

The Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT's) Statewide Rural Connectivity Initiative is focused on systematically upgrading rural corridors on the Texas Highway Trunk System (TTS) to four-lane divided or better highways.

The TTS provides safe, reliable, high-speed travel between economic activity centers – e.g., major cities, oil and gas production areas, deep-draft sea ports, land ports of entry, and agricultural areas - in Texas while supporting the economic health of communities along the corridors. These communities along rural connectivity corridors are defined as small and medium size cities outside urbanized areas that benefit from improved access to markets throughout the state.

The Statewide and Rural Connectivity Task Force guides and provides strategic direction on the prioritization of Key Corridors on the TTS for upgrade to four lane divided or better highways.



US 281 from San Antonio to I-20 is one of the key corridors identified by the Statewide and Rural Connectivity Program for improvement to a four-lane divided corridor. This key corridor connects north and central Texas communities and cities, addresses anticipated congestion and high growth along the corridor, is a potential truck diversion route for I-35, and shares designation with the National Highway System (NHS) and the energy sector.

Key Corridor Supports Texas' Economic Prosperity and Communities



Socio-economic Demographics

5.9 M people **2.6 M jobs**

Source: 2023, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau
Includes county that the corridor traverse plus adjacent county



Support Military Sector's Contribution to Texas GDP*

\$59.3 B

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (2023 GDP in current dollars)
Includes military establishments.



Annual Average Daily Traffic

2K - 47K

Source: 2023 TxDOT Roadway Inventory Annual Data



Support Wholesale & Retail Trade Sector's Contribution to Texas GDP*

\$54.2 B

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (2022 GDP in current dollars)
Includes establishments engaged in wholesaling and retailing of merchandise, generally without transformation and rendering services incidental to the sale of merchandise.



Annual Average Daily Truck Traffic

200 - 4K (~11% of all traffic)

Source: 2023 TxDOT Roadway Inventory Annual Data



Support Manufacturing Sector's Contribution to Texas GDP*

\$33.1 B

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (2022 GDP in current dollars)
Includes establishments engaged in the mechanical, physical, or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products.

* Includes county that the corridor traverse plus adjacent county

Key Corridor Characteristics

The Texas Highway Trunk System (TTS) is a network of rural highways that aims to improve rural mobility, connect major activity centers (i.e., connections to communities over 20,000 population and connections to commerce), and provide access to ports of entry into Texas. The goal is to upgrade these highways to 4-lane or better divided highways.

Summary of Corridor Progress



Total Corridor Length

204 mi

To TTS Standards

4+ Lane Divided

55 mi (27%)

Not to TTS Standards

2 Lanes

120 mi

Not to TTS Standards

4 Lanes Undivided

29 mi

Total

149 mi

Source: 2023 TxDOT Roadway Inventory Annual Data

Safety Along Corridor

In 2023, statewide rural crashes occur 1.8 times as often on undivided highways than on divided highways. Rural undivided roadways account for 2 in 3 rural crashes and 3 in 4 rural fatalities.

Between 2019-2023



Number of Crashes
3,543

Number of Fatal Crashes
56

Source: TxDOT Crash Records Information System (CRIS)



Investments Needed to Address Crash Hotspots
\$757.8 M (High-level Estimates)

Source: TxDOT Road Inventory and TxDOT Crash Records Information System (CRIS)
Connecting Texas 2050 Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan

Crash hotspots are locations where crash rates are equal to or higher than 90 crashes per hundred million VMT.

Corridor Project Summary



Completed (Since 2019)
0 mi

Source: Sitemanager



Under Construction
1.8 mi (\$24.7 M)

Source: 2025 UTP, Sitemanager, TxDOTCONNECT



Fully Funded
86.6 mi (\$1,463.2 M)

Source: 2025 UTP, TxDOTCONNECT



Partial/Unfunded
108.3 mi (\$416.9 M)

Source: 2025 UTP, TxDOTCONNECT

Project tracking since 2019, following the identification of key corridors.
Project data verified by TxDOT Districts and TPP-UTP. Mileage includes sum of all project lengths. Cost includes sum of Estimated Construction Cost.