

March 28, 2024

Subject: Alternative Selection for US-70 over Lake Texoma (Roosevelt Bridge), Bryan and Marshall Counties, JP 33873(04)

Dear Stakeholder:

We are pleased to inform you that the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) has selected the preferred alternative for the US-70 over Lake Texoma (Roosevelt Bridge) project in Bryan and Marshall Counties. Stakeholder meetings were held for the project on August 9, 2021 and March 23, 2023. A public meeting was held on July 25, 2023, and a virtual public open house was held from June 29 through August 10, 2023. Two sets of alternatives were presented to the public for consideration and input. Seven alternatives (Alternatives 1, 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B, 4, and 5) were evaluated in accordance with Section 4(f) of the United States Department of Transportation Act due to the historic significance of the Roosevelt Bridge as a property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. As such, ODOT must evaluate alternatives that avoid impacts to the bridge. Seven Replacement Alternatives (Alternatives 6-2, 6-3, 6-6, 6-14, 6-15, 6-17, and 6-18) would construct a new bridge across Lake Texoma. More detail on the alternatives and other materials presented at the public meeting can be found at [www.odot.org/publicmeetings](http://www.odot.org/publicmeetings).

The seven avoidance alternatives included do nothing (Alternative 1), rehabilitating and widening the existing bridge (Alternatives 2A/2B), constructing a new bridge to carry one direction of traffic while maintaining the other direction on the existing bridge (Alternatives 3A/3B), and constructing a new bridge for traffic while preserving the existing bridge either for bicycles and pedestrians or as a monument (Alternatives 4 and 5). Due to numerous structural deficiencies on the existing bridge, its narrow width that will not accommodate future traffic demand, and the significant cost to widen the existing bridge, ODOT eliminated Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 from further consideration. Alternatives 4 and 5 are still under consideration but would both require construction of a new bridge for vehicular traffic. The Replacement Alternatives for a new bridge considered various offset alignments from the existing bridge as well as a new alignment south of the existing bridge. Due to more challenging construction and maintenance of traffic associated with the offset alignments, ODOT eliminated Alternatives 6-2, 6-3, 6-6, 6-14, and 6-15 from further consideration. While alternatives 6-17B and 6-18B are very similar, **ODOT has selected Alternative 6-18B** (from here forward referred to as Alternative 18B) and will seek Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approval of this alternative. Alternative 18B addresses the need and purpose of the project, and is the most direct alignment, most straightforward to construct, and has the fewest impacts to traffic. Alternative 18B would construct a new bridge across Lake Texoma on a new southern alignment and will widen US-70 to four lanes on an offset to the south of the existing highway. US-70 will remain open to traffic during construction. Alternative 18B also allows for preservation of the historic bridge in place. Through our public involvement efforts, ODOT received overwhelming support for construction of a new bridge.

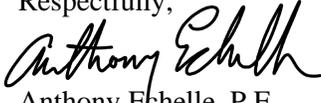
ODOT continues to seek a party interested in adopting and maintaining the existing Roosevelt Bridge. If a responsible party can be identified, the existing bridge will remain in place either as a pedestrian/bicycle facility or a monument. If a responsible party cannot be identified, ODOT will seek additional measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to the bridge, in consultation with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office and other stakeholders.

The attached map illustrates the selected Alternative 18B. ODOT will move forward with design while completing detailed environmental studies for this alternative. The project is currently programmed for construction in 2029 and is not fully funded. ODOT will continue to seek additional funding for the project and will advance the project if funding becomes available.

*"The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is to provide a safe, economical, and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma."*

Should you need any information or have specific concerns, please contact Anjie King, ODOT Project Manager, at (405) 210-1495 or [aking@odot.org](mailto:aking@odot.org).

