



Finding of No Significant Impact for a State Funded Project

Proposed Action: SH 249 in Grimes County

Project Limits: FM 1774 to SH 105

City: N/A

County: Grimes

State: Texas

TxDOT CSJ(s): 3635-02-002

In accordance with 43 T.A.C. Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter D, Section 2.83, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has determined that SH 249 in Grimes County 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 August 2016 and the entire project record. This decision documents the selection of the Green Alternative, presented in the final EA, which is described as:

A tolled, controlled-access two-lane roadway from FM 1774 to SH 105 with a passing lane in alternating directions throughout the project limits. The roadway will consist of two 12-foot lanes (one in each direction), an alternating 12-foot passing lane, and 10-foot shoulders on the outside of the travel lane. In addition, two-lane, one-way, non-toll frontage roads will be constructed along approximately five miles of the project (from Urbanosky Lane to west of CR 304).

While the project and the EA only address the construction of the Super 2 facility and frontage roads described above, the EA also addresses the acquisition of sufficient right of way (ROW) to accommodate the future widening of SH 249 to a four-lane divided facility. The construction of the future four-lane divided roadway would require additional environmental investigations and analyses when the construction is determined necessary.

Overpasses with ramps for local access will be at FM 1774, Urbanosky Lane to tie in with frontage roads, west of County Road (CR) 304 to tie in with the frontage roads, CR 306 and SH 105. Design of the overpasses and ramps would accommodate the future widening from a Super 2 to a four-lane divided roadway. The ROW will also accommodate direct connectors from SH 249 to SH 105 for both east and west directions. The overall construction would be phased with the SH 105 west direct connector built in the initial construction project.

The selected Green Alternative will require approximately 623 acres of new location ROW. Typical ROW width is 450 feet in areas with frontage roads and 400 feet in areas without frontage roads.

A Notice of Availability of the draft EA was issued on May 25, 2016. A public hearing for this project was held on June 30, 2016.

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 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.



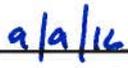
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Based upon TxDOT's review and consideration of the analysis and evaluation contained in the EA for this project, and after careful consideration of all social, economic, and environmental factors, including input from the public involvement process, TxDOT hereby issues this Finding of No Significant Impact for the SH 249 in Grimes County project from FM 1774 to SH 105.

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in the final EA, Section 10. TxDOT will ensure that any and all local, state, or federal permit requirements and conditions are met and otherwise complied with.



TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division Director



Date