

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT

**Open House Dates:
April 16 – May 3, 2021**

**SH-100 IMPROVEMENTS: FROM 3 MILES NORTH OF THE
CHEROKEE COUNTY LINE, EXTENDING EAST ~6 MILES**

**ADAIR COUNTY
J/P No. 32098(04); Project No. J3-2098(004)**

Prepared for:



**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) efforts to keep the public informed and involved in the decision-making process, a Virtual Open House was held for this project. Due to ongoing concerns over the spread of COVID-19, the Virtual Open House was hosted in a web-based format, and no in-person meeting was held. The following is a generalized summary of the public involvement effort, the information provided as part of the outreach, and the comments and input received. ODOT responses to comments are also presented in this document.

1.1 OPEN HOUSE DATES

April 16 through May 3, 2021

1.2 MEETING WEBSITE

www.odot.org/SH100Adair

1.3 PURPOSE OF VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

The purpose of the Virtual Open House meeting was to update the public of the proposed improvements to SH-100, solicit input, and answer questions regarding construction activities, sequencing, and scheduling.

1.4 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes improvements to SH-100 from 3 miles northeast of the Cherokee County line and extending east approximately 6 miles in Adair County, Oklahoma. This segment of SH-100 is a two-lane, open section, major collector facility with 12-foot-wide driving lanes and no shoulders. SH-100 has substandard curves, limited sight distances, deteriorating pavement, and narrow or no shoulders. Current traffic volumes are estimated at 3,650 vehicles per day (VPD) and are projected to increase to 5,200 VPD by 2040.

In 2019, ODOT tasked a consultant to study three alternatives for improving this segment of highway while taking into consideration the cost of construction, right-of-way and utilities, and potential environmental constraints. The three alternatives were presented at an in-person Open House meeting held August 29, 2019. Based on the completed alignment study, public participation, and state and federal agency input, ODOT selected a preferred alignment.

1.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In an effort to increase safety, ODOT proposes to improve this segment of SH-100 by correcting sharp curves, improving driving surfaces, reconfiguring skewed driveways and entrances, realigning county road intersections, widening shoulders, and extending and/or replacing roadway structures. The majority of the project length will be widened symmetrically on existing alignment to create two 11-foot-wide paved driving lanes with 6-foot-wide paved shoulders. However, the sharp curves between County Roads NS-467 and NS-469 will be corrected by constructing a new roadway segment on offset west and north alignment. This alignment was selected to avoid the rock ridge on the east and south side. Dedicated turning lanes will be added or improved to facilitate vehicle traffic at two commercial establishments and also at County Road NS-466/Bunch Road.

The highway will remain open during construction, and access to residences and businesses will be maintained throughout the project.

1.6 PUBLIC NOTICES

- Virtual Open House pamphlets were mailed to various political entities, interested parties and the general public on April 15, 2021.
- Virtual Open House pamphlets were mailed to property owners, utility owners, and other stakeholders on April 15, 2021.
- Solicitation letters were mailed to various state and federal agencies and Native American Tribes on April 16, 2021. These letters provided a short project description and included information about the Open House and requested that recipients provide input by May 3, 2021. Enclosed with the letter was a copy of the project location and overview maps.
- ODOT sent out a press release and general media announcements on April 16, 2021.

1.7 VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE FORMAT

The Virtual Open House was available for public access online at www.odot.org/SH100Adair between April 16 and May 3, 2021. On the Virtual Open House home page, the user could select from the following pages for detailed information:

- Sign-In and Handout – This page included a virtual form for signing in, a PDF version and a PDF copy of the virtual Open House pamphlet.
- Project History – This page provided a summary of the ongoing efforts associated with this project, including the previous Open House meeting held in 2019, and the results of the Alternative Assessment study completed the same year.
- Project Presentation – This page contained a narrated video of the project presentation, as well as a PDF copy of the project presentation with the narration script.
- Interactive Project Map – This page contained an interactive online diagram that showed the proposed project in detail, and allowed users to comment on specific areas of the map.
- Environmental Studies – This page compiled the findings of the detailed environmental studies.
- Right-of-Way Information – This page included a copy of the ODOT Relocation Brochure and the ODOT Property Rights Brochure to give users more information regarding relocations and right-of-way issues.
- Frequently Asked Questions – This page included a list of frequently asked questions regarding the project and the associated answers.
- Submit a Comment – The public was encouraged to participate in the public outreach process, and were provided several methods for submitting comments regarding the project. This page provided the deadline and contact information for providing comments.

1.8 SUMMARY OF COMMENTS & RESPONSES

In total, forty-nine (49) users visited the “SH-100” project webpage as part of the Virtual Open House process, and ODOT received input from three (3) agencies and one (1) tribe, along with comments/questions from nine (9) other responders, including one (1) phone call, one (1) emailed comment, one (1) interactive mapper comment, three (3) website comments, and three (3) paper comments forms received by mail.

