Collin County Outer Loop at US 75 Collin County, Texas

September 2015

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Collin County Toll Road Authority (CCTRA) has undertaken the preparation of this environmental document for early land acquisition for a multi-level interchange at the proposed Collin County Outer Loop at United States (US) Highway 75 in Collin County, Texas (see Figure 1). Figure 2 shows the conceptual design developed to identify the right-of-way to be acquired.

The Collin County Outer Loop is included in the Collin County Mobility Plan. 2014 Update (http://www.co.collin.tx.us/mobility/pages/mobility_plan.aspx) and the Mobility 2035: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas – 2014 Amendment (Mobility 2035 – 2014 Amendment) (http://www.nctcog.org/trans/mtp/2035/2014Amendment.asp). The Collin County Outer Loop is a planned roadway facility that would provide a necessary east-west link in the county, is expected to help relieve congestion on other roadways, and would help support economic development for northern Collin County. The full loop would provide access to the extension of the Dallas North Tollway (DNT), State Highway (SH) 121, US 75, US 380, and enhance access to Rockwall County. Currently, the first phase of the Collin County Outer Loop (Segment 1 from US 75 to SH 121) has been completed through the acquisition of right-of-way and the construction of a two-lane frontage road. The alignment of Segment 3 from the DNT to US 75 has been established and preliminary engineering of the section from DNT to SH 289 is underway. Though planned as a part of the larger facility in Collin County, the interchange of the Collin County Outer Loop at US 75 has independent utility because the project would function as a usable roadway, does not require the implementation of other projects to operate, and would not restrict the consideration of other foreseeable transportation improvements.

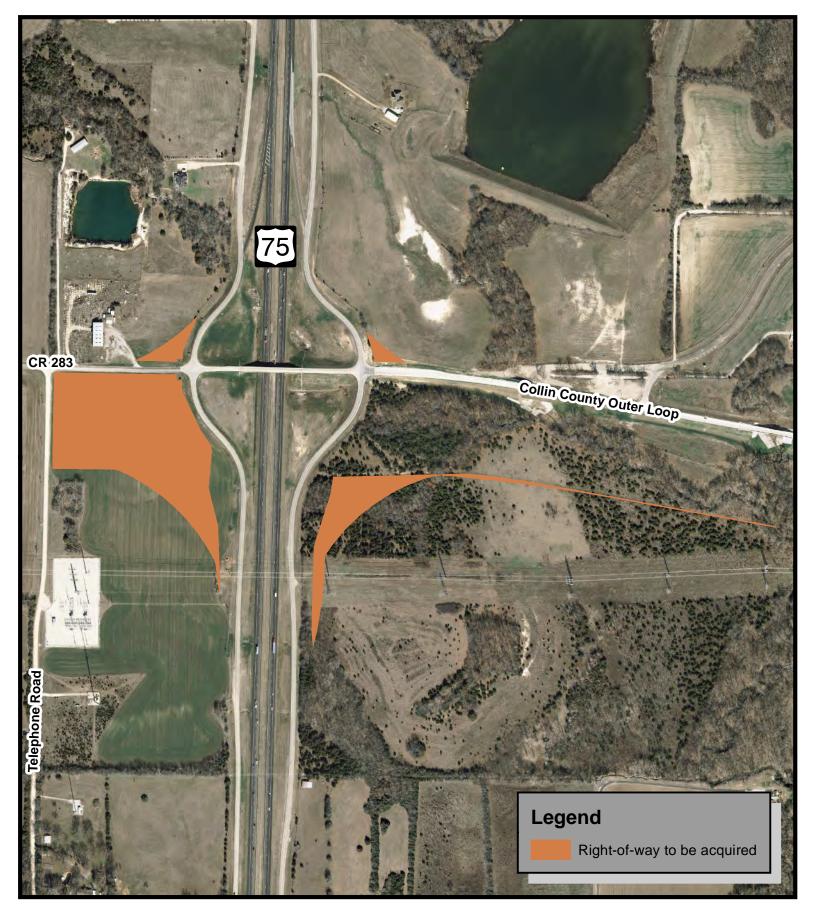
The purpose of this document is to provide the public and decision makers with adequate and appropriate information regarding the purchasing right-of-way for the interchange and does not allow for the construction of the interchange; a separate environmental document will be needed for construction. The final approval of the project would be made by CCTRA after the environmental impacts are evaluated and comments on this document, including those from the public, have been evaluated.

