.gov)

Ted Cruz, U.S. Senate  
512-916-5834

[www.cruz.sen](http://www.cruz.sen)

Contact your state and federal officials!



# Helpful Links:

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City of Blanco Hwy 281 Task Force Website Page  
<https://cityofblancotx.gov/highway-281-task-force>

TxDOT US 281 Blanco County Project Virtual Public Meeting Portal  
<https://www.txdot.gov/content/txdotreimagine/us/en/home/projects/hearings-meetings/austin/us281-blanco-county-project.html>

TxDOT US 281 Blanco Relief Route Feasibility Study  
<https://www.txdot.gov/projects/projects-studies/austin/us281-blanco-relief-route.html>

Fredericksburg Transportation Project Website  
<https://www.fbgtx.org/987/Transportation>

TxDOT US 281 Hamilton Relief Route Feasibility Study and Widening Project  
<https://www.txdot.gov/content/txdotreimagine/us/en/home/projects/hearings-meetings/waco/us-281-hamilton-relief-route.html>



We are all in this together. We all love Blanco and want what's best. Let's work together to come up with the best solution for all.

