

# Virtual Public Open House Summary

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**Oklahoma Department of Transportation**

**SH-18 From SH-33, Extend North 2 Miles to E690**

**Payne County, ODOT JP 33365(04)**

Prepared by:



**an STV Company**

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## Executive Summary

This document summarizes the virtual public open house conducted to provide an overview of the proposed improvements to SH-18 from SH-33, north approximately 2 miles to E690 (Deep Rock Road) in the City of Cushing, Payne County, Oklahoma. The purpose of the virtual public open house (VPOH) was to provide information about the proposed improvements and obtain input from the public.

The open house was held on-line between June 14 and June 28, 2022. Fifteen (15) members of the public signed in on the website; however, sign-in was not required. Property owners within and adjacent to the project area were notified of the public meeting through a mailed pamphlet; a comment form and self-addressed envelope were also provided. An additional 3,937 notifications were sent to cover a larger geographic area via Every Door Direct. These additional addressees received a post card that provided a high-level overview of the project, and information about the virtual open house. According to the website analytics, 175 unique users viewed the website over the two-week period. In total, nine (9) written comments/questions were received during the virtual open house comment period, including four (4) agency responses, and five (5) comments submitted via the website comment feature.

Solicitation letters including notification of the virtual open house and a project location map were mailed to the appropriate local, state, and federal resource agencies on June 10, 2022. Native American Tribes were provided the full notification pamphlet referenced above. No Tribal comments were received. Agency comments included the following:

- The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission (OAC) indicated that the project does not appear to pose a hazard to the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace.
- The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality indicated that no adverse environmental impacts in their jurisdiction are anticipated.
- The Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) indicated that a temporary permit or water from a permanent location would be needed if dust suppression is necessary.
- The Oklahoma Conservation Commission indicated that at least four streams cross the proposed project area and discussed concerns surrounding the effects of the project on the streams and possible mitigation techniques to resolve these concerns.

There was not a common issue across the five (5) public comments. **Table E-1** summarizes the comments received.

**Table E-1: Major Issues of Concern**

| ISSUE OF CONCERN                   | # OF COMMENTS |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Project phasing                    | 1             |
| Roadway surface                    | 1             |
| Bicycle/pedestrian accommodations  | 1             |
| Traffic and project purpose & need | 1             |
| In favor of project                | 1             |

### **Responses to Comments**

#### Project Phasing

Thank you for your comment. The Highway 33 construction underway in Cushing is targeted for completion in 2023. This project is still in the design phase. Construction is anticipated to begin in FFY 2025.

#### Roadway Surface

Thank you for your comment. The proposed roadway surface course is concrete pavement at the south end to tie into the existing roadway type, and then transitions to asphalt in the northern portion consistent with conditions along SH-18 to the north.

#### In Favor of Project

Thank you for your comment.

#### Bicycle & Pedestrian Accommodations

Thank you for your comment. There are currently no designated ADA compliant sidewalks within the corridor. The proposed project includes widening SH-18 to include three lanes (2 thru-traffic and a dual left turn) and sidewalk. Sidewalk will be constructed in the southern half of the project under this project, and space for future sidewalk is being incorporated into the northern portion. The proposed sidewalk will be ADA compliant and improve pedestrian safety within the corridor. It should also be noted that the proposed curb and gutter reduces the right-of-way impacts in the residential area.

#### Traffic Projections

Thank you for your comment. For the SH-18 traffic analysis ODOT used a 1% growth rate from the design year (2022). The subsection referenced (6000004HX00000000) in the comment is an averaged number that ODOT does not use when determining AADT; ODOT used two nearby sites and used the averages of those to produce the current design traffic data.

There are eleven local street connections and 101 private commercial/agricultural drives. The analysis of collision rates conducted as part of the Preliminary Engineering Report indicates the rates for this roadway corridor are significantly higher than the Oklahoma statewide rates. The majority of the collisions involved angle turning and rear-end collisions, which is commensurate with the number of residential and commercial drives along the SH-18 corridor. The intent of the proposed dual left turn lane is to improve the operation of the facility from a crash perspective through minimizing head-to-head collisions and providing refuge to turning vehicles to minimize rear-end collisions.

