



# **Finding of No Significant Impact for a FHWA Project**

**Proposed Action:** Farm to Market (FM) 517

**Project Limits:** From State Highway (SH) 35 to Interstate (I) 45

**City:** Alvin & Dickinson      **County:** Brazoria & Galveston Counties      **State:** Texas

**TxDOT CSJ(s):** 1002-01-006, 1002-02-016, 0978-01-039

In accordance with 23 CFR Section 771.119 and Section 771.121, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has determined that FM 517 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 October 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:

TxDOT proposes improvements along 9.8 miles of FM 517. Between SH 35 and FM 646, the proposed improvements would include widening the existing facility to four lanes with two 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction. Between FM 646 and I-45, the improvements would add an 18-foot-wide raised median with turn lanes. The facility would also have 14-foot-wide shoulders and 10-foot-wide shared use paths, for pedestrians and bicyclists, on both sides of the roadway. No sidewalks are proposed between FM 646 and I-45. The roadway would be converted to a curb and gutter system with open vegetated ditches. There are no detention ponds proposed.

The proposed project would require approximately 65 acres of new right-of-way (ROW) between SH 35 and FM 646. The proposed improvements between FM 646 and I-45 would not require any new right-of-way.

A Notice of Availability of the draft EA was issued on July 6, 2021.

A public hearing for this project was held on July 22, 2021.

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. Project engineers assessed the comments received and redesigned the proposed project footprint to reduce the impacts to several adjacent properties including the Care Dental Clinic, Power Field Services, Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, and one residential property at the intersection of McFarland Street/FM 517. Additionally, the design changes have reduced impacts to the Marble Granite Designs property which was previously identified as a potential displacement. Two right turn lanes, located at the intersection of FM 517 and Algoa Friendswood Road and at the intersection of FM 517 and FM 646, would be lengthened to meet TxDOT design criteria. Although the alignment has been revised to reduce impacts to adjacent properties in some locations, other changes to the design resulted in the amount of ROW needed between SH 35 and FM 646 increasing from 61 acres, as described in the Draft EA, to 65 acres, as described in the Final EA.

Public Hearing Documentation has been prepared and is available for review on request.

The final EA, technical environmental documentation, 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



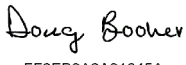
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measures. These documents provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. These documents are incorporated by reference into this decisional document.

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 FM 517 project from SH 35 to I-45.

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in the final EA October 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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*TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division Director*

10/30/2023

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