Public Information Meeting

US-259 South of Idabel, OK
November 17th, 2015 @ 6:00pm
Idabel Public Library
103 E. Main Street
Idabel, OK 74745
Before we get started...

...Please turn off or mute any electronic devices, and make sure you have a Handout and Comment Form available. Please hold your questions till after the presentation has ended.
Presentation Outline

• Meeting and Project Purpose
• Project History
• Old Project Findings
• New Project Scope
• General Questions & Comments
• Meeting Conclusion
Project Location
Purpose of the Meeting

...is to inform the public & solicit comments about the Department’s decision to make improvements along the existing US-259 corridor.
Project History

Background of the project up to this point.
Purpose of the Project

…is to improve the safety and functionality of the US-259 corridor, south of the City of Idabel, in McCurtain County, OK.
Project History...

- Preliminary Engineering Study using Reconnaissance Level Data:
  - Completed by consultant in 2012.
- Identified a Preferred Alternative:
  - Alternative (3A).
- Estimated Construction, Right-of-way, and Utility Relocation Cost for Alternative 3A:
  - $44.6 million.
Project History...

• Roadway design and right-of-way acquisition:
  o Pending on detailed environmental studies.

• Two (2) Public Meetings were previously conducted:
  o Initial Public Information Meeting:
    • *July 8th, 2010*.
  o Present recommendations from the Preliminary Engineering Study:
    • *January 17th, 2013*
Old Project Findings

Information on the detailed studies performed.
Environmental studies showed...

- Project located in a Conservation Priority Area for the American Burying Beetle (ABB) which would require the purchase of approx. 15 credits
  - An additional cost of approx. $150,000.00
Environmental studies showed...

• Extensive mitigation required for wetlands.
  o An additional cost of approximately $7.15 Million.
• 34 Archeological sites were documented, and may require additional investigations and costs associated with those studies.
Because of this information...

...the Department is no longer constructing a new alignment for US-259 and will be considering the best ways to improve the existing alignment while keeping Right-of-Way, Environmental Impacts, and costs to a minimum.
New Project Scope

Information about the new project.
Project Information...
New Project Scope…

- Adding shoulders to the existing highway with minor curve corrections.
- Lower construction cost:
  - Estimated Construction, Right-of-way, and Utility Relocation Cost:
    - Reduced to $34 M (with minimal mitigation costs).
- Improvements to the existing curves.
- New project has a greater chance of staying on schedule.
- To be signed at 65 MPH.
New Project Timeline...

- 8-Year Construction Work Program Dates:
  - Right-of-Way & Utility Relocation:
    - Projected to start in 2017
  - Construction:
    - Projected to start in 2020
General Questions & Comments

Do you have any general questions or comments about the proposed project?
Submit your comments…

• Leave your written comments with us tonight.
• Download and submit a comment form at:
  o www.odot.org/publicmeetings
• Submit your written comments by mail to:
  o Oklahoma Department of Transportation
  o Environmental Programs Division
  o 200 N.E. 21st Street
  o Oklahoma City, OK  73105
• Fax your written comments to:
  o (405) 522-5193
• Email your comments to:
  o odot-environment@odot.org

• Please submit your comments by December 1st, 2015.