



Finding of No Significant Impact for a FHWA Project

Proposed Action: I-35 Improvements

Project Limits: Rundberg Lane to US 290 East

City: Austin

County: Travis

State: Texas

TxDOT CSJ(s): 0015-13-382 and 0015-13-387

In accordance with 23 CFR Section 771.119 and Section 771.121, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has determined that the Interstate 35 (I-35) Improvement Project, from Rundberg Lane to U.S. Highway (US) 290 East, will not have a significant impact on the human or natural environment. The project proposes improvements along 2.35 miles of the existing I-35 between Rundberg Lane and US 290 East. In addition, to accommodate vertical clearance issues on I-35, additional improvements to 1.6 miles of US 183 between Georgian Drive and Cameron Road are necessary.

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Preferred Alternative is based on the final Environmental Assessment (EA) dated July 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 project would include the addition of three direct connectors, collector-distributors to bypass the St. Johns Avenue signalized intersection, widening of the mainlanes and frontage roads, mill and overlay of the existing pavement and reconstruction of the St. Johns Avenue bridge. Bicycle and pedestrian improvements include the provisions of a 6-foot sidewalk near the northbound (NB) I-35 frontage road terminus and 8-foot shared-use paths on each side of I-35 and on the realigned US 183 NB frontage road. Where design allows, a buffer between the sidewalk and the curb and gutter would be provided.

A Notice of Availability of the approved EA was issued on April 1, 2016.

A public hearing for this project was held on May 3, 2016.

No changes to the approved EA were made as a result of comments received on the approved 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 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 Improvement Project from Rundberg Lane to US 290 East.



Finding of No Significant Impact for a FHWA Project

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in the final EA (July 2016), 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.

Cathy Sak

TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division Director

8/11/16

Date