

# **Virtual Public Open House Summary**

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**Oklahoma Department of Transportation**

## **US-70 Improvements Choctaw County, JP 31854(04)**

Prepared by:



3600 Broadway Extension, Suite 300  
Oklahoma City, OK 73114

July 31, 2022

Olsson Project No: 021-00432

*Choctaw JP 31854(04) US-70 Improvements  
Virtual Public Open House Summary*

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## **Executive Summary**

This document summarizes the virtual public open house conducted to update the public and present the latest information for proposed improvements on US-70 from the junction of SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles in Choctaw County, Oklahoma. The purpose of the public open house was to present the purpose and need for the project, the proposed improvements under consideration for US-70 and provide an opportunity to inform and obtain input from the public.

The purpose and need of the project are to enhance safety and accommodate future traffic growth. US 70 is part of the National Highway System (NHS) and has been identified as a transportation improvement corridor (TIC) in the 2005-2030 Oklahoma Statewide Intermodal Transportation Plan that provides significant movement of people and goods, connects other principal transportation facilities. The current average annual daily traffic (AADT) count (2021) along the referenced project extent is 6,650 vehicles per day with a projected future year (2041) traffic volumes 9,310 vehicles per day. Truck traffic comprises approximately 16% of the current AADT in this area. Current ODOT policy for TIC routes requires acquisition of enough right-of-way to incorporate construction of at least four travel lanes.

The public open house was held on-line between June 29 and July 13, 2022, at [www.odot.org/US70Choctaw](http://www.odot.org/US70Choctaw). The web-based format presented the purpose and need for the project and the proposed improvements under consideration. Visitors to the website were able to sign in, review the project background and proposed project description, view an interactive project map, read frequently asked questions, and submit a comment.

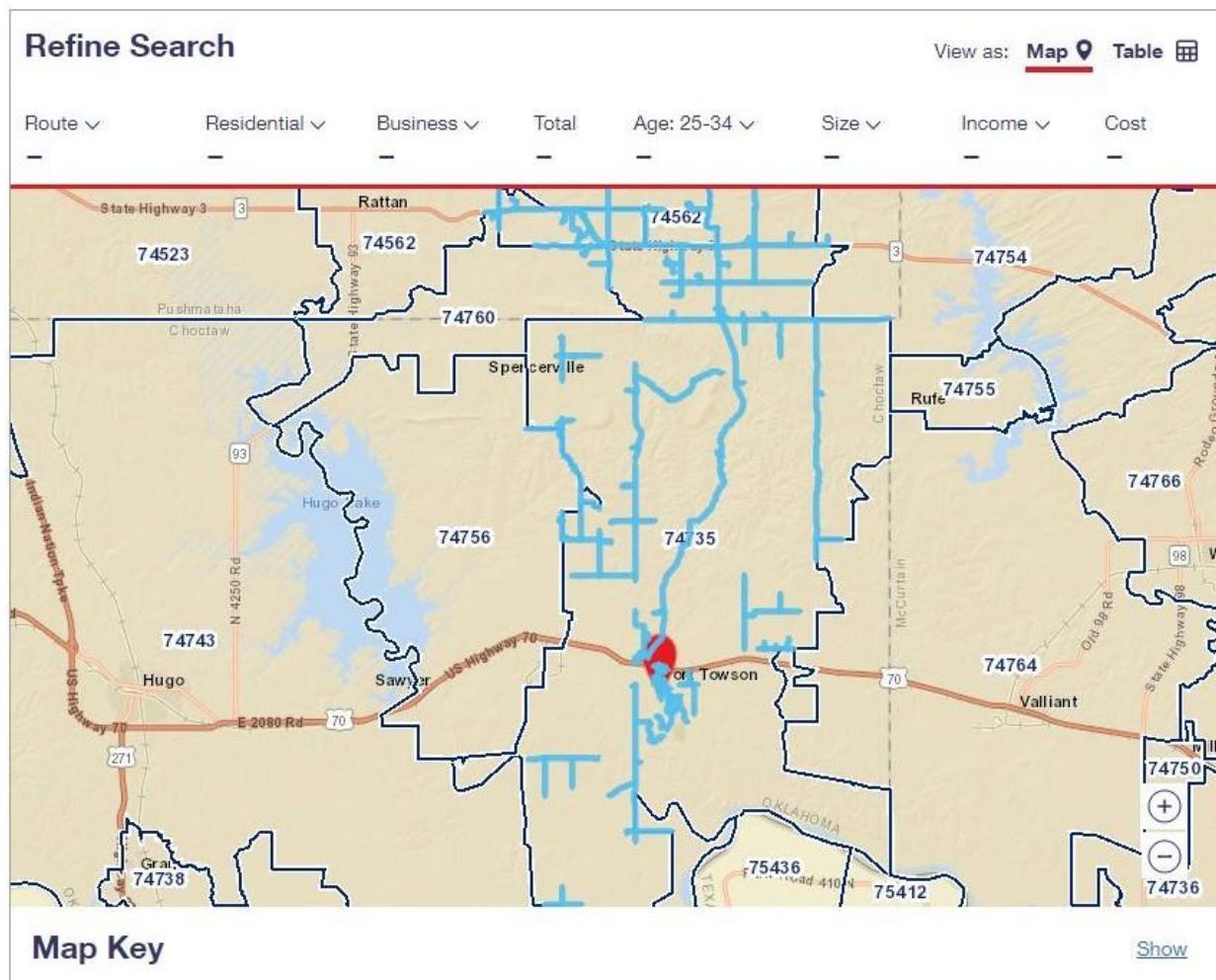
### **Website Visits**

Over the 14-day period the website was live, 96 unique users viewed the website. The most viewed page, after the home page, was the interactive map with 35 views, followed by the property acquisition and sign in/handout pages (33 views each) and project description and project background pages (31 views each). The FAQs and comment pages had 17 and 11 views, respectively. Seven (7) people signed-in at the website, representing local constituents, landowners, business, agencies, and tribes. Sign-in to the website, however, was not required.

### **Notification**

Virtual public open house notification letters were mailed to 29 public officials and 24 agencies. The Caddo Nation, Choctaw Nation, Delaware Nation, Osage Nation, Quapaw Nation, and Wichita & Affiliated Tribes were also sent notification letters. Brochures were mailed specifically addressed to 31 property owners and 7 utility owners within the project footprint. Additionally, 719 brochures were mailed through Every Door Direct to addresses within and surrounding the proposed project area (Figure 1). Direct mailing of pamphlets helps to ensure that individuals who are leasing property within the study area will get the information, as well as the property owners receiving notification through the mail. As the postal route serves a larger area, more people who use the US-70 roadway received the information, as well, further increasing the opportunity for input.

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**Figure 1. Every Door Direct Mail Route**

#### Comments & Responses

Agency and Tribal comments included the following:

- The Delaware Nation requested that when the federal agency initiates the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 review process, their office be contacted.
- The Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) indicated that during construction, the contractor will need a 90-day Provisional Temporary Permit for dust suppression.
- The Oklahoma Department of Tourism & Recreation determined that the project would have no significant adverse impact to Raymond Gary Park or the park at Fort Towson.
- The Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC) recommended best management plans to reduce disturbance, and thus siltation, in the creeks and erosion control plans sufficient to minimize sedimentation impacts from construction activities outside the stream channels. OCC also recommended minimizing changes in stream configuration or if the streams must be manipulated, that natural designs be used to reshape and stabilize the streams, and riparian corridor restoration by using natural design, or if this method cannot be used, permanently protected riparian mitigation be implemented through a conservation easement. OCC suggested that sufficient cross-sectional

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drainage area through the bridge crossings be incorporated in the design plans to allow for maximum periodic flood drainage so that the bridges do not function as dams, constricting flow, creating stress on banks and structures, and effectively reducing the natural positive effects of the flood plain. OCC finally requested that following completion of this project, the streams remain free flowing (stream slope unaffected by construction) with naturally vegetated stable banks and with stream substrate free of excess sedimentation from project activities.

