

Open House Summary



Oklahoma Department of Transportation

**SH-82 Widen and Resurface From 2.57 Miles
South of SH-82C Junction, North 6 Miles
JP 30575(04)**

Cherokee County, Oklahoma

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Introduction

This document summarizes the open house that was conducted for the State Highway 82 (SH-82) Widen and Resurface project near Peggs in Cherokee County, Oklahoma. The purpose of the open house was to present information about the project, including an overview of completed environmental studies and the project schedule, and gather input about the proposed widen and resurface project. The public was provided an opportunity to ask questions and provide written comments.

Open House Notification

Notice was sent by USPS mail to elected officials (federal, state, and local), Native American Tribes, property owners, and utility owners in the study area. The mailing included information regarding the open house logistics, and information about the project and the project's purpose. Notification materials provided contact information should additional accommodations be necessary; however, no accommodations were requested. Postcards with a high-level overview of the project and information about the open house were also delivered using USPS service to 827 addresses in Peggs, Oklahoma and the general project area.

Open House Information and Format

The open house was held in person on Thursday, November 17, 2022, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at the Peggs Public Schools gymnasium, located at 10821 Hickory Avenue, Peggs, Oklahoma 74452. Pamphlets with information on the purpose and overview of the project were made available to meeting attendees at the sign-in table. Project team members, including consultant and ODOT representatives, were stationed at several tables and boards with the design schematic, location map, and environmental study findings to allow for review and to facilitate any questions and comments from meeting attendees. Information about the project and comment cards were made available for public viewing on November 7, 2022.

A total of 73 individuals signed in for the open house, including 64 members of the public, one public official, and eight ODOT and consultant staff. Of the 64 public participants, 20 attendees (or approximately 31%) checked the optional box on the sign-in sheet as Native American; however, seven of these also checked the "White" box. All others either identified as White or left that portion of the sign-in sheet blank. It should be noted that some couples signed together, making it more difficult to ascertain the percentage of Native American attendance.

Notification packages for the meeting were mailed 14 days in advance of the meeting, and comments were accepted through December 1, 2022. In total, 11 comments were received, including eight from the public and three agency comments/responses. All public comments were submitted on comment cards left during the open house. Agency comments were provided via email or U.S. mail. Comments have been summarized by consideration/issue in **Table 1**, and general feedback is provided below. The open house included the following materials:

- Sign-in – a form for signing into the open house.
- Pamphlet – containing a summary of information about the project and information on how to provide comments.
- Comment forms for submitting written comments.

- Exhibit Boards – boards displaying information regarding the project location, Tribal consultation information, and the results of completed environmental studies, including cultural resources, environmental justice, hazardous materials, streams, and wetlands, threatened and endangered species, relocations, and floodplains.
- Project Schematic – the design of the proposed project on aerial imagery showing existing and proposed right-of-way (based on 65% plans), and the proposed improvements

Summary of Comments and Responses

In total, 11 written comments were received during the comment period. A total of eight comments were received from the public and three were comments from agencies. Public comments were all provided during the open house. Agency comments were all provided via email or U.S. mail.

Agency & Tribal Comments

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality indicated that no adverse environmental impacts in their jurisdiction are anticipated from the proposed SH-82 project. The response also indicated that prior to beginning any construction activity disturbing more than one acre, a Notice of Intent (NOI) must be submitted and authorization under OKR10 must be obtained.

Response: ODOT thanks you for your comment.

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported that there are no oilfield related issues in the vicinity of this proposed SH-82 project near Peggs, OK.

Response: ODOT thanks you for your comment.

The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department reported that the project will have no significant adverse impact on any federally funded park or recreation area or state park.

Response: ODOT thanks you for your comment.

Public Comments

The nature of the comments varied; however, the majority of the comments pertained to safety and livestock crossings.

Table 1 below summarizes the comments received. Please note that the number of concerns identified may be greater than actual number of comments if more than one concern was included on the same *comment form*.

Table 1: Major Issues of Concern

Consideration/Issue	# of Comments
Livestock crossings	3
Left Turns	2
Property Impacts/ Driveways	2
Safety, Sight Distance, Speed Limits	3
Roadway Slopes / Utility Easement	2
Water Issues / Drainage	2

Responses to Comments

ODOT appreciates your feedback. The comments have been evaluated by topic and the responses are provided below.

Livestock Crossings

Thank you for your comments. The concern regarding livestock crossings at Station 578+00 is being reviewed. At Station 763+00, the existing 6' x 4' reinforced concrete box (RCB) is being extended and there is no proposed right of way at this station. The existing 6' x 6' RCB at Station 787+95 is going to be extended to meet the new ditches on both sides of SH-82.

Left Turns

Thank you for your comments. The concerns regarding left turns are being reviewed.

Property Impacts/ Driveways

Thank you for your comments. ODOT Right of Way will meet with landowners to discuss compensation. The existing mailbox near Station 550+00 will be replaced with a new mailbox, and the driveway will be paved with asphalt.

Safety, Sight Distance, Speed Limits

Thank you for your comments. These concerns are being reviewed.

Roadway Slopes / Utility Easement

Thank you for your comment. The concern regarding the roadway shoulder slopes and utility easement at Station 578+00 is being reviewed.

Water Issues / Drainage

Thank you for your comments. The concerns are being reviewed.