

# **DOCUMENTED COOPERATIVE PROCESS FOR CONSULTING NON-METROPOLITAN LOCAL OFFICIALS**



**OKLAHOMA**  
Transportation

**DRAFT**

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## INTRODUCTION

Federal regulations, specifically [23 CFR §450.210\(b\)](#), require each state to obtain comments on the effectiveness of its current process for cooperating with non-metropolitan local officials in their statewide planning process. This document summarizes Oklahoma's processes for cooperating with and considering the concerns of non-metropolitan local officials during the development of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

## BACKGROUND

A non-metropolitan area includes all areas of the state that are located outside of Oklahoma's four metropolitan planning areas (Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Lawton and Enid), and areas located outside of the bistate metropolitan area in Ft. Smith, AR.

ODOT has developed the following public involvement methods and processes to ensure consultation with local officials in non-metropolitan areas in the development of the STIP and LRTP.

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### STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)

The STIP is a financially constrained federal program which identifies priority and regionally significant transportation projects in which full funding is reasonably anticipated to be available during a four (4) year period. Included is a schedule of projects developed by the Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Indian Reservation Roads Program, County Program and other transportation programs as necessary. The STIP details specific projects, and funding, and anticipated construction let dates by year, county and ODOT District. It is developed biennially and revised through a series of amendments.

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### LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)

The Plan contains policies that guide transportation planning for a minimum of 20 years into the future. It is intermodal, that is, it considers policies for highways, rail, air, waterways, rural transit, and pedestrian/bicycle forms of transportation. Unlike the STIP, the Plan typically does not contain specific transportation projects; however, it may identify corridors for potential transportation improvements. The Plan is updated every five (5) years.

## CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS IN NON-METROPOLITAN AREAS

### CONSULTATION METHODS

ODOT will utilize the following methods to consult, notify, solicit input, receive comments, and provide notice of availability to officials in non-metropolitan areas regarding the STIP and LRTP. Exact methods depend on the situation and will embrace a combination, as appropriate, of the following methods:

- Conduct public meetings in person and/or virtually;
- Make decision-makers available, ([oklahoma.gov/odot/about-us/contact-us/speakers-bureau.html](http://oklahoma.gov/odot/about-us/contact-us/speakers-bureau.html)), as possible, and reasonable, for meetings with individuals and groups;
- Use the ODOT website ([www.odot.org](http://www.odot.org)) for information notices and links to access the eSTIP System and Long Range Transportation Plan website.
- Use the eSTIP website ([okstip.ecointeractive.com](http://okstip.ecointeractive.com)) to display information notices, documents, and solicit public input.
- Advertise as appropriate “Notices of Availability,” Press Releases, and Legal Notices; utilizing social media platforms when applicable.
- Make documents available in electronic format on the ODOT website.
- Inform and use advisory groups as appropriate; and
- Provide electronic informational mailings;

## CONSULTATION PROCESS

ODOT will use the following process for consultation with local officials in non-metropolitan areas:

- Local officials will be notified of public meetings and any other public outreach associated with STIP and LRTP preparation through the appropriate “Methods” discussed above; and
- ODOT will provide for multiple means for local officials to provide input into the STIP and LRTP through the appropriate “Methods” discussed above.
- ODOT will, as appropriate, make available informational materials; solicit public comments; and provide notices of document availability, public meetings, and other relevant information related to the STIP and LRTP using one or more of the “Methods” discussed previously:
  - General public
  - Elected Federal Representatives
  - Elected State Representatives
  - Elected County Officials
  - Elected Municipal Officials
  - State and Federal agencies
  - Tribal Governments and Tribal Transportation Officials
  - Substate planning districts
  - Metropolitan Planning Organizations
  - Public Libraries
  - Chambers of Commerce
  - Minority and economically disadvantaged groups
  - Rural Transit Providers and Oklahoma Transit Association
  - All others interested in the statewide planning process
- ODOT will conduct statewide public outreach every two years in conjunction with the update of the STIP, and every five years in conjunction with the update of the LRTP. ODOT will also solicit public input on amendments as they occur;
- ODOT will participate in informal meetings with local officials, and Tribal Governments to discuss specific issues and project concepts;
- ODOT will advertise the availability of the STIP and LRTP; and
- ODOT will make the preliminary and final STIP and LRTP available on its website.