



Finding of No Significant Impact for a State Funded Project

Proposed Action: United States Highway 59 (US 59)

Project Limits: County Road 227 to Spur 10

City: Beasley, Kendleton **County:** Fort Bend, Wharton **State:** Texas

TxDOT CSJ(s): 0089-09-058, 0089-09-065, 0089-09-066, 0089-09-067, and 0080-08-092

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 US 59 (from CR 227 to Spur 10) 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 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:

The project would widen the existing divided highway from four lanes (two each way) to six lanes (three each way). The completed facility would add a single SOV lane in each direction, separated by a depressed grassy median. It would be characterized as having 12-foot (ft) inside shoulders, and 12-ft outside shoulders. All new travel lanes would be 12 feet wide. The proposed project would also include continuous two-lane frontage roads and would close certain at-grade crossings and construct grade separation/interchange and various other transportation-oriented upgrades. Drainage would be improved by regrading to standard rise/run ratios.

A Notice of Availability of the draft EA was issued on December 18, 2014.

A public hearing for this project was held on March 5, 2015.

Changes to the Traffic Noise section (8.5) and Public Involvement for the Proposed Project section (1.2.3) have occurred as a result of comments received during the public hearing comment period. Concerns were expressed about noise levels at Beasley Elementary School. The document now indicates that TxDOT will conduct further analyses to determine noise impacts and the reasonableness and feasibility of providing a noise barrier between the school and the US 59 frontage road. No other changes to the EA were made as a result of comments received from 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 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 US 59 project from CR 227 to Spur 10.



Finding of No Significant Impact for a State Funded Project

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in the final EA September 2015, Section 12.1.1. 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

10/19/15

Date