



Environmental Assessment (EA) Outline

Use this outline to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for projects for which an EA is prepared for Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) approval under TxDOT's rules or under the NEPA Assignment Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Federal Highway Administration.

Cover Sheet

Table of Contents

List of Acronyms

1.0 Introduction

2.0 Project Description

2.1 Existing Facility

2.2 Proposed Facility

3.0 Purpose and Need

3.1 Need

3.2 Supporting Facts and/or Data

3.3 Purpose

4.0 Alternatives

4.1 Build Alternative(s)

4.2 No-Build Alternative

4.3 Preliminary Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Consideration

5.0 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

5.1 Right-of-Way/Displacements

5.2 Land Use

5.3 Farmlands

5.4 Utility Relocation

5.5 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

5.6 Community Impacts

5.7 Visual/Aesthetic Impacts

5.8 Cultural Resources



- 5.8.1 Archeology
- 5.8.2 Historic Properties
- 5.9 Protected Lands
- 5.10 Water Resources
 - 5.10.1 Clean Water Act Section 404
 - 5.10.2 Clean Water Act Section 401
 - 5.10.3 Executive Order 11990 Wetlands
 - 5.10.4 Rivers and Harbors Act
 - 5.10.5 Clean Water Act Section 303(d)
 - 5.10.6 Clean Water Act Section 402
 - 5.10.7 Floodplains
 - 5.10.8 Wild and Scenic Rivers
 - 5.10.9 Coastal Barrier Resources
 - 5.10.10 Coastal Zone Management
 - 5.10.11 Edwards Aquifer
 - 5.10.12 International Boundary and Water Commission
 - 5.10.13 Drinking Water Systems
- 5.11 Biological Resources
 - 5.11.1 Texas Parks and Wildlife Coordination
 - 5.11.2 Impacts to Vegetation
 - 5.11.3 Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species
 - 5.11.4 Executive Memorandum on Environmentally and Economically Beneficial Landscaping
 - 5.11.5 Impacts to Wildlife
 - 5.11.6 Migratory Bird Protections
 - 5.11.7 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
 - 5.11.8 Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 2007
 - 5.11.9 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act



- 5.11.10 Marine Mammal Protection Act
- 5.11.11 Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species
- 5.12 Air Quality
- 5.13 Hazardous Materials
- 5.14 Traffic Noise
- 5.15 Induced Growth
- 5.16 Cumulative Impacts
- 5.17 Construction Phase Impacts
- 6.0 Agency Coordination
- 7.0 Public Involvement
- 8.0 Post-Environmental Clearance Activities and Design/Construction Commitments
 - 8.1 Post-Environmental Clearance Activities
 - 8.2 Design/Construction Commitments
- 9.0 Conclusion
- 10.0 References
- 11.0 Names and Qualifications of Persons Preparing the EA or Conducting an Independent Evaluation of the EA
- 12.0 Appendices
 - Appendix A – Project Location Map
 - Appendix B – Project Photos
 - Appendix C – Schematics
 - Appendix D – Typical Sections
 - Appendix E – Plan and Program Excerpts
 - Appendix F – Resource-specific Maps
 - Appendix G – Resource Agency Coordination
 - Appendix H – Section 4(f) Documentation (if applicable)
 - Appendix I – Comment and Response Matrix from Public Meeting/Public Hearing (optional)



Appendix B: Revision History

The following table shows the revision history for this document.

Revision History	
Effective Date Month, Year	Reason for and Description of Change
November 2020	Version 8 was released. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fixed typo in the title of Section 8.0 (changed “communities” to “commitments”)
September 2020	Version 7 was released. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added “11.0 Names and Qualifications of Persons Preparing the EA or Conducting an Independent Evaluation of the EA”
March 2020	Version 6 was released. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added “Cover Sheet” Revised name of Section 5.4 from “Utilities/Emergency Services” to “Utility Relocation.” Removed Subsection 5.6.1, “Environmental Justice.” Removed Subsection 5.6.2, “Limited English Proficiency.” Revised name of Section 5.9 from “DOT Act Sect. 4(f), LWCJ Act Sect. 6(f), and PWC Chapter 26” to “Protected Lands.” Revised name of Section 8.0 from Post-Environmental Clearance Activities and Contractor Communications” to “Post-Environmental Clearance Activities and Design/Construction Commitments.” Revised name of Section 8.2 from “Contractor Communications” to “Design/Construction Commitments.”
January 2019	Version 5 was released Revised name of Section 5.11.6 to “Migratory Bird Protections.” Revised name of Section 8.0 to “Post-Environmental Clearance Activities and Contractor Communications,” and added new Section 8.1, “Post-Environmental Clearance Activities” and new Section 8.2, “Contractor Communications.”
October 2017	Version 4 was released. Removed 5.10.9 Trinity River Corridor Development Certification from the EA outline
June 2017	Version 3 was released. Revised Section 5.11, Biological Resources, to break-out various biology-related laws and executive orders into separate subheadings.



	Removed Section 5.15, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, in response to the Council on Environmental Quality's April 5, 2017 withdrawal of its August 1, 2016 final guidance on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Re-numbered affected EA sections.
October 2016	Version 2 was released. Added EA Section 5.10.14, Drinking Water Systems. Also added EA Section 5.15, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change, in response to the Council on Environmental Quality's August 1, 2016 final guidance on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.
June 2016	Version 1 was released.