

Virtual Open House Public Meeting Summary

**US-70
from Brock Road in Lone Grove extending east
to I-35 in Ardmore**

Carter County / JP Number 33757(04)

Held October 24, 2023 through November 7, 2023

Prepared by:



Date:

November 22, 2023

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) held a virtual open house public meeting for US 70 eastbound and westbound lanes from 0.23 miles east of Brock Road in Lone Grove east 3.62 miles to just east of I-35 in Ardmore in Carter County. The purpose of the open house public meeting was to present the proposed design for this roadway improvement. The purpose and need of the project is to improve the pavement condition, highway safety and operations.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document was approved by Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) on April 14, 2023.

The virtual open house public meeting was held October 24 through November 7, 2023. The virtual public meeting had audio instruction and download script options with Stations including a sign in sheet, frequently asked questions, a project overview board, project overview presentation, construction phasing video, next steps board and public comments process board. The fifth, and last station, contained the interactive comment map, relocation assistance brochure, property rights brochure and a comment form.

Now that the open house public meeting has concluded, the meeting materials can be found at: <http://www.odot.org/publicmeetings>.

The open house public meeting had thirteen (13) participants that signed into the virtual open house public meeting, no phone calls were received, two (2) citizen written comments were received. No public officials' comments were received.

<u># Of Comments</u>	<u>General Category</u>
1	To add additional lanes
1	Support for the project

Based on the comments received, the project as planned will move forward.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes a virtual open house public meeting conducted for US 70 eastbound and westbound lanes from 0.23 miles east of Brock Road in Lone Grove east 3.62 miles to just east of I-35 in Ardmore in Carter County. The purpose of the open house public meeting was to present the proposed design for this roadway improvement. The purpose and need of the project is to improve the pavement condition, highway safety and operations.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document was approved by Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) on April 14, 2023.

ODOT, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing roadway improvements on US 70 eastbound and westbound lanes. The existing US-70 roadway consists of four (4) 12-foot-wide driving lanes, a 42-foot-wide median with 10-foot-wide outside and 4-foot-wide inside paved shoulders. The roadway is in poor pavement condition and has vertical curves that cause sight distance issues.

The proposed improvement consists of reconstructing the existing US-70 roadway to provide four (4) 12-foot-wide driving lanes, a 40-foot-wide median with 10-foot-wide outside and 4-foot-wide inside paved shoulders on existing alignment and provides vertical curve corrections. Left turn-lanes will be added at median openings and right-turn lanes will be added at all major intersections. Median openings may remain in place, be moved, or removed along the project to reduce the number of turning movements. Traffic signalization will be replaced at Plainview Road and Michelin Road. New right-of-way will be required.

The road will remain open during construction.

3.0 OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING

3.1 MEETING NOTIFICATION

Ninety-one (91) property owners, ten (10) utility owners and eighteen (18) stakeholders were identified adjacent to the study area, which is largely commercial and residential. These owners were notified of the virtual open house public meeting by postcard mailed October 23, 2023.

Thirty-seven (37) invitation letters to the public meeting were mailed to various agencies and members of the public on October 23, 2023. The public officials meeting invitation list included ODOT Commissioners, Carter County Commissioners, State and U.S. elected officials, City of Ardmore and City of Lone Grove, Southern Oklahoma Development Authority, Plainview Public School, Lone Grove School District, Ardmore and Lone Grove Police and Fire Departments, and Tribal Nations.

