

Executive Summary

The Alamo Regional Mobility Authority in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (“TxDOT”) proposes construction at an existing three-level interchange to result in a five-level interchange providing four direct connections between U.S. 281 North and Loop 1604 in Bexar County, Texas. The proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the two endangered troglobitic ground beetles, *Rhadine infernalis* and *R. exilis*. The proposed project will have no effect to eighteen other federally listed species known to occur in Bexar County, Texas.

The project area is located in the City of San Antonio, approximately 2.27 miles north of the San Antonio International Airport, in north-central Bexar County. Improvements to this interchange were previously proposed and evaluated under a Categorical Exclusion (CE) document with concurrence from the Federal Highway Administration on December 21, 2004. However, this proposed project has a distinct need and purpose, separate from that of the prior proposal, and is being evaluated under its distinct CE document.

The improvements to this interchange will conform to other planned improvements under consideration for U.S. 281 North. These other planned improvements will extend along an approximately 7.9 mile length from 0.2 miles north of Loop 1604 to Borgfeld Road. They are described in the San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Mobility 2030 Plan (2030 Plan) and in the January 2009 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) as an added capacity toll project for 6 additional main lanes, but non-toll options are still under consideration.

The improvements will also conform to other planned improvements under consideration for Loop 1604. These other planned improvements will extend along an approximately 32.35 mile length extending from S.H. 151 to I.H. 35 North. The project, is included in the 2030 Plan and the January 2009 TIP, and is described as an added capacity toll project (although non-toll options are still under consideration) to add frontage roads and additional main lanes in various configurations: (1) from 0.3 miles south of West Military Drive to SH 16; (2) from SH 16 to 0.5 miles west of F.M. 1535 (NW Military Hwy); (3) from 0.5 miles west of F.M. 1535 (NW Military Hwy) to US 281; (4) from US 281 to 0.9 miles east of Redland Road; and (5) from Redland Road to IH 35 North expanding from 4 to 8 lanes.

A total of twenty species, federally listed as endangered or threatened occur, are known to occur in Bexar County, Texas. Previous environmental analyses for the proposed action determined the proposed action will result in no effect to any of these species. During re-evaluation of the proposed action it is now determined that the action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, two federally endangered karst invertebrates (*R. infernalis* and *R. exilis*). The effect determinations were updated from the previous determination of no effect, not based on design revisions, but rather in consideration for the location of the project relative to known occupied critical habitat, the results of karst feature and geologic surveys, recent geotechnical surveys, and the limitations inherent to identifying potential underlying karst features within or near the project area. The proposed project will have no effect on each of the other eighteen federally listed species known to occur in Bexar County, Texas.