The comments and responses associated with each media are presented in the following sections.

1.8.1 Website Analytics

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE WEBSITE ANALYTICS	
VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE WEBSITE PAGE	TOTAL
Users / Visitors	49
Attendees Who Signed Electronic Sign-In Sheet	8
Sign-In & Handout	23 views
Interactive Project Map	46 views
Comments on Interactive Map	1 commentor / 5 comments
Project Presentation	41 views
Environmental Studies	13 views
Right of Way Information	26 views
Frequently Asked Questions	14 views
Attendees Who Filled Out Electronic Comment Form	14 views/ 3 received

1.8.2 Public Comments

COMMENTS	
GENERAL COMMENT CONTEXT	INPUT
Respondent 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lives on the eastern end of the SH-100 project. Would like to know how the project will directly affect her property, electric, gas, and water utilities. Has a cinder block building that is close to the highway and fences along the highway. Needs an additional electrical line to be run from the road north, and would like to know if the Ozark’s electric lines will be relocated. Has a water line issue and would like to know if District 2 will be laying new water lines along the highway. Wants to know if anyone from ODOT will be meeting with land owners to discuss specific impacts.

<p>Respondent 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the need for safety improvements. Has called in many vehicle wrecks at the intersection of 834 and SH-100. • Understands that he will have to move, according to ODOT maps, and moving and operating his farm will be stressful. • Only saw in the presentation materials the option to move to a nearby available home of equal value, but would prefer to build a new home on their own land and would like to know if this is an option. • Concerned about the appraisal of the property. Hopes the appraisal and relocation assistance will be sufficient enough that they will be able to continue living in their community.
<p>Respondent 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approves of and supports ODOT's SH-100 improvements project. • Especially likes the curve corrections planned Adair County Road 467 and Adair County Road 469. The removal of the curves will decrease the risk of vehicles running off the road.
<p>Respondent 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property owner near N4678 Rd. Most of their property is on the north side of the current SH-100, and they also have property further east near the water tower on the south side of the current roadway. • The new roadway will take out their pond, and they will need it replaced. • Have cattle on the property and will need the fences and gates replaced on the new south/west right-of-way before the current fences are removed. • Own 100 acres more or less on the north side of the highway. Would like to know how many acres will be taken for the project. • There is a cattle guard on N4678 Rd. that will need to be replaced. • Will need access to their property on the south side of the roadway. • It appears on the provided maps that the north boundaries are too near some of their shop buildings. Would like for the shop to be removed / replaced at the expense of ODOT. • Would like to know the deposition of the property on the south side of the current roadway and the current roadway after it is removed, as their property joins the current roadway on the south side. • Understands that ODOT agents will contact them "late 2021." Would like to know if this is CY 2021 or FY 2021. Would like to hear from ODOT ASAP. • Have had a signed contract for sale of the property on the north side of the current roadway, however, when the project was announced, the buyer backed out. • Until they know the actual location of the new right-of-way and the new fences, cattle guard installed, they will continue to be negatively affected. Understand ODOT has several property owners to deal with, but hopes they will be one of the first. • Currently lives in Tennessee and is planning to make a trip to Adair County the week of May 31, 2021. Would like to know if it would be beneficial to meet in person at that time.
<p>Respondent 5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to be contacted when ODOT is ready to start the project. Wants to be present for the right-of-way description.
<p>Respondent 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a piece of property with 140 feet of highway frontage on Section 16, T15N, R24E in Adair County. The last time ODOT worked on this area, they didn't leave a driveway. Would like ODOT to provide a driveway for this project.
<p>Respondent 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owns the property at 4643 Rd. with the shop on the north side of the road and the houses on the south side. • Would like to know what impact the project will have on the building. He runs his business out of the shop and rent the other two houses. Wants to know if they will be removed or left. • Wants to know if he can still use the shop during construction of the road and intersection rebuilding. • Would like to know when he will be contacted about these issues.

<p>Respondent 8 (same entity as Respondent 2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a wet weather spring that flows North from a neighbor's property and feeds water to my property in this location. • There is a concrete box culvert in this area on the current SH-100 that the drainage ditch goes directly in the middle of the proposed E 834 Rd intersection. Questions where this water is going to be drained on the North side of the new SH100. • Would like to know if he will have any land left on the South side of the proposed highway when all is said and done. • Wants to know if any new fence will be built east and west of the indicated location. • It appears ODOT will be taking his house and shop. His only concern is that he gets compensated well, so that he may have enough to rebuild in an economy that has seen an increase of 20%-50% plus in building material costs since the first public meeting.
<p>Respondent 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about his property. Received the pamphlet in the mail, but did not access the web page. • Heard rumors that ODOT has started taking homes and property. • Wanted information regarding the general scope of the project. • Would like someone from ODOT to contact them now. Recently purchased a house close to SH-100 and was going to fix it up for their daughter, but did not want to begin renovations if ODOT will need to acquire it. (Location of house is STA ~663 – 676 Right: SE corner of Bunch Rd./NS-466 and SH-100. Own the SE 40 acres at the intersection, including the house.) • Would like to know if their house is at risk (location of house is STA ~715 – 719 Right: SE corner of NS-467 Rd. Own ~14 acres), and how much, if any, frontage property would be taken from their two properties. • Wanted to know about time frames for the project.

