Community Impacts Assessment Technical Report

**Project Name:** <Roadway or Facility>

**District(s):** <Distirct(s)>

**County(s):** <County(s)>

**CSJ Number(s)**: <CSJ Number(s)>

**Report Completion Date:** <Month and Year>

Please refer to the italicized instructions throughout this form to assist in determining which sections should be completed. More detailed information on filling out this form is available in the Instructions document in the [Community Impacts Assessment Toolkit](https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/environmental/compliance-toolkits/community-impacts.html) available on TxDOT.gov. For further assistance in developing this report or to discuss review comments on previous analyses, please contact the Environmental Affairs Division (ENV).

Any manipulation of the headings or questions in this form is prohibited, and submittals with evidence of this will not be approved.

**Project Screening**

District staff **must** contact the ENV SME to discuss prior to proceeding with the completion of the Community Impacts Assessment Technical Report Form.

ENV SME Consultation Decision

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Summary Analysis with no ENV SME Review Required** | *If the ENV SME determined that a summary analysis* ***without*** *the need for additional ENV SME review is warranted, then district environmental staff explains the following in the “Comments” field of the “Perform Community Impacts Assessment” Activity in ECOS:*   * *First, insert the following statement: “It has been determined through consultation with [insert name], ENV SME, that this project does not require a full Community Impacts Assessment Technical Report.”* * *Second, describe which condition(s) requiring a community impacts analysis apply.* * *Lastly, provide information that supports why a full Community Impacts Assessment Technical Report is not warranted for the project.*   ***Please note that in this scenario do not complete this Community Impacts Assessment Technical Report form.*** |
|  | **Summary Analysis with ENV SME Review Required** | *If the ENV SME determined that a summary analysis* ***with*** *the need for additional ENV SME review is warranted, then district environmental staff checks this box and completes a summary analysis**in* ***Section A*** *below****.*** |
|  | **Full Report** | *If the ENV SME determined that a full Community Impacts Assessment Technical Report Form is required, proceed to* ***Section B*** *and disregard the Summary box below.* |

Section A: Summary Analysis

|  |
| --- |
| *May be supplemented with public involvement materials, relevant maps, site visit photos, and other attachments as necessary.*  ***If a full report is being completed, then skip this summary and proceed to Section B.*** |
| <response> |
| Prepared by: <Name, Title> |
|  |

B. Community Study Area

Please answer all of the following questions in full sentences and proceed to **Section C**.

1. Describe the overall objective of the improvements (e.g., to reduce congestion at an intersection, to improve operational efficiency, etc.).

<response>

1. Define the Community Study Area by identifying community study area boundaries, and describe the methodology used for developing the community study area (i.e. explain the reasoning for why the study area boundaries are appropriate for the project).Attach a map showing the community study area, the location of the project limits, as well as the locations of all community facilities within the study area (e.g., schools, places of worship, health care facilities, recreation centers, social services, libraries, emergency services, etc.).

<response>

1. Describe existing land use and community character.

<response>

1. Identify community facilities within the community study area by listing and describing them in the table below (if additional space is needed you may add additional rows to this table). Use this table to inform what is included in the map, described in B.2 above.

| # | Name of Facility | Type of Facility  (e.g. school, park, place of worship, etc.) | Serves a Specific Population with Transportation Limitations?  (e.g. people with disabilities, the elderly, children) | Adjacent to the Project? | Additional Details/Comments |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
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C. Site Visit

Following completion of this section, proceed to **Section D.**

1. Was a site visit conducted? If so, indicate when the site visit was conducted, attach documentation (including notes and photographs) from the field visit, and complete the rest of Section C.

*A site visit should be conducted for most projects within a reasonable time frame to provide accurate and timely information. If not, explain why site visit was either not conducted or was conducted over one year before the first submittal of this form.*

<response>

1. Were there signs written in languages that would indicate a local concentration of LEP persons distinct from the larger project area (e.g., throughout the community study area, signs in Spanish concentrated in a particular strip mall, etc.)? Please also describe if there were signs observed in languages other than English or Spanish and list the language(s) if so.

<response>

1. Were there observable signs of persons with disabilities or elderly persons, such as paratransit vehicles, senior living centers, or deaf/blind pedestrian warning signs?

