



# **Finding of No Significant Impact for a FHWA Project**

**Proposed Action:** IH 35E Frontage Road Improvement Project

**Project Limits:** US 77 South to US 77 North

**City:** Waxahachie

**County:** Ellis

**State:** Texas

**TxDOT CSJ(s):** 0048-04-090; 0048-04-092; 0048-04-093; 0048-04-094

In accordance with 23 CFR Section 771.119 and Section 771.121, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have determined that IH 35E Frontage Road Improvement Project will not have a significant impact on the human or natural environment.

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Preferred Alternative is based on the final Environmental Assessment (EA) dated June 2019 and the entire project record. This decision documents the selection of the Build Alternative, presented in the final EA as the Preferred Alternative, which is described as:

The proposed project will 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 IH-35E. Additional improvements would include new IH-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/IH-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.

Effective August 3, 2018, the EPA designated Dallas County as marginal nonattainment for the 2015 ozone NAAQAS. In accordance with 40 CFR 93.109(c), transportation conformity to this new standard is required by August 3, 2019 (one year after the effective date).

A Notice of Availability of the draft EA was issued on April 28, 2019.

A public hearing for this project was held on May 13, 2019.

No changes to the draft EA were made as a result of comments received on the draft EA during the posted comment period or from comments made at the public hearing.

Public Hearing Documentation has been prepared and is available for review on request.

The final EA and reports contained in the file of record have been independently evaluated by TxDOT and determined to adequately and accurately discuss the need, purpose, alternatives, environmental issues, impacts of the proposed project, and appropriate mitigation measures. These documents provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. These documents are incorporated by reference into this decisional document.

Based upon TxDOT's review and consideration of the analysis and evaluation contained in the EA for this



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project, and after careful consideration of all social, economic, and environmental factors, including input from the public involvement process, TxDOT hereby issues this Finding of No Significant Impact for the IH 35E Frontage Road Improvement project from US 77 South to US 77 North.

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in the final EA June 2019, Section 8.0. TxDOT will ensure that any and all local, state, or federal permit requirements and conditions are met and otherwise complied with.

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 the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division Director

Date