

# Environmental Programs Division REPORT



**FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS**



**OKLAHOMA**  
Transportation

## ABOUT OUR DIVISION:

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Environmental Programs Division (EPD) helps ensure road and bridge projects, ongoing maintenance activities and facility and/or fleet operations follow environmental guidelines from start to finish. The team includes experts in a variety of disciplines who provide guidance and support during every step of a project. Their work supports compliance with state and federal rules and regulations, as well as local ordinances, to protect and preserve Oklahoma's natural and cultural environment.

## OUR GOAL:

“ To provide guidance and coordination for ODOT regarding environmental areas of concern throughout project development. Ensure not only compliance, but consistency in implementation of environmental commitments for Oklahoma transportation projects and maintenance facilities.

This report consists of a brief summary of each specialized program highlighting key services and accomplishments performed on behalf of ODOT during federal fiscal year (FFY) 2025.

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# CLEAN WATER PROGRAM FFY 2025

The **Clean Water Program** helps ODOT manage and reduce environmental risks on both transportation projects and daily operations. The team works to reduce pollution risk and supports compliance and best practices with clean water laws across project planning, construction and maintenance activities.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### STORMWATER

# 373

The stormwater section reviewed the design plans for 373 projects statewide to ensure compliance with stormwater regulations.

### FIELD LIASONS

# 1,991

stormwater site inspections performed by the Environment Field Liasons for FFY25, a 230% increase from the previous fiscal year.

### 404 PERMITTING

# \$582

## MILLION

Projects totaling \$582 million were submitted to the USACE Tulsa district for 404 permits. Section 404 permits protect and minimize impacts to rivers, streams and wetlands during construction projects.

## SERVICES PROVIDED

- Integrated clean water considerations and regulatory requirements into ODOT's transportation project delivery
- Served as a resource for construction and maintenance partners in meeting project environmental commitments
- Provided stormwater training to ODOT Field Districts
- Worked directly with federal and state regulatory partners to solve compliance issues
- Developed a project tracking system to ensure 404 requests are fulfilled for projects that are planned to let in one year



# CULTURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM FFY 2025

ODOT's **Cultural Resources Program (CRP)** helps ensure that transportation projects follow federal and state laws that protect historic sites, cemeteries and cultural landmarks. The CRP team works closely with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Oklahoma Archaeological Survey (OAS) and Tribal Nations to review project plans and make sure important cultural and historic resources are considered before work begins.

If unexpected cultural resources are found during construction, the CRP steps in to manage the discovery and provide guidance to keep the project on track while staying compliant. The team includes a program manager, five archaeologists, four architectural historians and a part-time lab assistant.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

# 423

Total project requests.

# 202

(51%) of all projects completed with a desktop review only.

# 154

(34%) of projects required consultation, with SHPO, OAS, or Native American tribes.

# 50%

of all projects requiring consultation completed 'in-house' by CRP staff.

**2,645** Utility Emplacement and Relocation reviews completed

**125** Off-site facility reviews completed

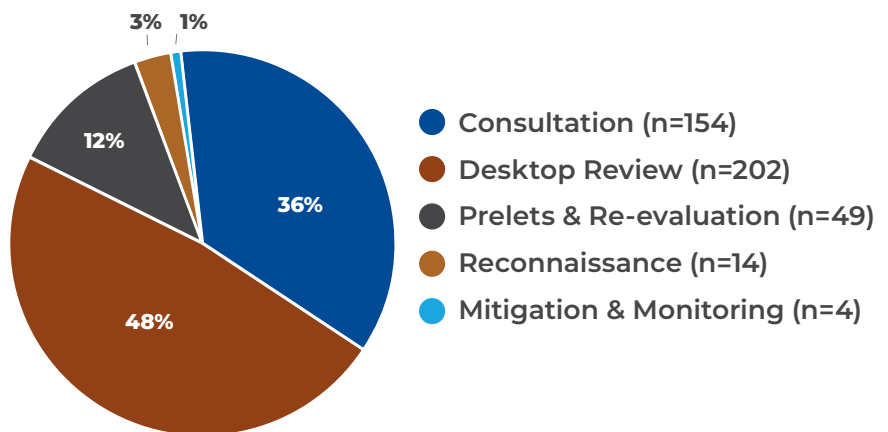
**2** Historic Truss bridges donated to private landowners

## SERVICES PROVIDED

- Field studies
- Desktop reviews and recons
- Identify significant cultural resources
- Utility and off-site facility reviews
- Review of consultant studies
- Construction monitoring

## PROJECT REQUESTS

(as of July 18, 2025)



# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAM FFY 2025

ODOT's **Hazardous Materials (HM)** team supports the agency's transportation mission by identifying and managing potential environmental risks and mitigating pollution while supporting compliance and best practices.

Made up of experts including a geologist, chemist, engineer, soil chemist and animal scientist, the team helps find and deal with things like old fuel tanks, asbestos, contaminated soil and other hazardous materials that may be on a project site. They work behind the scenes to ensure ODOT follows all applicable environmental, health and safety state and federal laws.

