



Notice

Finding of No Significant Impact Available for Public Review

STATE HIGHWAY 21

From 2.01 Miles West of FM 2865 to Martin Luther King Jr Street

CSJ(s): 0117-03-024, 0117-10-001, and 0117-04-031

Madison County, Texas

Pursuant to Texas Administrative Code, Title 43, §2.108, this notice advises the public that the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has issued a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the proposed State Highway (SH) 21 West Madison County Widening project from 2.01 miles west of FM 2865 to Martin Luther King Jr Street in Madison County, Texas. 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 a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

The proposed SH 21 West Madison County Widening project would widen SH 21 from 2.01 miles west of FM 2865 to Martin Luther King, Jr. Street in the City of Madisonville, and construct a relief route on new location south of the community of North Zulch. The section of SH 21 through North Zulch would not be widened. Beginning 2.01 miles west of FM 2865, SH 21 would be widened for a distance of approximately 5 miles before diverging south of North Zulch on new location near County Road 439 (approximately 1 mile west of North Zulch). The proposed relief route south of North Zulch would continue on new location for a distance of approximately 3.2 miles before merging with the existing SH 21 facility east of North Zulch approximately 0.75 mile east of County Road 426 (Cleveland Road). From this point, the proposed project would widen SH 21 for a distance of approximately 10 miles, ending at Martin Luther King, Jr. Street in Madisonville. The proposed SH 21 facility, including the new-location relief route, would consist of four 12-foot wide travel lanes with a 56-foot to 68-foot wide median. The project would use existing pavement where possible. Proposed shoulders would consist of a 4-foot wide inside shoulder and a 10-foot wide outside shoulder. Proposed drainage features would consist of open ditches and roadside swales. Along the new-location relief route south of North Zulch, proposed improvements include construction of two grade-separated overpasses, one at FM 39/Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railway and the second at County Road 419 (Zulch Road). No pedestrian improvements are proposed as the project traverses a rural area. Proposed new shoulders would accommodate bicycle activity. SH 21 within North Zulch would not be widened as part of the proposed project.

The proposed project would require approximately 384 acres of additional ROW, including approximately 160 acres of ROW for the new location relief route. The ROW width would vary from 100 feet to 324 feet wide, with a typical width of 224 feet. No temporary or permanent easements are anticipated with the proposed project.

To avoid noise impacts that may result from future development adjacent to a proposed highway project, a traffic noise analysis is included in the final environmental assessment (EA), which includes predicted noise impact contours for currently undeveloped areas. These impact contours are intended as a general guide to assist local planning officials and developers plan and construct new activities in locations that would not result in traffic noise impacts. On the date of approval/clearance of an EA/FONSI (including the

traffic noise analysis) for a proposed highway project, TxDOT is no longer responsible for providing noise abatement for new development. Additionally, as TxDOT does not provide retroactive (retrofit) abatement (known as a Type II program), this project area would not be eligible for potential noise abatement until the next major highway improvement project.

Copies of the approved final EA and FONSI, certification of public involvement, responses to comments received, and supporting documentation are available for public inspection at the TxDOT Bryan District Office, 2591 North Earl Rudder Freeway, Bryan, TX 77803. For further information, please contact Sydney Fox by phone at 979-778-9231 or by email at Erin.Fox@txdot.gov.