



Oklahoma Department of Transportation

Welcome to the I-35 South Public Meeting

**September 24, 2007
Sooner Legends, Sooner Room**

This public meeting is to present information regarding proposed improvements to I-35 South, a corridor of I-35 extending from the north end of the I-35/SH 9W interchange ramps (located south of the Canadian River Bridge) north to approximately ½ mile north of Main Street in Norman. The proposed improvements include expanding I-35 to a 6-lane facility north of the Canadian River Bridge, and reconstruction of the SH 9E, Lindsey Street, and Main Street interchanges.

Primary Purposes of this Public Meeting

- ◆ Discuss the purpose of the I-35 project
- ◆ Present the proposed project timelines
- ◆ Explain the opportunities for public involvement in the project
- ◆ Receive your input regarding critical social, economic, and environmental effects that may result from the project

Be sure to sign in tonight to add your name to

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Project Background
3. Question and Answer Session
4. Open Forum Session

the project mailing list, or send your mailing address to:

Diane Abernathy
The Benham Companies, LLC
3700 West Robinson, Suite 200
Norman, OK 73072
diane.abernathy@benham.com

**Your input is valuable to this process.
Please submit your questions or
written statements to:**

Dawn R. Sullivan, P.E.
OK Department of Transportation
Planning and Research Division
200 Northeast 21st Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

**We must receive your comments no later
than October 8, 2007.**





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Enclosure

A comment sheet is included with this handout for your convenience.

What is NEPA and the ODOT Decision Making Process?

NEPA is an acronym for the Federal law called the National Environmental Policy Act, enacted in 1969. In order to use federal funds, a decision-making process that balances the social, economic, and environmental concerns must be conducted. Public involvement and comment are part of the NEPA process. The Department has solicited comments from State, Federal, Tribal and local agencies, and will continue to coordinate with them as necessary. Data is being collected on potential environmental issues such as noise, wetlands, cultural resources, historic resources, parks, displacements of homes or businesses etc. to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed improvements. Economic impacts such as construction costs, estimated right-of-way, and utility cost data will also be evaluated. This information is utilized to make sound decisions in transportation improvements.

What Happens Next?

The Department will review and consider comments received from this public meeting. Information and comments received will be incorporated into the project development process. A second public meeting will be held to present the results of the environmental evaluation process to date and to present the proposed alternates. A draft environmental document will be prepared and submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for review and approval. Upon receiving FHWA's approval of the draft document, a public hearing will be scheduled. Comments received at the hearing will be evaluated and considered. The final environmental document will be prepared and submitted to FHWA for its approval. After this final approval is received, federal funds may be utilized for design, right-of-way and construction activities.

Project Development Process Tentative Schedule

**2nd Public Meeting
Public Hearing**

**Fall 2008
Late 2008**



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ITEMS CONSIDERED DURING PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- **Purpose and Need for Project**
- **Alternates**
- **Affected Environment**
- **Possible Environmental Consequences:**
 - ▶ Air Quality Impacts
 - ▶ Community Impact Assessment
 - ▶ Consideration Relating to Pedestrians and Bicyclists
 - ▶ Construction Impacts
 - ▶ Cultural Resources and Archeological Sites
 - ▶ Economic Impacts
 - ▶ Effects on Public Parks, Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges and Historic Sites
 - ▶ Energy
 - ▶ Environmental Justice
 - ▶ Farmland Impacts
 - ▶ Floodplain Issues
 - ▶ Hazardous Water/Underground Storage Tanks
 - ▶ Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources
 - ▶ Joint Development
 - ▶ Land Use Impacts
 - ▶ Noise Impacts
 - ▶ Permits
 - ▶ Relationship of Local Short-Term Uses vs. Long-Term Productivity
 - ▶ Relocation Impacts/Right-of-way Acquisition
 - ▶ Secondary and Cumulative Impacts
 - ▶ Social Impacts
 - ▶ Threatened or Endangered Species
 - ▶ Visual Impacts
 - ▶ Wetland Impacts
 - ▶ Wildlife Impacts
- **Comments and Coordination/Public Involvement**
 - ▶ State/Federal Agencies
 - ▶ Local/City Officials
 - ▶ Tribal Coordination
 - ▶ Interested Citizens
- **Engineering/Design/Drainage Concerns**
- **Accidents/Safety Concerns**