



Tier I Site Assessment

Main CSJ: 0008-13-125, etc.

Form Prepared By: Jonathan Stewart, Civil Associates, Inc.

Date of Evaluation: July 18, 2019

Project is classified as a Categorical Exclusion

Proposed Letting Date: June 2021

Project not assigned to TxDOT under the NEPA Assignment MOU

District(s): Fort Worth

County(ies): Tarrant

Roadway Name: I-20, I-820, and US 287

Limits From: I-20/I-820/US 287 Interchanges
I-20 from Forest Hill Drive to Park Springs Boulevard
I-820 from I-20 to Brentwood Stair Road
US 287 from Bishop Street to Sublett Road

Limits To:

Project Description: Please see the following document that has been uploaded into TXECOS: Project Description (0008-13-125, etc.).pdf

The project design that was evaluated in this document is based on the Draft 60% Interim Schematic dated May 29, 2019. The approximate 63 acres proposed new right of way illustrated in the EMST maps represent the anticipated "worst-case" footprint. As the project design is refined, the impacts described herein are not anticipated to increase in magnitude.

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.

1. No Is the project limited to a maintenance activity exempt from coordination?
<http://txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/environmental/maintenance-program.html>
2. Yes Has the project previously completed coordination with TPWD?

<u> No </u>	The scope of revision relates to an issue TPWD commented on previously?
<u> Yes </u>	A substantial change is proposed from the original coordination or new impacts now exceed a threshold?
3. Yes Is the project within range of a state threatened or endangered species or SGCN and suitable habitat is present?

*Explain:

The habitat preferences for state listed threatened/endangered species and SGCN species, a brief discussion of habitat availability within the project's construction footprint, and an assessment of potential adverse impacts on these species are included in the "Threatened and Endangered Species, and Species of Greatest Conservation Need Table of Impacts/Effects" found in the uploaded file "Biological Evaluation Form and Tier I Site Assessment Form Attachments (0008-13-125, etc.).pdf."

Date [TPWD County](#) List Accessed: May 10, 2019

Date that the NDD was accessed: May 10, 2019



Tier I Site Assessment

What agency performed the NDD search? TxDOT

What version of the NDD was used? Current TARHE Version

No Does the BMP PA eliminate the requirement to coordinate for all species?

Comments:

4. No NDD and TCAP review indicates adverse impacts to remnant vegetation?

5. Yes Does the project require a NWP with PCN or IP by USACE?

*Explain:

Potentially, there are some streams in which permanent impacts greater than 0.1 acre could occur.

6. No Does the project include more than 200 linear feet of stream channel for each single and complete crossing of one or more of the following that is not already channelized or otherwise maintained:

7. No Does the project contain known isolated wetlands outside the TxDOT ROW that will be directly impacted by the project?

8. Yes Would the project impact at least 0.10 acre of riparian vegetation?

*Explain:

Approximately 8.9 acres of field verified riparian vegetation is anticipated to be impacted by the proposed project.

9. Yes Does project disturb a habitat type in an area equal to or greater than the area of disturbance indicated in the Threshold Table Programmatic Agreement?

*Explain:

Impacts to vegetation associated with the Crosstimbers Woodland Forest MOU Habitat Type would exceed the 2 acre threshold for the CRTB Ecoregion.

Impacts to vegetation associated with the Riparian MOU Habitat Type would exceed the 0.1 acre threshold for the CRTB Ecoregion.

*Attach associated file of EMST output (Mapper Report or other Excel File which includes MOU Type, Ecosystem Name, Common/Vegetation Type Name) in ECOS

Excel File Name:

Project MOU Habitat Summary (0008-13-125, etc.).xlsx

9.1. Yes Is there a discrepancy between actual habitat(s) and EMST mapped habitat(s)?



*Explain:

Please refer to the "Project MOU Summary" table found in the uploaded file "Biological Evaluation Form and Tier I Site Assessment Form Attachments (0008-13-125, etc.).pdf."

Attach file showing discrepancy between actual and EMST mapped habitat(s).

File Name:

Biological Evaluation Form and Tier I Site Assessment Form Attachments (0008-13-125, etc.).pdf.

Is TPWD Coordination Required?

Yes

Early Coordination

Administrated Coordination - Must be conducted through ENV-NRM

BMPs Implemented or EPICs included (as necessary):

- Minimize impacts to wetland, temporary and permanent open water features, including depressions, and riverine habitats.
- Project specific locations (PSLs) proposed within state-owned ROW should be located in uplands away from aquatic features.
- When work is directly adjacent to the water, minimize impacts to shoreline basking sites (e.g., downed trees, sand bars, exposed bedrock) and overwinter sites (e.g., brush and debris piles, crayfish burrows) where feasible.
- Avoid or minimize disturbing or removing downed trees, rotting stumps, and leaf litter, which may be refugia for terrestrial amphibians, where feasible.
- When riprap or other bank stabilization devices are necessary, their placement should not impede the movement of terrestrial or aquatic wildlife through the water feature. Where feasible, biotechnical streambank stabilization methods using live native vegetation or a combination of vegetative and structural materials should be used.
- Minimize the use of equipment in streams and riparian areas during construction. When possible, equipment access should be from banks, bridge decks, or barges.
- When temporary stream crossings are unavoidable, remove stream crossings once they are no longer needed and stabilize banks and soils around the crossing.
- When work is in the water; the project footprints will be surveyed for state listed and SGCN species where appropriate habitat exists. State listed and SGCN mussels discovered during surveys shall be relocated under Texas Parks and Wildlife Department permit.
- Inform contractors that if reptiles are found on project site allow species to safely leave the project area.
- Avoid or minimize disturbing or removing downed trees, rotting stumps, and leaf litter where feasible.
- Apply hydromulching and/or hydroseeding in areas for soil stabilization and/or revegetation of disturbed areas where feasible. If hydromulching and/or hydroseeding are not feasible due to site conditions, using erosion control blankets or mats that contain no netting, or only contain loosely woven natural fiber netting is preferred. Plastic netting should be avoided to the extent practicable.