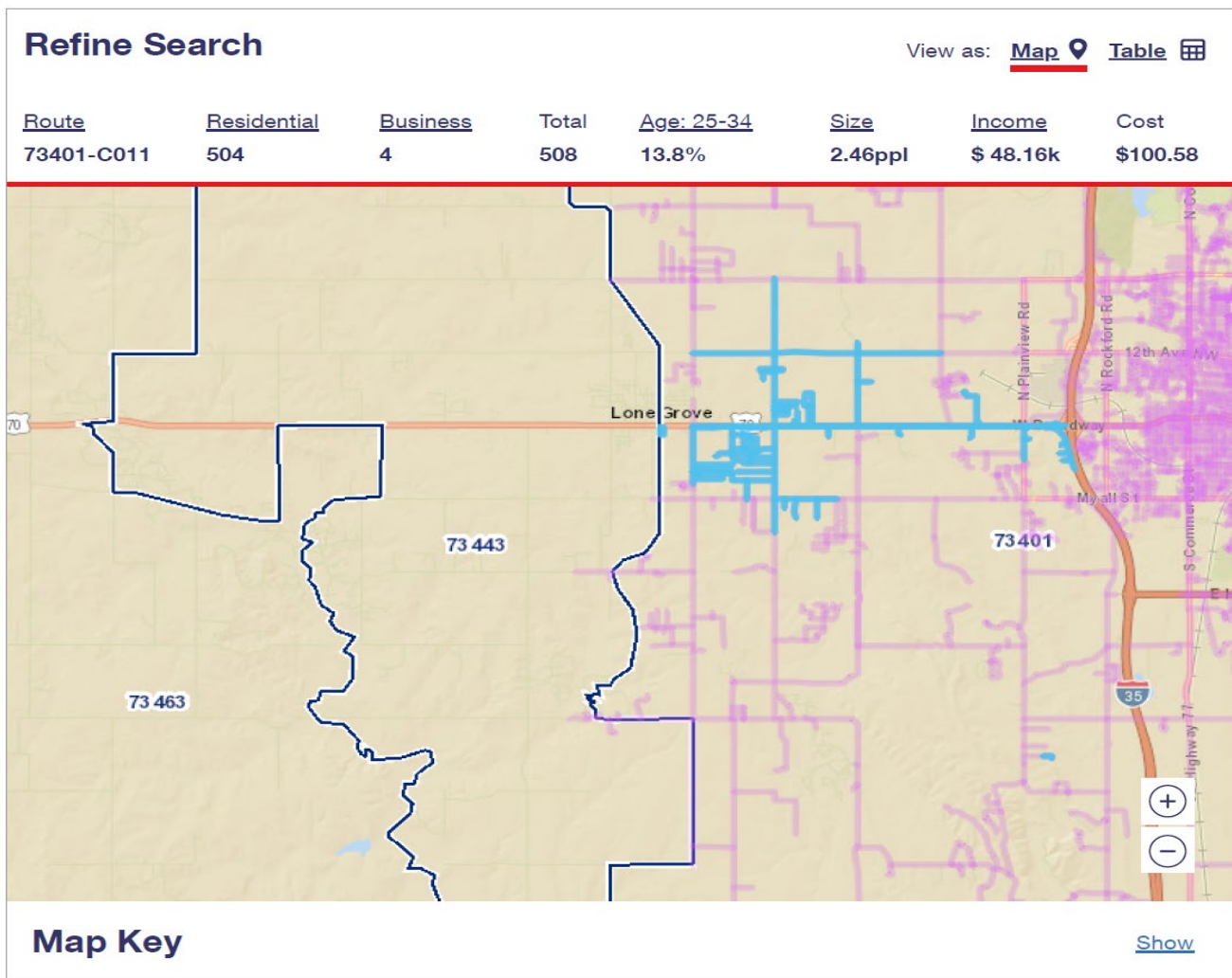
3.2 OUTREACH

Outreach was provided by direct mailing by the post office to one (1) mail delivery route along the project area as noted in blue in map 1 below. Five-hundred-seventy (570) postcards were printed and mailed by Mercury Press Plus and direct mailed to the Post Office for distribution to routes.

- 73401-C011 570 total

Direct mailing helps to ensure that individuals who are leasing property within the study area will get the information, as well as the property owners receiving notification through the mail. As the postal route serves a larger area, more people who use the US-70 roadway received the information, increasing the opportunity for input.

Maps 1: Direct Mail Route



3.3 MEETING INFORMATION AND FORMAT

The virtual open house public meeting was held October 24 through November 7, 2023, 2023 at <https://oklahoma.gov/odot/programs-and-projects0/public-meetings-and-hearings0.html>

The virtual public meeting had audio instruction and download script options. The first station contained the sign in sheet, download FAQ, and download script. The second station contained the project overview board and project overview presentation. The third station contained the construction phasing video. The fourth station contained the next steps board and public comments process board. The fifth, and last station, contained the interactive comment map, relocation assistance brochure, property rights brochure and comment form.

All comments were requested to be received on or before November 7, 2023. Written comments could be submitted by mail or email or on the webpage. The interactive map also had a place to leave comments.

4.0 COMMENTS

4.1 PHONE CALL COMMENTS

No phone calls were received.

4.2 WRITTEN COMMENTS

The open house public meeting had thirteen (13) participants that signed into the virtual open house public meeting. Two (2) written comments were received from the virtual open house meeting. These comments are listed in the table below. An ODOT response has been added at the end of each general category. Copies of the citizen written comments are included in **Appendix C**.

There were no comments received on the interactive comment map.

WRITTEN COMMENTS	
An Additional Lane	
1a	This stretch of highway is the most congested highway in the County during the morning and evening commute. An additional lane would be better than a wider shoulder.
ODOT Response: Based on existing and future traffic volumes the existing 4-lane facility is adequate to handle the traffic. The improvements to the operation of the roadway, including added signals and addressing median opening will improve safety.	

Support US-70 Project	
2a	I approve and support ODOT's US-70 in Carter County Project. The aspect that I love about ODOT's US-70 in Carter County Project is that the pavement on US-70 from Brock Road to I-35 will be rehabbed which will improve safety and ride quality on US-70.
ODOT Response: Thank you for the support.	

5.0 PUBLIC OFFICIALS COMMENTS

5.1 PUBLIC OFFICIALS COMMENTS AND ODOT RESPONSES

No public officials' responses were received.

6.0 DATA FROM VIRTUAL MEETING

Provided below is information on the analytics from October 24th through November 7th virtual meeting.

Note that "Active users" are the unique individuals who visited the site, and "Sessions" is the number of individual visits to the site. A "unique" user can have multiple sessions if the site is visited more than once; hence why the number of sessions is always bigger.

Stream name	ODOT_US70_vpm		Totals	
Device category	Active users	Sessions	↓ Active users	Sessions
Totals	183 <small>100% of total</small>	223 <small>100% of total</small>	183 <small>100% of total</small>	223 <small>100% of total</small>
1 desktop	140	167	140	167
2 mobile	41	54	41	54
3 tablet	2	2	2	2