2.0 NEED AND PURPOSE FOR PROPOSED ACTION

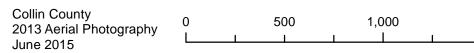
Collin County is one of the fastest growing counties in the Dallas-Fort Worth region. In 2015, the population was estimated at 868,790. By 2040, the county is expected to be 1,523,114. With this 75 percent increase in population, Collin County has begun the planning and development of transportation facilities to accommodate the future growth. The proposed action is needed to ensure that Collin County will have the means to address future transportation improvements at this location.

The purpose of this action is to acquire the land necessary for the future multi-level interchange in advance to ensure enough right-of-way will be available to analyze reasonable and feasible alternatives for the proposed Collin County Outer Loop at US 75 through the protective acquisition process. This action is done to prevent the development of parcels in the area of the interchange that may be needed for the proposed interchange. In addition, the advanced acquisition would decrease the right-of-way cost and prevent the potential acquisition and relocations associated with growth that is anticipated to occur along the US 75 corridor.

September 2015

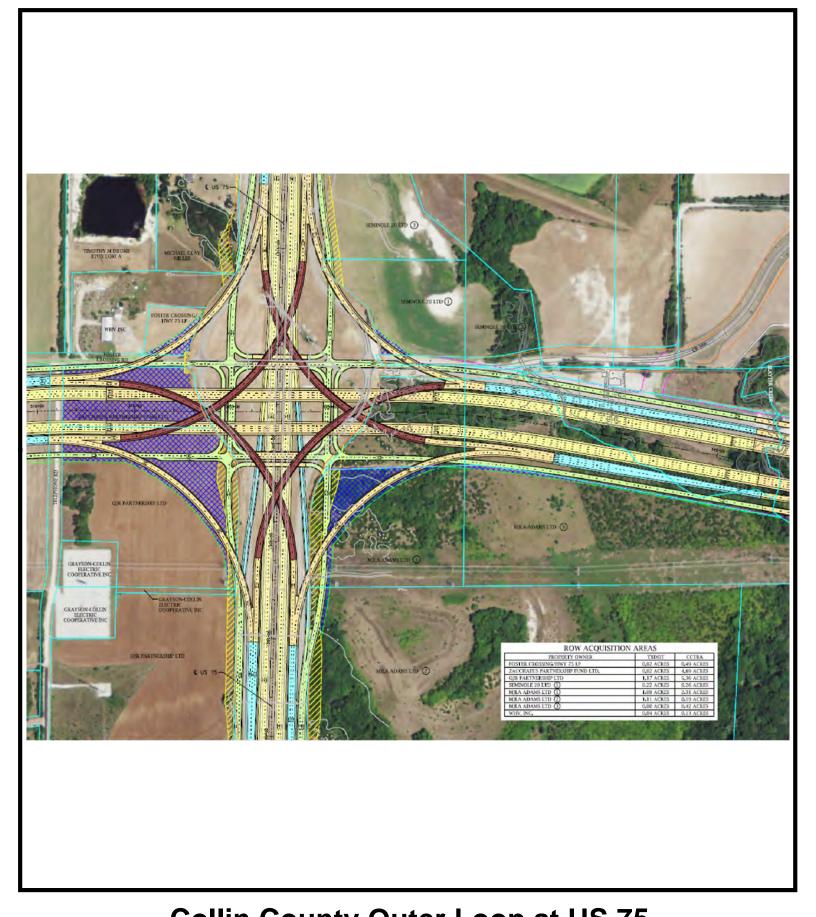


Collin County Outer Loop at US 75
Figure 1: Project Location





2,000 Feet



Collin County Outer Loop at US 75
Figure 2: Collin County Outer Loop at US 75 Proposed Schematic



3.0 ALTERNATIVES

Two alternatives have been considered for this project: the no action or the action to acquire new right-of-way.

3.1 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The no action alternative would not acquire any right-of-way for future transportation, traffic, and economic demands. The no action would have no immediate impact to the potential affected properties. Over time, it is expected these parcels to develop business infrastructure associated with the US 75 corridor and proposed Collin County Outer Loop intersection. The no action alternative would not meet the need and purpose of the proposed project.

3.2 ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The action alternative would require acquisitions of eight properties from six different property owners, a total of 14.05 acres. By acquiring this property, CCTRA would have the ability to analyze reasonable and feasible alternatives to meet future traffic demands and maximum economic development in the area. The action alternative protects the property from future development and prevents future relocation impacts if any such development would occur. The action alternative is the preferred alternative as it would meet the need and purpose of the action.

