

## Summary of Environmental Studies

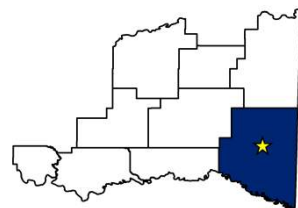
Environmental studies have been performed to identify potential environmental impacts. Environmental scientists and archaeologists conducted surveys and evaluations to determine the potential to impact waters and wetlands, federally listed threatened and endangered species, habitat for protected bird species, hazardous materials, cultural resources, and traffic noise. Additionally, ODOT has hosted multiple public involvement events to engage and inform the community about the proposed improvements and solicit feedback via public comments. A summary of the public involvement background is in the section below.

In regard to the findings from the environmental studies, partly due to the presence of the existing infrastructure and previous disturbance of the proposed construction areas, these projects are not expected to have significant environmental impacts.

## Public Involvement Background

- Advisory Committee Meetings: July- October 2021
- Temporary Traffic Signals: June- July 2022
- Conceptual Meeting with Advisory Committee: June 28, 2022
- Community Outreach Event: October 27, 2022
- Public Meeting: May 16, 2023
- Town Resolution No. 2023-7: September 6, 2023
- Announcement of ODOT's selection of the 5-lane configuration: November 15, 2023\*

\*ODOT announced the selection of the 5-lane configuration for all 6 miles of the US-259 improvements through Hochatown on November 15, 2023. ODOT selected the 5-lane configuration based on the following three factors: 1) the Design Engineer recommended a 5-lane configuration for safety and traffic flow purposes, 2) the majority of the general public was in favor of the 5-lane versus the 3-lane configuration, and 3) the Town of Hochatown passed a resolution recommending the 5-lane configuration for all 6 miles of the US-259 improvements through Hochatown.



McCurtain County, Oklahoma

ODOT District 2 Engineer:  
Anthony Echelle, P.E.

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## Open House Public Meeting

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

IMPROVEMENTS TO US-259 IN HOCHATOWN FROM  
SOUTH SH-259A TO GOLF COURSE ROAD

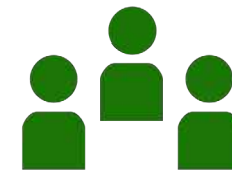
McCurtain County; JP 34333(04)(08)

## Open House Format

This is a come-and-go event between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm

**Location: Chapel of the Pines Hochatown**  
**9276 N US-259**  
**Hochatown, Oklahoma 74728**

## Public Meeting



The Oklahoma Department of Transportation is hosting an in-person, open house public meeting to provide information about the proposed US-259 improvements.

## Meeting Purpose



The purpose of the meeting is to present the selected alternative, share findings from the environmental studies, and demonstrate the consideration of all public comments including concerns for parking and pedestrian safety in the project design.

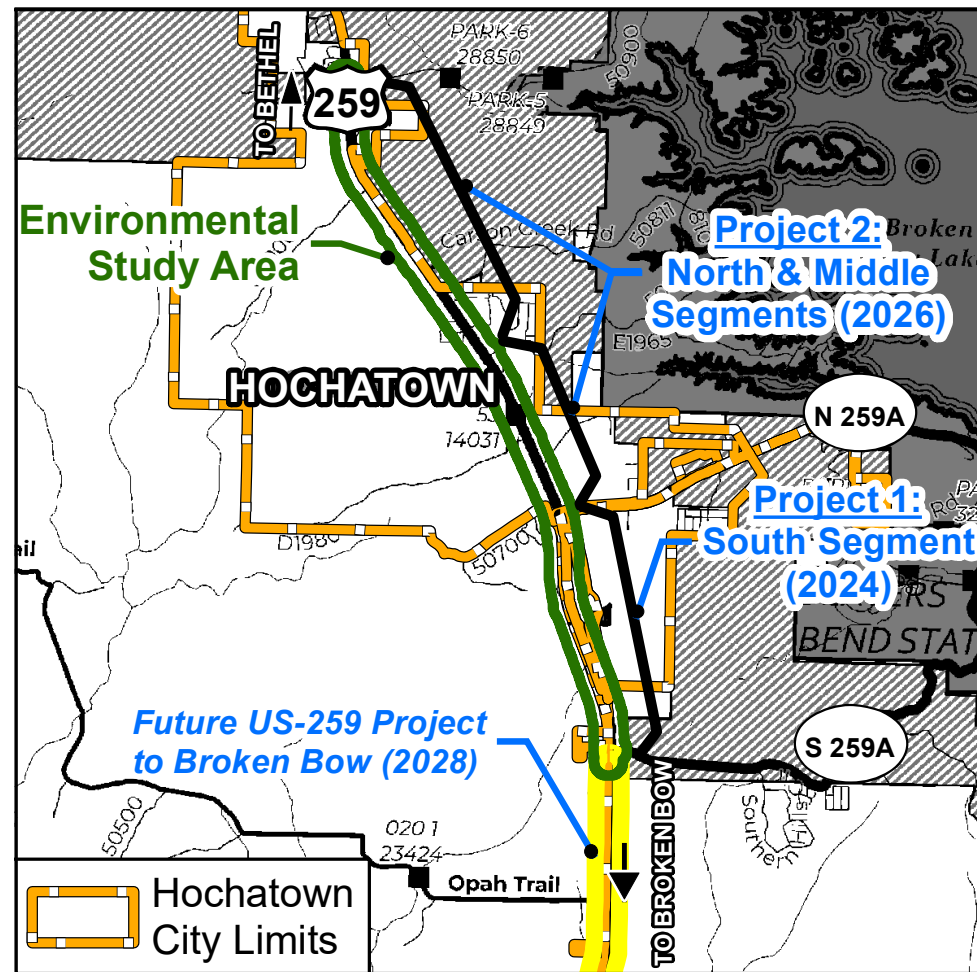
PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS BY APRIL 9, 2024

