

McCurtain County, JP 34333(04) – US-259 – Begin at W. 9th Street in Broken Bow, Extend North
Approximately 12.5 Miles
CI-2141E Task Order 2

Reconnaissance Data Collection Executive Summary

Reconnaissance data collection was performed for the US-259 corridor beginning at W. 9th Street in Broken Bow and extending north approximately 12.5 miles in McCurtain County, Oklahoma. The data collection area included 250 feet on each side of the existing US-259. The data collection area consists primarily of undeveloped wooded land, roadway, as well as the north section of the City of Broken Bow and the small lake community of Hochatown. There are three bridges within the project area (NBIs 13819, 13820, and 14031).

This Reconnaissance Data Collection report identified several constraints in the project corridor. There are six federal properties within or immediately adjacent to the project area associated with the U.S. Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest, including the Forest office. There are three tribal fee parcels and three tribal trust parcels within the study area. All are owned or held in trust for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Utilities in the project area include three overhead electric transmission lines, three water lines, a sanitary sewer line, two telephone lines, and one natural gas distribution line. There are twenty-seven regulated trade fixtures in the project area. There are no airports, cemeteries, wildlife or waterfowl refuges, military properties, or significant cultural resources.

There are twenty-eight hazardous waste sites within or adjacent to the project area. These sites include twenty-five UST, AST, LUST and LAST sites. Based on the OCC Oil and Gas Division well database, no wells are located within the project area or within 1/8 mile of the project area. There are no water wells located within the project area; however, ten ground water wells are located adjacent to the project area.

Natural resources in the project area include several stream crossings and potential wetlands. Drainage in the project area generally flows to the south to the Little River. The project area is located within two federally listed aquatic dependent species watersheds, Little River (Rabbitsfoot, Ouachita Rock Pocketbook, Scaleshell Mussel, and Winged Mapleleaf) and Mountain Fork Rivers and its tributaries (Leopard Darter). The FEMA floodplain maps indicate no Zone AE floodplains occurring within the project area. Multiple streams and wetlands were observed during the site visit.

Threatened and endangered species in the area include the species mentioned as well as the Northern Long-Eared Bat, Piping Plover, Red Knot, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, American Alligator, American Burying Beetle, and Harperella. Depending on what specific habitat is

identified in the proposed project area, certain species may require pre-construction surveys or seasonal restrictions on tree clearing and construction.

Census data collected for the project area show Block Groups within Broken Bow at the southern end of the project area have a lower median household income and a higher percentage of families living below the poverty line than the County and the State. In addition, this southern end has a higher concentration of minority populations than the County and the State. The Native American population percentage is higher in all Block Groups (excluding Block Group 1 in Census Tract 985) than the County and State percentages.