This acquisition would not limit the future evaluation of future roadway development alternatives, including shifts or changes to the potential future interchange design. Any project development subsequent to the proposed land acquisition, including future improvements to the Collin County Outer Loop and US 75 would be subject to environmental studies and investigations. This alternative does not include any construction.

4.0 PUBLIC AND AGENCY COORDINATION

The study for the Collin County Outer Loop has been conducted in an open, proactive, participatory process to allow the public and agencies to gain knowledge and provide input throughout the study. This section summarizes the public and agency involvement and coordination efforts directly related to the proposed project.

A meeting with adjacent property owners (MAPO) occurred on August 18, 2015, and August 19, 2015. Letters were sent to the six affected property owners on August 4, 2015, informing them of the MAPO and meeting dates. The majority of the property owners had no issue with the project and requested basic information such as impacts to their property and schedule, which was provided. One property owner was concerned about being potentially land locked with the acquisition. Upon further discussion it was determined he would not. Additionally, the property owner expressed concern for aerial setbacks from the elevated roadway structure. Documentation of the meetings and comments are included in Appendix A.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES, EFFECTS, AND MITIGATION

5.1 LAND USE

Based on field observations of land use conducted in April 2015, NCTCOG 2010 land use data, and review of 2013 aerial photographs, the existing land use within the proposed right-of-way is majority farmland with some ranchland and a small amount of industrial and vacant land. The farmland occupies the southwest and northeast quadrants, the ranchland southeast, and the industrial and vacant land in the northwest quadrant. The land north of County Road (CR) 283 and the existing Collin County Outer Loop is within the city limits of the City of Anna. South of the intersection is unincorporated Collin County. Appendix B includes photographs of the project area.

The action alternative would purchase this property, but it would remain unchanged. It may be converted to transportation use in the future; this would be evaluated in future environmental study.

5.2 RIGHT-OF-WAY AND RELOCATIONS

The action alternative would acquire 14.05 acres of right-of-way from eight parcels and six different property owners. One structure exist on the property owned by WHV, Inc., but it would not be impacted. No other structures were identified on the properties to be acquired in the action alternative. Table 1 list the parcels and property owners for each acquisition.

Table 1. Right-of-Way Acquisition

Property Owner	Acres	Intersection Quadrant	Current Land Use
Foster Crossing/Hwy 75 LP	0.49	Northwest	Vacant
Mjla Adams LTD (1)	2.31	Southeast	Ranchland
Mjla Adams LTD (2)	0.19	Southeast	Ranchland
Mjla Adams LTD (3)	0.42	Southeast	Ranchland
QJR Partnership LTD	5.36	Southwest	Farmland
Seminole 20 LTD	0.26	Northeast	Farmland
WHV INC	0.13	Northwest	Industrial
Zacchaeus Partnership Fund LTD	4.89	Southwest	Farmland

Right-of-way acquisition would be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended. Relocation resources would be made available to all property owners without discrimination.

5.3 COMMUNITY COHESION

Based on field observations conducted in April 2015, NCTCOG 2010 land use data, and review of 2013 aerial photographs, the area near the proposed interchange is rural. No residential areas exist within the proposed project area or in adjacent areas. Therefore the proposed action alternative would not disrupt community cohesion.

5.4 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Environmental justice refers to an equitable distribution of both burdens and benefits to groups such as racial minorities or residents of economically disadvantaged areas. Environmental injustice occurs when minority or low-income communities and individuals are burdened with more than their share of environmental risks, while enjoying fewer of the benefits of environmental regulation than non-minority or non-low-income.

Using the 2010 Census data, the inclusive blocks were analyzed for percent minorities. In addition, these blocks were compared to a larger reference area (block groups) for minority populations to determine if any meaningful greater populations of minorities were present. For purposes of this document, the definition of minority populations was based on the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidance document *Environmental Justice Guidance under the National Environmental Policy Act*. Based on this guidance, minority populations are identified as either:

- The minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent, or
- The minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population

Four census blocks containing 41 persons were identified in the project area; there is one block in each quadrant of the intersection of the Collin County Outer Loop/CR 283 and US 75 (See Figure 3). The northwest quadrant census block (Block 1065) did not contain any population. The census block located in the southwest quadrant (Block 1147) contained no minority populations. Both census blocks on the east side (Block 2021 and Block 4049) contained minority populations, all Hispanic, at 50 percent (southeast) and 47 percent (northeast). Meaningful greater is defined as exceeding the larger census block group by 100 percent. The block groups associated with minority population blocks contain 18 percent (southeast) and 30 percent (northeast) minority populations. The block on the southeast quadrant, block 2021, block group 2, census track 302.03 contains a meaningful greater minority population. Block 2021 contains one minority person with a total block population of two. Table 2 shows the minority populations of each census block in the project area.

