



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

**Proposed Action:** IH 35

**Project Limits:** From US 380 to 0.7 Mile North of FM 3002

**City:** Denton, Sanger      **County:** Denton, Cooke      **State:** Texas

**TxDOT CSJ(s):** 0195-02-074, 0195-02-076, 0195-01-116, and 0195-03-087

In accordance with 23 CFR Section 771.119 and Section 771.121, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has determined that the IH 35 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 October 2019 and the entire project record. This decision documents the selection of the Build Alternative (Preferred Alternative), which is described in the final EA as:

The proposed IH 35 Project would widen and reconstruct IH 35 in Denton and Cooke counties from United States Highway (US) 380 (University Drive West) to approximately 0.7 mile north of Farm to Market Road (FM) 3002 (Lone Oak Road) for a total distance of approximately 15.1 miles. The proposed action would construct three main lanes in each direction and two frontage road lanes in each direction along the project corridor. The existing interchanges would be reconstructed and the existing two-way frontage roads would be converted to one-way operation. The improvements that are proposed at the cross streets would accommodate one-way frontage road operations and turnarounds. In addition, existing ramps would generally be reconfigured from a "diamond" to an "X" configuration at each intersection. Overall, 13 intersections are proposed to be reconstructed and 47 ramps are proposed to be reversed, relocated, or modified to improve mobility and safety. The pedestrian overpass in Sanger would be reconstructed at approximately the same location in order to extend over the expanded main lanes and frontage roads. Approximately 256 acres of additional ROW and 4.7 acres of permanent easements are required to accommodate the proposed improvements.

A Notice of Availability of the draft EA was issued on March 19, 2019.

A public hearing for this project was held on April 4, 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 technical 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 project, and after careful consideration of all social, economic, and environmental factors, including input



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from the public involvement process, TxDOT hereby issues this Finding of No Significant Impact for the IH 35 Project from US 380 to 0.7 mile north of FM 3002.

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in the final EA October 2019, Section 8 Post-Environmental Clearance Activities and Contractor Communications. 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.

  
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TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division Director

10/7/19  
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Date