



Welcome to the virtual public open house for the US-277 Improvements Project in Elgin, we thank you for joining us.

## Presentation Agenda

### Topics

- Open House Purpose
- Project Location
- Existing Roadway
- Project Need and Purpose
- Project Description
- Environmental Findings
- Project Schedule
- How to Submit Comments



US-277 Improvements in Elgin



In this presentation, we'll cover several topics including the purpose of this open house and the project itself, the existing conditions of the roadway and the need for the project, an overview of the project, findings associated with the environmental studies, the estimated timeline for the project - including construction - and how to submit comments.

## Purpose of this Virtual Open House

- Inform the public of the proposed improvements to US-277 in Elgin
- Provide information obtained during the environmental studies for the project
- Receive input on construction concerns.
- Outline the next steps and schedule for the project

Comments and information received from the public will be evaluated and incorporated into the project development process

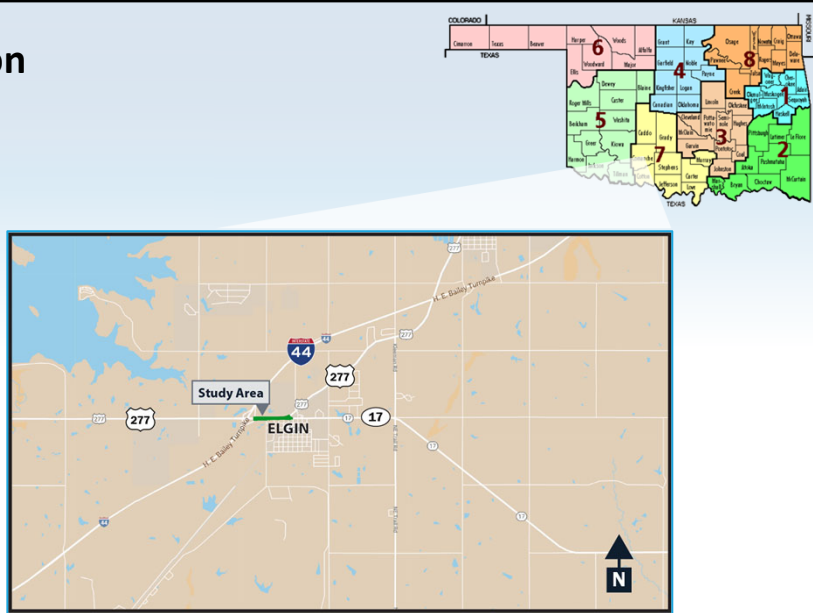


US-277 Improvements in Elgin



The purpose of this virtual open house is to provide information on the proposed improvements to US-277 in Elgin. We'll also provide the findings from the various environmental studies conducted for the project, gather your input, and outline the next steps and schedule for this project. All comments and information we receive will be evaluated and incorporated into the project development process, so your input is very important to us. The comment submittal process will be explained in a later slide.

## Project Location



US-277 Improvements in Elgin



The US-277 project is located in Elgin in Comanche County in south central Oklahoma and depicted on this map with the green shading.

## Project Location



This graphic depicts the limits of the project study area within Comanche County in Elgin, Oklahoma. As you can see, the improvements will extend from the northbound H.E. Bailey Turnpike off ramp, east 0.4 miles to the US-277 and SH 17 Intersection.

## Existing Roadway

- **2-Lane Urban Open Section Facility**
  - Multiple developments adjacent to US-277
  - Parking lots in close proximity to driving lanes
  - Ponding and other drainage issues
  - Pavement degrading near areas with ponding
  - No sidewalks
- **Annual Average Daily Traffic**
  - Current (2021) = 12,100 vehicles per day
  - Projected (2041) = 17,000 vehicles per day



US-277 Improvements in Elgin



Existing US-277 is a two lane-highway with paved shoulders. The roadway is an open section with no storm sewer or sidewalks. The annual average daily traffic is currently 12,100 vehicles per day and projected to be 17,000 vehicles per day in 2041.

## Project Need & Purpose

- **PROJECT NEED**

- Congestion along the urban section of US-277 in Elgin due to turning traffic
- Difficult right turn truck movements onto SH 17
- Drainage issues and ponding along the edge of US-277
- Degradation of existing pavement
- Does not safely accommodate pedestrians

- **PROJECT PURPOSE**

- Improve traffic flow
- Facilitate left-turn movements
- Improve drainage
- Replace aging pavement
- Accommodate pedestrian traffic



US-277 Improvements in Elgin



The project is needed to address existing deficiencies along US-277, including congestion from turning traffic, drainage issues, poor pavement conditions, and a lack of pedestrian access. The purpose is to improve traffic flow within the project limits, facilitate left-turn movements, improve drainage, replace aging pavement, and accommodate pedestrians.