Table 2. 2010 Census Minority Population

Census Block	Quadrant	Total Population	Minority Population	Percent Minority
Block 1065	Northwest	0	0	0%
Block 1174	Southwest	5	0	0%
Block 2021	Southeast	2	1	50%
Block 4049	Northeast	34	16	47%

Source: 2010 U.S. Census

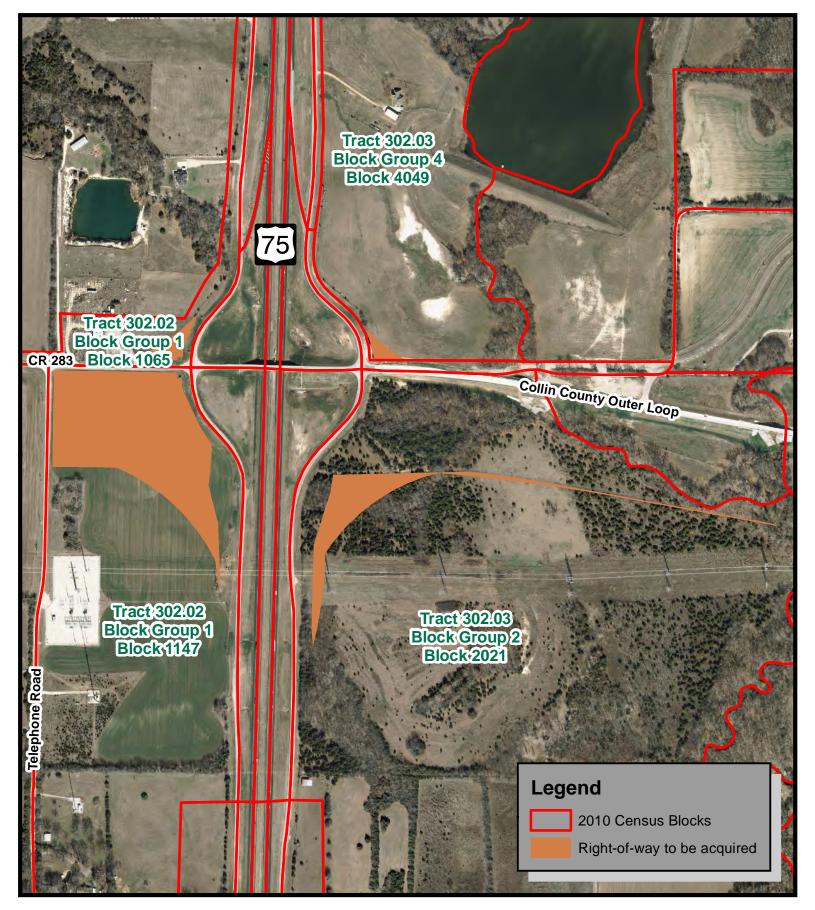
The 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) five-year provides estimates for median incomes of households and families. Based on Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Order 6640.23, a low-income population was defined as any population that has a median household income below the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) defined poverty guideline for a family of four. The 2013 HHS poverty guideline for a family of four (\$23,550) was compared to the census blocks groups located within the project area to determine if low-income populations were present.

The three census blocks groups in the proposed project area had median household incomes of \$89,643, \$84,679, and \$72,461. None of these block groups recorded an income below the HHS poverty guidelines, therefore no low-income populations exist in the proposed project area.

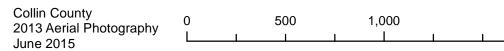
While there was identified a minority population with the proposed project area, no impacts would occur within this block to either minority or non-minority populations.

5.5 LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Information regarding English language proficiency within the project area is based on the 2013 ACS five-year estimates from the census tracts that intersect it. The languages spoken by limited English proficiency (LEP) populations in the three census block groups spoke Spanish (100 percent). While this would be the person's primary language, it does not necessarily preclude them from speaking English. Only two of the three census blocks groups contained LEP populations: census tract 302.3 block groups 2 and 4 (northeast and southeast quadrants) with LEP percent of 2.8 and 2.4, respectively.