Two (2) of the four (4) individuals that submitted comments were in favor of the proposed US-70 improvements. Two (2) individuals did not express approval or disapproval for the proposal but requested additional information or made suggestions. No individuals expressed disapproval for the proposed project. Comments are tabulated in Table ES-1.

**Table ES1. Major Issues Identified in Comments and ODOT Response.**

Comment Issue/Concern	#	Comment Description	ODOT Response
Approve the Project	1	Approve and support the project, especially that US-70 will be relocated to the north which will avoid impacts to the railroad.	Comment Noted
Expedite the project	1	Why does construction have to wait until 2027? Should have already been done. It is 7 miles from Ft Towson to Valliant instead of 6. Surely there will not be a mile in there that is not 4-lane.	2027 is the fiscal year that this construction project is budgeted. Prior to construction, the project has to be designed, environmental studies completed, rights-of-way acquired, utilities moved, and permits obtained. The project will begin at SH-209 in Ft. Towson, and extend to the McCurtain Co. line, where a recently completed project began. This will be a two-lane highway on a four-lane footprint, allowing for additional lanes to be added at some point in the future. The other areas mentioned are not within the scope of this project.
Request Driveway	1	Landowner would like to have an additional driveway when highway construction comes through.	This can be discussed with our right-of-way agents when we begin acquiring rights-of-way for the project. Make sure to bring it up.
Suggestions for Other Improvements	1	Need for a turning lane or shoulder added at Hwy70 and Fallon Road. When the coal trains come through, eastbound traffic turning onto Fallon backs up the right lane of Hwy 70 just past a curve, where traffic is 65mph.	Definitely a valid comment, but this project does not include this particular stretch of US70, near Fallon Road.

*Choctaw JP 31854(04) US-70 Improvements  
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**Appendix A – Mailing Materials**



# **VIRTUAL PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**

*June 29 - July 13, 2022*

**US-70: From JCT SH-209 East Approximately  
5.8 Miles to McCurtain County Line**

Choctaw County: JP 31854(04)

**[www.odot.org/US70Choctaw](http://www.odot.org/US70Choctaw)**



## ***VIRTUAL Public Open House***

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation will host a virtual public open house to update the public and present the latest information on US-70 from the junction of SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line. This open house will present the purpose and need for the project and proposed design, and allow the public to submit comments. This will be a web-based format (no in person meeting). The information will be available beginning of June 29, 2022 and comments are requested by July 13, 2022.



## ***Purpose & Need***

The purpose of this project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway.



***Join***

[www.odot.org/US70Choctaw](http://www.odot.org/US70Choctaw)



**Environmental Programs Division**  
200 N.E. 21st Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3204  
[www.odot.org](http://www.odot.org)

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June 13, 2022

RE: Virtual Open House for US-70: Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line ; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Choctaw County.

Dear Stakeholders, Property Owners and Utility Owners:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is continuing improvements to US-70 from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line, in Choctaw County. The proposed roadway will be on an offset alignment to the north of the existing alignment, to avoid impacts to the railroad on the south, and with enough offset to accommodate a future divided 4-lane facility with a 64-foot median. The existing section of roadway consists of 2 lanes with 4-ft wide asphalt shoulders. The proposed project is consistent with the original US-70 Environmental Assessment completed in 2002 for the construction of a 4-lane facility from 3.0 miles east to US-70/SH-93 junction to the junction of US-70/SH-98. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor. The purpose of the project is to enhance safety and accommodate future traffic growth.

ODOT will host a Virtual Open House from June 29 to July 13, 2022, at [www.odot.org/US-70Choctaw](http://www.odot.org/US-70Choctaw). The purpose of the virtual open house is to inform the public about the continued improvements to US-70 and to provide an opportunity for the public to submit comments. This pamphlet contains additional information about the project. After the Virtual Open House, project information may be viewed at [www.odot.org/PublicMeetings](http://www.odot.org/PublicMeetings).

If you are leasing this property, please notify your lessee of this virtual public open house. Should you have any questions regarding this project, please email [environment@odot.org](mailto:environment@odot.org), or call 405-325-3269 and leave a detailed message.

Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of

Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) ensures that no person or groups of persons shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, retaliation or genetic information, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any and all programs, services, or activities administered by ODOT, its recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors. To request an accommodation please contact the ADA Coordinator at 405-521-4140 or the Oklahoma Relay Service at 1-800-722-0353 no later than 72 hours before any scheduled event. If you have any ADA or Title VI questions email [ODOT-ada-titlevi@odot.org](mailto:ODOT-ada-titlevi@odot.org).

*"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."*

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The current 2-lane roadway requires improvements to accommodate future traffic growth and to enhance safety. In 2002, an Environmental Assessment (EA) for US-70 was completed for the proposed construction of a new 4-lane highway and additional improvements for a portion of the US-70 corridor from 3.0 miles east to the US-70/SH-93 junction near Hugo to the junction of US-70/SH-98 in Choctaw and McCurtain counties. Since 2003, ODOT has constructed many of these improvements and is currently in the design process for improvements to US-70 from the junction of SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County Line. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

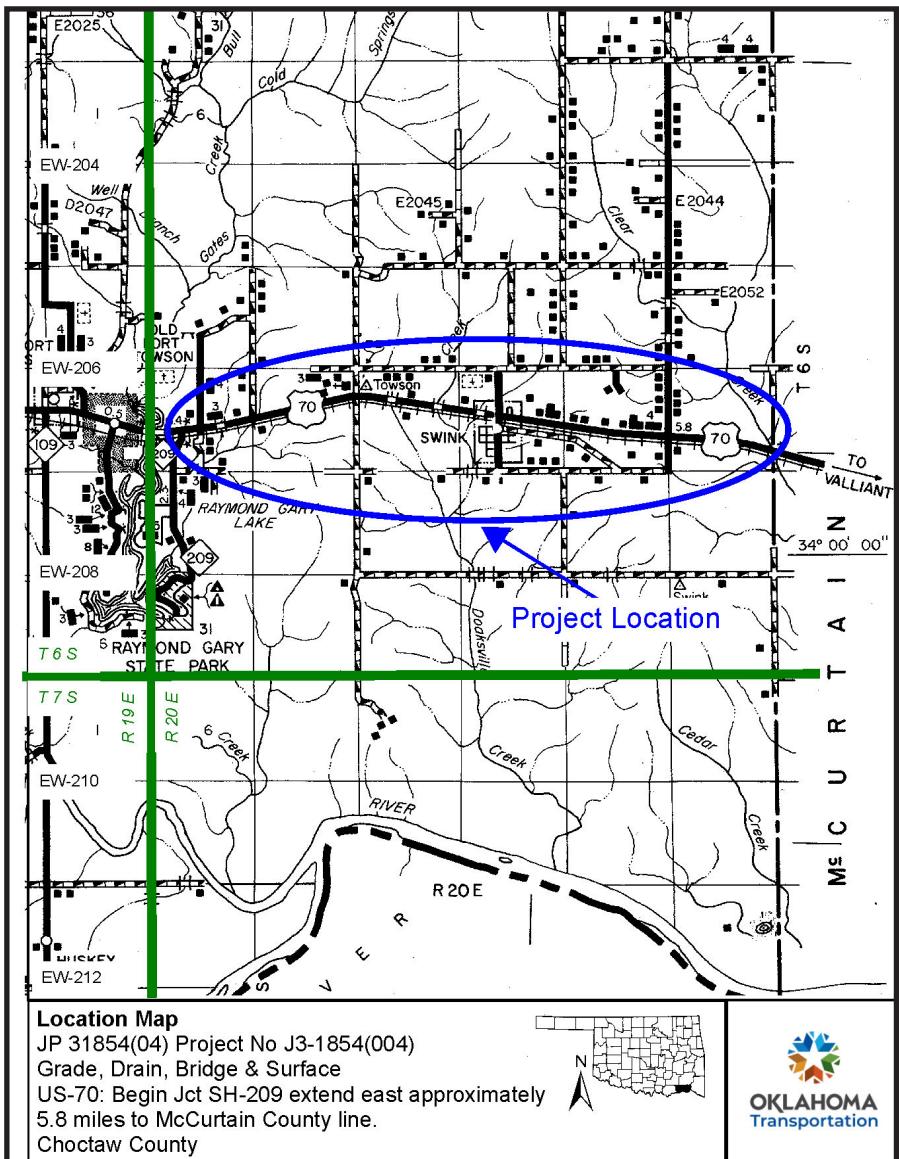
The proposed project is consistent with the original EA. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ODOT proposes to construct a 2-lane roadway with 8-foot shoulders on the approximately 5.8 miles between JCT SH-209 and the McCurtain County line. The proposed roadway will be on an offset alignment to the north of the existing alignment, to avoid impacts to the railroad on the south, and with enough offset to accommodate a future divided 4-lane facility with a 64-foot median. The purpose and need of the project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway.

