



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

Proposed Action: Owassa Road Widening

Project Limits: From Jackson Road to I-69C

City: Pharr **County:** Hidalgo **State:** Texas

TxDOT CSJ(s): 0921-02-140

In accordance with 23 CFR Section 771.119 and Section 771.121, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has determined that the Owassa Road Widening Project 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:

Expansion of the existing facility to a four-lane major urban collector from Jackson Road to US 281, a total distance of 1.1 miles. The proposed facility would include an 11-foot inside travel lane in each direction, a 14-foot shared-use outside lane in each direction, and a 12-foot continuous center left-turn lane. Five-foot sidewalks would be constructed on both the north and south sides of the roadway. Overall, the proposed roadway facility would measure approximately 66 feet wide and would be constructed mostly within the existing right-of-way, with the exception of planned improvements within a 0.32-acre tract of agricultural land on the south side of Owassa Road to be acquired by the City of Pharr. In addition, four parcels of land to be used for construction of the proposed project were previously acquired by the City of Pharr, documentation for which is on file at the TxDOT Pharr District office. The proposed facility would have a posted speed limit of 40 mph to ensure Noise abatement is not necessary. Drainage features associated with the proposed project would extend south from Owassa Road to south of Minnesota Road.

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

A Notice Affording Opportunity for a Public Hearing was published on April 1 and April 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.

A Notice Affording Opportunity for Public Hearing was published and certification that the required hearing opportunity was offered has been prepared and is available for review on request.

The final EA, Public Meeting Summary and Analysis report, Certification of Opportunity for a Public Hearing, supporting technical reports, documentation of the early acquisition of four parcels by the City of Pharr, 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

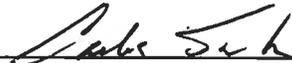


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project, and after careful consideration of all social, economic, and environmental factors, including input from the public involvement process, TxDOT hereby issues this Finding of No Significant Impact for the Owassa Road Widening project from Jackson Road to I-69C.

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in the final EA December 2015, 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

12/15/15

Date