1.8.3 ODOT Responses to Public Comments

The responses received were summarized and generically grouped into categories, each of which are presented below. Next to each comment is ODOT's response.

ODOT RESPONSES TO ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS	
ISSUE/COMMENT/CONCERN	RESPONSE
<p>Right-of-Way & Relocation Questions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, an agent from ODOT's Right-of-Way (RW) Division will contact all affected landowners to discuss their specific situation and affected property. • ODOT RW appraisals will occur and then an offer will be presented. Property owners will have an opportunity to discuss the appraisal with the RW agent. • The RW process is currently underway, and an ODOT agent will be contacting property owners in the coming months (late 2021/early 2022). • Relocation assistance is available to all those required to relocate. • More information, along with ODOT's Property Rights Brochure, can be found at ODOT's website.
<p>Utility Questions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilities affected by the project will be moved. Usually this entails new lines in place.
<p>ODOT Communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact (918) 687-5407 to meet with someone in person to discuss the project.
<p>Requests for Specific Property Improvements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property owners and ODOT can negotiate requested improvements as part of the RW negotiation process.
<p>Specific Property Impacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOT is not providing specific information regarding individual property impacts at this time. • Property owners affected will be notified individually, and relocation assistance is available for all those properties requiring relocation.

Project Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More information, along with the planned project timeline, can be found at ODOT's website.
Drainage Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing drainage patterns are being maintained. Post-construction flows will be discharged to the same locations that currently exist.

1.8.4 Agency Comments

After the start of the Virtual Open House, several agencies were mailed solicitation letters requesting comments on the proposed project. Three (3) agency and one (1) tribal comments were received. Individual comments are summarized below.

AGENCY COMMENTS	
AGENCY	INPUT
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) General Counsel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEQ has no additional comments from those provided for this project in the September 24, 2019 email. No environmental concerns under DEQ jurisdiction are anticipated. DEQ Recommended ODOT obtain a construction storm water permit (OKR10). Any burning associated with land clearing operations must be conducted in accordance with OAC 252:100, Subchapter 13.
	ODOT RESPONSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ODOT is aware of these permitting requirements. ODOT specifies that construction contractors to obtain an OKR10 permit authorization and adhere to specific construction-related requirements (when applicable).
OK Aeronautics Commission (OAC) Aviation Program Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OAC wanted to remind ODOT of the obligation to comply with 14 CFR Part 77.13 regarding construction activity near federal airports. OAC did state that the potential project does not appear to pose a hazard to safe and efficient use of navigable airspace.
	ODOT RESPONSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments noted. ODOT will contact the FAA during the appropriate phase to determine if Form 7460-1 needs to be completed.
OK State Parks Planning Coordinator II – Tourism and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stated commentary included: "...it is a nice view from the mountain side and three homes appear to be adversely impacted. It seems better to stay up high out of wet areas and save the one house..." The project will have no significant adverse impact on any federally funded park or recreation area or state park, regarding the LWCF Act 54 U.S.C. 200305(f)(3), which states no land may be permanently used for private or non-outdoor recreation purposes (defined by the program).
	ODOT RESPONSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments noted.

Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office Historic Preservation Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no known Osage resources within the project area. Request to view final report that includes a project site plan map indicating the locations of screened shovel tests labeled by their field identification numbers and a table listing shovel test locations, width (cm), actual depth (cm) of each level, soils of each level, and results. Shovel test minimum width is 30 cm. Shovel test minimum depth is to 50 cm or sterile soil, whichever is encountered first. If terminated before sterile soil is reached, please provide an explanation either in the text or in the shovel test log.
	ODOT RESPONSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ODOT's Director of Tribal Coordination is working with the Osage Nation to address their request through the Section 106 process.

1.8.5 Overall Comment Summary

All comments were compiled below. The table is designed to provide an overall summary of the input received with respect to project approval and the major issues of concern.

SUMMARY OF ALL COMMENTS	
ISSUE / COMMENT / CONCERN	NUMBER OF COMMENTS/RESPONSES
Total Number of Individual Commenters / Responders	13
Residential & Business Commenters	9 total 8 individuals
Agency Commenters	3
Tribal Commenters	1
Specifically Approve of Project / Provided Support for Project	1
Specifically Disapprove of Project	0
General Comment Categories	-
o Property Impacts / Right-of-Way Concerns	6
o Utility Questions	1
o ODOT Communication	4
o Property Appraisal Concerns	2
o Requests for Specific Property Improvements	3
o Project Timeline	1
o Drainage Concerns	1