The proposed project is consistent with the original and ODOT is performing additional studies to update the original environmental document. Issues that will be analyzed include the project's effects to noise, water quality, cultural and natural resources, and other effects to the environment.

## Project Location



## Project Information Summary

- Total Estimated Construction Cost of Project: **\$20 million**
- Right-of-way Acquisition and Utility Relocation Anticipated to Start in: **2023**
- Construction Anticipated to Start in: **2027**
- Current Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) in year 2021: **6,500 Vehicles Per Day (VPD)**
- Future Estimated AADT by Year 2041: **9,310 VPD**

## District 2 Engineer: Anthony Echelle

\*Totals DO NOT include Toll Roads

\*\*Totals DO NOT include County Bridges

### \*Total Road Miles:

1,656.23

### \*Total Interstate Miles:

0

### \*\* Total Bridges

859

**Counties:** Atoka, Bryan, **Choctaw**, Latimer, Le Flore, McCurtain, Marshall, Pittsburg, Pushmataha

**PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS BY JULY 13, 2022.**  
**For more information about the project**

(405) 325-3269

[environment@odot.org](mailto:environment@odot.org)

If you would like interpretation of documents please contact ODOT.



No.	Property Owner	Address	City	State	Zip
1	DOLORES ANN COLLINS	PO BOX 1353	STILLWATER	OK	74076
2	WILLIAM E TIDMORE	PO BOX 416	FORT TOWSON	OK	74735
3	MYRTLE G COLLINS GOODMAN	966 JAMES MADISON DR	BENTON	AR	72019
4	TROY AARON BLUE, SR.	2805 SSAND RD	HAWORTH	OK	74740
5	TIMMY A LINDAMOOD	3955 US HWY 70	FORT TOWSON	OK	74735
6	JERRY LEE BASKIN	PO BOX 491	FORT TOWSON	OK	74735
7	TROY AARON BLUE	HC 68, BOX 1000	RUFE	OK	74755
8	CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH		FORT TOWSON	OK	74735
9	KYLE B. EARNEST	PO BOX 301	FORT TOWSON	OK	74735
10	JOHN B. & VICKIE PRIDDY	PO BOX 231	FORT TOWSON	OK	74735
11	DONALD H & LOIS LANIER	4037 US HWY 70	FORT TOWSON	OK	74735
12	TRACY & COURTNEY SMITH	55 N 4340 RD	FORT TOWSON	OK	74735
13	BOBBY J TIDMORE	4381 HWY 70 WEST	VALLIANT	OK	74764
14	JUSTIN & KRISTI PIEARCY	PO BOX 21	FORT TOWSON	OK	74735
15	JONAS GOODMAN	734 PLUM HOLLOW BLVD	HOT SPRINGS	AR	71913
16	PATSY BEVILL (TRUST)	486 N 4410 RD	FORT TOWSON	OK	74735
17	JOHN WAYNE DAVIS	PO BOX 27	SWINK	OK	74761
18	BARBARRA ANN	PO BOX 11	SWINK	OK	74761
19	SWINK GROCERY	4037 US HWY 70	FORT TOWSON	OK	74735
20	SUNNY ACRES TRLR PARK-SWINK	PO BOX 27	SWINK	OK	74761
21	JOHNNY & BEATRICE HIMES	PO BOX 861	VALLIANT	OK	74764
22	JIMMY & DEBRA GAY OLIVER	3150 COUNTY ROAD 4346	BIVINS	TX	75555
23	DALE & DEBRA CHRISMAN	PO BOX 382	VALLIANT	OK	74764
24	ALLEN LEN & NINA KAY CHAPMAN	5277 S PICADILLY COURT	AURORA	CO	80015
25	CAROLYN RUTH BYRD	771 N 4420 RD	VALLIANT	OK	74764
26	JAMES D CHAPMAN	4381 HWY 70 WEST	VALLIANT	OK	74764
27	VINYARD FAMILY TRUST	PO BOX 117	FORT TOWSON	OK	74735
28	JUDITH CAIN	HC 63, BOX 1560	FORT TOWSON	OK	74735
29	JIMMY & IRMA STAGGS	921 N DALTON ST	VALLIANT	OK	74764
30	LES THOMAS	PO BOX 1344	VALLIANT	OK	74764
31	PAM BENJAMIN	4347 E 2060 RD	VALLIANT	OK	74764

No.	Utility	Owner	Address	City	State	Zip
1	WATER	OK DEPT. OF ENVIRO. QUALITY	707 N. ROBINSON	OKLAHOMA CITY	OK	73102
2	CHOCTAW RURAL WATER	DISTRICT, NO. 2	PO BOX 104	SWINK	OK	74761
3	ELECTRIC COOP	PUBLIC SERVICE CO. OF OKLA.	212 E. 6TH ST.	TULSA	OK	74119
4	COMMUNICATION	AT&T DISTRIBUTION	8125 SEDGWICK WAY	MEMPHIS	TN	38125
5	TELEPHONE	PINE TELEPHONE	210 W. 2nd ST.	BROKEN BOW	OK	74728
6	TELEPHONE	VALLIANT TELEPHONE	100 WILSON STREET	VALLIANT	OK	74764
7	RAILROAD	SAINT LOUIS - SAN FRANCISCO RAILWAY	906 OLIVE STREET	ST LOUIS	MO	63101

*Choctaw JP 31854(04) US-70 Improvements  
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**Appendix B – Website Materials**

# US-70 in Choctaw County

US-70: From JCT SH-209 East Approximately 5.8 Miles to McCurtain County Line; JP 31854(04)

Hello!

A Virtual Public Open House for the project on US-70 from the junction of SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to McCurtain County line in Choctaw County, Oklahoma was held from June 29-July 13, 2022 to update the public and present the latest information on the purpose and need for the project and the proposed design. The comment period is now closed.

## Virtual Open House: June 29-July 13, 2022

This was a web-based format (no in-person meeting). Use the buttons below to review the proposed project information.