## Project Description

- Improve traffic flow by reconstructing US-277 to a 3-lane curb and gutter section
- Extending the merge area between the H.E. Bailey Turnpike and through traffic
- Construct 2-way left turn lanes to provide safe access to adjacent developments
- Increase turning radius at SH 17
- Improve drainage through town by use of curbs and storm sewer
- Reconstruct aging pavement
- Provide ADA compliant sidewalks on both sides of US-277



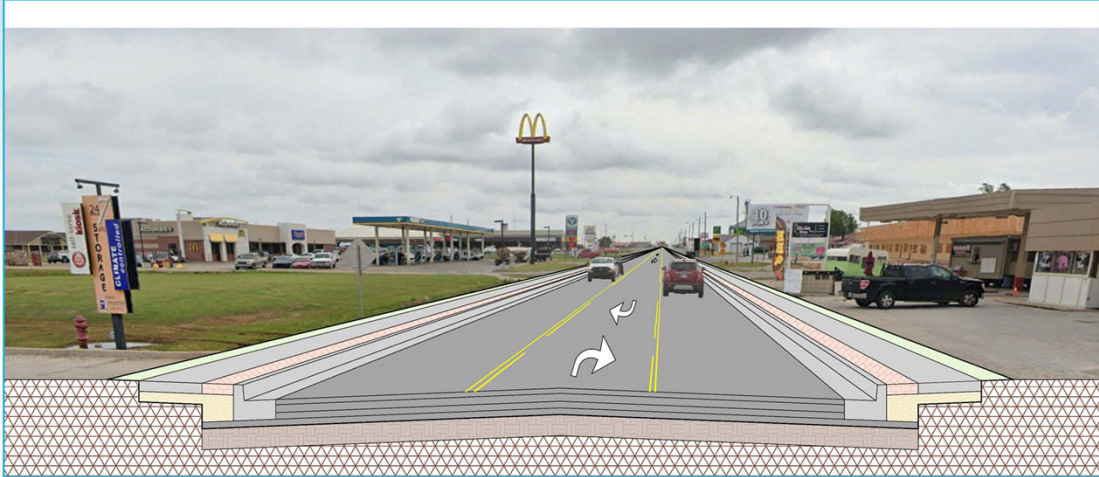
US-277 Improvements in Elgin



Proposed improvements will consist of providing safe access to developments by reconstructing US-277 to a three-lane facility and replacing aging pavement. The roadway will consist of a mostly curb and gutter section with storm sewer systems to improve drainage. ADA compliant sidewalks will be also constructed on both sides of US-277 to better accommodate pedestrian traffic through Elgin.



## Proposed 3-Lane Curb and Gutter Typical Section



US-277 Improvements in Elgin



This image shows the proposed US-277 typical section, with one 12-foot driving lane in each direction, and a 12-foot continuous left turn lane, as well as curb and gutter and 4- to 6-foot sidewalks on both sides of the roadway.

## Proposed US-277 Near Arvest Bank Driveway



US-277 Improvements in Elgin



Pictured here is a rendering of the proposed project. A right turn lane is being introduced just east of Arvest Bank to accommodate traffic movements turning north onto the H.E. Bailey Turnpike. In most other locations, the roadway will consist of one 12-foot lane in each direction and a 12-foot two-way left turn lane.

## Why is a three-lane roadway being constructed instead of a four- or five-lane roadway?

- Four-lane, undivided highways experience a number of crash types as traffic volumes increase, including rear-end and sideswipe crashes from the following conditions:
  - Differing speeds
  - Stopped vehicles attempting to make left turns
  - Frequently changing lanes
- A five-lane roadway with a two-way left-turn lane would require large amounts of R/W and would lead to the displacement of several businesses along US-277.



US-277 Improvements in Elgin



A three-lane roadway with a two-way left-turn lane is being considered over a four- or five-lane roadway for safety and right-of-way (R/W) reasons. Four-lane, undivided highways experience a number of crash types as traffic volumes increase, including rear-end and sideswipe crashes from differing speeds, stopped vehicles attempting to make left turns, and the need to frequently change lanes. A five-lane roadway with a two-way left-turn lane would require large amounts of R/W and would lead to the displacement of several businesses along US-277.

