



## 5.14 ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

### 5.14.1 Formal Finding as to whether Historic Properties may be Affected

Effect under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) means altering the characteristics of a historic property that qualify it for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places 36 CFR 800.16(i)]. Two findings are possible, “no historic properties affected” or “historic properties affected.” A finding of no historic properties affected is appropriate when:

- The agency has determined during the identification and evaluation step that there are no historic properties in the area of potential effects, or
- The agency has determined that there are historic properties present but the undertaking would not have any effect on them. [36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)]

An effect does not have to be negative to be an effect. If the undertaking would change the relevant characteristics of the property at all, it would have an effect. The potential alteration of the qualifying characteristics of a historic property does not have to be a certainty; as long as the undertaking may alter the relevant characteristics, it must be found to have an effect. Finally, the agency should consider not only the changes that may occur at the time of the undertaking, but also those reasonably foreseeable effects that may occur later.

### 5.14.2 Finding of Effect

Archeological investigations conducted to date have resulted in finding no archeological sites or deposits within the current project corridor nor at any of the proposed station areas. However, given that much of the proposed corridor crosses portions of the current or pre-1930 flood plains of the Elm Fork of the Trinity or its tributaries, the potential for buried archeological deposits must be considered. Those portions of the corridor located within the current or pre-1930 flood plains of the Elm Fork or its tributaries or on fluvial terraces composed at least in part of terminal Pleistocene or younger sediments have potential for buried cultural materials.

However, given the extensive disturbance of the upper 3 to 4 meters of the existing sediments and/or the deposition of considerable amounts of foreign (fill) material on top of the natural, pre-existing surface, the chance of finding an undisturbed cultural site in the upper few meters of sediment is remote at best. Further, locating any sites that may be buried more than several meters would be extremely difficult. Thus, although the potential exists, it is felt that any sites that were initially shallowly buried and hence easier to find have in all likelihood already been destroyed, while those that are still intact but more deeply buried would be exceedingly difficult and expensive to locate. The only area of real concern is in the flood plain along Spur 482 where the line crosses the Elm Fork.

### 5.14.3 Determination of Adverse Effect

In a letter dated May 1, 2006 the SHPO concurred that, except for a need for deep mechanical testing in the floodplain along Spur 482, the proposed LRT line will not adversely affect archeological resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

### 5.14.4 Mitigation Measures

DART will conduct geoarcheological backhoe trenching in the floodplain adjacent to Spur 482 prior to construction. If archeological deposits are discovered the SHPO will be consulted to determine appropriate action and mitigation.

## 5.15 PARKLANDS

This section identifies the proposed project's effect on parks and recreational areas. Four parks/recreational areas were identified within 700 feet of the proposed project alignment; three of these are publicly owned and one is privately owned. The locations and characteristics of these parks/recreational areas were described in Section 3.10 Parklands.