

# Open House Summary

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**Oklahoma Department of Transportation**

**SH-82 Widen and Resurface  
Approximately 500' North of the Sequoyah County  
Line, North 6.7 Miles**

**Cherokee County, ODOT JP 32825(04)**

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## Introduction

This document summarizes the open house that was conducted for the SH-82 Widen and Resurface project near Cookson in Cherokee County, Oklahoma. The purpose of the open house was to present information about the project, including an overview of completed environmental studies and the project schedule, and gather input about the proposed widen and resurface project. The public was provided an opportunity to ask questions and provide written comments.

### ***Open House Notification***

Notice was sent by USPS mail to elected officials (federal, state, and local), Native American Tribes, property owners, and utility owners in the study area. The mailing included a project pamphlet with information regarding the open house logistics. The pamphlet also included information about the project, the project's purpose, and a graphic showing the proposed project location. A comment form and self-addressed stamped envelope were included. Notification materials provided contact information should additional accommodations be necessary; however, no accommodations were requested. Postcards with a high-level overview of the project and information about the open house were also delivered using the USPS Every Door Direct Mail (EDDM) service to 715 addresses in Cookson, Oklahoma and the general project area.

### ***Open House Information and Format***

The open house was held in person on Tuesday June 21, 2022 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at the Cookson Baptist Church, located at 32171 OK-82, Cookson, Oklahoma, 74427. The notification pamphlets with information on the purpose and overview of the project were made available to meeting attendees at the sign-in table. Project team members, including consultant and ODOT representatives, were stationed at several tables and boards with the design schematic, location map, and environmental study findings to allow for review and facilitate any questions and comments from meeting attendees. The exhibits presented at the open house were made available for public viewing on the ODOT website on June 22, 2022.

A total of 57 individuals signed in for the open house, including 48 members of the public, one public official, and eight ODOT and consultant staff. Of the 48 public participants, two attendees (or approximately 4%) checked the voluntary box on the sign-in sheet as Native American; however, these individuals also checked in as White. All others either identified as White or left that portion of the sign-in sheet blank.

Notification packages for the meeting were mailed 14 days in advance of the meeting, and comments were accepted through July 5, 2022. In total, 15 comments were received. The 15 comments include 11 comments from the public, one tribal, and three agency comments. Public comments included nine mailed letters, one voicemail, and one email. Agency comments were provided via email. Comments have been summarized by consideration/issue in **Table E-1**, and general feedback is provided below. The open house included the following materials:

- Sign-in – a form for signing into the open house.
- Pamphlet – A copy of the notification pamphlet previously sent out through the mail.
- Comment forms for submitting written comments.

- Exhibit Boards – boards displaying information regarding the project location, Tribal consultation information, and the results of completed environmental studies, including cultural resources, environmental justice, hazardous materials, streams and wetlands, threatened and endangered species, relocations, and floodplains.
- Project Schematic – the design of the proposed project on aerial imagery showing existing and proposed right-of-way (based on 60% plans), and the proposed improvements
- 60% design plans

## Summary of Comments and Responses

In total, 15 written comments were received during the comment period. A total of 11 comments were received from the public, one from Cherokee Nation and three comments from agencies. Public comments included nine mailed letters, one voicemail, and one email. Agency comments were all provided via email.

### ***Agency & Tribal Comments***

The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission (OAC) indicated that project does not appear to pose a hazard to safe and efficient use of navigable airspace. Their office does note the presence of the Snake Creek private airport. Although the private airport and the airspace around it is not regulated by the state or federal government, it was recommended that the airport manager be contacted. The contact information was provided.

*Response: ODOT thanks you for your comment.*

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality indicated that no adverse environmental impacts in their jurisdiction are anticipated. The response also indicated that prior to beginning any construction activity disturbing more than one acre, a Notice of Intent (NOI) must be submitted and authorization under OKR10 must be obtained.

*Response: ODOT thanks you for your comment.*

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported that there are no oilfield related issues in the vicinity of this proposed SH-82 project.

*Response: ODOT thanks you for your comment.*

The Cherokee Nation is requesting appropriate signage along the project that depicts the Cherokee Hills Scenic Byway. They are interested in byway signs similar to what was done on a previous project in Delaware County, consistent with MUTCD standards.

*Response: ODOT thanks you for your comment. The byway signage has been added to the plans.*

### ***Public Comments***

The nature of the comments varied; however, the majority of the comments pertained to property impacts, concerns about sight distance and the need for a left turn lane at SH-82 and Chicken Creek.

**Table E-1** summarizes the comments received. Please note that the number of concerns identified may be greater than actual number of comments if more than one concern was included in a single comment.

**Table E-1: Major Issues of Concern**

Consideration/Issue	# of Comments
Construction Schedule	1
Virtual Access to Materials	1
Sight Distance Issues/Left Turns at Chicken Creek	4
Property Impacts	3
Driveways	1
Safety	2

**Responses to Comments**

ODOT appreciates your feedback. The comments have been evaluated by topic and the responses are provided below.

Construction Schedule

Thank you for your comment. This SH-82 project, JP32825(04) isn't scheduled for construction until 2027. Indian Road repairs will have been completed by that time.

Virtual Access to Materials

Thank you for your comment. Notification materials for the open house were available on the website before the June 21, 2022 meeting date. The exhibits provided at the in-person open house were uploaded and available for review on the ODOT website on the date following the meeting.

Sight Distance Issues/Left Turns at Chicken Creek

Thank you for your comment. The intent is to improve the sight distance by lowering the hill through reconstruction of the roadway in this area. The potential for a left turn lane on SH-82 at Chicken Creek is being reviewed.

Property Impacts

Thank you for your comment. Right-of-way plans are preliminary; however, at this time, no commercial or residential relocations are anticipated. All acquisition would be in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Properties Acquisitions Policies Act of 1970, as amended.

Driveways

Thank you for your comment. Gravel and asphalt driveways will be reconstructed to tie into the roadway where impacted.

Safety

Thank you for your comment.