Collin County Outer Loop at US 75 Figure 3: 2010 Census Blocks





2,000 Feet

5.6 FARMLAND

The USDA 2013 crop data identified approximately 76 percent of the proposed right-of-way as in agricultural use. The most common crop grown was winter wheat. Table 3 list the identified agricultural uses and land cover for the proposed project area.

Table 3. 2013 USDA Crop Land Use

Land/Crop Type	Acres*	Percent*
Agricultural Use		
Grass/Pasture	1.75	12.4%
Other Hay/Non Alfalfa	0.18	1.3%
Winter Wheat	8.67	61.7%
Non-Agricultural Use (National Land C	over Database)	
Deciduous Forest	0.95	6.8%
Developed/Low Intensity	0.97	6.9%
Developed/Med Intensity	0.10	0.7%
Developed/High Intensity	0.02	0.1%
Developed/Open Space	1.41	10.0%
Total	14.05	100%

^{*}Numbers may be different due to rounding.

Approximately 10.6 acres (76 percent) of the area is currently being farmed or is pastureland. Additionally, 7.2 acres (52 percent) of the proposed project area are considered prime farmland as defined by the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Under the action alternative, this land would be acquired for future transportation use. No impacts would occur to the farmland or soils and these areas would continue agriculture production.

5.7 VEGETATION

According to *Vegetation Types of Texas*, the project area is classified as "Crops." Crops are identified as "cultivated cover crops or row crops providing food and/or fiber for either man or domestic animals. This type may also portray grassland associated with crop rotations." Field observations conducted in April 2015 confirmed the area consisted mostly of farming operations and pastureland.

Dominant herbaceous vegetation identified included little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Texas wintergrass (*Nassella leucotricha*), henbit deadnettle (*Lamium amplexicaule*), purple prairie verbena (*Glandularia bipinnatifida*), rescuegrass (*Bromus catharticus*), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja indivisa*), common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), litttleleaf sensitive briar (*Mimosa microphylla*), bur clover (*Medicago polymorpha*), and common green brier (*Smilax* rotundifolia). Dominant woody species included poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*), eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), Chinkapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*), and Texas red oak (*Quercus buckleyi*).

All trees identified were located in the southeast quadrant. Trees averaged 30 feet in height, 5 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) and 70 percent canopy cover. Red cedar trees occupied the southern portion of the southeast quadrant as a mix of prairie; the northern portion consisted of the remaining hardwoods as a forested area. Several trees over 12 dbh were identified with the project area.

The action alternative would not impact any vegetation. The action alternative would only purchase this property for future development for transportation use.

5.8 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES, WILDLIFE, AND MIGRATORY BIRDS

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, protects federal threatened and endangered species and their habitat. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has the responsibility of listing and tracking federal threatened and endangered species. Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapters 68 and 88, contains the regulations and listing of state threated and endangered species. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has the responsibility of listing state threatened and endangered species. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 affords protection to virtually all migratory birds, including their parts, nests, or eggs. The MBTA affords protection to over 800 species in total.

During an April 2015 field visit, suitable habitat for one state threatened species located in the proposed project area. The upland forested area and fallow fields found in all but the southwest quadrant would be suitable habitat for the timber/canebrake rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*). No individual specimens were seen within the proposed project area.

Only one species of wildlife was observed during field visits, a barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). Several other species of wildlife could be present in the project area given the existing habitat. These could include deer, small rodents such as rabbit and field mice, a variety of herps, and numerous insects and other small animals.

The action alternative would not impact any federal or state threatened or endangered species or their habitat nor would it impact any migratory birds or other wildlife. The action alternative would purchase the proposed property but would not disturb the existing ecosystem. Any species that may be located within or near the proposed project area could continue to remain in their location, unharmed. A complete investigation would be conducted prior to construction of the interchange.

5.9 WATER QUALITY, FLOODPLAINS, WETLANDS, AND WATERS OF THE U.S.

No streams or water bodies are present in the proposed project area. Approximately 0.2 acres of 100-year floodplain existing in the proposed project area in the southeast quadrant. The action alternative would not cause any ground disturbance, therefore no water quality, floodplains, wetlands, or waters of the US would be impacted. A complete investigation and assessment of permitting requirements would be conducted prior to construction of the interchange.

