



[TxDOT weighs \\$37M plan to widen Loop 1604 from I-10](#)

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A proposal to widen Loop 1604 to four lanes from its intersection with Interstate 10 through the Metrocom is in the application process and stands “a relatively decent chance” of gaining state support.

Tommy Adkisson, Bexar County Commissioner for Precinct 4, said Monday that the county has submitted a “pass-through” application for \$37.4 million to the Texas Department of Transportation to “expand Loop 1604 from its existing two-lane configuration, from Lower Seguin Road to I-10 East.”

Adkisson said TxDOT's decision on the application is due sometime in September. “If approved, an application will be in place by January 2011 ... and construction would begin, at the earliest, sometime in 2013,” the commissioner said.

“Pass-through” funding means Bexar County would pay, upfront, the entire cost of the project and be reimbursed by TxDOT over a period of time.

“Naturally, this is great news, but great things don't happen overnight,” he said. “But at least we're putting something into gear, to improve the (highway) by addressing expansion.”

Adkisson said the \$37.4 million price tag comes from Bexar County Engineer Renee Green's staff. Previously, a sticking point in expansion has been the widening and rebuild of the Calaveras Creek bridge, which currently handles two lanes of traffic with existing shoulders. “I would certainly think you could not ignore the needs of the bridge to be properly configured,” Adkisson added.

Converse Mayor Al Suarez said the need for the widening has grown exponentially as the cities in the Metrocom have grown over the years.

“We talked about it a few years ago, when 1604 (expansion) first came up,” Suarez said, “when we were working on the planning, to get the project back on board with (U.S. Rep. Henry) Cuellar and State Rep. (Joe) Farias. We talked to Tommy about getting a project going to finish Loop 1604 at that time.”

The issue has become more pertinent, Suarez said, “because all we're doing is passing on the gridlock, moving it down the highway. And we've had several fatalities on or around Graytown Road, it's just a dangerous situation right there around those ponds.

“(Commissioner Adkisson) was able to see that and envision this, I remember him, several years ago, saying this was something we needed to get accomplished,” the mayor said.

When asked whether he thought the pass-through project would meet TxDOT approval, Adkisson said, “I think the chances are pretty decent. I was delighted to present this application, and I'm excited to present that 1604 is a safe and workable highway.”

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