Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to update the public on the status of improvements to the I-44 corridor, including the I-44 and US-75 interchange, and present the proposed design for the first construction work package (Work Package 1).

Project Background

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is moving forward with improvements to the I-44 corridor from I-244 to the Arkansas River, including the I-44/US-75 interchange in the City of Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma. I-44 is part of the Primary Highway Freight System, which includes the most critical highway portions of the nation’s freight transportation network. This portion of I-44 is one of the oldest remaining portions of interstate in Oklahoma and is the only remaining 4-lane piece in the Tulsa metro area. There is a high collision rate, and the existing highway will not adequately accommodate the anticipated future traffic volumes. The existing I-44/US-75 interchange experiences significant congestion in several directions during peak travel periods. ODOT conducted a preliminary engineering study and a public meeting in November 2017 where alternative corridor improvements were presented. Based on this study and public input, ODOT selected a preferred design. Work Package 1, scheduled to begin construction in 2020, is the first in a series of five construction projects (Work Packages) required to complete the corridor improvements. Future Work Packages will be programmed into the 8 Year Construction Work Plan as funding becomes available to complete the ultimate improvements of the interchange and adjacent highway corridors. The purpose of this project is to improve safety and traffic operations and improve mobility in the I-44/US-75 corridor.

Project Description

The proposed design for Work Package 1 includes widening I-44 from four to six lanes beginning near Union Avenue, west of the I-44/US-75 interchange and extending to just west of the Arkansas River bridge. I-44 will have three lanes in each direction, with inside and outside shoulders and the opposing directions of traffic separated by a concrete median barrier. The existing US-75 bridges over both I-44 and Mercer Creek will be replaced with new bridges designed to accommodate the ultimate capacity of the interchange. The I-44/US-75 interchange ramps will remain in a similar configuration to the existing, but will be modified to accommodate the wider US-75 bridges and I-44 roadway underneath. Some of the bridge piers for the future interchange ramps will also be constructed with this project; with the final completion of the bridges and ramps for the ultimate interchange to occur in subsequent Work Packages. Work Package 1 will be constructed in phases to maintain two travel lanes in each direction during the majority of construction. One existing on-ramp to I-44 from Skelly Drive west of Union Avenue to eastbound I-44 will be permanently closed as part of the project. It is anticipated that additional ramps will be temporarily closed during certain phases of construction.

Right-of-Way acquisition and utility relocations for all work packages are programmed to begin in 2022. No Right-of-Way will be required for Work Package 1.