



Finding of No Significant Impact for a FHWA Project

Proposed Action: United States Highway 79 Widening Project

Project Limits: West of Interstate Highway 45 to West of Farm-to-Market Road 1512

City: Buffalo

County: Leon

State: Texas

TxDOT CSJ(s): 0205-04-047

In accordance with 23 CFR Section 771.119 and Section 771.121, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has determined that United States Highway (US) 79 Widening Project 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 February 2023 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 Build Alternative would extend from approximately 0.3 miles west of Interstate Highway (IH) 45 to approximately 0.5 miles west of Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1512. The majority of the Build Alternative would provide two 12-foot travel lanes in each direction separated by a 76-foot grass median. The travel lanes would be bounded by 4-foot inside and 10-foot outside shoulders. The proposed right-of-way (ROW) on rural US 79 would be between 200 and 315 feet wide. There would be grade separations at railroads, including at the Nucor entrance. Entrance and exit ramps would provide access to Nucor. The FM 39 bridge over US 79 would be replaced and the existing entrance and exit ramps would be removed and replaced with a single connection just northeast of the FM 39 crossing. In Jewett, the Build Alternative would provide two 12-foot travel lanes in each direction separated by a 16-foot two-way center turn lane. It would include curb and gutter with a 10-foot shared use path (SUP) and 5-foot sidewalk. The proposed section would be constructed entirely within the existing 100-foot ROW. The Build Alternative would require the acquisition of approximately 215.46 acres of ROW. Two detention ponds would require a total of approximately 2.05 acres of proposed ROW. Temporary driveway licenses would require approximately 3.7 acres and temporary drainage easements would require 0.08 acres of proposed ROW.

A Notice of Availability of the draft EA was issued on July 19, 2022.

A public hearing for this project was held on August 15, 2022.

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 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



Finding of No Significant Impact for a FHWA Project

from the public involvement process, TxDOT hereby issues this Finding of No Significant Impact for the US 79 Widening project from West of IH 45 to FM 1512.

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in the final EA February 2023, Section 8.0. 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 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

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Doucy Booher
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3/1/2023

TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division Director

Date

STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
TXDOT BRYAN DISTRICT - HIGHWAY PROJECTS
FY 2026

2023-2026 STIP		07/2022 Revision: Approved 09/27/2022							
DISTRICT	MPO	COUNTY	CSJ	TIP FY	HWY	PHASE	CITY	YOE COST	
BRYAN		WALKER	0675-06-103	2026	IH 45	C	HUNTSVILLE	\$ 242,079,917	
LIMITS FROM SH 30		PROJECT SPONSOR							
LIMITS TO 0.7 Miles South of FM 1696		REVISION DATE 07/2022							
PROJECT Widen 4-Lane Freeway to 6-Lane Freeway		MPO PROJ NUM							
DESCR		FUNDING CAT(S) 4R,12							
REMARKS		PROJECT HISTORY							
P7									
TOTAL PROJECT COST INFORMATION			AUTHORIZED FUNDING BY CATEGORY/SHARE						
PREL ENG \$	11,224,429	COST OF APPROVED PHASES	CATEGORY	FEDERAL	STATE	REGIONAL	LOCAL MATCH	LC	TOTAL
ROW PURCH \$	1,614,000		4R	\$ 61,988,833	\$ 6,887,648	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 68,876,481
CONSTR \$	242,079,917		12	\$ 138,562,749	\$ 34,640,687	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 173,203,436
CONST ENG \$	13,469,315		TOTAL	\$ 200,551,582	\$ 41,528,335	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 242,079,917
CONTING \$	9,307,584								
INDIRECT \$	6,643,029								
BOND FIN \$	0								
PT CHG ORD \$	12,927,200								
TOTAL CST \$	539,345,391								

2023-2026 STIP		07/2022 Revision: Approved 09/27/2022							
DISTRICT	MPO	COUNTY	CSJ	TIP FY	HWY	PHASE	CITY	YOE COST	
BRYAN		LEON	0205-04-047	2026	US 79	C		\$ 110,954,638	
LIMITS FROM 0.3 Miles East of IH 45		PROJECT SPONSOR							
LIMITS TO 1.2 Miles West of FM 1512		REVISION DATE 07/2022							
PROJECT Widen 2-Lane Rural Undivided to 4 -Lane Rural Divided		MPO PROJ NUM							
DESCR		FUNDING CAT(S) 4R							
REMARKS		PROJECT HISTORY							
P7									
TOTAL PROJECT COST INFORMATION			AUTHORIZED FUNDING BY CATEGORY/SHARE						
PREL ENG \$	7,448,000	COST OF APPROVED PHASES	CATEGORY	FEDERAL	STATE	REGIONAL	LOCAL MATCH	LC	TOTAL
ROW PURCH \$	1,320,000		4R	\$ 88,763,710	\$ 22,190,928	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 110,954,638
CONSTR \$	110,954,638		TOTAL	\$ 88,763,710	\$ 22,190,928	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 110,954,638
CONST ENG \$	6,238,758								
CONTING \$	4,266,028								
INDIRECT \$	3,045,858								
BOND FIN \$	0								
PT CHG ORD \$	5,962,959								
TOTAL CST \$	250,190,879								

2023-2026 STIP		07/2022 Revision: Approved 09/27/2022							
DISTRICT	MPO	COUNTY	CSJ	TIP FY	HWY	PHASE	CITY	YOE COST	
BRYAN		WASHINGTON	0186-06-082	2026	US 290	C	BRENHAM	\$ 98,976,688	
LIMITS FROM 0.2 Miles North of BU 290		PROJECT SPONSOR							
LIMITS TO 1.4 Miles South of BU 290		REVISION DATE 07/2022							
PROJECT THE IMPROVEMENT OF A FREEWAY FACILITY CONSISTING OF BRIDGE STRUCTURES, INTERCHAN		MPO PROJ NUM							
DESCR GE IMPROVEMENTS, AND HYDRAUIC STRUCTURES		FUNDING CAT(S) 4R							
REMARKS		PROJECT HISTORY							
P7									
TOTAL PROJECT COST INFORMATION			AUTHORIZED FUNDING BY CATEGORY/SHARE						
PREL ENG \$	4,658,415	COST OF APPROVED PHASES	CATEGORY	FEDERAL	STATE	REGIONAL	LOCAL MATCH	LC	TOTAL
ROW PURCH \$	0		4R	\$ 79,181,350	\$ 19,795,338	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 98,976,688
CONSTR \$	98,976,688		TOTAL	\$ 79,181,350	\$ 19,795,338	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 98,976,688
CONST ENG \$	3,628,855								
CONTING \$	2,495,834								
INDIRECT \$	1,808,192								
BOND FIN \$	0								
PT CHG ORD \$	4,392,667								
TOTAL CST \$	214,937,339								