



# ***PROJECT UPDATE***

## **IMPROVEMENTS TO I-35 FROM I-40 (FORT SMITH JUNCTION) NORTH TO I-44 (DEEP FORK) OKLAHOMA COUNTY, OK • JP20330(04)**

### **Project Background**

Interstate 35 between I-40 (Fort Smith Junction) and I-44 (Deep Fork) is one of the last four-lane sections of I-35 in the Oklahoma City metro area. ODOT proposes to widen I-35 to six lanes in this section matching it to the rest of the 22-mile corridor from the South Canadian River to Second Street in Edmond in an effort to lessen congestion and increase safety.

### **Project Update**

ODOT has received many comments from the public both during and following the project Public Meeting that was held at Lincoln Park Golf Course on February 18, 2020. The project team has carefully read and reviewed every single comment submitted. After months of analysis and careful consideration, ODOT has made the decision to eliminate Alternative 4 from the project and move forward with only Alternatives 2 and 3 presented at the public meeting.

Alternative 4 proposed widening I-35 to 6-lanes and upgraded the two-way frontage road system to modern standards. Unfortunately, to modernize the two-way frontage road system resulted in impacting the most extreme amount of private property (including many homes and businesses), impacts to historical districts, parks, and golf courses. Therefore, this alternative is no longer being considered.

ODOT will move forward through the project development process with Alternatives 2 and 3 which both widen I-35 to 6 lanes and convert the frontage roads to a one-way system. Both of these alternatives will be refined by the project team to arrive at the best solution for improvements to this section of I-35. Alternative 2 utilizes modern design standards for 6 lanes and a complete one way frontage road system. Alternative 3 utilizes minimum accepted design standards that reduces right-of-way impacts.

ODOT has made every effort to build consensus between needs of widening and upgrading to modern standards this congested section of I-35 with the sensitive concerns of homeowners and businesses along this corridor to minimize impacts to private property. ODOT will provide project updates regarding Alternatives 2 and 3 as they become available.