

Master Thoroughfare Plan Q&A: What Does it Mean for Eldorado Parkway, US 380 and other Roads in McKinney?

What is the Master Thoroughfare Plan (MTP)?

The Master Thoroughfare Plan defines the network of existing and future roads deemed appropriate to accommodate the various levels of vehicular traffic expected in McKinney. These anticipated needs are based on the preferred growth and development pattern that is defined as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan which is approved by the City Council after community input.

Completion of the roadway network is something that will occur over long periods of time through a series of capital improvement program funded projects (i.e. City-initiated construction projects), land owner agreements (partnerships between the City and developers), and developer-constructed roads. In other words, the MTP only shows general locations of where and what types of roadways are necessary to serve the community's traffic needs, but it does not outline the timing for when those roads should be or will be constructed.

The City of McKinney's current MTP can be found in Chapter 8 of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan. You can view the currently adopted Comprehensive Plan at: <http://www.mckinneytexas.org/292/Comprehensive-Plan>

Why does the city need a Master Thoroughfare Plan?

The major benefits provided by the Master Thoroughfare Plan include:

- Identifying roadway needs in advance of new development or as it occurs
- Identifying needed roadways to accommodate traffic from adjacent land use or development patterns
- Limiting the potential for high traffic volumes on neighborhood streets
- Anticipating when funds must be programmed for needed roadway improvements
- Reducing the potential negative effects due to increased traffic congestion

Is tree conservation/beautification, etc. addressed in the MTP?

Also included with the MTP is a series of illustrations (known as conceptual cross-sections) that describe how each type of road in McKinney should look. In general, cross-sections illustrate how many lanes each road should have, how wide the medians should be, and how wide the parkways should be. An example of a conceptual cross-section can be seen below:

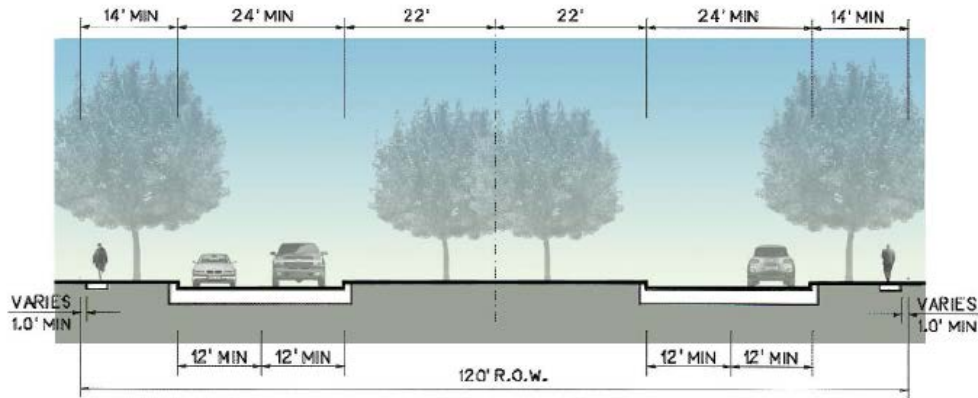


Figure 8.5: Greenway Arterial Divided

Details about landscaping, beautification, conservation, and streetscapes will be defined in the streetscape section of the new Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Visioning Master Plan, which is also undergoing a major update. Information about the Parks Master Planning update can be found at:

<http://www.mckinneytexas.org/1055/Parks-Master-Plan>

How often is the MTP updated?

The City of McKinney typically performs minor amendments to the Master Thoroughfare Plan on a yearly basis to reflect current conditions and to incorporate changes such as actual alignments of recently constructed roadways, recently completed engineering projects/plans and other non-policy related changes. Major updates to the MTP happen less frequently and are generally part of a full update to the overall Comprehensive Plan to capture major new changes in roadway needs for a city.

In the Spring of 2015, the City launched a 10-year major update to the 2004 Comprehensive Plan (known as the ONE McKinney 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update). As part of this, the MTP is being reviewed to consider any necessary changes based on the new goals, priorities and preferred future growth scenario described in the ONE McKinney 2040 process. Major updates such as this (including changes to the MTP) involve extensive open public participation so that the public can provide input and feedback prior to adoption of the plan. As part of the formal adoption process, there will also be public hearings where the public can share their thoughts directly with the City Council during a regular City Council meeting.

More information about the ONE McKinney 2040 Comprehensive Plan can be found on our website at: www.onemckinney2040.com.

