

**DRAFT**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**MODIFICATION TO THE FEDERAL FORT WORTH FLOODWAY  
PROJECT FOR  
TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT'S DOWNTOWN CAMPUS  
BRIDGE  
TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS**

Project Description. In order to meet the growing needs within the central city area, the Board of Trustees of the Tarrant County College District (TCCD) decided in 2003 that a fifth TCCD college campus would be opened in downtown Fort Worth to serve the downtown and north side populations. By the summer of 2004, the TCCD Board determined that no single available property was large enough to accommodate the total needs of the Downtown Campus for projected student enrollment capacity, thus the decision was made to acquire multiple contiguous properties on both sides of the Trinity River with the bulk of property located on the north side of the river. A bridge across the river would be advantageous to connect the south and north portions of the campus. The southernmost portion of the subject property has been designated as an entrance to the campus and a connection for the Downtown population with both sides of the river, thus integrating the campus into existing City of Fort Worth plans for the area. The south and north portions are just east of the Main Street Bridge on both sides of the Trinity River.

The purpose and need of the Federal action is to allow a cost effective way for constructing a bridge for convenient and safe access and to support utility services (placed under the bridge deck) between both sides of the downtown campus. This will require a significant modification to the Federal Fort Worth Floodway, including the levee, which requires approval by the Chief of Engineers under 33 USC 408. The proposed preferred alternative is to place piers in and near the above grade portion of the levee on the north side of the Trinity River to support the pedestrian bridge; place piers in and near the above grade portion of the levee on the north side of the Trinity River to support the Student Services and Library Buildings (Buildings 5 and 6); place piers in the levee template below grade that are foundations for the Allied Health and Nursing Building; place temporary piers in the river that support the false-work and work bridges needed to construct the pedestrian bridge; construction of two storm drains and associated outfalls; excavation on the dry side of the levee and mitigation needed to accommodate the changes, both temporary and permanent, in the flood control project and related waterways.

Anticipated Environmental Effects. Alternatives considered, but not selected include: increasing the drilled shaft foundation diameter to reduce the number of levee penetrations, shifting the buildings to the south so that drilled shafts do not penetrate the levee crust, shift buildings to the north so that drilled shafts do not penetrate the levee crust, construct concrete floodwall to supplant levee, reconfigure buildings and orientation to minimize the number of drilled shafts through the above ground levee and basement penetrations of the projected levee template, raising the campus to improve access to the levee below the building, and provide a detailed work plan to minimize construction related impacts to the levee; as well as the proposed preferred and no action as described in the environmental assessment (EA). To minimize impacts to the Fort Worth Floodway, including the levee, construction techniques have been developed for the placement of a diaphragm wall and piers. These techniques are in compliance with federal and local regulations and would be subject to USACE observation for all excavation performed within the footprint of the levees. In the event the USACE deems any construction activity to present an unacceptable risk to the integrity of the levee, construction would cease immediately.

Under the No Action Alternative, the bridge would be constructed in a manner that would span the Federal project and no approval under 33 USC 408 or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act would be required.

There would be no adverse impacts on the natural environment associated with proper implementation of the proposed action. No significant adverse environmental or cumulative impacts are anticipated for geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, noise, cultural resources, Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Wastes, air quality, Environmental Justice within the subject property. No adverse impact is expected to occur to plant or animal species that are proposed or listed as threatened or endangered according to the Endangered Species Act. The adverse effects to the human environment resulting from the impact to Historical Resources will be reduced below the threshold of significance by a Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) that mitigates adverse effects as a result of implementation of the Preferred Alternative.

Facts and Conclusions. Based on a review of the information contained in this EA, it is concluded that the modification to the Federal Fort Worth Floodway for the construction of Tarrant County College District's downtown campus bridge is not a major Federal action, which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

---

Christopher W. Martin  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

---

Date