

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **How will I know if ODOT plans to acquire some of my property?**

The project will require minimal permanent right-of-way, but utility and construction easements will be needed in some areas. The proposed right-of-way is preliminary and will be refined as the design and construction plans are developed. If your property will be affected, an ODOT-authorized agent will contact you in the future. It is anticipated that right-of-way acquisition for this project will begin in 2023, however this schedule is dependent on funding and subject to change.

## **What is the process if ODOT needs some of my property?**

ODOT will obtain an independent appraisal and present a fair market value offer for your property. Owners of affected homes or business will be provided with additional relocation assistance.

## **What if ODOT needs temporary access for construction or a maintenance easement?**

ODOT may need temporary access or easements to maintain the highway and drainage structures. Property owners will be compensated for temporary right-of-way and for maintenance easements. In these cases, property owners will maintain ownership of the property. If your property will be affected, an ODOT-authorized agent will contact you.

## **When will ODOT start buying property?**

Right-of-way acquisition for this project is anticipated to start in 2023. However, the schedule is dependent on funding and subject to change.

## **What coordination is being done with the City of Stillwater?**

ODOT has been working closely with the City of Stillwater to coordinate efforts for this project. The City of Stillwater has been involved with the project since the early planning stages and will continue to be an integral part of the project team. ODOT and the City will continue to collaborate throughout the duration of the project to address complex challenges unique to the community's infrastructure and transportation network. The City is currently completing a multi-modal corridor study and has collaborated with ODOT throughout the effort.

## **When is construction scheduled to begin?**

Construction is anticipated to begin in 2025. However, the schedule is dependent on funding and subject to change.

## **How will the project be built?**

SH-51 will remain open during construction, and access to residences and businesses will be maintained. The corridor will be phased into multiple projects.

## **Will there be access to my home and property during construction?**

Yes, access to homes, businesses, and properties adjacent to the project will be maintained throughout construction. In some cases, temporary driveways may be required until permanent driveways can be restored.

## **How does ODOT calculate the existing and future traffic volumes?**

Traffic counts are taken every two years on state highways. The existing traffic numbers reflect the current condition. The future traffic numbers are specific to the project's area and account for estimated anticipated growth.

Annual average daily traffic (AADT) is a measure used primarily in transportation engineering. Traditionally, it is the total volume of vehicle traffic of a highway or road for a year divided by 365 days. Therefore, there are days when there is more traffic, but this is an average. AADT is a simple, but useful, measurement of how busy the road is.

## **Will the road be asphalt or concrete?**

The type of pavement has not been finalized, as a pavement design analysis is still underway. Pavement design is based on the ground conditions or material utilized under the pavement, traffic (including truck traffic) and design life.

## **What will happen to my driveway?**

This project will look at how access is provided to SH-51 and will assess the safety of these access points, including driveways. When feasible, driveways will be consolidated to single access points. Existing and newly consolidated driveways will be provided a new driveway from the SH-51 roadway to the right-of-way line. Drainage culverts will be replaced under driveways, as needed.

## **Will aesthetic improvements be made?**

ODOT will look for opportunities to safely enhance the aesthetics of the corridor to be cohesive with the surrounding community. Considerations for safety will be priority in determining the aesthetics implemented, with additional considerations for maintenance and cost. ODOT will work closely with the City of Stillwater on this effort.

## **How do I contact someone about this project?**

Written comments may be submitted by mail, email, or online comment form as described on the [Submit a Comment](#) page. Survey responses can be submitted on the [Interactive Survey](#) page.

If you would like more information on the project, you may email [environment@odot.org](mailto:environment@odot.org) or call **(405) 325-3269**.

## **Will there be changes at Willis Street?**

No. The intersection at Willis Street and SH-51 will remain as a signalized intersection and Willis Street north of SH-51 will continue to operate as a one-way traffic flow to best serve the operational needs of the area.