

November 11, 2019

Dear Stakeholder:

Re: Rogers County Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Project: JP 20899(09); Proposed replacement of the historic eastbound bridge carrying SH-66 over Bird Creek.

Please consider this letter an invitation to be a consulting party for a above referenced project. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires all federal agencies to take into account the effects of their projects on properties eligible for, or listed on, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Federal agencies, and their delegates, are required to seek comments from parties who have a demonstrated interest in the historic properties that may be affected by a project, including the State Archaeologist, the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Native American Tribes, and other organizations. On behalf of FHWA, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) has identified your organization as a party with potential interest in the undertaking and we invite your participation. Please find the project description below.

ODOT, in cooperation with FHWA, is considering improvements to the historic eastbound SH-66 bridge over Bird Creek (ODOT Structure no. 6602 0368 EX/NBI 13688). ODOT is currently undergoing a study to evaluate the structural integrity of the bridge and review a variety of alternatives that may address the deficiencies in the structure. The exact project scope and requirements will be clarified through the planning, environmental review, and design process; however, the improvements are considered necessary.

The bridge is mixed truss, containing three K-thru truss spans that are flanked by two pony trusses on the east and one pony truss on the west. The most recent inspection report lists the sufficiency rating at 49.40 out of 100. According to data obtained in 2016, the structure carries 6,750 vehicles per day. The structure, along with its former twin, which was replaced in 2012, was identified by the 2002 Route 66 Roadbed Study as best representing the upgrade of Route 66 to a modern 4-lane highway.

ODOT recognizes that you may have knowledge of other potential cultural or historical resources, or comments regarding the known resource that ODOT and FHWA should consider in planning the project. We formally invite your organization to participate as a Section 106 consulting party for this project and provide any comments or information regarding cultural resources that may be affected.

We respectfully request for a response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If you indicate an interest in being a consulting party, your organization will be included in receiving information regarding ODOT's cultural resource studies within the project area and the recommendations and determinations resulting from those studies. If you do not respond or respond indicating that you do not desire to be a consulting party, you will not be included on the list of consulting parties and will receive no additional correspondence.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Scott Sundermeyer ODOT Cultural Resources Program, Director at 405-325-7201 or via email at ssundermeyer@odot.org.



**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CULTURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM**

111 E. Chesapeake, Room 102
Norman 73019-5111
www.odotculturalresources.info

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Droscher", is written in a cursive style.

Jenny Droscher
Public Involvement Officer, ODOT Cultural Resources Program

Cc: Catoosa Historic Society Museum
City of Catoosa
Historic Bridge Foundation
National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program
Oklahoma Bridge and Highway Group
Oklahoma Route 66 Association, Inc.
Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department
Oklahoma Public Archeology Network
Preservation Oklahoma
Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership

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