

9. LIBERTY COUNTY MOBILITY STUDY UPDATE

BACKGROUND

The Liberty County Mobility Study was funded through the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and was purposed with examining existing transportation conditions and recommending multi-modal improvements intended to manage growth, maintain mobility and focus on safety of the transportation system for all users within Liberty County, with special emphasis on conditions in and around the cities of Cleveland, Dayton and Liberty.

The study began in October 2020 and ended in September 2022. A Steering Committee consisting of the county, the three cities and TxDOT met five times to help compile issues and review recommendations. The study was also informed by two rounds of public involvement, two rounds of stakeholder meetings (representing school, health, emergency, business and faith interests in both the Cleveland and Dayton/Liberty regions of the county) and multiple one-on-one meetings with the county, the three cities, and other interests such as railroads, developers, the Greater Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, and the Brazos Transit District.

The study utilized an online engagement platform– <https://engage.h-gac.com/liberty-county-mobility-study> – to collect public comments on existing concerns and to allow review and commenting on draft recommendations using a variety of interactive tools.

CURRENT SITUATION

Study recommendations include both short-term and long-term improvements for specific intersections and roadway corridors throughout the county. The total cost for improvements is estimated to be \$965 million with a total benefit of \$3 billion, and a Benefit-Cost Ratio of 3.1. Additionally, the study recommends a bypass around Dayton as a long-term improvement that should be studied in further detail, and identifies several priority thoroughfares that are likely to play a critical role in the future mobility of the county.

The study also recommends that the county and the three cities continue to work with TxDOT, H-GAC and the Brazos Transit District on future studies and other initiatives to improve active transportation and transit options within the county. Finally, it is recommended that Liberty County incorporate new platting and development standards into its subdivision recommendations and conduct a comprehensive update of its thoroughfare plan to better manage future growth.

The study is complete and H-GAC Staff is working with the consultant to review and complete the final report. Copies of the final report will be distributed to Liberty County, the cities of Cleveland, Dayton and Liberty, and TxDOT Beaumont District.

ACTION REQUESTED

For Information and Discussion