

October 30, 2023

Subject: Alternative Selection for SH-11 West of Kaw City, Kay County, JP 33351(04)

Dear Stakeholder:

We are pleased to inform you that the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) in cooperation with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has selected the final alternatives for the improvements to SH-11 west of Kaw City in Kay County. A stakeholder meeting was held for the project on August 8, 2022. A public meeting was held on December 6, 2022, and a virtual public open house was held from November 15, 2022 through December 20, 2022. Two alternatives for the west half of the project (Alternatives 1 and 2) and two alternatives for the east half of the project (Alternatives A and B) were presented to the public for consideration and input. Links to the materials presented at the meeting can be found at www.odot.org/publicmeetings.

Alternative 1 on the west half of the project stayed as close to the existing highway as possible while still correcting the deficient curves and allowing the existing highway to remain open during construction. Alternative 2 presented a straighter alignment along the section line. **ODOT selects Alternative 1** for the west half of the project based on fewer right-of-way and environmental impacts, fewer direct driveway connections to the new highway, and public input.

Alternative A on the east half of the project followed Eagle Drive east of Acker Hill Road for approximately ½ mile, then connected diagonally to the southeast to meet back with the existing highway at the end of the project. Alternative B began transitioning southeast just east of Acker Hill Road and met back with the existing highway near the Kaw Nation travel center. Alternative B also created a new realigned intersection with SH-11 and Acker Hill Road. In response to public feedback, ODOT developed four additional alternatives for the east half of the project to investigate the feasibility of more closely following the existing highway and reducing impacts to private property. None of these additional alternatives met the design and safety goals of the project and did not substantially reduce right-of-way impacts. Therefore, **ODOT selects Alternative A** for the east half because it provides the greatest safety benefit and balances impacts to private and tribal property.

The attached map shows the selected Alternative 1A. ODOT will move forward with design while completing detailed environmental studies for this alternative. ODOT currently anticipates right-of-way acquisition and utility relocations to begin in 2026 with projected construction in 2029, depending on funding availability. SH-11 will remain open to traffic during construction.

Should you need any information or have specific concerns, please contact Emily Pehrson, ODOT Project Manager, at (405) 343-5797 or Emily.Pehrson@odot.ok.gov.

Respectfully,



Trenton January, P.E.
District 4 Engineer

TJ:EP:Garver

Enclosures: Preferred Alternative Map, Location Map

Copy to: Project Management Division, Environmental Programs Division, Roadway Design Division, Cultural Resources Program, Tribal Liaison