



Finding of No Significant Impact for a FHWA Project

Proposed Action: SH 71

Project Limits: From CR 206 to SH 21

City: N/A

County: Bastrop

State: Texas

TxDOT CSJ(s): 0265-03-041

In accordance with 23 CFR Section 771.119 and Section 771.121, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has determined that the State Highway (SH) 71 project from County Road (CR) 206 to SH 21 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 June 2019 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 along SH 71 from CR 206 to SH 21 would add a grade separation at FM 1209 and construct new frontage roads along SH 71 while maintaining access to adjacent properties. Access to FM 1209 would be provided via ramps to the anticipated signalized intersection. The mainlanes of the SH 71 facility would consist of two 12-foot-wide lanes in each direction with 4-foot-wide inside shoulders and 10- to 22-foot-wide outside shoulders. Directions of travel would be separated by a grassy median that would be approximately 64 feet in width. The length of the project is approximately 2.5 miles.

Median openings would be removed along SH 71 at the CR 206, River Oaks Drive, Blue Flame Road, and Stephen F. Austin Boulevard intersections, and farther east just past the Shell gas station near the eastern project limit. Deceleration and acceleration lanes would be added to the median break along SH 71 just west of the CR 206 intersection. The improvements to FM 1209 at SH 71 include construction of one 12-foot-wide travel lane and a 12-foot-wide left turn lane in each direction. Twenty-four-foot-wide at-grade turnarounds for east/west traffic would be added at the SH 71/FM 1209 intersection, and an east/west turnaround would be added on the west side of the SH 71/SH 21 intersection. A 10-foot-wide shared-use path would be constructed on each side of SH 71 and FM 1209.

A Notice of Availability of the draft EA was issued on April 11, 2019.

A public hearing for this project was held on April 30, 2019.

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.

Public Hearing Documentation has been prepared and is available for review on request.

The final EA and technical 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 SH 71 project from CR 206 to SH 21.



Finding of No Significant Impact for a FHWA Project

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in Section 8.0 of the final EA dated June 2019. 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

6/25/19

Date