

Collin County Thoroughfare Plan

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Thoroughfare Plan?

A thoroughfare plan is a long-range planning document used by local governments to set a vision for the development and improvement of a city's or region's transportation network. It identifies the location and type of roadway for all major city, county and state thoroughfares – both existing and proposed – that will be part of the future road network as areas of the county undergo development.

2. What is the purpose of a Thoroughfare Plan?

A thoroughfare plan provides guidance for future planning and development of the road network and can help protect needed right-of-way from future development. It also helps local governments prioritize infrastructure investments and manage traffic patterns effectively over time.

3. How often does Collin County update the county's Thoroughfare Plan?

Collin County typically updates the county's Thoroughfare Plan every 5-10 years in coordination with municipalities, adjacent counties, and TxDOT to ensure a well-organized transportation system. The Collin County Thoroughfare Plan was previously updated in 2014 and 2020.

4. Where can I find more information about the Thoroughfare Plan update?

Visit www.CCThoroughfarePlan.com for more details.

5. How can I provide input on the proposed update?

The public is invited to submit comments at the in-person public information sessions, virtually through the interactive comment map or virtual comment form at www.CCThoroughfarePlan.com, or via email to mpshepherd@burnsmcd.com.

6. What are the next steps to adopt the updated Collin County Thoroughfare Plan?

A Public Hearing will be held at an upcoming Collin County Commissioner's Court meeting. Following the hearing, the Commissioner's Court will vote to adopt the updated thoroughfare plan. To receive notifications regarding the upcoming hearing, members of the public may provide their email address on the sign-in sheets at the in-person public information sessions or online at www.CCThoroughfarePlan.com.

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7. What are “thoroughfares”?

Thoroughfares are public streets that accumulate traffic from collector streets and local streets for distribution through the thoroughfare and freeway system. These streets typically distribute medium to high volume traffic and provide regional connectivity and access to commercial, mixed use and residential areas.

8. What types of roads are identified in the Collin County Thoroughfare Plan update?

For the purposes of the 2025 Collin County Thoroughfare Plan update, the following road type classifications are used:

- Freeway – Freeways are high-capacity, high-speed controlled access roadways designed for longer trips.
- Principal Arterial – Principal arterials are high-capacity roads that provide key linkages between cities, identifiable neighborhood areas, and major activity centers; carry intra-regional traffic; and connect traffic from minor arterials to freeways or expressways.
- Major Arterial – Major arterials are roads that carry local traffic to principal arterials and may be four to six lanes depending on traffic demand. The Thoroughfare Plan aims to locate major arterials on approximately 1-mile grid spacing. Major arterials provide intra-community continuity and generally offer a lower level of capacity.

9. What considerations were made for determining modifications to the County’s Thoroughfare Plan?

The proposed update to the Collin County Thoroughfare Plan is intended to better align the county’s Thoroughfare Plan to the thoroughfare plans of local cities and adjacent counties, and wherever possible, minimize impacts to planned and future developments, existing floodplains, existing property lines, and other environmental factors.

Some roadway alignments in the currently adopted plan were modified to minimize impacts to floodplains by either eliminating the alignment or shifting the alignment to cross at the narrowest point possible. Alignments were also modified to avoid

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environmentally sensitive features and to follow existing property boundaries where feasible and reasonable.

Based on information gathered regarding current and planned developments in the study area, alignments were also modified to avoid impacting developments or to align with the planned thoroughfares included in development plats.

Thoroughfares were evaluated for their potential impacts to school district plans for development or expansion. This included major or principal arterials adjacent to future campuses that may see significant increases in traffic.

Using the currently adopted thoroughfare plans from cities within the study area and adjacent counties, discrepancies between local thoroughfare plans and the County's Thoroughfare Plan were identified and thoroughfares were adjusted to match city plans where possible. Subsequent conversations with city and county representatives within the study area helped further resolve discrepancies between the county and city thoroughfare plans. The following is a list of general outcomes from these discussions:

- Added or removed thoroughfares from the County's Thoroughfare Plan to be consistent with city thoroughfare plans.
- Removed roadways from the County's Thoroughfare Plan that were not identified as major or principal arterials (e.g. local streets and collectors.)
- Changed the classifications for roadways to be consistent with city designations. In some instances, a higher classification was used for the County's Thoroughfare Plan.
- Adjusted alignments to follow cities' thoroughfare plans where possible. In some cases, agreement was reached that the city would adjust their future thoroughfare plans to match the County's Thoroughfare Plan.
- Ultimately the Collin County plan recognizes that thoroughfares located within the city limits and extra territorial jurisdictions (ETJs) of cities are under the jurisdiction of those cities.
- For areas outside of city ETJs, intra-city and regional connectivity was considered.

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10. When will these roads be built?

The County's Thoroughfare Plan does not address the construction schedule for roadway projects. Rather it identifies existing thoroughfares and the general alignments for the extensions of existing arterial roadways and planned new roadways. Many of the identified arterials will likely not be needed or constructed within the next 10-20 years.

11. Why are local roads not shown in the Collin County Thoroughfare Plan?

The Collin County Thoroughfare Plan only identifies local roadways if they are major or principal arterials that provide inter-city and regional connectivity. Local streets and collectors may still be included in a city's thoroughfare plan.

12. Are the roadway alignments, width and other design elements set?

Final route alignment, design, number of lanes and right-of-way needs for each of the identified roadways will be determined during the engineering and design phases for those individual projects. Slight modifications to the locations of new roadways, such as a shift of an alignment several hundred feet one way or another or changes in roadway curvature may occur when those roads are developed and constructed in the future and as development occurs. The intent of the Thoroughfare Plan is to provide system connectivity and identify appropriate types of arterials.

13. Can you tell me more about the alignment for the Collin County Outer Loop that is included in the Thoroughfare Plan?

The Collin County Outer Loop is a 55-mile planned transportation facility that will ultimately go from the Denton County line, through cities including Celina, Weston, Anna, Melissa, Farmersville, Josephine and Royse City, to the Rockwall County line. The County is developing the Outer Loop in five segments, each at various stages of planning and development. The county has completed or is currently constructing one two-lane service road of the Outer Loop for the segments between the Denton County line and SH 121.

The County is currently studying the alignment for the Outer Loop between Farmersville/US 380 and the Rockwall County Line. That study began in in Fall 2024 and is identifying needed revisions to the "Previous Technically Preferred Alignment

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(PTPA)”, which was previously determined by the county in 2009/2010. The PTPA is currently shown in both the current and proposed update to the Collin County Thoroughfare Plan. Once a newly preferred alignment for the Outer Loop is determined, the Collin County Thoroughfare Plan will be updated to reflect the new alignment at a later date.

14. What can the County do to stop new development occurring in the study area?

Collin County has become an attractive location for new commercial and residential development, which can make it difficult to identify land needed for future transportation improvements. Collin County does not regulate development but is taking it into consideration for future infrastructure planning. In 2020, Collin County updated the Thoroughfare Plan from the 2014 version to add an extensive network of roadways in northern and eastern Collin County in anticipation of rapid regional growth. Now, the county is recommending updates that refine the location of various roadways in the Thoroughfare Plan to prepare for the build-out of the future roadway network in these areas. Establishing an updated Thoroughfare Plan will preserve the right-of-way for future roads and protect the land from development.