



Finding of No Significant Impact for a FHWA Project

Proposed Action: US 77 Woodsboro-Refugio Improvement Project

Project Limits: From south of Woodsboro to north of Refugio

City: Refugio/Woodsboro **County:** Refugio

State: Texas

TxDOT CSJ(s): 0371-03-090, 0371-03-130, 0155-05-047, 0371-03-135, 0371-03-136

In accordance with 23 CFR Section 771.119 and Section 771.121, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has determined that the US 77 Woodsboro-Refugio Improvement 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 December 2025 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 includes upgrading existing and new location facilities to a 4-lane divided freeway with controlled access (exit/entrance ramps and overpasses). The proposed project would extend for a total of approximately 13 miles, beginning just south of Woodsboro and ending approximately 3 miles north of Refugio.

Through the Town of Woodsboro, the proposed project would upgrade the existing 4-lane divided highway to an elevated 4-lane divided freeway with at-grade frontage roads. North of Woodsboro, the existing roadway would be upgraded to a 4-lane divided freeway that would then bridge across the Union-Pacific Railroad to the east, beginning the roadway on new location. Existing US 77 north of this bridge would become Business (Bus.) 77 and would continue to be a state-maintained roadway.

For the Woodsboro section, the typical roadway would include two 12-foot mainlanes in each direction, with 4-foot inside and 10-foot outside shoulders. Proposed frontage roads would consist of two 11-foot travel lanes with 2-foot inside and 2-foot outside shoulders and would feature curb and gutter, along with turn lanes at the intersections. Main lanes and frontage roads would be separated by grassy medians.

The new location roadway north of Woodsboro would be elevated (i.e. a bridge) through areas of floodplain and continue east of Refugio, tying back to US 77 east of the Union-Pacific Railroad line. The new location roadway would have a typical right-of-way (ROW) width of 400 feet but would vary between 320 and 500 feet. Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to be completed in phases.

The typical section near Refugio would also include two 12-foot mainlanes with shoulders in each direction, with 4-foot inside and 10-foot outside shoulders. Proposed frontage roads would consist of two 12-foot travel lanes with 4-foot inside and 8-foot outside shoulders, along with turn lanes at the intersections. Main lanes and frontage roads would be separated by grassy medians.

Access to Refugio would continue to be via Bus. 77 from Woodsboro. US 183 would be extended approximately 1 mile to the east on new location roadway to connect to the new US 77 roadway.



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This US 183 connection would have an overpass over the railroad tracks. Interchange access would also be provided at FM 774.

A Notice of Availability of the draft EA was issued on August 5, 2025.

A public hearing for this project was held on August 20 and August 21, 2025, in person as well as online.

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 from the public involvement process, TxDOT hereby issues this Finding of No Significant Impact for the US 77 Woodsboro-Refugio Improvement project from south of Woodsboro to north of Refugio.

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in the final EA December 2025, Section 8.0. TxDOT will ensure that any and all local, state, or federal permit requirements and conditions are met and otherwise complied with.

Mitigation required by the following environmental laws will be implemented for this project: Mitigation may be required by the United States Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

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 July 17, 2025, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

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Dougy Booher
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TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division Director

3/10/2026

Date