With more than 100 years of combined experience, the team works to support the environmental impacts associated with utility relocation and unexpected hazards discovered during roadwork. Beyond construction and maintenance support, they assist with facility and fleet needs like water well permits, waste disposal, lead paint removal, indoor air quality, facility design compliance and closure of maintenance yards.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

# 415

project delivery projects completed

# 291

operations support provided

# 76%

environmental assessments completed in-house

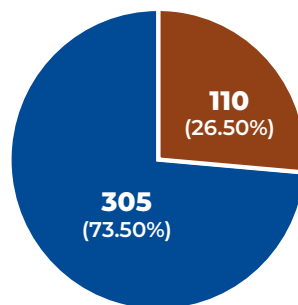
# 100%

of unplanned projects had same day initial response

## SERVICES PROVIDED

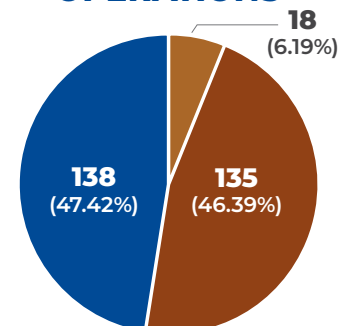
- Developed the EA due date based tracking system
- Finalized development for an in-house multi-regulatory GIS based HM application through coordination with the ODOT GIS branch
- Developed HM operations project tracking system

## PROJECT DELIVERY



- Env. Assessment
- ROW Clearance

## OPERATIONS



- Const. Support
- Facility Support
- Maint. Support

## ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- 102,676 sq ft inspected for asbestos
- 13,625 sq ft of asbestos abated
- 10,207 tons of contaminated soil disposed
- 10 OCC release cases resulted from 13 tank removals
- 77 other types of support (i.e., division safety, tech assist support, agency initiatives, etc.)

# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) PROGRAM FFY 2025

ODOT's **NEPA** Project Managers ensure transportation projects comply with environmental laws and regulations before construction begins.

The NEPA Project Managers coordinate and document the environmental review process for a wide range of projects, including state highways, local roads, public transit, traffic, and railroad improvements. By working closely with different teams and agencies, they ensure each project meets state and federal environmental requirements and keeps the project moving forward on schedule.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

# 594

Environmental documents completed:

- **30** Environmental Review only memos
- **200** Automatic Categorical Exclusions (ACE)
- **68** Programmatic Categorical Exclusions (PCE)
- **15** Individual Categorical Exclusions (ICE)
- **8** Documented Categorical Exclusions (DCE)
- **273** Re-evaluations/checklists

# 88%

Of environmental documents are completed in-house by the ODOT NEPA project managers

# \$690 MILLION

With the completion of NEPA documents, \$690 million in projects were authorized and awarded through FHWA (federal) funding.

## SERVICES PROVIDED

- Provides documentation required for the critical path of project delivery schedule.
- Serves as the NEPA point of contact from pre-construction until construction completion.
- Works closely with the design team during important meetings to assist in deciding project details, reviewing plans and meeting with the public and stakeholders.
- Tracks the combined environmental commitments



# NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM FFY 2025

The **Natural Resources Program** is made up of experts like biologists, botanists and wetland specialists who help ODOT manage environmental risks during the planning, building and upkeep of transportation projects.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

# 305

Section 7 consultations

# 398

Species surveys

# 98%

Delivery score

The Natural Resources program strives to be transparent and is developing training where other ODOT employees can learn more about the program and the services provided. The Habitat and Highways Training is currently being piloted in Environmental Programs Division with the hope of offering it as an optional yearly training to any ODOT employee interested in learning more about Natural Resources. Understanding how construction activities impact wildlife can assist project managers in delivering projects that are feasible to construct, provide our construction personnel with the knowledge of what to look for during construction and ensure maintenance personnel are managing ROW in harmony with agency commitments. If successful, this training can also be offered to the contracting community.

## SERVICES PROVIDED

- Full biological services provided in-house resulting in not only cost savings to the Department but also rapid responsiveness and increased project flexibility.
- Worked directly with federal and state regulatory partners to complete consultations during project delivery, develop creative, project specific solutions during construction and to resolve compliance issues quickly.
- Partnered with the Office of Innovation and the Cabinet of Information Technology to develop a database application to streamline reporting and create program efficiencies. Beta testing of the Biological Assessment report application is complete. Next steps are to integrate consultant partners and other program reporting.



# NOISE MITIGATION PROGRAM FFY 2025

The ODOT **Noise Mitigation Program** studies traffic noise and writes reports that are included in the NEPA documentation. This process includes identifying homes, schools or other places where people are sensitive to noise along a project corridor and adding them to a model of current and future roads. Using current and projected traffic, the program identifies which locations are impacted by noise and then studies whether a barrier could reduce the noise. If a barrier meets state criteria for being feasible and reasonable, ODOT holds a public meeting to discuss the idea and allow a vote. The program also maintains the FHWA Noise Barrier Inventory, which is a record of all noise walls in the state and their data. The noise specialist also handles public noise complaints and makes sure the state noise policy follows federal rules.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

# 197,834

square feet of noise barriers analyzed across the state

Updates made to the ODOT State Noise Policy including new cost reasonable criteria

Started initiative to perform more noise studies in-house

GIS-based Noise Barrier Inventory initiative

## SERVICES PROVIDED

- Project Noise Study Determinations
- Noise modeling for determining noise sensitive receiver impacts
- Barrier analysis and optimization
- Public meetings informing on proposed noise barriers
- Information gather and/or respond to all citizen complaints, inquiries or litigation
- Maintain FHWA Noise Barrier Inventory
- Coordinate with noise consultants
- Maintain compliance with federal regulation by updating ODOT Noise Policy

