



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

Proposed Action: F.M. 179

Project Limits: From 800 feet north of S.H. 114 to Donald Preston Drive

City: Lubbock and Wolfforth **County:** Lubbock **State:** Texas

TxDOT CSJ(s): 0880-04-032

In accordance with 23 CFR Section 771.119 and Section 771.121, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have determined that F.M. 179 from 800 feet north of S.H. 114 to Donald Preston Drive, widening from 2 lanes to an ultimate 7 lanes (interim 5 lanes) 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 February 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 proposed improvements would take place along the existing FM 179 corridor, with new right-of-way to be added at various locations on both sides of the existing roadway. Interim improvements would consist of a five lane suburban section with four 11-foot wide lanes, two eight-foot wide shoulders, and a 14-foot wide center left turn lane. Drainage would be accomplished via vegetated roadside ditches. The ultimate seven lane section would include an additional travel lane in each direction, sidewalks, shoulders and curb-and-gutter drainage. The proposed typical right-of-way will be 120 feet. The existing right-of-way width for the project corridor is approximately 80 feet. Approximately 20.5 acres of additional right-of-way would be required for the proposed project, with an additional 7.7 acres required for proposed drainage/flood detention. The existing facility does not currently include sidewalks or bicycle lanes. The proposed improvements would include berms on both sides of the roadway for future bicycle and sidewalk accommodations on each side of the road.

The logical termini extend from 800 feet north of SH 114 to Donald Preston Drive. Expanding FM 179 from two lanes to seven lanes between these termini would result in a usable transportation improvement and a reasonable expenditure of public funds, even if no additional improvements are made in the area. The project would stand alone, would be independently functional, and would serve a substantial purpose by itself. In addition, the project would not predetermine locations and types of future improvements or force future sections of projects or alignments. Therefore the project has both logical termini and independent utility.

A Notice of Availability of the draft EA was issued on September 18, 2015.

A public hearing for this project was held on December 15, 2015.

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 preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. These documents are incorporated by reference into this



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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 F.M. 179 project from 800 feet north of S.H. 114 to Donald Preston Drive.

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in the final EA dated February 2016, Section 4.0. 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

2/24/16

Date