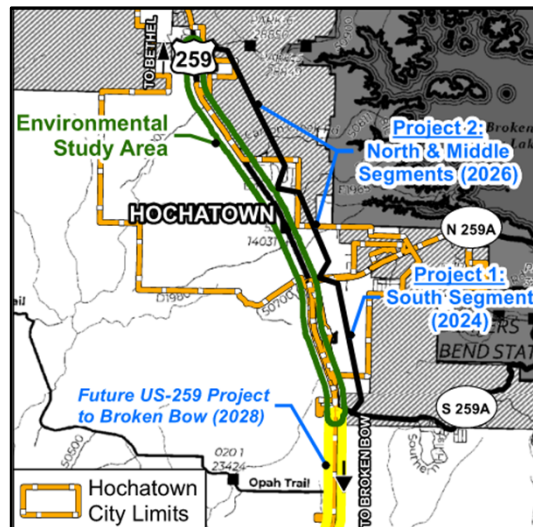




Welcome to the Open House Public Meeting regarding the proposed Improvements to US-259 in Hochatown from South SH-259A to Golf Course Road. I am an environmental scientist from Freese and Nichols who is helping ODOT conduct the environmental review for these proposed improvements.

LOCATION MAP



This Open House Public Meeting is specifically for the proposed improvements to US-259 through Hochatown, which extends for approximately 6 miles from South SH-259A to Golf Course Road. Environmental studies were conducted for this area, as shown in this location map.

Construction is scheduled to first begin in 2024 at a 2-mile segment located from South SH-259A to North SH-259A. This is known as “Project 1” or “South Segment.”

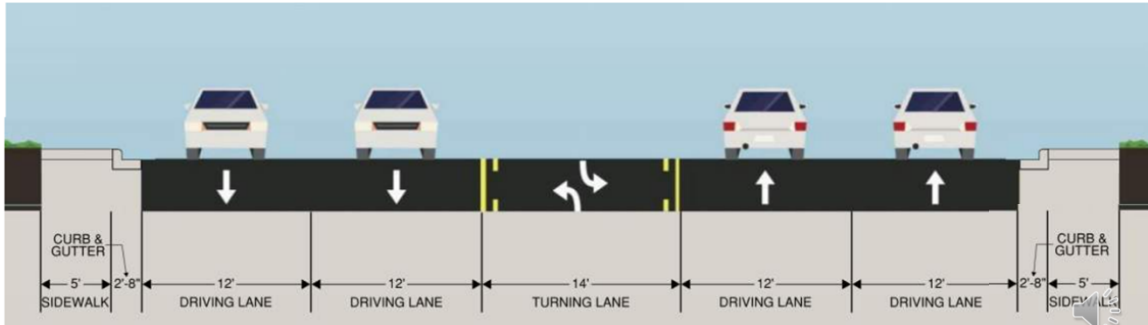
Construction on the 4-miles from North SH-259A to Golf Course Road is scheduled to begin in 2026. This is known as “Project 2” or “North and Middle Segments.”

There is a future US-259 project scheduled to begin in 2028, which extends from 5th Street in Broken Bow to South SH-259A, but that project is not part of this Public Meeting.

PROPOSED DESIGN



- 5-lane configuration (two travel lanes in each direction with center turn lane or median)
- The US-259 improvements proposed within existing right-of-way, and access to homes and businesses will remain open during construction



Typical section of curb & gutter design with sidewalks

In November 2023, ODOT announced their selection of a 5-lane configuration for the proposed improvements, which consists of two travel lanes in each direction and a center turning lane or median. The diagram shows a typical section view of a 5-lane configuration with sidewalks. This is a conceptual depiction and is subject to refinements during the design process based on site conditions.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS



 Waters and Wetlands

 Cultural Resources

 Biological Assessment

 Traffic Noise Analysis

 Hazardous Materials

 Public Involvement



Multiple environmental studies have been conducted following the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. These studies considered the potential for the proposed improvements to cause significant environmental impacts. Typical environmental considerations include natural resources (like waterbodies and protected wildlife), the presence of hazardous materials on site, cultural resources (like historic properties or structures), public involvement, and traffic noise impacts. In the next few slides, I'm going to summarize noteworthy findings of various environmental evaluations.



WATERS AND WETLANDS



- No impact to wetlands
- Study area includes the crossing of Yashau Creek, unnamed tributaries of East Fork Lukfata Creek, and unnamed tributaries of East Fork Yukata Creek
- Due to the existing roadway, significant adverse impacts are not expected to occur
- The project has been designed to comply with Nationwide Permit 14 under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act



Photo: Crossing of US-259 over Yashau Creek

A pedestrian survey by environmental scientists was conducted to determine the potential to impact waterbodies, such as streams and wetlands. No wetlands were identified within the study area. There are multiple streams that currently cross US-259 through road culverts. Due to the presence of the existing infrastructure and prior development of proposed construction areas, significant impacts to streams are not expected to occur. The improvements are being designed to meet the terms and conditions of Nationwide Permit 14 Linear Transportation Projects, which includes water quality best management practices to minimize erosion and the release of sediment into the streams during construction.



BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



- Biological Assessment was completed
- Habitat Survey for protected bird species
- ODOT consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to implement best practices to minimize the potential to impact protected species



Photo: Woodland adjacent to the existing R/W



A biological assessment was conducted by environmental scientists for federally listed threatened and endangered species, as well as habitat surveys for other protected bird species. Due to the previous development within the study area, there was very little potential habitat identified within the proposed limits of construction. ODOT has proposed their standard conservation measures to minimize the potential to impact protected species, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with ODOT's determinations and proposed measures, so the project may proceed accordingly.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



- A Hazardous Materials Initial Site Assessment / Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed
- The assessment was conducted to determine the potential impacts from hazardous materials or contaminants
- No environmental hazards located within the study area
- No additional investigations of hazardous materials are required



Photo: Developed area adjacent to project area

An Initial Site Assessment was conducted to determine the potential impact from hazardous materials or contaminants. There were no recognized environmental conditions located within the study corridor that pose environmental risks. No additional investigations of hazardous materials are required.



CULTURAL RESOURCES



- A Cultural Resources Survey was conducted, followed by coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Oklahoma Archeological Survey
- The assessment was conducted to determine impacts to historical and archeological resources
- No impacts to protected Cultural Resources are expected
- The Hochatown Cemetery is located adjacent to project but is not within the proposed limits of construction



Photo: Historical marker near Hochatown Cemetery



A cultural resources survey was conducted by professional archeologists, followed by coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Oklahoma Archeological Survey.

They considered the potential to impact historic and archaeological resources. No significant artifacts or materials were found during the survey. The Hochatown Cemetery is located directly adjacent to the project study area but it is outside the proposed limits of construction and is not expected to be impacted.



TRAFFIC NOISE STUDY



- A Traffic Noise Study was completed using the Federal Highway Administration's Traffic Noise Model, version 2.5, including measurements in the field
- It was conducted to determine the potential traffic noise impacts from the project
- Overall, predicted sound levels would generally decrease throughout the project area
- Noise abatement or mitigation measures, such as noise barriers, were determined not feasible and are not proposed



Photo: Noise monitoring being conducted

A Traffic Noise Study was conducted to determine the potential traffic noise impacts from the proposed improvements. The Federal Highway Administration's Traffic Noise Model version 2.5 was used to model and predict future noise levels. Traffic noise measurements were conducted along US-259 to estimate existing conditions and to validate the model. Overall, predicted sound levels would generally decrease throughout the study area due to the proposed reduction in the speed limit, and significant noise impacts would be minor. Noise abatement or mitigation measures, such as noise barriers, were determined not feasible due to driveway and access requirements and are not proposed.



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



- Environmental Justice screening was conducted, and low income or minority communities are not expected to be disproportionately impacted by the proposed improvements. Access to homes and businesses will remain open during construction.
- Public Involvement began in 2021. ODOT selected the 5-lane configuration based on 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.
- ODOT has considered public comments including concerns for parking and pedestrian safety, and ODOT is implementing measures to mitigate the concerns.



Photo: Looking north along project area



An environmental justice screening review was conducted. The roadway improvements are proposed to remain within existing right-of-way, and access to homes and businesses would remain open during construction. No relocations of residences or businesses are proposed. As such, low-income or minority communities are not expected to be disproportionately impacted by the proposed improvements.

ODOT has conducted Public Involvement events to discuss with the public the proposed US-259 improvements, and this began in 2021. ODOT requested input and feedback about different design configurations and considered the public comments before selecting the 5-lane configuration for all 6 miles. ODOT announced selection of 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.

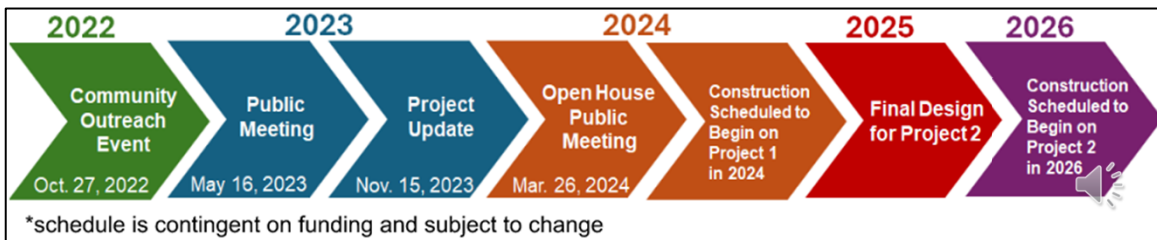
Additionally, ODOT has considered public comments including concerns for parking and pedestrian safety, and as such, ODOT is working with the community and design teams to mitigate parking concerns with improvements such as community parking

areas and shuttle drop-off locations. Safe pedestrian access will also include new crosswalks across US-259.

NEXT STEPS



- Receive public comments by April 9, 2024
- Summarize public comments with ODOT responses
- Finalize environmental document
- Final design and construction



The next step in the environmental evaluation process is to receive comments from this public meeting. Then we will prepare a public involvement summary report and finalize the environmental documentation for review by the Federal Highway Administration. After that, the design team will proceed to finalize design. Construction is scheduled to first begin on Project 1 in 2024.

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS



Submit Feedback

HOW TO COMMENT

To be documented and considered as part of the US-259 Open House Public Meeting, please provide your comments using any method below by **Tuesday, April 9, 2024**.



IN PERSON

Fill out a comment form



VOICEMAIL

Leave a voicemail at 405.325.3269



ONLINE

Go to www.odot.org/PublicMeetings

or

Scan QR code



EMAIL

environment@odot.org



MAIL

Environmental Programs Division
Oklahoma Department of
Transportation 200 N.E. 21st St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Then select "[US-259 Hochatown](#)"
and follow the links to submit comment

Improvements to US-259 in Hochatown • McCurtain County, OK • JP 34333(04)(08)



Please leave comments about the proposed improvements. There are comment forms that you can fill out at this Public Meeting, or you can email, mail, or leave a voice message as indicated in this slide and at the public comment station. Thank you.