

OPEN HOUSE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

Meeting Held:
June 29, 2017

**Weatherford City Hall
522 W. Rainey Avenue, Wilkinson Room
Weatherford, OK 73096**

Oklahoma Freight Transportation Plan

Prepared for:



Prepared for:
OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
JULY 2017

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1.0 PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE OVERVIEW

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/community meeting was held. The following is a summary of the information provided and the comments received. ODOT responses to comments are presented in this document.

1.1 MEETING DATE & TIME

Thursday, June 29, 2017
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

1.2 MEETING LOCATION

Weatherford City Hall
522 W. Rainey Avenue, Wilkinson Room
Weatherford, OK 73096

1.3 PUBLIC NOTICES

- The Oklahoma Freight Transportation Plan was advised of the Open Houses/Community Meetings in a website post on June 12, 2017.
- ODOT issued a press release and general media announcement on June 9, 2017. (Refer to **Appendix A.**) An article was published about the Open House on June 21, 2017 in the Woodward News entitled "ODOT Sets Open House Meetings on Freight Plan."

1.4 MEETING ATTENDANCE

ATTENDEES

Heather Sheppard
Brent Almquist
Shawn Davis
Roger Schultz
Will Snipes
Jim Mason
Basil Westherly
John Rosacker
Roger Fleming
Robert Rivera
Kirby Smith

ENTITY/AGENCY

Clinton, OK - Farmrail System, Inc.
Clinton, OK - ODOT Division 5
Clinton, OK - ODOT Division 5
Clinton, OK - ODOT Division 5
Clinton, OK - ODOT Division 5
Elk City, OK - City of Elk City
Elk City, OK - Currell's Do It Center
Oklahoma City, OK - ODOT Rail Division
Weatherford, OK - City of Weatherford
Weatherford, OK - City of Weatherford
Yukon, OK - Congressman Frank Lucas's office

FREIGHT PLAN CONSULTANTS

Joe Bryan
Sebastian Guerrero
Alan Meyers
Susan Atherton
Kristi Pempin

COMPANY

Boston, MA - WSP
Boston, MA - WSP
Boston, MA - WSP
Little Rock, AR - Freight Insights
Oklahoma City, OK - MacArthur Assoc.
Consultants/Redbud Marketing

FREIGHT PLAN ODOT TEAM

Linda Koenig
Lisa Lam
Randy Lee
Nathan Smith
Dustin Thoendel

ENTITY/AGENCY

ODOT – Strategic Asset & Perf. Management
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1.5 WELCOME/PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

At the public open house meeting, attendees were asked to sign their name to a sign-in sheet. An agenda was available to everyone, which described the logistics of the meeting (**Attachment B**).

Linda Koenig opened the meeting and thanked the City of Weatherford for hosting the meeting. She explained that the purpose of the meeting was to gain public input for the Oklahoma Freight Transportation Plan, a five-year plan considering various freight modes including rail, highway, and waterway, and to identify significant freight transportation projects in the State of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Freight Transportation Plan effort began in November 2016 and is slated for completion by December 2017. The Plan term is 2018 through 2022. Ms. Koenig introduced the Freight Plan consultants and Project Manager, Joe Bryan of WSP.

1.6 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Joe Bryan explained that the FAST Act establishes \$6.2 billion in set-aside National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) funding for freight projects nationally over five years. At least 90% of these funds are scheduled to be spent on the National Highway Freight Network (NHFN). Up to 10% may be spent on non-NHFN infrastructure. To obtain funding, State investments of NHFP funds must be specified in an approved Freight Plan.

The Oklahoma Freight Plan will provide the means for Oklahoma to receive NHFP funds, identify other beneficial projects and actions that could be implemented, connect planning across multiple transportation modes and regions, and develop a comprehensive freight story.

1.7 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Mr. Bryan said that the Oklahoma Freight Transportation Plan fulfills a requirement for all states from the federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act signed in December 2015. It is a statewide, multimodal process including research study and input from stakeholders throughout Oklahoma.

1.8 FREIGHT PLAN PROGRESS

A presentation was provided by the project team. Highlights of the presentation covered the following topics:

- Overview of the Freight Plan
 - Why does freight matter?
 - Federal freight plan requirements and Oklahoma Freight Plan goals
 - Profile of freight traffic; highway, rail, waterway
 - Rural and urban freight corridors
- Freight Bottlenecks

Personnel from ODOT and the consulting team were available to answer questions and take comments from the public. (Refer to "Summary of Comments" below.)

Attendees were encouraged to complete the survey and note additional comments related to the study on the provided Survey Form (**Appendix C**). Attendees were also informed of an online version of the survey located on the project website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NDFNGYW>

2.0 SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

2.1 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Questions (Q), Answers (A), and Comments (C)

(Q.) Does this take into account our southwest Oklahoma transportation districts and efforts regarding bottlenecks?