## Traffic Control Plan

- Two lanes of traffic will be open at all times
- Access to businesses and homes will be maintained during construction
- Temporary signing and striping will be utilized during construction
- Temporary lane shifts will be utilized
- Flagging may be utilized as appropriate



US-277 Improvements in Elgin



Construction will require temporary shifting of traffic to widen US-277. However, two lanes of traffic will be open at all times throughout construction. Access to businesses and homes will also be maintained during construction.

## Typical Environmental Evaluation Criteria

### Natural Resources

- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.
- Critical Water Resources

### Cultural Resources

- Historic Properties / Structures
- Archeological Sites
- Historic Cemeteries
- Tribal Properties

### Other

- Environmental Justice
- Community Impacts
- Hazardous Waste Sites / Fuel Storage Tanks
- Parks / Recreational Areas
- Air Quality
- Prime Farmland
- Traffic Noise Impacts



US-277 Improvements in Elgin



When Federal Highway Administration funds are used for a transportation project like this one, there are typical environmental criteria that must be considered under the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA. These criteria include Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and other community considerations.

Natural Resources considerations include Threatened and Endangered Species, Wetlands and Waters of the U.S., and Critical Water Resources.

Cultural Resources include properties and structures, archeological sites, and historic cemeteries that have been determined eligible for or are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, as well as sacred tribal properties.

Other resources that are considered include topics such as impacts to minority and low-income communities, as well as impacts to parks and recreation areas, prime farmland, air quality and traffic noise as appropriate. Hazardous waste sites and fuel storage tanks are also considered to identify potential environmental risks within and adjacent to the proposed right-of-way.

## Noteworthy Environmental Study Findings

### Waterways and Wetlands

- The project includes an extension of the culvert that carries an unnamed tributary to Lake Ellsworth beneath US-277. This intermittent stream is regulated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
- Avoidance and minimization measures will be implemented to minimize impacts to this tributary and the adjacent wetland. The culvert extension and temporary impacts associated with the culvert construction can be permitted by the USACE under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

### Threatened and Endangered Species

- The project is anticipated to have “no effect” on endangered or threatened species.
- Measures will be implemented during construction to minimize and mitigate any potential impact to migratory birds.

### Cultural Resources

- No known cultural resources will be adversely affected.

### Hazardous Waste

- Environmental studies identified three leaking underground storage tank sites that warrant additional investigation.



US-277 Improvements in Elgin



A United States Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit will be required for the proposed culvert extension along the unnamed tributary to Lake Ellsworth. No habitat for endangered and threatened species was identified. Measures will be taken to minimize potential impacts on migratory birds. No known cultural resources will be adversely affected. Three leaking underground storage tank sites were identified within the area of impact/right-of-way that warrant additional investigation.

## Project Schedule\*



*\* This schedule is dependent on funding and is subject to change.*

Schedule based on current ODOT 8 Year Construction Work Plan found on ODOT's website:

<https://oklahoma.gov/odot/programs-and-projects/8-year-construction-work-plan.html>



US-277 Improvements in Elgin



The National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, document is scheduled to be completed by federal fiscal year 2022. The ODOT 8-year construction work plan currently has right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation scheduled for federal fiscal year 2025 but may advance ahead of schedule. Construction is expected to begin in federal fiscal year 2027 but may advance ahead of schedule. Please note that this schedule is dependent on funding and is subject to change. The current ODOT 8-year construction work plan can be found with the link shown here.

## Submit Your Comments

We Value Your  
Input!

Comments  
Due By  
August 17, 2021

Download and submit a comment form at  
[www.odot.org/US277Elgin](http://www.odot.org/US277Elgin)

Submit your written comments by mail to:  
**Oklahoma Department of Transportation**  
Environmental Programs Division  
200 NE 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Email your comments to [environment@odot.org](mailto:environment@odot.org)



US-277 Improvements in Elgin



We value your input! Please submit your comments by August 17, 2021.

There are a number of ways you can provide your feedback:

You can download and submit a comment form at [www.odot.org/publicmeetings](http://www.odot.org/publicmeetings).

Or you can submit your written comments by mail to:

Oklahoma Department of Transportation

Environmental Programs Division

200 NE 21<sup>st</sup> Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Or, you can email your comments to [environment@odot.org](mailto:environment@odot.org).

The comment period window will be open from August 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.