



Finding of No Significant Impact for a FHWA Project

Proposed Action: IH 20 at Ranger Hill

Project Limits: From approximately 3.5 miles east of Loop 254 to State Highway 16

City: Ranger **County:** Eastland **State:** Texas

TxDOT CSJ(s): 0007-06-084

In accordance with 23 CFR Section 771.119 and Section 771.121, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has determined that IH 20 at Ranger Hill 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 dated October 2016 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 Build Alternative consists of the realignment of IH 20 to the southeast of the existing interstate facility. The alternative also includes grade separation with braided exit/entrance ramps to access the westbound safety rest area, construction of a 54-inch concrete median barrier, and the acquisition of approximately 89 acres of additional TxDOT right of way for the interstate realignment. The horizontal curvature would be flattened (approximately to one degree) and the profile grade would be approximately 3.5 percent, with a maximum superelevation of approximately 4 percent. The Build Alternative would construct two, 12-foot main lanes in each direction with room for 10-foot shoulders. In addition, there would be a new 12-foot passing lane for westbound traffic. Continuous two-way frontage roads would be constructed on either side of the interstate main lanes and consist of two, 12-foot lanes with a 4-foot inside shoulder and 8-foot outside shoulder. The frontage roads would be separated from the main lanes of traffic by a 54-inch concrete traffic barrier and 4-foot shoulder. During construction all four existing lanes of IH 20 would remain open.

A Notice of Availability of the draft EA was issued on July 28 and August 2, 2016.

A public hearing for this project was held on August 16, 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. The only changes made to the draft EA include revisions based on comments received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within their Biological Opinion.

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

The final EA, Scope Development Tool (September 30, 2015), Hazardous Material ISA Report (October 2015), *Project Coordination Request and Review for Archaeological Background Studies – IH 20 at Ranger Hill* (October 2015), *Project Coordination Request for Historical Studies Project* (November 2015), *Community Impact Assessment Memorandum, IH 20 at Ranger Hill Project* (January 2016), *Air Quality Technical Memorandum, IH 20 at Ranger Hill Project* (February 2016), *Purpose and Need Statement and Project Study Area Memorandum, IH 20 at Ranger Hill, Eastland County, Texas* (February 2016), *Biological Evaluation Form, IH 20 at Ranger Hill Project* (March 2016), *Biological Assessment for Consultation with USFWS, IH 20 at Ranger Hill, Brownwood District* (June 2016), *Intensive Archaeological Survey of IH 20 at Ranger Hill, Eastland County, TX (CSJ: 0007-06-084)* (April 2016), *IH 20 Alternative*



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Analysis, IH 20 at Ranger Hill Project (April 18, 2016), Traffic Noise Technical Memorandum, IH 20 at Ranger Hill Project (June 2016), Water Resources Technical Report, IH 20 at Ranger Hill Project (April 2016), USFWS Biological Opinion (October 21, 2016), 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 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 20 at Ranger Hill project from approximately 3.5 miles east of Loop 254 to State Highway 16.

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in the final EA October 2016 Section 7.0. 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

10/26/16

Date