

Suggested EA Outline

Chapter 1: Purpose & Need for the Project

- A. **Purpose of the Proposed Project** (who proposes to do what, where, when; focus on the basic features of the project regardless of the alignment)
- B. **Need for the Project** (explain why this project ought to proceed; explain the unsatisfactory condition of the existing facility description)
- C. **Objectives of the Project** (describe the desired outcomes)
- D. **Focus of this Environmental Analysis** (identify and explain what are the relevant environmental issues)
 - D.1 **Planning Process** (present a brief history of the public involvement process)
 - D.2 **Related Studies and Relevant Documents** (list and briefly explain the purpose and content of these studies/documents as related to the project)
 - D.3 **Issues Studied in Detail** (list and briefly explain why each why each issues is an *unresolved conflict*)
 - D.4 **Issues Eliminated from Further Study** (list and briefly explain why each issue is not an *unresolved conflict*)
- E. **Applicable Regulatory Requirements and Required Coordination** (list and briefly explain each regulatory requirement and coordination responsibility)

Chapter 2: Description of the Alternatives

- A. **Process Used to Develop the Project Alternatives**
- B. **Requirements for and Benefits of Alternatives** (Identify Alternative Characteristics)
 - B.1 **Principal Design Requirements**
 - B.2 **Desired Design Benefits**
 - B.3 **Environmental Protection and Enhancement Requirements**
- C. **Alternatives Eliminated from Detailed Study** (include why)
- D. **Detailed Description of Reasonable Alternatives**
 - D.1 **Alternative A: No-Build**
 - D.2 **Alternative B: Build Alternative #1**

- E. **Description of Other Relevant Actions** (cumulative actions introduced)

Chapter 3: Affected Environment & Environmental Consequences

- A. **Name of Issue #1**
 - A.1 **Existing Conditions**
 - A.2 **Environmental Consequences of Implementing Alternative A** (No Build)
 - A.3 **Environmental Consequences of Implementing Alternative B** (Build)
- B. **Name of Issue #2**
 - B.1 **Existing Conditions**
 - B.2 **Environmental Consequences of Implementing Alternative A** (No Build)
 - B.3 **Environmental Consequences of Implementing Alternative B** (Build)
- X. **Summary and Comparison of Potential Effects***
 - Matrices
 - Tables
 - Drawings
 - Other data presentations

**The CEQ Regulations in §1502.14 refers to this section as the heart of the document.*

Chapter 4: Recommendation of the Preferred Alternative

- A. **Identification and Rationale for the Preferred Alternative**
 - A.1 **Preferred Alternative** (identify the preferred alternative in one sentence)
 - A.2 **Support Rationale** (explain your reasons for selecting the preferred alternative)
 - A.3 **Mitigation and Monitoring Commitments** (list and explain if necessary all mitigation and monitoring that are part of the preferred alternative)
 - A.4 **Recommendation for Alternative Selection and for a FONSI** (write something like the following)

TxDOT recommends implementation of Alternative B: Upgrade US 59 to 4-Lane Divided Highway (Build) based on the information in this EA and in this project's Administrative Record.

TxDOT requests that FHWA find that implementing Alternative B would not be a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and thus issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this project.