

# **OPEN HOUSE**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT**

**Open House Date:  
December 11, 2025**

**IMPROVEMENTS TO US-75 BETWEEN US-62 & SH-56 IN OKMULGEE**

**OKMULGEE COUNTY  
J/P No. 34343(04)  
Project No. J3-4343(004)**

Prepared for:



**OKLAHOMA  
Transportation**

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**

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## **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 public Open House 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.

### **OPEN HOUSE DATE & TIME**

December 11, 2025, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM

### **OPEN HOUSE LOCATION**

Okmulgee Public Library Basement Meeting Room  
218 S Okmulgee  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

### **OPEN HOUSE WEBSITE**

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

### **OPEN HOUSE WEBSITE AVAILABILITY**

November 27 – December 11, 2025

### **PURPOSE OF OPEN HOUSE**

To learn about the planned highway work, share your thoughts, and get answers about the US-75 improvements. This will be a come-and-go type meeting with no presentation. Project team members will be on hand to answer questions.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION / BACKGROUND**

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) plan to improve US-75 to increase safety, drivability and pedestrian access. The project covers the area between US-62 and SH-56 in Okmulgee, OK. The road surface is wearing out, and the sidewalks are not accessible for all users. Daily traffic is 27,500 vehicles, which will increase to 39,300 by 2048.

To correct these issues, ODOT proposes the following improvements:

- Reconstructing the driving lanes and shoulders.
- Adding sidewalks to improve accessibility.
- Making a safe pedestrian crossing under the railroad.
- Adding a signalized pedestrian crossing at 13<sup>th</sup> St.

Due to the size of this project, travelers should anticipate delays, longer drive times, and congestion. US-75 will stay open throughout construction with at least one lane in each direction. Access to homes and businesses on US-75 will always be available. We will do our best to keep congestion and delays to a minimum.

## **PUBLIC NOTICES**

- ODOT mailed invitation letters to various political entities, Native American Tribes, various state and federal agencies, and other interested parties on November 6, 2025. These letters provided a short project description and included information about the Open House. Enclosed with the letter was a copy of the project overview map.
- ODOT mailed invitation letters to property and utility owners on November 13, 2025. These letters provided a short project description and included information about the Open House. Enclosed with the letter was a copy of the project overview map.
- ODOT mailed Open House postcards using the US Postal Service’s “every door direct” mailing service to property and business owners on five mailing routes within the project area on November 27, 2025.
- ODOT sent out a press release and general media announcements on November 26, 2025.

## **WEBSITE FORMAT**

The Open House materials were available for public access online at [www.odot.org/publicmeetings](http://www.odot.org/publicmeetings) between November 27 and December 11, 2025. The Open House home page specified the date, time, and location the meeting was to be held, as well as the purpose of the proposed construction and the Open House. It also provided a description of the proposed project. From the home page, on-line visitors could select from the following downloads for detailed information:

- Postcard – A PDF copy of the Open House postcard mailed via Direct Mail.
- Open House Handout – A PDF copy of the Open House handout.
- Frequently Asked Questions – A list of frequently asked questions regarding the project and their answers.
- Environmental Studies – An explanation of biological, cultural and hazardous materials studies performed for the study area and the project’s potential impacts.
- Open House Posters – A series of posters detailing the proposed project.
- Rollout Map – A rollout poster detailing the proposed project for its entire length.
- Overview Diagram - An overview poster of the project area.
- Typical Section Diagram – A map illustrating the proposed roadway typical for US-75.

## **OPEN HOUSE FORMAT**

At the public Open House, attendees were asked to add their name and contact information to a sign-in sheet. A handout was available to everyone, which described the project and illustrated the proposed project alignment. Presentation boards were set up, and personnel from ODOT, including the engineering design team, District 1, and Environmental Programs Division, were available to answer questions and take comments from the public. Attendees were encouraged to write their specific questions or concerns related to the project on the available Comment Form.

## **SUMMARY OF COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

In total, ODOT received input from three (3) agencies, no tribes, and four (4) comments from the public. Public comments came in the form of phone calls and emails. The comments and responses associated with each are presented in the following sections.

INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS	
Individual	INPUT
Respondent 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Left a message saying she is out of state but represents a trust property near the high school.</li> <li>Wanted to know impacts to the property.</li> </ul>
Respondent 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Owns several parcels along the highway including a car lot (presumed to be at 13th Street &amp; US-75).</li> <li>Could not attend the Open House meeting for personal reasons but wanted to.</li> <li>Has strong opinions on what should be and what should not be done along this stretch of highway.</li> <li>Completely against adding sidewalks along a highway. Thinks it is a waste of money. Suggests moving them away from the highway by a block or so. Referenced other cities and sidewalk situations.</li> <li>Claims only the homeless people use sidewalks in this area. Very few (&lt;5%) other pedestrians use the sidewalks for shopping, local access, or exercise. Stated consumers would travel to the commercial area via cars and not walk. Adding sidewalks will exacerbate the homeless situation and associated impacts.</li> <li>Open to a potential east/west crossing if needed but nothing additional on US-75.</li> <li>Wants to visit with someone from ODOT. Mentioned having an in-person meeting at his office.</li> <li>Notified City Manager Ricky Pierson and suggested ODOT speak with him as well.</li> </ul>
Respondent 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggests changing the stoplights with new ones that have flashing left turn arrows to improve traffic on US-75 in Okmulgee. Says it is often possible to turn left at intersections, but traffic has to wait for a green arrow. Lights with a yellow flashing area would also reduce the time that stoplights have to turn red on US-75 to allow for left turns.</li> </ul>
Respondent 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Okmulgee has been trying to grow its downtown area for many years.</li> <li>Suggests building a dedicated turn lane to 6<sup>th</sup> Street for the southbound traffic similar to the one in Muskogee on the southbound lane on Highway 69 and Highway 16. This would allow people a chance to turn into downtown without holding up regular traffic.</li> <li>The City has approved a nice archway over 6<sup>th</sup> Street that can be seen from US-75 to help advertise Okmulgee.</li> <li>Can't expand downtown until more outside traffic passes through Okmulgee to explore the improvements that are being made.</li> </ul>

### ODOT Responses to Public 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 Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An ODOT representative called back on (12-17-2025 ~4:30)</li> <li>A message was left saying that the project is improving the roadway and that no new ROW was required. There would be some temporary impacts to drives and sidewalks, but that would only impact properties along the</li> </ul>

	road. Her property was farther back and there should not be impacts. (No call-back was received)
Design Concerns	<p>Adding sidewalks along the highway is a waste of money.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments noted.</li> </ul> <p>Adding sidewalks will worsen the homeless situation in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments noted.</li> </ul>
Design Suggestions	<p>Request for traffic lights with flashing yellow turn arrows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments noted.</li> </ul> <p>Request for turn lane to 6th St.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments noted.</li> </ul>

### Public Official, Agency, & Tribal Comments & Responses

Before the start of the Open House, Oklahoma’s senators and representatives, state and federal agencies, seven tribes associated with the project area, local officials, and other interested parties were mailed letters to notify them of the Open House and invite them to participate. Three agencies responded. Individual comments are summarized below.

PUBLIC OFFICIAL, AGENCY & TRIBAL COMMENTS	
AGENCY	INPUT
<b>Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC)</b> Director of Monitoring, Assessment & Wetlands Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appreciates the opportunity to review this ODOT proposal.</li> <li>• A review was completed using the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Survey of Oklahoma County and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps. Neither hydric soils nor wetlands appear to be a concern within the project boundary.</li> </ul>
	<b>ODOT RESPONSE</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments noted.</li> </ul>
<b>Oklahoma Department of Aerospace &amp; Aeronautics</b> Aviation Program Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OAC wanted to remind ODOT of the obligation to comply with 14 CFR Part 77.13 regarding construction activity near federal airports.</li> <li>• OAC did state that the potential project does not appear to pose a hazard to safe and efficient use of navigable airspace.</li> </ul>
	<b>ODOT RESPONSE</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments noted.</li> </ul>
<b>Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)</b> General Counsel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No environmental concerns under DEQ jurisdiction are anticipated.</li> <li>• DEQ Recommended ODOT obtain a construction storm water permit (OKR10).</li> <li>• If water or wastewater utilities will be relocated as part of this project, a construction permit from DEQ’s Water Quality Division may be required.</li> </ul>
	<b>ODOT RESPONSE</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

### 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	7
Residential Comments	4
Agency/Public Officials Comments and/or Tribal Comments	3
Specifically Approve of Project / Provided Support for Project	0
Specifically Disapprove of Project	1
General Comment Categories	-
o Property impact concerns	1
o Design concerns	1
o Design suggestions	2