Located deep in the Texas hill country, SH 173 is used primarily by ranchers, vacationers and people who enjoy a quiet ride in the country. Over 100 million vehicles of all shapes and sizes have used the highway since it opened in 1963; today, its average daily traffic count is 6,700 vehicles.

The award-winning section of SH 173 is located in Bandera County, extending north from State Highway 16 to the Kerr County Line. It is a major artery to Kerrville, Texas.

Contractors built the road in October 1963 with a 5-inch flexible base and 0.5-inch-thick two-course surface treatment. Since construction, the road has required only one seal coat, which was applied in 1987.