



FONSI Notice of Availability

**Notice
Finding of No Significant Impact
Available for Public Review
Interstate Highway 35E (I-35E) Frontage Roads
From US 77 South of Waxahachie to US 77 North of Waxahachie
CSJs: 0048-04-090; 0048-04-092; 0048-04-093 and 0048-04-094
Ellis County, Texas**

Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code, Title 43, §2.108, this notice advises the public that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has issued a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the proposed Interstate Highway 35E (I-35E) Frontage Roads project from US 77 South of Waxahachie to US 77 North of Waxahachie in Ellis County, Texas. The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

The proposed I-35E Frontage Roads project would reconstruct and widen the existing frontage roads, convert all two-way operations to one-way operations and make all of the frontage roads continuous along the entire project. The proposed frontage roads would include a 12-foot inside lane, a 14-foot outside shared use lane with 2 foot offsets to the face of curb, provide six-foot sidewalks throughout and provide new pedestrian bridges along US 287 east and west of I-35E. Additional improvements would include new I-35E overpasses at Lofland Drive, Butcher Road (Farm-to-Market [FM] 387), Sterrett Road; a new interchange at Hotel Drive at FM 664 (Ovilla Road) and improvements to FM 66 and FM 1446. All of the cross-street improvements would also include left and right turn bays along with U-Turns. This project also proposes to build two direct connectors [in the peak hourly direction] at the US 287/I-35E interchange to relieve the current congestion at this interchange. The project would require the acquisition of approximately 33.2 acres of new right of way (ROW) and 1.1 acres of permanent drainage easements; 1.3 acres of temporary construction easements would also be required to accommodate the proposed roadway improvements.

To avoid noise impacts that may result from future development adjacent to a proposed highway project, a traffic noise analysis is included in the final environmental assessment (EA), which includes predicted noise impact contours for currently undeveloped areas. These impact contours are intended as a general guide to assist local planning officials and developers plan and construct new activities in locations that would not result in traffic noise impacts. On the date of approval/clearance of an EA/FONSI (including the traffic noise analysis) for a proposed highway project, TxDOT is no longer responsible for providing noise abatement for new development. Additionally, as TxDOT does not provide retroactive (retrofit) abatement (known as a Type II program), this project area would not be eligible for potential noise abatement until the next major highway improvement project.

Copies of the approved final EA and FONSI, certification of public involvement, responses to comments received, and supporting documentation are available for public inspection at the TxDOT Dallas District Office located at 4777 E. Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150. For further information, please contact Mr. Nelson Underwood, P.E., via phone at (214) 320-6628, or e-mail: Nelson.Underwood@TxDOT.gov.