



PROJECT UPDATE

IMPROVEMENTS TO I-35 FROM I-40 (FORT SMITH JUNCTION) NORTH TO I-44 (DEEP FORK) OKLAHOMA COUNTY, OK • JP20330(04)

Project Background

Interstate 35 between I-40 (Fort Smith Junction) and I-44 (Deep Fork) is one of the last four-lane sections of I-35 in the Oklahoma City metro area. ODOT proposes to widen I-35 to (6) six lanes in this section matching it to the rest of the 22-mile corridor from the South Canadian River to Second Street in Edmond in an effort to lessen congestion and increase safety.

Project Update

ODOT presented multiple design alternatives and received a substantial amount of public feedback both during and after the project public meeting which took place at Lincoln Park Golf Course on February 18, 2020. Following the meeting three (3) Pop-Up Booths were setup at three (3) distinct locations: James Stewart Golf Course, Metro Tech Center Springlake Campus and Ralph Ellison Library. The project team carefully read and reviewed every single comment received. After several months of analysis and careful consideration, ODOT has decided to proceed with a modified alternative, incorporating insights gathered from the public comments.

The purpose of the alternatives was to evaluate operational and safety improvements, bridge replacements and/or removals, frontage road modifications, and pavement widening recommendations to facilitate the (6) six-lane corridor. A total of (4) four design alternatives have been carefully analyzed. ODOT has made every effort to build consensus between the needs of widening and upgrading to modern standards of this congested section of I-35 with the sensitive concerns of homeowners and businesses along this corridor to minimize impacts to private property.

Ultimately, this has led to the creation of a preferred design alternative based on public comments received. The preferred alternative will widen the existing roadway to (3) three 12-foot driving lanes in each direction with new pavement along the corridor. Additionally, the existing bridges would be replaced with new structures and modifications will be made to the ramps, acceleration, and deceleration lanes to facilitate the development of the (6) six-lane corridor. This preferred alternate will not require new right-of-way for the construction of this project. This project will be coordinated with ongoing improvements to the I-44 Interchange at the north end of the project.

ODOT is scheduled to host an open house public meeting to present the preferred alternative and receive comments. The open house meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2024 from 4:00pm to 6:30pm in the Willa D. Johnson Recreational Center located at 909 Frederick Douglas Ave., OKC, 73117. This a come and go open house meeting with no formal presentation.