(A.) (ODOT Staff) Yes, prior to this meeting we had a meeting with our Freight Advisory Committee and we also met with all the planning districts and developed a map of locations where people perceived bottlenecks or other problems. Some of the locations identified as problems did not show up as we went with the most severe problems. Our analysis considered all locations mentioned and then sifted up to the top 5% to show the most severe problems.

(Q.) In looking at the urban areas, everyone knows by looking at the maps, Oklahoma is a crossroads. Now, how do we divert some of the truck traffic out of the urban areas and the bottleneck areas into more of the rural roadways where we could use some of the traffic? ODOT has been doing a lot of construction work in eastern Oklahoma, but not so much in western Oklahoma because we don't have a lot of population out here. We need to shift some of that truck traffic to other locations. Let's create a rural truck route that helps pull some of that [traffic] away into the urban areas.

(A.) (ODOT Staff) I think we will begin to see some of that in our next step. We are talking about bottlenecks, and yes there are more in the urban areas. The next step will be to look at solutions including projects in the Eight Year Construction Work Plan. Just because there is a problem in a specific location area does not mean that the solution is at that location. It is just a problem and we have to figure out how to alleviate it – and sometimes that means looking at options in other locations. Right now, we are still talking about where we see problems. As we move through the process we will talk more about where we have proposed solutions or targeted projects.

(C.) There is an awful lot of oil field traffic in our area (Beckham and Custer County in western Oklahoma) and we don't see any bottlenecks showing up there.

(ODOT staff) – Let's look at this it ... The first maps shows highway locations where people perceive congestion. Just because there is not a red spot on the map does not mean that there is not a problem. In some cases, there is a black mark over the red and that is where the stakeholder input matched with the data analysis and confirmed there was a high degree of truck delay.

(Consultant) When looking at the data regarding bottlenecks we are concentrating on the top 5%. There may be some locations that are an issue, but fall out of that range.

2.2 STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

MAPS and GRAPHIC BOARDS – Weatherford

Locations to review further:

ID	General Location	TMC	Comment	Comment Source	Consultant Response
10	RR Xing near Thomas and SH 47 in Custer Co. -- West of Watonga and north of Weatherford	NA	Rail crossing needs attention. Sand facility at Thomas	Weatherford meeting	Rail crossing to be reviewed – in concert with ODOT Rail Plan

Comments that validated our results:

ID	General Location	TMC	Comment	Comment Source	Consultant Response
6	Woodward, intersection of US 412 and US 270	111P06609, 111N06610	US 270 and through Woodward carries a lot of truck traffic	Weatherford meeting	3,270 trucks per day
7	US 270 (aka US 281, SH 3) Dewey County	various	High truck corridor	Weatherford meeting	600 to 700 trucks per day. Lower than other bottleneck locations.
8	I-40 in western Oklahoma	various	High truck volumes, but very little delay	Weatherford meeting	3,000 to 4,500 trucks per day. Not much delay.

2.3 MEETING CONCLUSION

The meeting concluded at approximately 11:55 a.m. Linda Koenig thanked visitors for attending and encouraged them to stay posted on the Plan's progress by visiting the website:

<http://www.okstatefreightplan.com/>

APPENDIX A: PRESS RELEASE

Open Houses Scheduled to develop Oklahoma’s 2018-2022 Statewide Freight Plan

Oklahoma’s transportation network provides numerous options to move goods from Point A to Point B by land, water or air. As the Oklahoma Department of Transportation looks ahead to future infrastructure needs, it is seeking input from the public and private sectors on how best to shape these systems.

The department will have three open houses in Moore, Tulsa and Weatherford at the end of the month to hear ideas that could help develop the 2018-2022 State Freight Plan. This five-year plan will identify needs for freight movement and trends, which will help develop partnerships and target economic growth across all modes of transportation.

The public is invited to come hear a brief presentation at the start of each open house, after which time participants will be able to review information and ask questions. For those unable to attend, details and comment forms will be made available online June 30 at www.odot.org/publicmeetings. Comments will be accepted through July 13.

Freight Plan Open Houses

Tuesday, June 27

4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Moore Public Library

225 N. Broadway, Moore

Wednesday, June 28

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Tulsa Hardesty Library

8316 E. 93rd St., Tulsa

Thursday, June 29

10 a.m. – Noon

Weatherford City Hall, Wilkinson Room

522 W. Rainey Ave., Weatherford

The Oklahoma Freight Transportation Plan is slated for completion by December 2017. For more information on plan development, visit www.okstatefreightplan.com

To request an accommodation, please contact the ODOT ADA Coordinator at 405-521-4140 or the Oklahoma Relay Service at 1-800-722-0353. If you have any ADA or Title VI questions email ODOT-ada-titlevi@odot.org.

