

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT

**Open House Dates:
April 11 – 25, 2023**

**ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS US-60: FROM THE JUNCTION OF US-81
& EXTEND EAST TO ERIE STREET IN POND CREEK**

**GRANT COUNTY
J/P No. 29838(07); Project No. J2-9838(007)**

Prepared for:



**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**

Prepared by:



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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) efforts to keep the public informed and involved in the decision-making process, a Virtual Open House was held. The Virtual Open House was hosted in a web-based format, and no in-person meeting was held. The following is a generalized summary of the public involvement effort, the information provided as part of the outreach, and the comments and input received. ODOT responses to comments are also presented in this document.

1.1 OPEN HOUSE DATES

April 11 through 25, 2023

1.2 MEETING WEBSITE

www.odot.org/US60

1.3 PURPOSE OF VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

The purpose of the Virtual Open House was to introduce the public to the proposed project, provide detail on the proposed design, and to solicit input.

1.4 PROJECT BACKGROUND

ODOT, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to make safety improvements to US-60/Broadway Avenue beginning at the junction of US-81 and extending east to Erie Street within the town of Pond Creek, OK. This segment of US-60 is a partial curb-and-gutter facility with two to four driving lanes of varying widths. Along the corridor, the shoulders are used for parallel and angled street parking. The roadway has deteriorating pavement, a rough railroad crossing, drainage issues, and poorly defined striping that affects traffic flow. Also, there are non-compliant Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) sidewalks located on both sides of the road. The 2027 traffic volume is 1,410 vehicles per day (vpd), and is projected to increase to 1,700 vpd by 2047.

1.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

ODOT is developing design plans for improving this segment of US-60/Broadway Avenue while taking into consideration the cost of construction and potential environmental concerns. Overall, the proposed improvements consist of milling and overlaying the existing pavement, followed by restriping to clearly define the driving lanes and parking areas. Concrete medians and curb-and-gutter sections will be constructed to delineate traffic lanes, driveways, and pedestrian areas. The US-81/US-60 intersection will be modified to improve drainage, turning movements, and traffic flow. The crossing at the railroad tracks will be improved, and sidewalks will be upgraded to meet ADA requirements. All improvements will occur within existing ODOT right-of-way, and the road will remain open with access to residences and businesses maintained throughout the project duration.

1.6 PUBLIC NOTICES

- ODOT mailed invitation letters to various political entities, interested parties, the public and Native American Tribes on April 7, 2023. These letters provided a short project description and included information about the Open House. Enclosed with the letter was a copy of the project location map.
- ODOT mailed Virtual Open House postcards via Direct Mail to property and business owners on two mailing routes within the project area on April 10, 2023.

- ODOT mailed solicitation letters to various state and federal agencies on April 10, 2023. These letters provided a short project description and included information about the Open House and requested that recipients provide input by April 25, 2023. Enclosed with the letter was a copy of the project location and preliminary plans map.
- ODOT sent out a press release and general media announcements on April 14, 2023.

1.7 VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE FORMAT

The Virtual Open House was available for public access online at www.odot.org/US60 between April 11 and 25, 2023. The Virtual Open House home page specified the purpose of the proposed construction and of the Virtual Open House, and provided a description and background of the proposed project. From the home page, on-line visitors could select from the following downloads for detailed information:

- Comment Form – The public was encouraged to participate in the public outreach process, and were provided several methods for submitting comments regarding the project. This page provided the deadline and contact information for providing comments.
- Pamphlet – A PDF copy of the virtual Open House pamphlet.
- Postcard – A PDF copy of the virtual Open House postcard mailed via Direct Mail.
- Frequently Asked Questions – A list of frequently asked questions regarding the project and their answers. (Refer to Appendix C for the materials presented.)
- Environmental Studies – A compilation of the findings of the detailed environmental studies.
- Preliminary Plans – Detailed Roadway Improvements diagram for US-60.

1.8 SUMMARY OF COMMENTS & RESPONSES

In total, ODOT received input from four (4) agencies and one (1) property owner. The comments and responses associated with each media are presented in the following sections.

1.8.1 Property Owner Comments

COMMENTS	
GENERAL COMMENT CONTEXT	INPUT
Respondent 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In favor of the project and would like ODOT to proceed. • Owns a house in Pond Creek and an adjacent, vacant lot that has no address. The vacant lot includes a driveway and culvert that allows them access to their back yard. The driveway is not indicated on the proposed ODOT maps, but it is visible on Google Maps Street View. If the driveway is removed, the residents will not be able to reach their back yard. They requested to keep the driveway and culvert as they exist today.

1.8.3 ODOT Responses to Property Owner Comments

The responses received were summarized and generically grouped into categories, each of which are presented below. Next to each comment is ODOT’s response.

ODOT RESPONSES TO ALL PUBLIC COMMENTS	
ISSUE/COMMENT/CONCERN	RESPONSE
Property & Right-of-Way Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODOT agrees • The project design will be revised to keep the drive where it exists currently.

1.8.4 Public Official Comments

Before the start of the Virtual Open House, Oklahoma senators and representatives, four tribes associated with the project area, local officials, and other interested parties were mailed Public Invite letters to notify them of the Virtual Open House and invite them to participate in the process. No responses were received.

1.8.5 Agency Comments

After the start of the Virtual Open House, several federal and state agencies were mailed solicitation letters requesting comments on the proposed project. Four (4) agencies responded. Individual comments are summarized below.

AGENCY COMMENTS	
AGENCY	INPUT
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) General Counsel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No environmental concerns under DEQ jurisdiction are anticipated. DEQ Recommended ODOT obtain a construction storm water permit (OKR10). If water or wastewater utilities will be re-located as part of this project, a construction permit from DEQ's Water Quality Division may be required.
	ODOT RESPONSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DEQ stated that ODOT should obtain a construction storm water permit authorization under OKR10. ODOT is aware of the permitting requirements and the process involved. ODOT requires construction contractors to obtain an OKR10 permit authorization (when applicable) prior to starting any construction activities.
OK Aeronautics Commission (OAC) Aviation Program Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OAC wanted to remind ODOT of the obligation to comply with 14 CFR Part 77.13 regarding construction activity near federal airports. OAC did state that the potential project does not appear to pose a hazard to safe and efficient use of navigable airspace.
	ODOT RESPONSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments noted. The Pond Creek Municipal Airport is located 0.4 mile from the project area. Appropriate steps will be taken to comply with 14 CFR Part 77.13 requirements
Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) Floodplain Management Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The OWRB has no comments to offer. Recommend ODOT contact the local floodplain administrator for possible permit requirements.
	ODOT RESPONSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments noted.

OK State Parks Planning Coordinator II – Tourism and Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project passes by a municipal park access on Apache St. to project 40-00462. The water tower is adjacent to the street and not within the boundary of the park. • If no dirt work will occur in the park, there will be 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).
	ODOT RESPONSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All construction activities will occur within existing right-of-way, so not impacts are anticipated with park property.

1.8.6 Overall Comment Summary

All comments were compiled below. The table is designed to provide an overall summary of the input received with respect to project approval and the major issues of concern.

SUMMARY OF ALL COMMENTS	
ISSUE / COMMENT / CONCERN	NUMBER OF COMMENTS/RESPONSES
Total Number of Individual Commenters / Responders	5
Residential & Business Comments	1
Public Official Comments and/or Tribal Comments	0
Agency Comments	4
Specifically Approve of Project / Provided Support for Project	1
Specifically Disapprove of Project	0
General Comment Categories	-
o Property Impacts / Right-of-Way Concerns	1