



# Oklahoma Department of Transportation

## Welcome to the I-35 South Public Meeting

**February 26, 2009  
Embassy Suites**

ODOT is preparing an environmental assessment for proposed improvements along I-35 South, 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 from the Canadian River Bridge to ½ mile north of Main Street, and reconstruction of the SH 9E, Lindsey Street, and Main Street interchanges. After consideration of comments received from the previous public meeting in September 2008, some of the interchange alternatives for Main Street, Lindsey Street, and SH 9 East have been modified. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to present the interchange alternatives currently under consideration.

### **Meeting Agenda**

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Project Status**
- 3. Question and Answer Session**
- 4. Open Forum Session**

## Primary Purposes of this Public Meeting

- Review I-35 South project goals and timelines
- Present results of environmental data collection and evaluation
- Present interchange alternative designs for Main Street, Lindsey Street, and SH 9 East currently under consideration
- 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 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](mailto:diane.abernathy@benham.com)

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

Dawn R. Sullivan  
OK Dept. of Transportation  
Environmental Programs Div.  
200 Northeast 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, Ok. 73105

**We must receive your comments no later than March 12, 2009.**



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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, and will select a proposed improvement alternative. A draft environmental document (EA) 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 Schedule

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Public Meeting</b>	<b>September 2007</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting</b>	<b>September 2008</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Public Meeting</b>	<b>February 2009</b>
<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>Summer/Fall 2009</b>



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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 Waste/Underground Storage Tanks
  - Irreversible and Irrecoverable 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**