Please be aware that information that you submit is subject to public disclosure under the Oklahoma Open Records Act.



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

## Location Map



### Project 1: South Segment

From approximately 0.12 miles south of the South SH-259A and US-259 intersection, extending north approximately 2.28 miles (generally from South SH-259A to North SH-259A)

### Project 2: North & Middle Segments

From 8.25 miles north of junction SH-3, extending north 4.00 miles (generally from North SH-259A to Golf Course Road)

### Future US-259 Project:

From 0.34 miles north of junction SH-3, extending north approx. 5.9 miles (generally from 5th Street to South SH-259A)

## Timeline



\*schedule is contingent on funding and subject to change

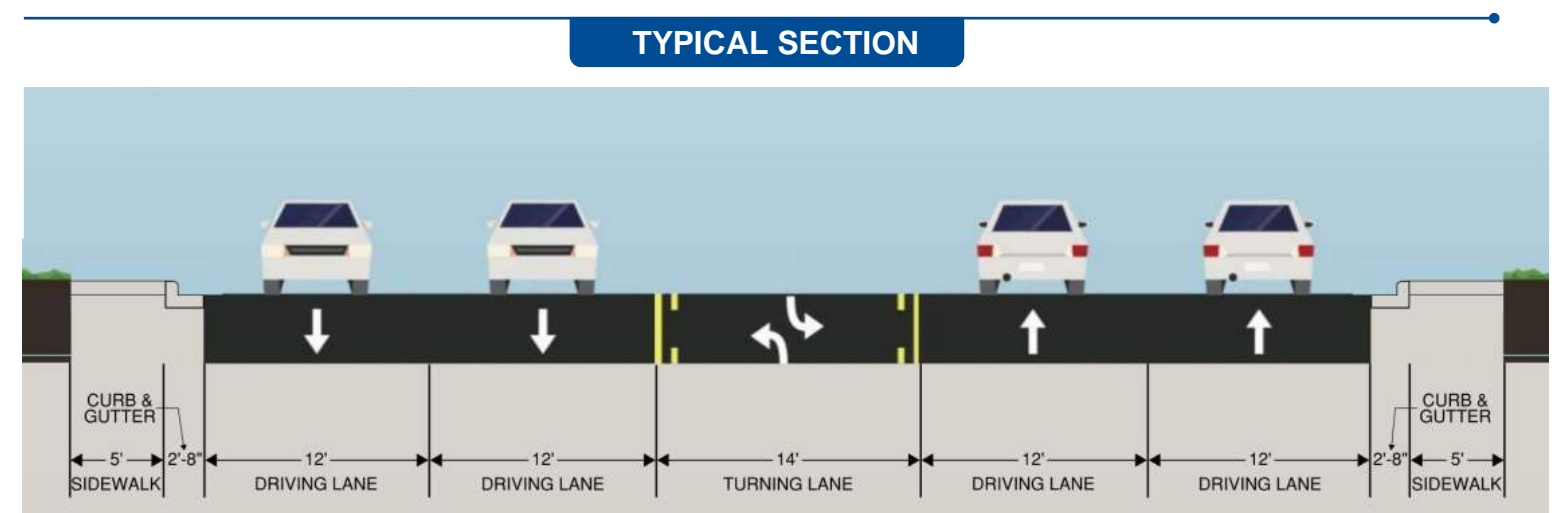
## Overview of Proposed Improvements to US-259

During initial public outreach and preliminary studies, the proposed improvements for the 6 miles of US-259 through Hochatown were described in three areas called South Segment, Middle Segment, and North Segment. For final design and construction, the South Segment is scheduled to proceed first, so it is called “Project 1” in this Open House Public Meeting. Project 1 is from approximately 0.12 miles south of the South SH-259A and US-259 intersection, extending north approximately 2.28 miles (generally from South SH-259A to North SH-259A). Construction for Project 1 is scheduled to begin at the end of 2024.

