



Finding of No Significant Impact for a FHWA Project

Proposed Action: US 281(Future I-69 C) - Segment 2 and 3

Project Limits: From SH 186/FM 1017 to FM 3066

City: Linn-San Manuel and Encino **County:** Hidalgo and Brooks **State:** Texas

TxDOT CSJ(s): 0255-06-069, 0255-05-044, 0255-05-043, 0255-04-096

In accordance with 23 CFR Section 771.119 and Section 771.121, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has determined that US 281(Future I-69 C) - Segment 2 and 3 from SH 186/FM 1017 to FM 3066 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 2021 and the entire project record. This decision documents the selection of Build Alternative presented in the final EA as the Preferred Alternative, which is described as:

Widening US 281 from SH 186/FM 1017 to FM 3066 in Hidalgo and Brooks Counties to include main lanes and frontage roads. The proposed improvements would construct four 12-foot-wide travel lanes (two in each direction), a 12-foot-wide outside shoulder for northbound lanes to allow for an additional lane for hurricane evacuation, a 10-foot-wide outside shoulder for southbound lanes, and a 10-foot-wide inside shoulder in each direction. The proposed project would also construct northbound and southbound frontage roads.

The proposed improvements would include eleven new grade separations approximately every 5 miles, four proposed wildlife crossings, and drainage ponds near the community of Encino.

A Notice of Availability of the draft EA was issued on April 8, 2021.

A Notice Affording Opportunity for a Public Hearing and Notice of Availability of the draft EA was posted on May 11, 2021 at the TxDOT website, and published May 13,14, and 16, 2021.

No changes to the draft EA were made resulting from comments received on the draft EA during the posted comment period or from comments made at the public hearing.

Public Hearing Opportunity 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 281(Future I-69 C) - Segment 2 and 3 project from SH 186/FM 1017 to FM 3066.



Finding of No Significant Impact for a FHWA Project

TxDOT will ensure adherence and completion of all project commitments described in the August 2021 final EA, 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: Section 7 of the Endangered Species 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 December 9, 2019, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian D. Barth".

FA646C02AFF1450...

TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division Director

9/13/2021

Date