5.10 REGULATED/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The hazardous materials investigation consisted of a visual survey of the project area corridor and a regulatory records review. The visual survey was conducted in April 2015. The survey included a visual observation of properties located along and immediately outside the proposed right-of-way to identify the release of, or threatened release of, petroleum products or other hazardous substances. No potential hazardous materials sites were identified during the field survey. A review of the regulatory database was conducted in May 2015. A review of the results did not identify any sites in the half-mile radius search of the action alternative.

The no action alternative would not impact any regulated/hazardous material sites.

5.11 AIR QUALITY AND NOISE

The action alternative would only acquire property for future transportation use and would not construct any roadway systems, therefore no impacts would occur to air quality or noise. Both air quality and noise analyses would be conducted prior to construction of the interchange.

5.12 CULTURAL RESOURCES AND PARKLANDS

A review of the Texas Historical Atlas and geographic information system (GIS) research revealed no historical resources or parklands within the proposed project area, therefore, the action alternative would not affect historical resources or parklands.

Using TxDOT Dallas Hybrid Potential Archeological Liability Map (Dallas-HPALM), potential archeological locations were evaluated with the proposed project area. Locations are evaluated for low, medium, or high potential for archeological resources at shallow depths and separately at deep depths (greater than one meter). The majority of the proposed project area was identified as low potential for archeological resources for both shallow and deep depths. Only the southeast quadrant identified any medium or high archeological resource potential. Table 4 outlines the potential percent of the proposed project area for archeological resources.

Table 4. 2014 Dallas-HPALM

Archeological Potential	Acres*	Percent*
Shallow Depth		
Low	12.3	87.6%
Medium	1.2	8.9%
High	0.5	3.6%
Total	14.1	100%
Deep Depth		
Low	12.7	90.6%
Medium	0.7	5.0%
High	0.6	4.4%
Total	13.9	100%

Source: TxDOT 2014; *Numbers may be different due to rounding.

Although the southeast quadrant of the proposed project would have a medium to high chance of archeological resources, the action alternative would not cause any ground disturbance, therefore, any potential archeological resources would not be affected. A complete archeological investigation would be conducted prior to construction of the interchange.

5.13 INDIRECT AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The action alternative would purchase right-of-way with the intention of future transportation use. This action alternative would not preclude any additional environmental studies for alternative alignments at or near this proposed project. Environmental investigations will accompany any actions to convert the proposed project to transportation facilities and temporary impacts associated with this conversion.

While the action alternative would purchase the right-of-way, it is not anticipated to induce any future growth because no construction of roadways or other transportation facilities would occur.

September 2015

6.0 CONCLUSION

The engineering, social, economic, and environmental investigations conducted thus far indicate no significant impacts would occur. This document does not allow for the construction of the interchange; a separate environmental document will be needed to assess the direct, secondary, and cumulative effects of construction.

September 2015

Appendix A – MAPO Documentation



August 4, 2015

Seminole 20 Ltd. c/o Sammy Rosenzweig 7012 Duffield Drive Dallas, TX 75248-7402

Subject: US 75 at Collin County Outer Loop Proposed Interchange Right of Way

Dear Property Owner:

Our records indicate that you are a property owner whose property might be affected by the subject proposed project. Collin County will hold meetings of affected property owners to present the right of way needs for the proposed interchange improvements at US 75 and the Collin County Outer Loop (CCOL) on August 18th and 19th.

The project is located within the City of Anna and Collin County. An exhibit of the proposed interchange and right of way will be presented at the meeting.

If you would like to meet with staff to discuss how the proposed right of way will affect your property, please contact Teresa Nelson at (972) 548-3727 to schedule a time slot on August 18th or 19th. If neither of these dates are convenient for you, we will make every reasonable attempt to accommodate another time and date.