<response>

1. Were daycares, schools, or school zone signs observed.

<response>

1. Were there signs of other modes of transportation, such as bus stops, designated bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or dirt pathways from pedestrian activity adjacent to the proposed facility? If any of these signs are present, please describe their location and extent.

<response>

D. Public Involvement

Following completion of this section, proceed to **Section E**. Attempts should be made to integrate public involvement throughout the NEPA process. If timelines or other factors affect the possibility of conducting public involvement before this CIA submittal, it is recommended that public involvement documentation be shared with ENV SMEs when available, or that the report be updated and finalized at a later date.

1. Please describe the public involvement efforts planned or previously carried out for the proposed project. If no public involvement is planned, briefly explain why and proceed to section E.

<response>

1. If public involvement has already occurred or is ongoing, what type of feedback has been received from the public regarding the proposed project or other community-related issues (i.e., what is the general sentiment of the public regarding the proposed project).

<response>

1. If public involvement has already occurred or is ongoing, and if feedback has been received from the public, how has this feedback been incorporated into the proposed project? Have attempts been made to address specific concerns of the public?

<response>

**E. Displacements**

Would the proposed project result in any potential displacements? In most cases, displacements should be conveyed in a map and/or table.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | No | *Proceed to* ***Section F****, Access and Travel Patterns.* |
|  | Yes | *Answer the questions in all applicable sections in Section E, then proceed to Section F. Check the types of displacements that apply:* |
|  | Residential | *Answer all questions in* ***Section E.1.*** |
|  | Commercial | *Answer all questions in* ***Section E.2.*** |
|  | Other | *Such as places of worship, community/civic centers, etc. Answer all questions in* ***Section E.3.*** |

1.0 Residential Displacements

1. How many residences would potentially be displaced subject to final design considerations (including those that would be impacted in a manner that would prevent them from being occupied because of loss of parking or access denial)? What types of residences would potentially be displaced (e.g., single-family homes, apartments, duplexes, etc.)? Include sufficient information to disclose which residential structures will potentially be displaced, but do not include the name of the owner or resident.

<response>

1. Is there an adequate number of available replacement homes of comparable type, size, and cost? Please use county appraisal data and real estate listing websites such as Zillow.com as necessary in order to answer this question. It should be noted that that costs associated with these properties are for community impacts assessment purposes only. Actual purchase price of acquired properties cannot be determined until the ROW acquisition process begins.

<response>

2.0 Commercial Displacements

Answer the following questions for any potential commercial displacements, using county appraisal data and commercial real estate listing websites such as Loopnet.com to assist as needed.

If there are **more than 10 potential commercial** displacements, or the number of employees at businesses that would be displaced represents **more than five percent of the workforce** in the community study area, answer all of the questions in this section **and** refer to **Appendix A** – **Detailed Economic Analysis** in the CIA Toolkit for guidance on how to further analyze economic impacts.

1. What types of businesses exist in the study area (e.g., retail, industrial, medical, etc.)?

<response>

1. Which businesses would potentially be displaced subject to final design considerations? In order to determine if a business will be impacted in a manner that could prevent them from continuing to operate, ROW and other district staff should coordinate with the property owner (and lessee if applicable) to determine if their operations can continue at their current location. A substantial loss of parking and access denial are common impacts that can cause such displacements.

<response>

1. Are these businesses unique to the area? How far would a person have to travel to find a business offering similar services?

<response>

1. Do these businesses appear to provide services for a specific population with transportation limitations such as persons with disabilities, children, or the elderly?

<response>

1. Have any business owners indicated that they would or would not relocate if the proposed project is implemented? Base your answer on any information that is already available, there is no need to poll business owners for the sole purpose of answering this question.

<response>

1. Do customers generally access these businesses by car, mass transit, walking, or bicycling?

<response>

1. Are there replacement properties available for relocation of the businesses? Are there parcels available of comparable size, zoning, or special access needs (e.g., adjacent to a railroad, large vehicle bays)?

<response>

3.0 Other Displacements

Other displacements could include, but are not limited to, places of worship, community/civic centers, schools, etc. If other displacements would occur, answer all of the questions in this section and proceed to **Section F**.

