



## What is the environmental impact?

As the project is funded in part by federal funds through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the project is required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and several other federal environmental laws and executive orders. Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) completed environmental studies of the project area. These studies included:

- Identification of archeological, historic resources and cemeteries (Cultural Resources)
- Tribal Consultation
- Delineation of streams and wetlands
- Assessment of threatened and endangered species and their habitat
- Assessment of potentially hazardous waste sites
- Noise
- Identification of floodplain impacts
- Environmental justice data collection

A summary of these findings is presented below. These studies will be documented in a NEPA environmental document, which will be finalized once public input is received from this virtual open house.

### Cultural Resources

A cultural resources study was completed and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (File #1925-21) and the State Archaeologist (File #FY21-1933) resulted in concurrence with the assessment and determination. No cultural resources were identified within the project area.

### Tribal Consultation

The following tribes were consulted for input: Absentee Shawnee Tribe Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, Osage Nation, Sac & Fox Nation, and Wichita & Affiliated Tribes.

### Streams and Wetlands

the appropriate Clean Water Act Section 404 permit application is made.

## Threatened and Endangered Species:

Studies indicate potential habitat in the project area for the American burying beetle. Measures to minimize impacts on the American burying beetle will be added to the project plans. Potential habitat for the bald eagle and other migratory birds was also identified. ODOT will perform additional surveys prior to construction to identify any active eagle or other bird nests.

## Hazardous Waste Sites

The Hazardous Waste assessment revealed no Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs) in relation to the project area that pose environmental risk to the proposed ODOT project. No additional environmental assessment is recommended for the project area.

## Noise

ODOT reviewed its current noise policy, and a traffic noise study is not required.

## Floodplains

Most of the project area is not located in a floodplain. The areas associated with USACE land have some areas that are located with a floodplain. ODOT will coordinate with the USACE regarding compensatory storage for floodplain impacts.

## Environmental Justice

Environmental justice (EJ) communities are identified as areas containing predominantly minority populations and/or low-income populations. For this analysis, areas containing predominantly minority populations are defined as census blocks containing minority populations greater than the Oklahoma State average of 31.3 percent. Based on Census 2010 data, 6 out of the 12 populated census blocks adjacent to the proposed project contain predominantly minority populations of greater than 31.3%.

Areas containing predominantly low-income populations are defined as census block groups with median household incomes at or below the current Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) poverty guideline for a family of four. In 2021, the HHS poverty guideline for a family of four is \$26,500. According to 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Five-Year Estimates, all four of the populated census block groups along the corridor reflect median household incomes greater than the 2021 HHS poverty guideline. LEP populations are defined as persons that speak English less than "very well." LEP populations are identified using block group level data from the 2015-2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates. LEP populations in the individual census block groups adjacent to the corridor range from 0 to approximately 2.9 percent of the total population five years of age and older. Of the 5,232 people (five years and older) within all four census block groups, approximately 2.0 percent speak English less than "very well." The most prevalent language spoken by the 106 people with LEP is Spanish (81 people), followed by Asian and Pacific Islander languages (14 people), and Other languages (11 people).

Based on this data, additional public outreach and/or translations for languages other than English is determined not to be warranted. As reflected in current ACS data, the LEP percentage for the project area is low (less than 3.0 percent). However, LEP persons are given the opportunity for meaningful involvement in the NEPA process through the ability to request translation services.

In summary, no major issues were identified in the environmental studies for streams and wetlands, floodplains, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, hazardous waste sites, noise, or environmental justice. The project has no potentially significant social, economic, or environmental impacts identified by studies although plan notes will be required for threatened and endangered species.

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