



## ROUND ROCK CHAMBER

### Position Statement in Support of Williamson County's November 2019 Bond Election Adopted by the Round Rock Chamber Board (September 26, 2019)

**Position Statement:** The Round Rock Chamber supports the November 2019 Williamson County Bond Election for \$447 million for important community and infrastructure investments. The Chamber recognizes such investments in transportation and community amenities are necessary in our growing city, and support economic growth and workforce development efforts. The bond election includes two propositions:

*Proposition A will authorize the county to issue and sell bonds not to exceed \$412 million for the purpose of constructing, improving, extending, expanding, upgrading and/or developing roads and other transportation-related improvements.*

*Proposition B will authorize the county to issue and sell bonds not to exceed \$35 million for the purpose of constructing, improving, renovating, acquiring land, buildings and facilities for park and recreational purposes including, but not limited to, parkland, open space/preserve land, trail 2019 BOND ELECTION ROAD PROJECTS acquisition, pedestrian and bike trail improvements*

#### Background:

- During its September 12 meeting, the Chamber's Infrastructure Council unanimously voted to recommend to the Round Rock Chamber board to endorse the November 2019 Williamson County Bond Election.
- As stated in our *Agenda for Economic Vitality*, the overarching purpose of the Chamber is to help its investors, and the business community at large, succeed by creating a dynamic and growing economy. One of the ways we adhere to this promise is by taking positions and working on vital issues that ensure the Round Rock and surrounding areas stay optimally situated for economic growth and business success. One such issue is our growing county's infrastructure needs.
- The entire Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is experiencing a population boom. As seen in the attached graphic, Williamson County is growing "at a faster rate that the region as a whole," with the county's population expected to reach 900,000 by



### POPULATION BOOM

The Austin-Round Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Williamson County, is projected to **double in population** between 2000 and 2030. At the same time, Williamson County is expected to **grow at a faster rate** than the region as a whole.

Williamson County's population is expected to reach

**900,000**  
by 2035

This is the equivalent of adding **FIVE NEW CITIES** with the current population of Round Rock.



SOURCE: WILLIAMSON COUNTY LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN/  
COMMUNITY IMPACT NEWSPAPER



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2035. As the population continues to grow, so does the need for ensuring an adequate infrastructure.

- By addressing its infrastructure, the county will ensure that local communities, including Round Rock, continue to flourish. The proposed bond package was developed through a thoughtful process that began in March 2019 with a Citizens Bond Committee which held at least six public meetings before presenting its recommendation to the Commissioners Court in June 2019.
- Six Round Rock roads projects are included in the proposed bond package. In addition to addressing critical traffic and regional mobility, the proposed bond package also addresses quality of life in Williamson County by investing in the county's parks and related facilities.

### Facts from the [Williamson County November 5, 2019 Bond Election](#) webpage:

- On March 5, the Williamson County Commissioners formed a Citizens Bond Committee to discuss future needs for county roads and parks. The purpose of a Williamson County Citizens Bond Committee was to review and analyze the infrastructure needs of Williamson County to determine if the county should consider a bond election and to propose projects for potential funding with the bonds.
- On June 6, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend holding a bond election and compiled a list of road projects totaling \$573,335,300 and parks and trails projects totaling \$67,594,960 for the Commissioners Court to consider.
- The Commissioners Court, after study and deliberations, reduced the proposed road bond amount not to exceed \$412 million and the proposed park bond amount not to exceed \$35 million. The Commissioners Court considers public input, safety, mobility, matching funds provided by Williamson County cities, and how the proposed projects fit into the County's roadway and parks long-range plans when selecting projects.
- Williamson County has had successful voter approved bond elections in 2000, 2006 and 2013. In those elections, county voters passed bond packages for roads that completed 165 projects adding 301 new capacity lane miles and a total of nearly 551 lane miles constructed. The park bonds secured 3,559.5 acres of parks and preserves, 37 miles of trails, and expanded facilities at the Expo Center and at county parks.
- **Williamson County estimates that passage of the two bond propositions will not result in an increase in the county's debt service tax rate.**