Impacts to buildings such as sheds, carports, and mailboxes can be noted where appropriate in the CIA or the environmental document, but should not count as a displacement if no relocation of households, business operations, or other services are anticipated on the same parcel. Similarly, while owners of billboards may be impacted, this is not considered a displacement for the purposes of this assessment. Refer to the ROW Acquisition Manual for detailed compensation and relocation procedures specific to commercial sign structures. Utility adjustments are also not considered in this assessment, refer to TxDOT’s ROW Utilities Manual for further information.

1. What non-residential and non-commercial displacements would potentially occur subject to final design considerations? Where are these facilities located?

<response>

1. Do the potentially displaced facilities serve a specific population with transportation limitations such as persons with disabilities, children, or the elderly?

<response>

1. Are there replacement properties available for relocation of comparable size or zoning?

<response>

1. How far would a person have to travel to find similar facilities or services.

<response>

1. Is there any opportunity to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate the impact to the facilities?

>response>

**F. Access and Travel Patterns**

*Would the project result in* ***permanent change to or loss of existing access, creation of new access, or permanent change in travel patterns for any modes of transportation?***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | No | *Proceed to* ***Section G****, Community Cohesion* |
|  | Yes | *Answer questions in the applicable sections* |

* If the project would improve an existing facility (including construction of new frontage roads along an existing highway), **complete Section F.1. only and proceed to Section G.**
* If the project would be constructed on new location but would not create a new bypass or reliever route, **complete Section F.2. only and proceed to Section G.**
* If the project would create a new bypass or reliever route, **complete Sections F.2. and F.3. and proceed to Section G.**

1.0 Changes in Access and Travel Patterns for Projects on Existing Facilities

1. What modes do people currently use to access destinations in the community study area (car, walking, cycling, and/or mass transit)?

<response>

1. Describe the current travel patterns along the existing facility and within the community study area. Consider the travel patterns observed during the site visit as well as the potential origins and destinations of trips for people in the community study area. Consider all modes if multiple modes are used in the community study area.

<response>

1. Describe how the proposed project would permanently change access and travel patterns along the facility and within the community study area compared to the existing condition, including beneficial and adverse impacts. Please include estimated travel time changes, as appropriate.

<response>

1. Describe the specific areas that would be affected by these changes, such as residences or businesses. Which community facilities listed in Section B.4 would be affected? Do any of the community facilities provide essential services, such as clinics, schools, or emergency response?

<response>

1. How would the proposed project affect emergency response times? Please calculate added distance and/or estimated travel times for any potential response time increases.

<response>

1. Are there active farms or ranches in the community study area? If so, would the project affect the movement of farm equipment or livestock trailers across the highway?

<response>

1. Describe any efforts to avoid adverse impacts to access and/or travel patterns, including any proposed design elements that minimize or mitigate these impacts.

<response>

2.0 Changes in Access and Travel Patterns for Construction of Highway on New Locations

1. What modes do people currently use to access destinations in the community study area (car, walking, cycling, and/or mass transit)?

<response>

1. Describe the current travel patterns within the community study area. Consider the travel patterns observed during the site visit as well as the potential origins and destinations of trips for people in the community study area. Consider all modes if multiple modes are used in the community study area.

<response>

1. Describe the changes in access and travel patterns that would result from the proposed project, including any beneficial and adverse impacts. For new location projects, consider whether access to previously inaccessible areas would be created, as well as how the introduction of the project to the area could change previously established travel patterns on other facilities in the community study area (e.g. how many of the current cross streets will have access maintained, either through exits provided on controlled access facilities, over/underpasses, etc.).

<response>

1. Describe the specific areas that would be affected by these changes. What residences or businesses are located near the proposed new-location facility? Which community facilities listed in Section B.4. would be affected? Do any of the community facilities provide essential services, such as clinics, schools, or emergency response?

<response>

1. How would the new highway affect emergency response times?

<response>

1. Is land adjacent to the new-location highway available for development?

<response>

1. Are there active farms or ranches in the community study area? If so, would the project affect the movement of farm equipment, livestock, or trailers across the highway?