Respectfully,



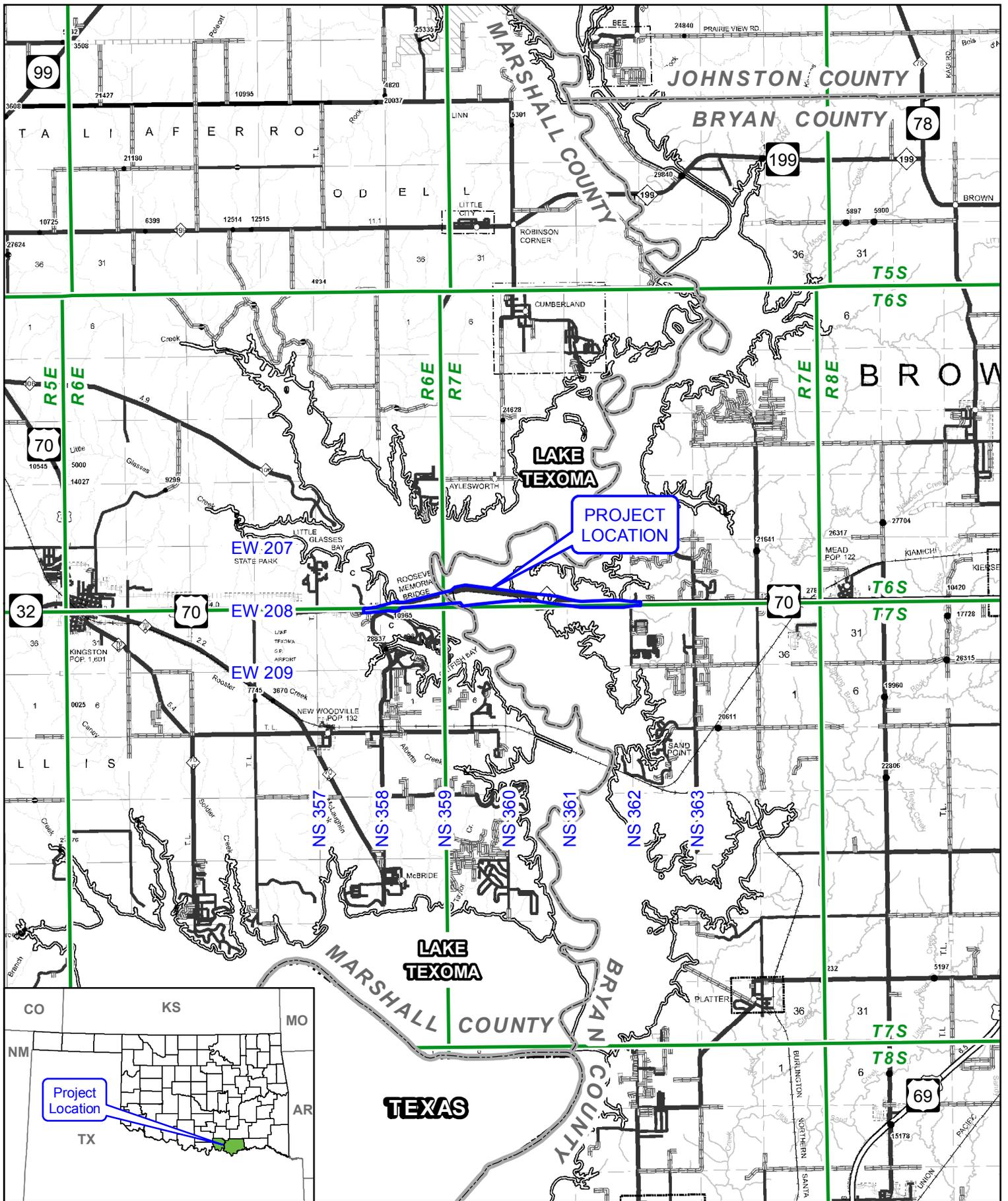
Anthony Echelle, P.E.

District 2 Engineer

*AE:AK:Garver*

Enclosures: Preferred Alternative Map, Location Map

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



Oklahoma Department of Transportation  
 District 2  
 Project Location Map



Bryan & Marshall Counties JP 33873(04) US-70 over Lake Texoma (Roosevelt Bridge)

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