



Finding of No Significant Impact for a FHWA Project

Proposed Action: US 59 Loop North

Project Limits: From International Blvd. To 0.12 miles south of East Corridor Rd.

City: Laredo

County: Webb

State: Texas

TxDOT CSJ(s): 0086-14-058, 0086-14-091, 0086-14-092, 0086-14-093, 0086-14-075, 0086-14-076, 0086-14-078, 0086-14-079, 0086-14-087, 0086-14-088, 0086-14-089

In accordance with 23 CFR Section 771.119 and Section 771.121, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has determined that North US 59 Loop 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 August 20, 2021 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 project limits extend from the intersection of International Boulevard and US 59 to the intersection of US 59 and East Corridor Rd. This proposed project would upgrade the existing US 59 roadway to a full urban interstate expressway with three 12-ft. wide main lanes with 4-ft. wide inside shoulders and 10-ft. wide outside shoulders in each direction separated by an approximately 3-ft. tall concrete traffic barrier. One-direction frontage roads would consist of three 12-foot lanes with 4-foot wide inside shoulders and 2-foot wide outside shoulders. There would be main lane overpasses at each of the major arterial street intersections at (from north to south) Shiloh Road, Del Mar Boulevard, University Drive, and Jacaman Road. Storm water drainage would typically be via a mix of grass-lined open ditches and underground separate storm sewers that would outfall into storm water detention ponds that will be constructed adjacent to the proposed project.

Pedestrian and bicycle accommodations would consist of 6-foot sidewalks located on the outside of the west frontage road, and an adjacent 14-foot dual-use pathway on the east side of the east frontage road.

Exceptions to the proposed 400-ft. wide ROW would be eight proposed storm water detention ponds that would be located adjacent to the existing and proposed new ROW. These proposed storm water detention ponds extend anywhere from 190-ft. to approximately 620-ft. from the proposed ROW and vary in size from 1.3 acres to 5.8 acres. The location of these storm water detention ponds are as follows. On the west side of US 59 storm water detention ponds would be located at the southwest corner of US 59 and Havanna Dr., approximately 500-ft. north of the northwest corner of US 59 and Winfield Dr., and approximately 800-ft. south of the southwestern corner of US 59 and Winfield Dr. On the east side of US 59 storm water detention ponds would be located at the southeastern intersection of US 59 and Crepusculo Dr., approximately 1000-ft. south of the southeastern intersection of US 59 and Crepusculo Dr., at the southeastern corner of the Texas A&M International University driveway located on US 59 northbound frontage Road, approximately 900-ft. north of the northeast intersection of US 59 and Lakeview Dr., and at the southeast corner of the US 59 and East Corridor Dr.

Since these project limits are part of the future I-69 West corridor, Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) will be added to synchronize the traffic signalized intersections and to control future dynamic



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message boards. The locations of these dynamic message boards currently have not been identified; however, they are anticipated to be located within the proposed US 59 ROW.

A Notice of Availability of the draft EA was issued on April 12, 2021.

A public hearing for this project was held on April 12, 2021.

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, Air Quality Technical Report, Community Impact Analysis, Indirect and Cumulative Impact Analysis, Hazmat ISA, Historical PCR, Species Analysis Form, Species Analysis Spreadsheet, Surface Water Analysis Form, Traffic Noise Technical Report, 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 North US 59 Loop project from International Blvd. to 0.12 miles south of East Corridor Rd.

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in the final EA August 20, 2021, Section 7 – Environmental Permits, Issues and Commitments and 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.

DocuSigned by:

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TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division Director

9/1/2021

Date