

## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES FINDINGS

### IMPROVEMENTS TO US-75A AND THE BNSF RAILROAD UNDERPASS IN BEGGS OKMULGEE COUNTY J/P 34340(04)

The project area was assessed for environmental resources or conditions that pose any type of problems. The following is a summary of known environmental challenges in the project area:

#### **Waters and Wetlands:**

**In a nutshell:** A permit may be required because of current wetlands.

**More in depth:** The proposed project could cross several streams and tributaries. Any new stream crossings will incorporate water quality protection best management practices to prevent erosion and keep sediment out of the creeks. New and modified crossings would be subject to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permitting under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act with a Nationwide General Permit. No significant, permanent adverse impacts to waterbodies are expected.

#### **Threatened and Endangered Species:**

**In a nutshell:** Endangered and threatened wildlife was identified in the project area. A full biological study will be completed once the preferred construction option is selected.

**More in depth:** Habitat reviews were conducted for federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as for other protected bird species. There are several protected species of birds, reptiles, bats and insects potentially located within the study area or general vicinity, but there was no designated critical habitat. A full biological assessment will be completed on the preferred option once selected. The biological report will be submitted to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) for review following Section 7 requirements under the Endangered Species Act.

#### **Cultural Resources:**

**In a nutshell:** No effects on cultural resources are anticipated. A full cultural resources study will be completed once the preferred construction option is selected.

**More in depth:** Cultural resources impacts were preliminarily reviewed by ODOT's Cultural Resources Program. No potentially significant historic or pre-historic sites or properties were found within the general vicinity of the proposed project during the desktop assessment. Based off of previous surveys and the setting, it was predicted that the likelihood of encountering quality archaeological sites is minimal. A full cultural resources field study will be completed on the preferred option once selected. The cultural resources report will be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office

(SHPO) and tribes for review following Section 7 requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

**Hazardous Materials:**

**In a nutshell:** No impacts are expected. A full hazardous materials study will be completed once the preferred construction option is selected.

**More in depth:** Hazardous materials and waste related impacts were determined by evaluating the regulatory database reports, assessing the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's (OCC) records, reviewing the Oklahoma Water Resources Board's (OWRB) well databases, and by performing a field study. Some areas were identified that could pose an environmental risk within the proposed project footprint and adjacent to the study area (e.g., gas stations, repair shops, etc.). ODOT is currently assessing the potential impacts as they relate to the project, but these sites are not considered to be high risk. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated.

**Floodplains:** Portions of the project are located within a floodplain. During large rain events and wet seasons, the floodplain helps to manage flood waters and prevent impacts to homes and property. ODOT will avoid or minimize any impact to an acceptable level. Any development or fill within a floodplain area may require permitting.