Sign-In & Handout

Project Background

Project Description

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)

Interactive Project Map

Acquisition & Relocation

Frequent Questions

Submit a Comment

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)

[Learn more](#)

## Special Accommodations

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) ensures that no person or groups of persons shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, retaliation or genetic information, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any and all programs, services, or activities administered by ODOT, its recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors. To request an accommodation, please contact the ADA Coordinator at 405-521-4140 or the Oklahoma Relay Service at 1-800-722-0353. If you have any ADA or Title VI questions, email [ODOT-ADA-titlevi@odot.org](mailto:ODOT-ADA-titlevi@odot.org).

# Sign-In & Handout

Welcome! The Virtual Public Open House has ended, however you can still use the arrow buttons at the bottom of each page to visit the virtual open house stations.

[Download Handout](#)

[Project Background >](#)



# **VIRTUAL PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**

*June 29 - July 13, 2022*

**US-70: From JCT SH-209 East Approximately  
5.8 Miles to McCurtain County Line**

Choctaw County: JP 31854(04)

**[www.odot.org/US70Choctaw](http://www.odot.org/US70Choctaw)**



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## ***Purpose & Need***

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***Join***

[www.odot.org/US70Choctaw](http://www.odot.org/US70Choctaw)



**Environmental Programs Division**

200 N.E. 21st Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3204  
[www.odot.org](http://www.odot.org)

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June 13, 2022

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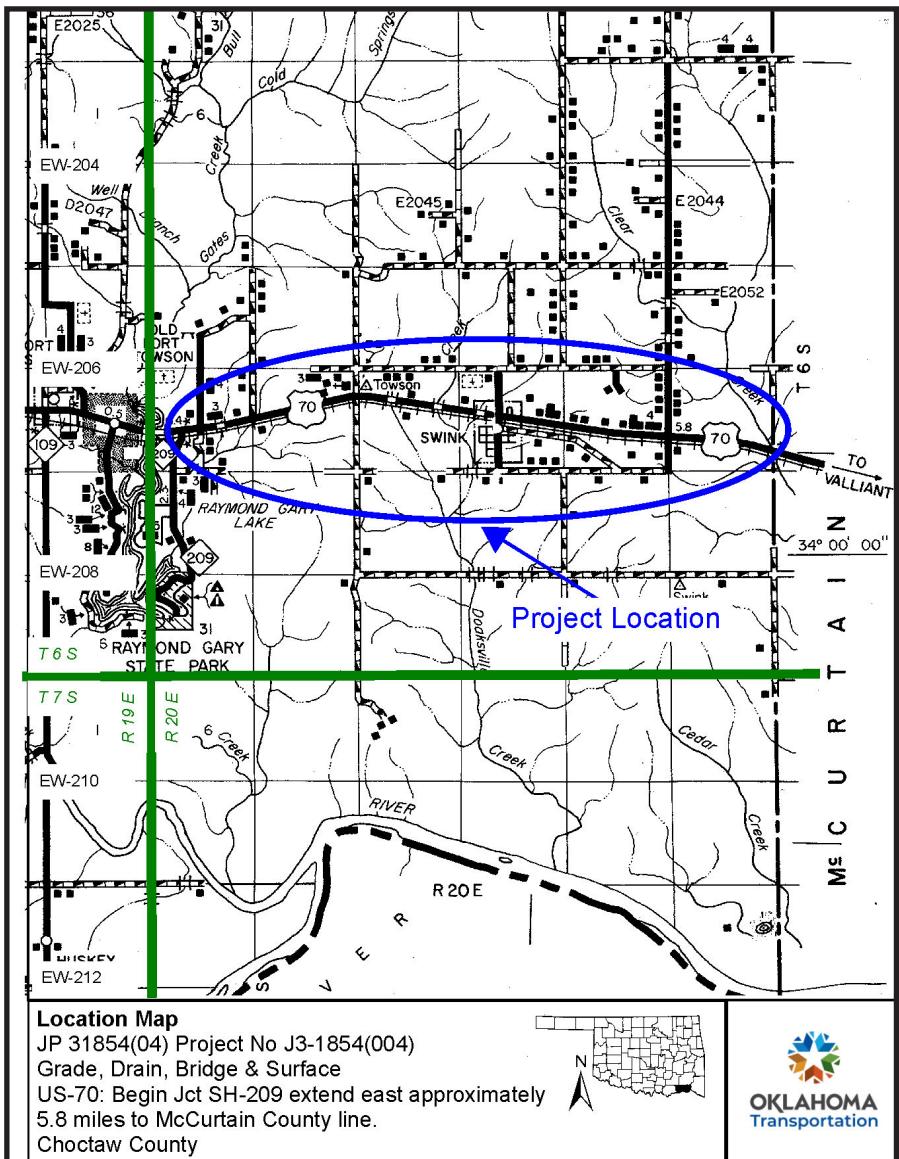
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## Project Location



## Project Information Summary

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## District 2 Engineer: Anthony Echelle

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**PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS BY JULY 13, 2022.**  
**For more information about the project**

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If you would like interpretation of documents please contact ODOT.