The areas previously described as the Middle and North Segments are called “Project 2” in this Open House Public Meeting. Project 2 is from 8.25 miles north of junction SH-3, extending north 4.00 miles (generally from North SH-259A to Golf Course Road). Construction of Project 2 is scheduled to begin in 2026.

There is also a future project on US-259 that will be south of Project 1 and extends to Broken Bow. This future project is from 0.34 miles north of junction SH-3, extending north approximately 5.9 miles (generally from 5th Street to South SH-259A), and construction is scheduled to begin in 2028. This future project is not part of the proposed improvements addressed by this Open House Public Meeting.

The selected alternative is a 5-lane configuration, which has two travel lanes in each direction and a center turn lane or median. The public requested pedestrian access improvements in this area, and therefore, ODOT is incorporating sidewalks in the design. A typical section of the 5-lane configuration with sidewalks is shown below.



Typical section of curb & gutter design with sidewalks



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - Improvements to US-259 in Hochatown

1. **Q: What is “Project 1” and when will construction begin?**

A: The first part of the proposed US-259 improvements is described as Project 1, and it is generally from South SH-295A to North SH-259A. Construction of Project 1 is scheduled to begin at the end of 2024.

2. **Q: What is “Project 2” and when will construction begin?**

A: The second part of the proposed US-259 improvements is described as Project 2, and it is generally from North SH-259A to Golf Course Road. Construction of Project 2 is scheduled to begin in 2026.

3. **Q: What is the “future US-259 Project” that extends to Broken Bow and when will construction begin?**

A: The future project on US-259 will be south of Project 1 continuing south towards Broken Bow, generally from South SH-259A to 5<sup>th</sup> Street). Construction of the future US-259 project is scheduled to begin in 2028.

4. **Q: Is US-259 going to stay open during construction?**

A: Yes, two travel lanes on US-259 will remain open during construction. Travelers may experience delays and congestion, but ODOT is committed to minimizing disruptions and providing a safe environment for drivers and workers. Access to residences and businesses will be maintained during construction.

5. **Q: How will parking be impacted?**

A: ODOT is aware that even with the proposed roadway improvements staying with the existing right of way, impacts to parking will occur. ODOT appreciates these concerns and is working with the community and design teams to mitigate parking concerns with improvements such as community parking areas and shuttle drop-off locations.

6. **Q: The public has requested improvements to pedestrian access; how is ODOT proposing to provide safe pedestrian access in the design?**

A: The community provided feedback requesting additional pedestrian access options like sidewalks. As such, ODOT is proposing to include sidewalks as part of the improvements. Safe pedestrian access will also include new crosswalks across US-259.

7. **Q: How is ODOT considering concerns about the 5-lane configuration?**

A: The majority of the general public favored the 5-lane versus the 3-lane configuration for all six miles of US-259 improvements through Hochatown. Additionally, the Town of Hochatown passed a resolution recommending the 5-lane configuration for all six miles of US-259 improvements through Hochatown. However, ODOT understands there have been public questions and concerns about the 5-lane configuration regarding topics such as safe pedestrian access, parking, beauty/aesthetics, and traffic noise. Below is a summary of how ODOT is working to mitigate those concerns.

- **Safe Pedestrian Access:** ODOT is proposing to incorporate sidewalks and crosswalks in the project to improve safe pedestrian access. Additionally, medians are being considered in the design at various locations to increase safety at crosswalks.
- **Parking:** ODOT is proposing to incorporate community parking areas in the proposed improvements to mitigate parking concerns. Additionally, shuttle drop-off locations are being considered in the design to allow for safe drop-off and pick-up of large groups of pedestrians.
- **Beauty/Aesthetics:** ODOT will continue to review other successful road improvement projects in similar tourist areas (such as Gatlinburg, TN) and collaborate with the community to enhance the aesthetics of the area. Improvements such as vegetated medians at various locations could help improve safety, traffic flow, and provide an aesthetic benefit.
- **Traffic Noise:** A traffic noise study was completed for the proposed project, and modeling indicates a decrease in future traffic noise for the majority of the roadway due to the proposed reduction in the speed limit. Noise barriers are not proposed in order to maintain driveway access.