## Introduction

This document summarizes the virtual public open house conducted to provide an overview of the proposed improvements to SH-18 from SH-33, north approximately 2 miles to E690 (Deep Rock Road) in the City of Cushing, Payne County, Oklahoma. The purpose of the virtual public open house (VPOH) was to provide information about the proposed improvements and obtain input from the public.

### ***Virtual Public Open House Notification***

Notice of the VPOH was sent by USPS mail to elected officials (federal, state, and local), stakeholders, property owners, utility owners, and Native American Tribes in the study area. The mailing included a project pamphlet with information on how to access the virtual open house. The pamphlet also included information on the proposed improvements, the purpose of the proposed project, and schedule. A comment form and self-addressed stamped envelope were included. The pamphlet also included a letter from ODOT. An opportunity for translation or other accommodations was provided but no translation or special accommodations were requested. Postcards with a brief overview of the project and the upcoming VPOH were also mailed via USPS Every Door Direct Mail service to 3,937 addresses in and around the area surrounding the project. A copy of the comment form, mailing lists, and direct mail information are included in **Appendix A**.

### ***Meeting Information and Format***

The virtual public open house was held online between June 14, 2022, and June 28, 2022. The website address was [www.odot.org/SH18](http://www.odot.org/SH18). Fifteen (15) members of the public signed in on the website; however, sign-in was not required. According to the website analytics, 175 unique users viewed the website over the two-week period. A copy of the summary analytics and the website sign-in are included in **Appendix B**. Materials that were posted on the website are also included in **Appendix B**. The website included the following pages:

- Homepage welcoming the public to the virtual open house, and a series of six tabs containing additional information as detailed below.
- Sign-in and Handout tab – a form for signing in and a PDF copy of the notification pamphlet.
- Project Information – provides an overview of the project, project purpose, typical sections showing proposed lane and facility configurations, and a timeframe for the proposed project.
- Project Schematic – a graphic of the proposed project on aerial imagery showing existing and proposed right-of-way, proposed roadway pavement, and proposed sidewalk pavement.
- Environmental Impacts – summaries of studies and coordination conducted for Tribal Consultation, Cultural Resources, Streams and Wetlands, Endangered and Threatened Species, Hazardous Materials, Floodplain, and Environmental Justice.
- Right of Way Information – information about right-of-way process and the ODOT Property Rights Brochure.
- Frequently Asked Questions – Responses to questions likely to be asked about the project
- Submit a Comment – online form to submit a comment as well as a PDF of the comment form to download and mail.

## Agency Solicitation

Agency solicitation letters were mailed on June 10, 2021. These letters provided a short project description and included information about the VPOH and requested that recipients provide input by

June 28, 2022. Enclosed with the letter was a copy of the project location map. The letter was sent to state and federal resource agencies. The agency solicitation letters are included in **Appendix A**.

## Summary of Comments and Responses

In total, nine (9) written comments/questions were received during the virtual public meeting, including four (4) agency responses and five (5) comments submitted via the website comment feature. The comments are included in **Appendix C**.

### Agency & Tribal Comments

Four agency comments were received.

- The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission (OAC) indicated that the project does not appear to pose a hazard to the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace.  
*Response: ODOT appreciates your comment.*
- The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality indicated that no adverse environmental impacts in their jurisdiction are anticipated.  
*Response: ODOT appreciates your comment.*
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*Response: ODOT appreciates your comment.*
- The Oklahoma Conservation Commission indicated that at least four streams cross the proposed project area and discussed concerns surrounding the effects of the project on the streams and possible mitigation techniques to resolve these concerns.  
*Response: ODOT appreciates your comment.*

### Public Comments

There was not a common issue across the five (5) public comments. **Table E-1** summarizes the comments received.

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| Traffic and project purpose and need | 1             |
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### Responses to Comments

#### Project Phasing

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