- For open trenches and excavated pits, install escape ramps at an angle of less than 45 degrees (1:1) in areas left uncovered. Visually inspect excavation areas for trapped wildlife prior to backfilling.

For the Strecker's chorus frog, Woodhouse's toad, Slender glass lizard, Smooth softshell, Plain Spotted Skunk, Texas garter snake, and Timber (canebrake) rattlesnake:

- Construction personnel will be advised of potential occurrence in the project area, and to avoid harming the species, if encountered, and to avoid unnecessary impacts.

For the Bald Eagle:

- The Eagle Protection Act prohibits the taking or possession of and commerce in eagles, parts, feathers, nests, or eggs with limited exceptions. The definition of take includes pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb. Eagles may not be taken for any purpose unless a permit is issued prior to the taking.

For the Whooping Crane:

- Construction personnel would be informed of the potential for Whooping Cranes to occur within the project limits and advised to avoid adverse impacts to this species. Construction personnel shall report all sightings to TxDOT Fort Worth District Environmental staff. Reports should include the time, date and location and any available photos.

For the Big brown bat, Cave myotis bat, Eastern red bat, Hoary bat, and Mexican free-tailed bat:

- For activities that have the potential to impact structures, cliffs or caves, or trees; a qualified biologist will perform a habitat assessment and occupancy survey of the feature(s) with roost potential as early in the planning process as possible.
 - o Bat surveys of structures should include visual inspections of structural fissures (cracked or spalled concrete, damaged or split beams, split or damaged timber railings), crevices (expansion joints, space between parallel beams, spaces above supports piers), and alternative structures (drainage pipes, bolt cavities, open sections between support beams, swallow nests) for the presence of bats.
- For roosts where occupancy is strongly suspected but unconfirmed during the initial survey, revisit feature(s) at most four weeks prior to scheduled disturbance to confirm absence of bats.
- If feature(s) used by bats are removed as a result of construction, replacement structures should incorporate bat-friendly design or artificial roosts should be constructed to replace these features, as practicable.
- Large hollow trees, snags (dead standing trees), and trees with shaggy bark should be surveyed for colonies and, if found, should not be disturbed until the bats are no longer occupying these features. Post-occupancy surveys should be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to tree removal from the landscape.
- If bats are present or recent signs of occupation (i.e., piles of guano, distinct musky odor, or staining and rub marks at potential entry points) are observed, take appropriate measures to ensure that bats are not harmed, such as implementing non-lethal exclusion activities or timing or phasing of construction.
 - o Exclusion devices can be installed by a qualified individual between September 1 and March 31. Exclusion devices should be used for a minimum of seven days when minimum nighttime temperatures are above 50°F AND minimum daytime temperatures are above 70°F.
 - o Before excluding bats from any occupied structure, bat species, weather, temperature, season, and geographic location must be incorporated into any exclusion plans to avoid unnecessary harm or death to bats. Winter exclusion must entail a survey to confirm either, 1) bats are absent or 2) present but active (i.e. continuously active - not intermittently active due to arousals from hibernation).
- Avoid using materials that degrade quickly, like paper, steel wool or rags, to close holes.
- Avoid using chemical and ultrasonic repellents.
- Avoid the use of flexible netting attached with duct tape.



- In order to avoid entombing bats, exclusion activities should be only implemented by a qualified individual. A qualified individual or company should possess at least the following minimum qualifications:
 - o Experience in bat exclusion (the individual, not just the company).
 - o Proof of rabies pre-exposure vaccinations.
 - o Demonstrated knowledge of the relevant bat species, including maternity season date range and habitat requirements.
 - o Demonstrated knowledge of rabies and histoplasmosis in relation to bat roosts.
- Conversion of property containing cave or cliff features to transportation purposes should be avoided where feasible.
- Retain mature, large diameter hardwood forest species and native/ornamental palm trees where feasible.
- In all instances, avoid harm or death to bats. Bats should only be handled as a last resort and after communication with TPWD.

TxDOT Contact Information

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Suggested Attachments

Aerial Map (with delineated project boundaries)

USFWS T&E List

TPWD T&E List

Species Impact Table

NDD EOID List and Tracked Managed Areas (Required for TPWD Coordination)

EMST Project MOU Summary Table (Required for TPWD Coordination)

TPWD SGCN List

Photos (Required for TPWD Coordination)

Previous TPWD Coordination Documentation (if applicable)