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⟨ Sign-In & Handout

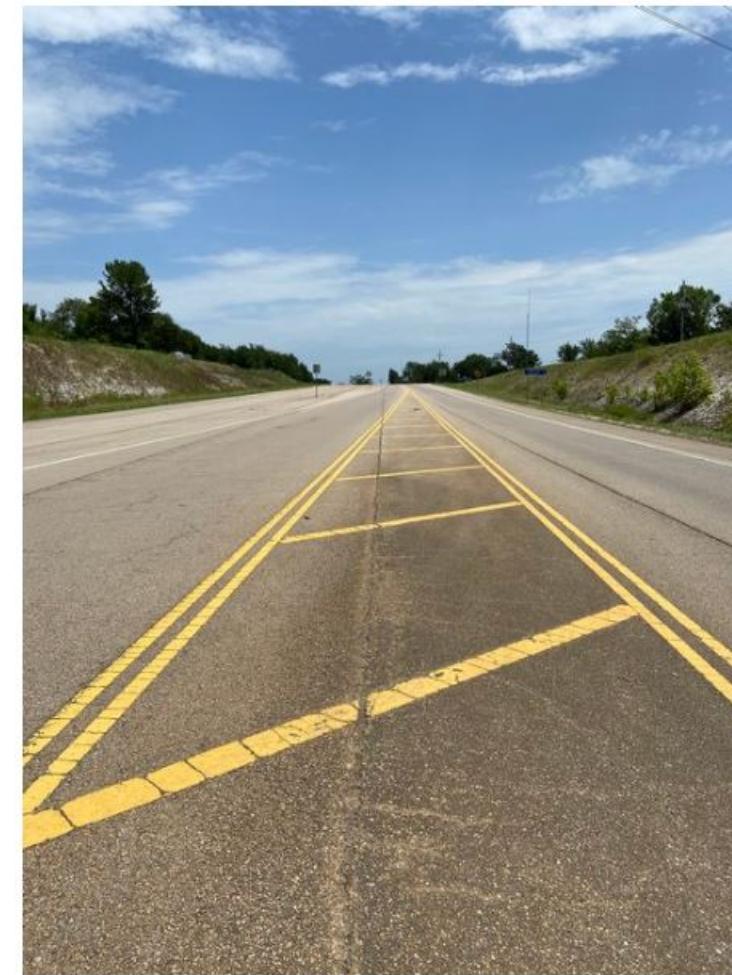
Project Description ⟩

# Project Description

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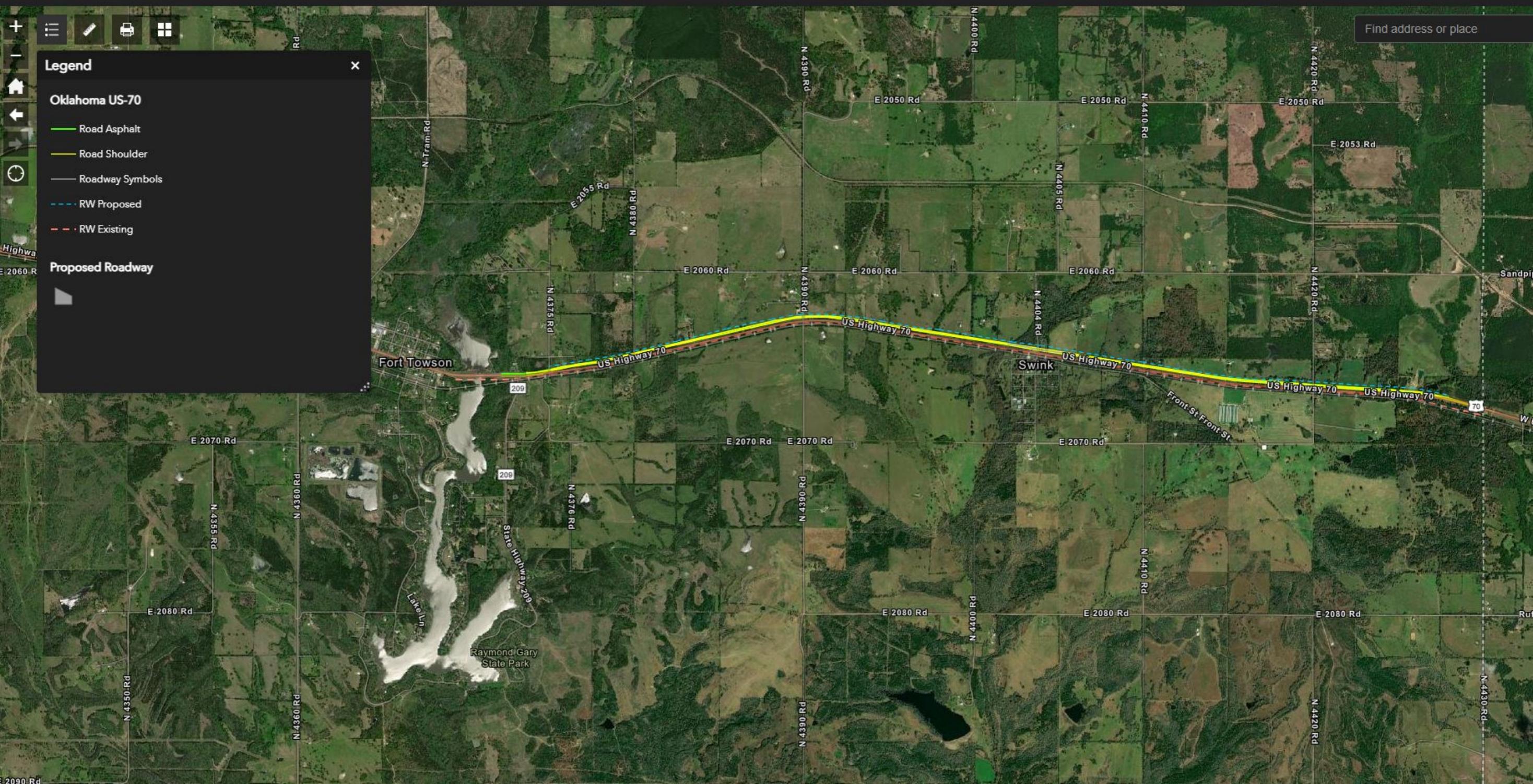
# Interactive Map

Use the button below to view the proposed project in more detail.

[View Interactive Map](#)

⟨ Project Description

Property Acquisition & Relocation ›



# Property Acquisition & Relocation

Additional right-of-way will be acquired for this project, including some property acquisition and relocations. If your property will be affected, an ODOT-authorized agent will contact you. Right-of-way acquisition for this project will begin after final design. For more information, please review the property rights and relocation brochures below.

[ODOT Property Rights Brochure](#)[ODOT Relocation Brochure](#)[<> Interactive Map](#)[<> Frequently Asked Questions](#)

# Frequently Asked Questions

When would the project be built?

Construction is anticipated to begin in 2027.

What is the estimated construction cost?

Construction is anticipated to cost \$20 million.

Will the existing lanes be used for the new 4-lane highway?

No, the existing roadway will be removed. The ultimate westbound lanes will be built with this project and the ultimate eastbound lanes will be built in the future.

Will additional right-of-way be acquired for this project?

There will be some new right-of-way required for this project. If your property will be affected, an ODOT-authorized agent will contact you in the future. Right-of-way acquisition for this project will begin after final design of the preferred alignment. For general information about right-of-way acquisition, please download the [Property Rights Brochure](#).

How can I contact someone about this project?

For more information about the project, please contact ODOT Environmental at [environment@odot.org](mailto:environment@odot.org) or 405-325-3269.

# Submit a Comment

Thank you for participating. The comment period for this project has ended.

ODOT will post responses to comments on its [Public Meetings and Hearings Page](#) following the meeting.

For more [project](#) information, you may contact ODOT using the information below.

Environmental Programs Division  
Oklahoma Department of Transportation  
200 N.E. 21st St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3204

[environment@odot.org](mailto:environment@odot.org)

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⟨ Frequently Asked Questions

*Choctaw JP 31854(04) US-70 Improvements  
Virtual Public Open House Summary*

**Appendix C -Comments Received**

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**From:** Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 7, 2022 7:38 PM  
**To:** Stacey Roach  
**Subject:** Form Submission - New Form

Sent via form submission from [US-70 Choctaw County](#)

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Business/Organization:**

**Address:** [REDACTED]

**City:** Kennesaw

**State:** Georgia

**Zip:** 30144

**Phone:**

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Comments / Concerns:** I approve and support ODOT's US-70 Choctaw Project. The aspect that I love about ODOT's US-70 Choctaw Project is that US-70 will be relocated to the north which will avoid impacts to the railroad.

Does this submission look like spam? [Report it here.](#)

---

**From:** Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 12, 2022 1:06 PM  
**To:** Stacey Roach  
**Subject:** Form Submission - New Form

Sent via form submission from [US-70 Choctaw County](#)

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Business/Organization:** [REDACTED]

**Address:** [REDACTED]

**City:** Fort Towson

**State:** OK

**Zip:** 74735

**Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Comments / Concerns:** i own a 1/4 mile of hwy frontage east of Fort Towson, i have completed 1 drive way permit for the property but would like to have an additional drive way when hwy comes through as i have a creek down the middle of my place.

Does this submission look like spam? [Report it here.](#)

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**From:** Squarespace <form-submission@squarespace.info>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 12, 2022 4:48 PM  
**To:** Stacey Roach  
**Subject:** Form Submission - New Form

Sent via form submission from [US-70 Choctaw County](#)

**Name:** [REDACTED]

**Business/Organization:**

**Address:** [REDACTED]

**City:** Hugo

**State:** Oklahoma

**Zip:** 74743

**Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Comments / Concerns:** Request/Concern: Need for a turning lane or shoulder added at Hwy70 and Fallon Road. When the coal trains come through, eastbound traffic turning onto Fallon have no where to sit, but the right lane of Hwy 70. We have to line up down the highway, in the right lane, just past a curve, where traffic is 65mph. Thank you.