If you are interested in receiving information about the ONE McKinney 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, about upcoming public outreach events, or to provide feedback please send us an email at info@onemckinney2040.com

I've seen a draft version of the proposed MTP presented to the City Council; has that MTP been approved yet?

No. The draft MTP has not been approved or adopted by City Council yet. City Staff is continuing to develop and refine the draft MTP as part of the ONE McKinney 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update with input from interested citizens, the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the City Council.

Are there still opportunities for public input on the ONE McKinney 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the Master Thoroughfare Plan?

Yes! The proposed ONE McKinney 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Master Thoroughfare Plan are still being developed, refined and reviewed as part of the ONE McKinney 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update. Over the coming months, there will be continued opportunities for public input and comments on the development of the Comprehensive Plan and MTP. As part of the formal adoption process, there will also be public hearings where the public can share their thoughts directly with the City Council during a regular City Council meeting.

The next big public event for the ONE McKinney 2040 process will be in late March. If you are interested in receiving information about the ONE McKinney 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, about upcoming public outreach events, or to provide feedback please send us an email at info@onemckinney2040.com

Are there plans to widen Eldorado Parkway to 6 lanes?

No. There are no current or approved plans to widen Eldorado Parkway to 6 lanes.

Will Eldorado Parkway ever be widened to 6-lanes?

As part of the ONE McKinney 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, the city is looking at the role and function of all roads in McKinney in order to consider any necessary changes to the MTP.

As part of this, there has been some consideration for identifying Eldorado Parkway as a future 6-lane roadway in the Master Thoroughfare Plan. The proposed MTP is still a draft and has not been fully considered or approved by City Council. Residents and stakeholders will still have a number of opportunities where you can share your thoughts and feedback regarding what ends up being adopted.

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As part of the proposed MTP, will there be new freeways shown for McKinney in the future?

Currently, the only existing limited access facilities (i.e. freeways) in McKinney are SH 121 and US 75. However, there are plans for a Collin County Outer Loop in the far northern reaches of McKinney. Additionally, there has been recent regional pressures to introduce a new east-west freeway facility through Collin County (including McKinney), primarily along existing US 380 (University Drive).

With this in mind, it is possible that McKinney will see new freeways at some point in the future.

What is a Limited Access Facility?

A Limited Access Facility (also known as a controlled-access highway) is a type of highway which has been designed for high-speed vehicular traffic, with all traffic flow and ingress/egress regulated. Limited Access Facilities are commonly referred to as freeways or expressways.

Is US 380 going to be widened into a freeway?

As a state-owned roadway, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has authority over what ultimately happens to US 380 (University Drive). However, in the Spring of 2016, McKinney City Council passed a Resolution stating (in part) that the City does not support the widening of US 380 (University Drive) through McKinney into a limited access freeway.

How does the City plan to address regional transportation pressures/needs?

The City of McKinney is currently considering a US 380 bypass concept, which would introduce a limited access freeway along existing CR 123 (future Bloomdale Road) as an alternative option for turning US 380 into a freeway in McKinney. It is important to note that this concept is only being considered by city leaders at this time and is not an approved or adopted plan.

Prior to any formal action by the McKinney City Council, there will be multiple opportunities for the public to provide input and feedback on the proposed US 380, the MTP and the ONE McKinney 2040 Comprehensive Plan overall. As part of the formal adoption process, there will also be public hearings where the public can share their thoughts directly with the City Council during a regular City Council meeting.

If you are interested in receiving information about the US 380 bypass concept, the ONE McKinney 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, and/or about upcoming public outreach events, please send us an email at info@onemckinney2040.com

When could we expect to see new freeways in McKinney?

As you might imagine, the process for introducing major freeways to an area requires a tremendous amount of planning and evaluation by a number of different agencies. At this early stage, it is difficult to estimate how long it could take to see a new freeway in Collin County; however, it will likely take many years before any new freeways would be under construction.

I don't think traffic on our roads is that bad... so why change the MTP?

As part of the ONE McKinney 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, the city is not only looking at the function of the roads today, but also once the city reaches full build out. Build out is a technical way of referring to the City when it's done developing and is all grown up.

This is important because it allows the city to better plan, prepare for and construct a roadway network that maintains good traffic flows for its residents both now and in the future. It also gives residents a chance to see where certain roadways might actually be needed in the future so they can ascertain what impacts it may have on them or their properties.