



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

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**Proposed Action:** I-35 Northeast Expansion Project

**Project Limits:** From I-410 South to FM 1103

**City:** San Antonio      **County:** Bexar, Comal and Guadalupe      **State:** Texas

**TxDOT CSJ(s):** 0016-07-113, etc.

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In accordance with 23 CFR Section 771.119 and Section 771.121, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has determined that the I-35 Northeast Expansion 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 (EA) dated July 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 Build Alternative includes the construction of four elevated managed lanes (two in each direction) generally between the existing I-35 mainlanes and frontage roads along I-35 from I-410 South in San Antonio to FM 1103 in Schertz. Direct connectors at the I-35/I-410 South, I-35/I-410 West, and I-35/Loop 1604 interchanges and operational improvements at the FM 2252, Old Wiederstein Road, and FM 1103 intersections are also included. The project will be almost entirely elevated, maintaining a minimum clearance of approximately 16.5 feet between the bottom of the bridged structure and the roadway it parallels.

A Notice of Availability of the draft EA was issued on January 27, 2015. A public hearing for this project was held on February 26, 2015.

Additional language related to greenhouse gases was added to the final EA document in response to comments made during the posted comment period.

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 I-35 Northeast Expansion Project from I-410 South to FM 1103.

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in the final EA dated July 2015, Section 5.0. TxDOT will ensure that any and all local, state, or federal permit requirements and conditions are met and otherwise complied with.



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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.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division Director

*7/2/15*

Date