Does this submission look like spam? [Report it here.](#)



MAKE SAFETY STICK EVERYBODY CLICK

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 7, 2022 10:15 AM

**To:** ODOTWeb-environment <[environment@odot.org](mailto:environment@odot.org)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] highway 70 widening

Expedite the project. Why does construction have to wait until 2027? Should have all ready been done. Does that mean all the way to Valliant. I was thinking it is 7 miles from Ft Towson to Valliant instead of 6. Surely there will not be a mile in there that is not 4 lane. While you are at it take it all the way across the state to Texas. Also, finish Highway 7 between Antlers and Atoka and on to Asher, then on north to I40. And from Asher west to I35. Then people could get around the state fairly easy and safely. There should be gobs of money for these projects now since the Infrastructure Bill passed last year. I haven't seen even a load of gravel moved yet.

*Choctaw JP 31854(04) US-70 Improvements  
Virtual Public Open House Summary*

**Appendix D – Agency Solicitation Letter**

June 13, 2022

Mr. Michael Rodriguez  
Realty Specialist  
Bureau of Land Management  
201 Stephenson Parkway, Suite 1200  
Norman, Oklahoma 73072-2037

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to US-70 from the JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line, in Choctaw County. Please see the attached project location map. The current 2-lane roadway requires improvements to accommodate future traffic growth and to enhance safety. The purpose and need of the project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway. Please see the enclosed figures which depict the areas associated with the improvements. The proposed project is consistent with the original US-70 Environmental Assessment completed in 2002 for the construction of a 4-lane facility from 3.0 miles east to US-70/SH-93 junction to the junction of US-70/SH-98 in Choctaw and McCurtain Counties. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

Proposed project will construct a 2-lane roadway with 8-foot shoulders on approximately 5.8 miles between JCT SH-209 and the McCurtain County line. The proposed roadway will be on an offset alignment to the north of the existing alignment, to avoid impacts to the railroad on the south, and with enough offset to accommodate a future divided 4-lane facility with a 64-foot median.

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To allow for adequate time for evaluation of your comments, please respond by July 13, 2022. Your written comments may be submitted on the Virtual Open House website [www.odot.org/US-70Choctaw](http://www.odot.org/US-70Choctaw) or in writing to the Environmental Programs Division Engineer, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, 200 NE 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, or email to [environment@odot.org](mailto:environment@odot.org).

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Should you have any questions regarding the project, please contact our authorized consultant Mr. Russell L. Beaty, P.E., Olsson at (405) 242-6628, [rbeaty@olsson.com](mailto:rbeaty@olsson.com) or, ODOT's Environmental Project Manager Ms. Kathy Koon at (405) 521-2676, [kkoon@odot.org](mailto:kkoon@odot.org).

Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of

Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

CC: As noted in the Agency Solicitation List

*"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."*

June 13, 2022

Mr. Andrew Commer  
Regulatory Branch Chief  
Tulsa District Corps of Engineers  
2488 E. 81st Street  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137-4290

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Mr. Commer:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to US-70 from the JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line, in Choctaw County. Please see the attached project location map. The current 2-lane roadway requires improvements to accommodate future traffic growth and to enhance safety. The purpose and need of the project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway. Please see the enclosed figures which depict the areas associated with the improvements. The proposed project is consistent with the original US-70 Environmental Assessment completed in 2002 for the construction of a 4-lane facility from 3.0 miles east to US-70/SH-93 junction to the junction of US-70/SH-98 in Choctaw and McCurtain Counties. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

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Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of

Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

CC: As noted in the Agency Solicitation List

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June 13, 2022

Colonel Scott Preston  
Commander & District Engineer  
Tulsa District Corps of Engineers  
2488 E. 81st Street  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137-4290

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Colonel Preston:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to US-70 from the JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line, in Choctaw County. Please see the attached project location map. The current 2-lane roadway requires improvements to accommodate future traffic growth and to enhance safety. The purpose and need of the project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway. Please see the enclosed figures which depict the areas associated with the improvements. The proposed project is consistent with the original US-70 Environmental Assessment completed in 2002 for the construction of a 4-lane facility from 3.0 miles east to US-70/SH-93 junction to the junction of US-70/SH-98 in Choctaw and McCurtain Counties. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

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Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of

Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

CC: As noted in the Agency Solicitation List

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June 13, 2022

Mr. Steve Nolen  
Planning & Environmental (PER) Division  
Tulsa District Corps of Engineers  
2488 E. 81st Street  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137-4290

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Mr. Nolen:

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Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of

Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

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June 13, 2022

Dr. David Williams  
Chief - Hydraulics & Hydrology Branch  
Tulsa District Corps of Engineers  
2488 E. 81st Street  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137-4290

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Dr. Williams:

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Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of

Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

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June 13, 2022

Mr. Scott Henderson  
Chief - Water Management  
Tulsa District Corps of Engineers  
2488 E. 81st Street  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137-4290

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

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Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of  
Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

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June 13, 2022

Ms. Michelle Lay  
Chief - Civil Design Section  
Tulsa District Corps of Engineers  
2488 E. 81st Street  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137-4290

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Ms. Lay:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to US-70 from the JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line, in Choctaw County. Please see the attached project location map. The current 2-lane roadway requires improvements to accommodate future traffic growth and to enhance safety. The purpose and need of the project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway. Please see the enclosed figures which depict the areas associated with the improvements. The proposed project is consistent with the original US-70 Environmental Assessment completed in 2002 for the construction of a 4-lane facility from 3.0 miles east to US-70/SH-93 junction to the junction of US-70/SH-98 in Choctaw and McCurtain Counties. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

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Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of  
Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

CC: As noted in the Agency Solicitation List

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June 13, 2022

Mr. David Blackmore  
Engineering Branch, Infrastructure Section  
Tulsa District Corps of Engineers  
2488 E. 81st Street  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137-4290

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Mr. Blackmore:

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Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of  
Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

CC: As noted in the Agency Solicitation List

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June 13, 2022

Ms. Sharon Gordon-Ribeiro  
Field Office Director  
U.S. Housing & Urban Development  
301 W. 6th Street, Suite 200  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Ms. Gordon-Ribeiro:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to US-70 from the JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line, in Choctaw County. Please see the attached project location map. The current 2-lane roadway requires improvements to accommodate future traffic growth and to enhance safety. The purpose and need of the project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway. Please see the enclosed figures which depict the areas associated with the improvements. The proposed project is consistent with the original US-70 Environmental Assessment completed in 2002 for the construction of a 4-lane facility from 3.0 miles east to US-70/SH-93 junction to the junction of US-70/SH-98 in Choctaw and McCurtain Counties. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

Proposed project will construct a 2-lane roadway with 8-foot shoulders on approximately 5.8 miles between JCT SH-209 and the McCurtain County line. The proposed roadway will be on an offset alignment to the north of the existing alignment, to avoid impacts to the railroad on the south, and with enough offset to accommodate a future divided 4-lane facility with a 64-foot median.

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We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Should you have any questions regarding the project, please contact our authorized consultant Mr. Russell L. Beaty, P.E., Olsson at (405) 242-6628, [rbeaty@olsson.com](mailto:rbeaty@olsson.com) or, ODOT's Environmental Project Manager Ms. Kathy Koon at (405) 521-2676, [kkoon@odot.org](mailto:kkoon@odot.org).

Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of

Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

CC: As noted in the Agency Solicitation List

*"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."*

June 13, 2022

Ms. Sue E. Masica  
Regional Director - Intermountain Region Office, Planning & Environmental Quality  
National Park Service  
12795 W. Alameda Parkway  
Denver, Colorado 80225

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Ms. Masica:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to US-70 from the JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line, in Choctaw County. Please see the attached project location map. The current 2-lane roadway requires improvements to accommodate future traffic growth and to enhance safety. The purpose and need of the project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway. Please see the enclosed figures which depict the areas associated with the improvements. The proposed project is consistent with the original US-70 Environmental Assessment completed in 2002 for the construction of a 4-lane facility from 3.0 miles east to US-70/SH-93 junction to the junction of US-70/SH-98 in Choctaw and McCurtain Counties. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

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*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of

Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

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June 13, 2022

Mr. Steve Spencer  
Regional Environmental Officer  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1001 Indian School NW, Suite 348  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Mr. Spencer:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to US-70 from the JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line, in Choctaw County. Please see the attached project location map. The current 2-lane roadway requires improvements to accommodate future traffic growth and to enhance safety. The purpose and need of the project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway. Please see the enclosed figures which depict the areas associated with the improvements. The proposed project is consistent with the original US-70 Environmental Assessment completed in 2002 for the construction of a 4-lane facility from 3.0 miles east to US-70/SH-93 junction to the junction of US-70/SH-98 in Choctaw and McCurtain Counties. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

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*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of  
Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

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June 13, 2022

Mr. Grayson Ardies  
Director  
Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission  
110 N. Robinson, Suite 200  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Mr. Ardies:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to US-70 from the JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line, in Choctaw County. Please see the attached project location map. The current 2-lane roadway requires improvements to accommodate future traffic growth and to enhance safety. The purpose and need of the project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway. Please see the enclosed figures which depict the areas associated with the improvements. The proposed project is consistent with the original US-70 Environmental Assessment completed in 2002 for the construction of a 4-lane facility from 3.0 miles east to US-70/SH-93 junction to the junction of US-70/SH-98 in Choctaw and McCurtain Counties. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

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Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of  
Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

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June 13, 2022

Mr. Brad Ice  
Manager of Field Operations  
Oklahoma Corporation Commission  
Jim Thorpe Building, 2101 North Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Mr. Ice:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to US-70 from the JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line, in Choctaw County. Please see the attached project location map. The current 2-lane roadway requires improvements to accommodate future traffic growth and to enhance safety. The purpose and need of the project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway. Please see the enclosed figures which depict the areas associated with the improvements. The proposed project is consistent with the original US-70 Environmental Assessment completed in 2002 for the construction of a 4-lane facility from 3.0 miles east to US-70/SH-93 junction to the junction of US-70/SH-98 in Choctaw and McCurtain Counties. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

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Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of  
Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

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June 13, 2022

Environmental Review Coordinator  
DEQ Customer Assistance Program  
P.O. Box 1677  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-1677

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear To Whom it May Concern:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to US-70 from the JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line, in Choctaw County. Please see the attached project location map. The current 2-lane roadway requires improvements to accommodate future traffic growth and to enhance safety. The purpose and need of the project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway. Please see the enclosed figures which depict the areas associated with the improvements. The proposed project is consistent with the original US-70 Environmental Assessment completed in 2002 for the construction of a 4-lane facility from 3.0 miles east to US-70/SH-93 junction to the junction of US-70/SH-98 in Choctaw and McCurtain Counties. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

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Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of  
Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson  
Enclosures: Location Map  
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June 13, 2022

Mr. Scott Mueller  
Secretary of Commerce and Workforce Department, Cabinet Secretary  
Oklahoma Department of Commerce  
900 North Stiles  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Secretary Mueller:

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*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of

Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

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June 13, 2022

Mr. Matt Pinnell  
Secretary of Tourism and Branding  
Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation  
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd Suite 117  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Secretary Pinnell:

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Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

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June 13, 2022

Mr. J.D. Strong  
Director  
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation  
P.O. Box 53465  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Mr. Strong:

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*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of  
Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

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June 13, 2022

Mr. Trey Lam  
Executive Director  
Oklahoma Conservation Commission  
2800 North Lincoln Blvd., Ste. 160  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Mr. Lam:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to US-70 from the JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line, in Choctaw County. Please see the attached project location map. The current 2-lane roadway requires improvements to accommodate future traffic growth and to enhance safety. The purpose and need of the project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway. Please see the enclosed figures which depict the areas associated with the improvements. The proposed project is consistent with the original US-70 Environmental Assessment completed in 2002 for the construction of a 4-lane facility from 3.0 miles east to US-70/SH-93 junction to the junction of US-70/SH-98 in Choctaw and McCurtain Counties. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

Proposed project will construct a 2-lane roadway with 8-foot shoulders on approximately 5.8 miles between JCT SH-209 and the McCurtain County line. The proposed roadway will be on an offset alignment to the north of the existing alignment, to avoid impacts to the railroad on the south, and with enough offset to accommodate a future divided 4-lane facility with a 64-foot median.

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We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Should you have any questions regarding the project, please contact our authorized consultant Mr. Russell L. Beaty, P.E., Olsson at (405) 242-6628, [rbeaty@olsson.com](mailto:rbeaty@olsson.com) or, ODOT's Environmental Project Manager Ms. Kathy Koon at (405) 521-2676, [kkoon@odot.org](mailto:kkoon@odot.org).

Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of

Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

CC: As noted in the Agency Solicitation List

*"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."*

June 13, 2022

Commissioner Blayne Arthur  
Commissioner of Agriculture  
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture  
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd., P.O. Box 54298  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4298

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Commissioner Arthur:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to US-70 from the JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line, in Choctaw County. Please see the attached project location map. The current 2-lane roadway requires improvements to accommodate future traffic growth and to enhance safety. The purpose and need of the project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway. Please see the enclosed figures which depict the areas associated with the improvements. The proposed project is consistent with the original US-70 Environmental Assessment completed in 2002 for the construction of a 4-lane facility from 3.0 miles east to US-70/SH-93 junction to the junction of US-70/SH-98 in Choctaw and McCurtain Counties. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

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Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of  
Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

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June 13, 2022

Ms. Julie Cunningham  
Executive Director  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board  
3800 North Classen  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Ms. Cunningham:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to US-70 from the JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line, in Choctaw County. Please see the attached project location map. The current 2-lane roadway requires improvements to accommodate future traffic growth and to enhance safety. The purpose and need of the project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway. Please see the enclosed figures which depict the areas associated with the improvements. The proposed project is consistent with the original US-70 Environmental Assessment completed in 2002 for the construction of a 4-lane facility from 3.0 miles east to US-70/SH-93 junction to the junction of US-70/SH-98 in Choctaw and McCurtain Counties. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

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Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of  
Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

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June 13, 2022

Dr. David Brown  
Director  
Oklahoma Geological Survey  
100 East Boyd, Room N-131  
Norman, Oklahoma 73019-0628

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Dr. Brown:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), in cooperation and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing improvements to US-70 from the JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line, in Choctaw County. Please see the attached project location map. The current 2-lane roadway requires improvements to accommodate future traffic growth and to enhance safety. The purpose and need of the project are to improve the safety and efficiency of the highway. Please see the enclosed figures which depict the areas associated with the improvements. The proposed project is consistent with the original US-70 Environmental Assessment completed in 2002 for the construction of a 4-lane facility from 3.0 miles east to US-70/SH-93 junction to the junction of US-70/SH-98 in Choctaw and McCurtain Counties. A reevaluation of the original EA is being conducted for the continued improvements to the US-70 corridor.

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Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

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*"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."*

June 13, 2022

Ms. Joy Hofmeister  
State Superintendent  
State Department of Education  
2500 North Lincoln Blvd., Rm. 121  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4599

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Superintendent Hofmeister:

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Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of  
Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

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June 13, 2022

Mr. Jerry Winchester  
Director, State Parks  
Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department  
123 Robert S. Kerr  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

Dear Mr. Winchester:

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Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of  
Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

CC: As noted in the Agency Solicitation List

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*Choctaw JP 31854(04) US-70 Improvements  
Virtual Public Open House Summary*

**Appendix E – Agency Responses**

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**From:** Kathy Koon <KKoon@odot.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 13, 2022 4:36 PM  
**To:** Julianne Whitaker  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] US-70 Choctaw Solicitation Letter

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

FYI, I sent the comment to Rhonda for her to address. She is here at AASHTO and said she would handle this one.