<response>

1. Describe any efforts to avoid adverse impacts to access and/or travel patterns, including any proposed design elements that minimize or mitigate these impacts.

<response>

3.0 Changes in Access and Travel Patterns for New Bypass or Reliever Route Projects

1. What businesses are located along the existing corridor for which the bypass or reliever route would be created? Which of these businesses are primarily dependent on passing traffic for business (e.g., gas stations, restaurants, hotels, etc.)?

<response>

1. Are frontage roads proposed as part of the project? If so, describe the type and location of the frontage roads.

<response>

1. How many of the current cross streets will have access maintained, either through exits provided on controlled access facilities, or over/underpasses, etc. Please list specific cross streets where possible.

<response>

1. Describe any efforts to avoid adverse impacts to existing traffic-dependent businesses, including any proposed design elements that minimize or mitigate these impacts, such as new signage.

<response>

G. Community Cohesion

Does the project involve one or more of the following elements?

* Construction of a highway on new location
* Construction of a new grade separation of more than one level
* Construction of a new interchange
* Expansion of an existing facility or interchange by a width equal to or greater than an existing travel lane
* Upgrade of a non-freeway facility to a freeway facility
* Addition of tolled or managed lanes
* Construction of a new raised median or extension of an existing raised median that will prevent access to a least one driveway or cross street.
* Introduction of a new median along a previously undivided facility

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | No | *Proceed to* ***Section H, Limited English Proficiency****.* |
|  | Yes | *Answer all questions in this section and proceed to* ***Section H.*** |

1. Briefly characterize the existing level of community cohesion: Consider the daily travel patterns within any affected neighborhoods, and whether there is a shared reliance on the community facilities and businesses within the study area. Also consider that a shared sense of identity beyond neighborhoods can also represent cohesion within a community, whether from an economic, age-related, social, or other perspective. Ideally, this information should be based on feedback from members of the affected community or communities. If no such information is available, rely on geographic characteristics, development patterns, known community gathering spaces, and observations made during the site visit.

<response>

1. Describe whether construction of the proposed project would change the existing level(s) of separation experienced near the project area. Changes in separation could include but are not limited to introduction of a new physical barrier; expansion of an existing physical barrier; or contribution to a perceived sense of separation by constructing a new grade separation. Bicycle and pedestrian movements should be specifically described in this response.

<response>

1. Describe whether the changes associated with the proposed project (including impacts to access and travel patterns) would directly or indirectly result in separation or isolation of any geographic areas or groups of people. Consider all modes if multiple modes are used in the community study area.

<response>

1. Describe whether the changes associated with the proposed project would affect use of local services and community facilities. Would the project make access to these services and facilities more or less convenient? Would the frequency with which people access other parts of the community change? Consider all modes if multiple modes are used in the community study area.

<response>

1. Are any design elements proposed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts to community cohesion?

<response>

H. Limited English Proficiency

Based on observations made during desktop review and/or site visit, and interactions or accommodations provided during public involvement, are LEP persons likely to be present in the community study area? Remember that requests for accommodations must be considered, and in most cases provided, if received with adequate notice.

Refer to the Community Impacts Assessment Toolkit or contact the ENV SME for recommendations on how LEP data from the Census Bureau can be collected and incorporated into the responses below. If a virtual online-only public meeting (i.e. no in-person option) is being considered, Section 4.5.1 of ENV’s Public Involvement Handbook requires research on internet access. This research often relies on data from the Census Bureau, in which case ENV recommends internet access and LEP data be collected concurrently.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | No | *Do not answer the questions in this section, this is the end of this technical report.* |
|  | Yes | *Answer all questions in this section. This is the final section of this technical report.* |

1. What languages do the LEP persons likely to be present in the community study area speak?

<response>

1. If public involvement events have occurred or are ongoing, then describe the accommodations that have been made for LEP persons during the public involvement process. Was assistance in a language other than English requested or is it anticipated to be requested? Were notices for public involvement opportunities provided in languages other than English? Were services such as translation or interpretation provided during public involvement events? Alternatively, describe why no accommodations were provided.

<response>

1. Are more public involvement efforts planned? If yes, has the plan to accommodate LEP persons changed based on past public involvement feedback?

<response>