

Information Dozen- Frequently Asked Questions Regarding East New Hope Drive

The questions below pertaining to East New Hope Drive were formulated through feedback and comments from area residents, neighborhood website and Facebook media sites. The responses were provided by the City of Round Rock Transportation Department. I hope you find this information useful.

- 1) How will traffic be controlled on New Hope Road especially at the intersection at Mayfield Ranch Blvd, i.e., stop signs or stop lights?
- 2) What determines how traffic will be controlled in terms of stop signs, traffic lights, etcetera on a road such as New East New Hope Drive?

Response: Traffic control devices generally must meet engineering guidelines established in the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and comply with other state and federal laws regarding their usage. When it comes to signals and multi-way stops – there are guidelines that justify their appropriateness at particular intersections. These are typically called warrants and include things like sight distance, roadway volumes, number of pedestrians, etc. Generally, intersections must meet one or more of these warrants before a signal or all-way stop is considered.

- 3) Are there plans for a 4 way stop at the intersection of East New Hope Drive and Mayfield ranch Blvd?

Response: East New Hope Drive and Mayfield Ranch is currently a two-way stop there are no immediate plans to change the current controls at that intersection. However, as volumes and use of the roadway changes with the opening of a new section – there may be cause to look at the new traffic patterns to determine if any change in control is necessary.

- 4) Presently, the speed limit on East New Hope Drive is 30 MPH from CR 175 to Mayfield Ranch Blvd and 35 MPH from Mayfield Ranch Blvd to Flowstone

Street. What are the plans to either increase or decrease these limits or will the current speed limits remain?

Response: Speed limits are determined by engineering studies of the roadway. Since the conditions have changed and there's a new portion of roadway, we will be looking at the entire segment to see if changes are necessary. The new segment cannot be surveyed until the roadway is open to traffic.

5) When will East New Hope Drive from Mayfield Ranch Blvd to Flowstone Street be opened to public traffic?

Response: This is a private developer project rather than a city project – so we have less control over their timelines. The developer is working through some street lighting issues – so we do not have a precise timeframe. Our goal is always to get construction projects wrapped up as quickly as practical.

6) When will New Hope Road be converted to 4 lanes between CR 175 and Flowstone Street?

7) When will New Hope Road be expanded from Flowstone to Highway 35?

Response: The roadway is shown on the City's master plan as an enhanced four lane arterial. Current development is building two lanes – but we do not have an active project to widen to the four lanes right now or to extend to I-35. Those will occur at an undetermined date in the future.

8) Are there plans for a bike lane on East New Hope Drive between CR 175 and Flowstone Street? If there are no plans, please explain why?

9) Are there plans for a walking trail along East New Hope Drive? If there are no plans, please explain why?

10) What are the plans for sidewalks and boulevards along East New Hope Road?

Response: The City's standard for arterial roadways generally includes a sidewalk on one side of the roadway and a 10-foot shared use path on the other side of the roadway. The current two lanes of New Hope between Mayfield Ranch Blvd and Flowstone is being built with sidewalk that should match in with the existing sidewalk on the south side west of Mayfield Ranch Blvd. In addition – the County's project provided a significant path on the north side as you move further to the west. The roadway is intended to take into account pedestrians and cyclists with the sidewalks/shared use path.

11) What plans are in place to prevent or reduce the occurrence of animals being injured or killed crossing East New Hope Drive CR 175 to Flowstone Street?

Response: Traffic Safety is important and we always want drivers to behave reasonably on every roadway. Part of this is being alert and aware of what happens in the roadway in your path. Unfortunately, there is not a good mechanism to enforce keeping animals out of the street – which inevitably puts them in conflict with vehicles – sometimes unexpectedly. For undomesticated animals this can be especially challenging – as they often may dart in front of vehicles during low light hours in such a way that even an alert and responsible driver does not have adequate time or ability to respond. Pets are a bit different – as we do encourage folks to keep track of their pets – particularly near arterial roadways and use a leash if necessary to ensure they don't dart out in front of passing vehicles. Ultimately every driver and pet owner need to do their part to ensure they are alert and aware when using the roadway.

12) What is the process to allow affected residents to get involved in the overall planning process of the expansion of New Hope Road? What would you recommend?

Response: The latest version of the City's Master Transportation Plan (TMP) was completed in 2017. This document outlines arterial roadways

necessary to serve our city over the next several years. As part of the Master Plan effort, there were significant public input opportunities, public workshops, and City Council meetings. In that sense, much of the overall planning work has been completed for that roadway segment. The city attempts to update the TMP regularly (every 5-7 years) – when that process is underway is a good time to be engaged in the public meetings and offerings as part of that effort. In addition – new development is often preceded by public hearings and council actions specific to the development. Finally – when we get moving on more specific roadway design - City projects often have a public outreach component that specifically is intended to get feedback on design elements of the project.

Best Regards,
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