---

**From:** Kathy Koon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 13, 2022 8:50 AM  
**To:** Rhonda Fair <RFair@odot.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] US-70 Choctaw Solicitation Letter

Let me know if you have any questions. I'm guessing she's referring to JP 3185404.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Carissa Speck <[cspeck@delawarenation-nsn.gov](mailto:cspeck@delawarenation-nsn.gov)>  
**Date:** July 13, 2022 at 8:26:46 AM CDT  
**To:** Kathy Koon <[KKoon@odot.org](mailto:KKoon@odot.org)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] US-70 Choctaw Solicitation Letter

Hello,

I am wondering if the letter dated June 13 for soliciting comments on project US-70 Choctaw is pre section 106?

Thank you.

*Carissa Speck*

Delaware Nation  
Historic Preservation Director  
405-247-2448 Ext. 1403  
[cspeck@delawarenation-nsn.gov](mailto:cspeck@delawarenation-nsn.gov)

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE:

This e-mail (including attachments) may be privileged and is confidential information covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521 and any other applicable law, and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named herein. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any retention, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is

strictly prohibited. Although this e-mail and any attachments are believed to be free of any virus or other defect that might affect any computer system in to which it is received and opened, it is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure that it is virus free and no responsibility is accepted by Delaware Nation or the author hereof in any way from its use. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by return e-mail. Thank you.

---

**From:** Kathy Koon <KKoon@odot.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2022 2:49 PM  
**To:** Julianne Whitaker  
**Subject:** FW: US-70 construction State Job Piece number 31854(04) McCurtain County  
**Attachments:** Adobe Scan Jul 11, 2022 (5).pdf

For your records.

---

**From:** Bonnie Moats <Bonnie.Moats@owrb.ok.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2022 1:31 PM  
**To:** 'rbeatty@olsson.com' <rbeatty@olsson.com>; Kathy Koon <KKoon@odot.org>  
**Cc:** Jonathan Phillips <Jon.Phillips@owrb.ok.gov>  
**Subject:** US-70 construction State Job Piece number 31854(04) McCurtain County

Dear Russell and Kathy,

After reviewing your environmental impact letter permitting staff with the OWRB wants to make sure that if dust suppression is needed, that you either purchased water from a permanent location or obtain a 90 day provisional temporary permit for use of any water. I have also CCed my coworker in a floodplain management section for any further questions or concerns. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Moats  
Permitting Specialist, Water Rights Administration Division  
Oklahoma Water Resource Board  
405-421-3059

June 13, 2022

**RECEIVED**

JUN 17 2022

Ms. Julie Cunningham  
Executive Director  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board  
3800 North Classen  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118

Oklahoma Water Resources Board

**RE:** Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line; State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004), (34°01'03.28"N 95°15'20.15"W to 34°00'54.51"N 95°09'29.08"W)

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Respectfully,

*Amber McIntyre* on behalf of

Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager

RB/KK/Olsson

Enclosures: Location Map

CC: As noted in the Agency Solicitation List

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---

**From:** Kathy Koon <KKoon@odot.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2022 10:46 AM  
**To:** Julianne Whitaker  
**Subject:** FW: Choctaw County US70 from Fort Towson east of Raymond Geary Park entrance to McCurtain County line

Please save for your records.

Thanks,  
Kathy

---

**From:** Joe Brutsche <JBrutsche@odot.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2022 6:21 AM  
**To:** Kathy Koon <KKoon@odot.org>; Anjie King <AKING@ODOT.ORG>  
**Cc:** David Saulsberry <DSAULSBERRY@ODOT.ORG>; ODOTWeb-environment <environment@odot.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Choctaw County US70 from Fort Towson east of Raymond Geary Park entrance to McCurtain County line

Kathy,  
Please forward this Agency correspondence to the consultant for our records.  
Joe

---

**From:** Eve Atkinson <[Eve.Atkinson@travelok.com](mailto:Eve.Atkinson@travelok.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 8, 2022 5:43 PM  
**To:** ODOTWeb-environment <[environment@odot.org](mailto:environment@odot.org)>  
**Cc:** Rhonda Moore <[Rhonda.Moore@travelok.com](mailto:Rhonda.Moore@travelok.com)>  
**Subject:** Choctaw County US70 from Fort Towson east of Raymond Geary Park entrance to McCurtain County line

SH-209 serves as access to Raymond Gary Park, but it is not likely to cause major disruption to traffic circulation to the State Park. The park at Fort Towson is North and west of US 70, about an .12 miles from the highway.

Your project proposal will have no significant adverse impact on any federally funded park or recreation area or state park, regarding the LWCF Act 54 U.S.C. 200305(f)(3) no land may be permanently used for private or non-outdoor recreation purposes (defined by the program).

Thank you for the opportunity to review your proposal

**Eve Atkinson | Planning Coordinator II | Tourism & Recreation | State Parks p. 405-522-9516 |**  
**| TravelOK.com**



J. KEVIN STITT  
GOVERNOR

MATT PINNELL  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



TREY LAM  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LISA KNAUF OWEN  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Our Land • Our Heritage • Our Future

July 14, 2022

Joe Brutsché  
Environmental Programs Division Manager  
Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation  
200 NE 21st Street Oklahoma City, OK 73105

*RE: Solicitation for US-70 Construction of 2-lane roadway to accommodate future 4-lane divided roadway from JCT SH-209 east approximately 5.8 miles to the McCurtain County line: State Job Piece Number 31854(04), Project# J31854(004)*

Dear Mr. Brutsché:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this ODOT proposal as described in your letter of June 13, 2022. A review was completed using the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Survey of McCurtain County and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory maps. Several streams cross the proposed project area, some with mapped riverine wetlands. Although OCC understands that ODOT will or has already completed an environmental assessment (EA) and determine waters potentially impacted by this project, OCC has the following general concerns. The general concerns should be addressed throughout this project. One concern is that riparian areas will be disturbed, and siltation problems may arise during this process. OCC is also concerned about mechanical disturbance within the stream, whether it is simply for construction or that it involves the redirecting or “redesigning” of the channels. Additionally, OCC is concerned that the cross-sectional area may be reduced and not allow for needed drainage. OCC recommends plans that reduce disturbance, and thus siltation, in the creek and erosion control plans sufficient to minimize sedimentation impacts from construction activities outside the stream channel. OCC also recommends minimizing changes in the stream configuration (slope, width, depth and path) or if the stream must be manipulated, natural designs be used as practicable to reshape and stabilize the stream. Natural stabilization methods can be more economical and beneficial to the environment than historical stabilization techniques. Restoring riparian corridors using natural design can produce stream systems that are more stable and efficient in transporting bed load and flood flows while providing habitat for riparian/wetland wildlife. If this method cannot be used, OCC recommends that permanently protected riparian mitigation be implemented possibly through a conservation easement. Tying to this recommendation, OCC suggests that sufficient cross-sectional drainage area through the bridge crossings be incorporated in the plan to allow for maximum periodic flood drainage so that the bridges do not function as dams, constricting flow, creating stress on banks and structures, and effectively reducing the natural positive effects of the flood plain. OCC requests that following completion of this project, the streams remain free flowing (stream slope unaffected by construction) with naturally vegetated stable banks and with stream substrate free of excess sedimentation from project activities.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact me at 405/534-6997 or at [brooks.tramell@conservation.ok.gov](mailto:brooks.tramell@conservation.ok.gov).

Sincerely,

*Brooks R Tramell*

Brooks Tramell  
Director of Monitoring, Assessment and Wetlands Programs  
Water Quality Division

cc:      Wetlands file  
          Shanon Phillips, OCC Water Quality Division Director