Sincerely,



August 4, 2015

Mjla Adams Ltd. c/o Marthe Sherley Adams 5090 County Road 429 Van Alstyne, TX 75495

Subject: US 75 at Collin County Outer Loop Proposed Interchange Right of Way

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Sincerely,



August 4, 2015

Ojr Partnership Ltd. 9262 County Road 419 Anna, TX 75409

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Sincerely,



August 4, 2015

Zacchaeus Partnership Fund Ltd. 701 N. Central Expressway, Bldg. 3, Ste. 300 Richardson, TX 75080-5319

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Dear Property Owner:

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Sincerely,



August 4, 2015

Why Inc. P.O. Box 563 McKinney, TX 75070-8139

Subject: US 75 at Collin County Outer Loop Proposed Interchange Right of Way

Dear Property Owner:

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Sincerely,



August 4, 2015

Foster Crossing / Hwy 75 LP 8400 Westchester Drive, Ste. 300 Dallas, TX 75225-5710

Subject: US 75 at Collin County Outer Loop Proposed Interchange Right of Way

Dear Property Owner:

Our records indicate that you are a property owner whose property might be affected by the subject proposed project. Collin County will hold meetings of affected property owners to present the right of way needs for the proposed interchange improvements at US 75 and the Collin County Outer Loop (CCOL) on August 18th and 19th.

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Sincerely,

10:00am

Owner: Zacchaeus Partners

CW Kendall

Owner shared TxDOT is condemning two corner clips

Tracy provided history of the project noting the environmental process and explained the meeting was an opportunity for input from property owners.

Consulting engineer, Kyle Riley provided the plan details explaining the concept plan at US 75 @OL.

Jeff Durham informed owner that a surveyor is presently working and will set property corners then info will be provided to appraiser. A ROW acquisition firm will make offers on behalf of County.

CW Kendall stated he'd been communicating with County staff, Jeff and Tracy. Tracy emailed CW

10:30am Owner: WHV, Inc.

Tony Vitz Donna Orr

Owner's advised that TxDOT is also acquiring ROW.

Tracy provided history of the project noting the environmental process and explained the meeting was an opportunity for input from property owners.

Consulting engineer, Kyle Riley provided the plan details explaining the printed plan.

Jeff Durham informed owner that a surveyor is presently working and will set property corners then info will be provided to appraiser. A ROW acquisition firm will make offers on behalf of County.

Tony as for a digital file, which Tracy stated she would provide. Tracy emailed the pdf of the concept plan along with approximate acreages affected on 8/18/2015.

Tony asked how much of his tract would be impacted with staff answering approximately .12 acres.

Owner: Seminole 20 Ltd.

Sammy Rosenzweig RJ Daum, RPLS

Owner shared that TxDOT is working on ROW acquisition and was recently in a hearing regarding such.

Tracy provided history of the project noting the environmental process and explained the meeting was an opportunity for input from property owners.

Consulting engineer, Kyle Riley provided the plan details explaining the printed plan.

Discussion ensued about abandoned road owned by city of Anna and county owner property adjacent to Outer Loop.

Sammy stated his tract (down from corner of US75) is land locked and his attorney advised he could purchase county property or require county to provide access. As the discussion continued Sammy stated he misunderstood the status of the county road, which staff explained that the city would determine the road issue. Jeff explained that the definition of land lock does not apply to his tract.

Sammy asked what setback to an elevated roadway? Staff answered it would be determined by the city. Discussion regarding access to corner tract with Jeff stated there was plenty of room for an access point to tract.

Sammy stated he made an agreement with City of Anna that property would not be annexed until at which point it was developed. It remains in agriculture status.

Jeff Durham informed owner that a surveyor is presently working and will set property corners then info will be provided to appraiser. A ROW acquisition firm will make offers on behalf of County.

Sammy asked what was the impact to his tract? Staff answered ¼ acre.

Discussion turned back to different tract with old county road owned by city.

Sammy pressed for two access easements or property given to him.

Tracy offered to research aerial setback for structures at corner tract of OL and US75.

Tracy will provide the drawings in .pdf to owner. Tracy emailed the link to the concept plan on 8/20/2015.

Rusty stated to Sammy that the drawing is worst case scenario of impact to property.



US 75 at CCOL MAPO Sign In August 18, 2015

Myle Biley	HWTB	972-628-3141		
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US 75 at CCOL WHV Inc, MAPO Sign In August 18, 2015

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US 75 at CCOL Seminole 20 Ltd., MAPO Sign In August 19, 2015

NAME	COMPANY	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
RT DAUM	RJ DAYM RPLS	972.849-0013		RIDG FIATUILEW. COM
Rushy Camer	HMTD	0		RZZMOT Chuth. com
TRACY HOMFELD	COULD COUNTY	942-548-3733		thomfeld Der. collin. tk. us
LEFT DEMAN	, ,,	972 548-3723		duchama & slin txix
Sammy Rosenziera	PL	845-772-0178		SR7118AC/CZ
Derva nelsa	County	x37a7		End son @ collin county trans
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Appendix B - Photographs