APPENDIX B: AGENDA

AGENDA

Oklahoma Freight Transportation Plan

Community Meetings

4:30 to 6:30 p.m. June 27, 2017 - Moore

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 28, 2017 - Tulsa

10 a.m. to Noon June 29, 2017 - Weatherford

Welcome

Linda Koenig, OK DOT

Overview of the Oklahoma Freight Plan – Joe Bryan, WSP

This segment begins with why freight is important to Oklahoma and to you. Oklahoma is required by federal law (the “FAST Act”) to prepare a freight plan, so the rest of this segment covers what we are doing in the plan and how freight functions in our state. Topics include:

- Federal requirements and Oklahoma goals
- Profile of freight traffic
- Rural and urban corridors

Discussion of Oklahoma Freight Bottlenecks- Sebastian Guerrero, WSP

Bottlenecks are places where freight backs up due to congestion or other causes. This is inefficient and costly - just like rush hour can be for you - and improving them is a key way ODOT will spend funds for freight. This segment identifies Oklahoma’s bottlenecks using a data-driven approach, compares results to what stakeholders have said, and ends with a breakout discussion. Topics include:

- What bottlenecks are and how we identified them
- Findings from data, and how they compare to findings from stakeholders
- Breakout discussion and your input on the findings

Survey of Oklahoma Freight Issues - Joe Bryan, WSP

This segment requests further input from you on a number of concerns, including safety and various forms of freight activity. We will review:

- The survey itself
- How it to complete it
- How you will learn about survey and Freight Plan results:

Website: <http://www.okstatefreightplan.com/>

Final Words and Adjournment – Linda Koenig, ODOT

APPENDIX C: SURVEY FORM



This survey seeks your opinion on freight issues in the State of Oklahoma.

Oklahoma State Freight Plan Survey	
1) How would you describe your interest in freight transportation in Oklahoma? (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in freight rail <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in highway freight <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Concerned about highway/rail crossing and other freight safety issues <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in ports and waterway freight	
2) Do you or your business currently use commercial motor vehicle or truck services (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Less than truckload (LTL) <input type="checkbox"/> Full Truckload (TL) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Oversize/Overweight truckloads (eg. manufactured homes, wind turbine) <input type="checkbox"/> Superize/Superload truckloads (eg. large capacity oil and gas equip.) <input type="checkbox"/> None	
3) Do you or your business currently use rail service (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Carload <input type="checkbox"/> Unit Train <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Intermodal <input type="checkbox"/> None	
4) Do you or your business currently use waterway service (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Inbound freight <input type="checkbox"/> Outbound freight <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> None	
Safety and Condition	
Rank the items below in order of importance from 1 (MOST) to 4 (LEAST) important Rank (1-4)	
ODOT should prioritize pavement maintenance on the State Highway System.	
ODOT needs to step up the pace of adding shoulders to rural highways.	
ODOT should continue its efforts to promote safe rail crossings throughout the state.	
ODOT needs to maintain its commitment to reducing the number of structurally deficient bridges.	
Highways - Oversize/Overweight (OS/OW) Freight	
Rank the items below in order of importance from 1 (MOST) to 3 (LEAST) important Rank (1-3)	
ODOT and its agency partners should work with neighboring states on compatible oversize/overweight permitting.	
ODOT and its agency partners should identify and preserve a sub-system of the State Highway System that accommodates oversize/overweight loads, without otherwise restricting available routes.	
ODOT and its agency partners should evaluate the impacts of oversize/overweight freight movements on other transportation system users.	
Highways - Truck Parking	
Rank the items below in order of importance from 1 (MOST) to 3 (LEAST) important Rank (1-3)	
ODOT should work with neighboring states on a truck parking information system.	
ODOT should collaborate with the private sector to promote sufficient truck parking in relation to major freight routes and activity centers.	
ODOT should focus its efforts on expanding truck parking availability at rest stops.	
Intermodal Freight	
Rank the items below in order of importance from 1 (MOST) to 3 (LEAST) important Rank (1-3)	
ODOT needs to evaluate its role in establishing intermodal freight facilities in the state.	
Ports and waterways are critical freight assets and need connections to highways and railroads.	
ODOT needs to take a more active role in working with freight rail providers to improve freight rail service.	
Informed and Efficient Program Delivery	
Rank the items below in order of importance from 1 (MOST) to 4 (LEAST) important Rank (1-4)	
ODOT should work with neighboring states on multistate corridors of strategic economic and security importance.	
ODOT should provide more information to communicate with and educate industry and the general public on pertinent freight topics and issues.	
ODOT should support greater use of technologies to improve the safety and efficiency of operations along corridors with high freight volumes.	
ODOT should continue to seek ways to expedite project approvals to be responsive to freight transportation needs.	
If you have additional comments or questions about freight transportation in Oklahoma please use the area below	
<small>Use reverse if additional space is needed</small>	

Name (optional): _____ City of Residence: _____
 County of Residence: _____ Workplace City/County: _____

Survey deadline: July 13, 2017
 Visit our website at www.okstatefreightplan.com to take this survey
 You may also print and return using one of the following options

Return by Mail to:
 Oklahoma Department of Transportation
 Attn: SAPM - Room 3-A4
 200 N.E. 21st Street
 Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Return by email to: ilsm@odot.org
 Return by fax to: 405-521-6917