



Finding of No Significant Impact for a NEPA Assigned Federal Aid Project

Proposed Action: SH 276 Widening and Partial Realignment

Project Limits: From SH 205 to East of FM 549

City: Rockwall **County:** Rockwall **State:** Texas

TxDOT CSJ(s): 1290-02-017 and 1290-03-027

In accordance with 23 CFR Section 771.119 and Section 771.121, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has determined that the SH 276 widening and partial realignment 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 November 2015 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:

SH 276 would be widened from an existing two-lane rural roadway to a four-lane divided urban arterial that would ultimately accommodate a six-lane divided with urban minor arterial. The limits of the widening begin at the intersection of the realignment with the existing alignment at Wildrose Drive and continues east to approximately FM 549. SH 276 would be realigned between SH 205 and Wildrose Drive through an existing reserved roadway corridor to conform to the City of Rockwall Thoroughfare Plan (2012b). The existing SH 205/SH276 intersection would be relocated to Sids Road, approximately 0.5 miles of its current location. Traffic traveling eastbound from the existing intersection along existing SH 276 would no longer be able to travel directly to FM 549. This direct link would be discontinued through the use of a proposed cul-de-sac east of Townsend Drive.

Upon completion, SH 276 would accommodate one 11-foot travel lane and one 14-foot share use lane in each direction, a 40-foot median, and five-foot sidewalks with two-foot buffers on each side of the roadway. The proposed section would also accommodate an ultimate six-lane facility. This future section would consist of two 11-foot travel lanes and one 14-foot shared use lane in each direction, and an 18-foot-wide raised median. Five-foot-wide sidewalks with two-foot buffers between the sidewalk and the curb would remain on both sides of the roadway between SH 205 and FM 549. At various cross streets, a 10-foot-wide left turn bay would be provided in the median. Intersections would be constructed at Faircrest Drive and Graystone Drive.

A Notice of Availability of the draft EA was issued on December 11th, 12th, 13th and 16th of 2015 as well as posted on the TxDOT Hearings and Meetings Website and www.keepitmovingdallas.com.

A public hearing for this project was held on January 12, 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.

A Public Hearing Summary and Analysis report and certification that the required hearing was held has been prepared and is available for review on request.

The final EA, the Public Hearing Summary and Analysis report, 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



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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 SH 276 project from SH 205 to FM 549.

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in the final EA February 2016, Section 5. 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

2/24/16

Date