

\$2.3 million coming to Williamson County to improve highway safety

By Cherri Flinn, Marion Daily Republican, cflinn@mariondaily.com
Published: Tuesday, October 24, 2006 11:55 AM CDT
[E-mail this story](#) | [Print this page](#)

WILLIAMSON COUNTY - Williamson County will soon be receiving \$2.3 million in funding to improve highway safety.

Up to \$420,000 of those funds will be made available to provide the county with two new deputies and two new squad cars, as well as five radar and camera systems and one speed trailer.

"A county the size of Williamson doesn't have the resources to do this type of stuff on our own, so having them partner with us is a big help for law enforcement, but really for anyone who lives and drive here," Williamson County Sheriff Tom Cundiff said.

Other improvements to be funded in Williamson County include \$1.1 million for improvements to Market Road from Texas Avenue to the south end of Market Road, including installation of a two-foot wide paved shoulder with rumble strips, pavement striping, replacement of guard rails, upgraded signage to improve sight distance and an engineering study from Cochran to Fox Lane.

In addition, \$800,000 has been set aside for improvements on Spillway Road from Route 13 to Grassy "Y" that include a paved shoulder, guardrail replacement, tree removal and upgraded signage to improve sight distance.

"This is an example of what state government should be, working hand in hand with local governments to make our roads safer, through better engineering and enforcement," Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich said in a press release.

In 2006, Blagojevich directed the Illinois Department of Transportation to develop a Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan that focused on the four E's of highway safety: Engineering, Enforcement, Education and Emergency Services.

The goal of the funding is to reduce injuries and deaths in highway-related crashes in Williamson County.

Fatalities on Illinois highways have dropped from 1,454 in 2003 to 1,365 in 2005.