

May 12, 2020

Dear Stakeholder:

Re: Rogers County Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) Project JP 20899(09): Proposed improvements to the historic (eastern) northbound bridge carrying SH-66 over Bird Creek.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is proposing improvements to the historic (eastern) northbound bridge carrying US-66 over Bird Creek in Catoosa, Oklahoma. The existing bridge is a steel truss-thru bridge, containing three K-thru truss spans flanked by two pony trusses on the east (north) and one pony truss on the west (south); the bridge was constructed in 1957. This bridge was assessed during the Oklahoma Historic Bridge Survey revision (2007) and determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A for its association with Route 66 and under Criterion C for its engineering characteristics. This bridge is a historic property and will require additional consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and other consulting parties.

ODOT is currently considering alternatives to meet the purpose and need of this project. These include:

1. Do nothing ["no build" or no action option]
2. Build a new structure at a different location and leave the existing historic bridge in place to function as either a pedestrian bridge or a monument.
3. Rehabilitation without affecting the historic integrity of the bridge.

In consideration of these alternatives, please find the attached cultural resources survey report for these investigations. The segment of Route 66 within the project study area was assessed as not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. As described above, the project bridge is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, but no additional historic properties were identified as a result of the cultural resources investigation.

At this time, we respectfully request your comment on our determination that no additional historic properties are within the project Area of Potential Effect (APE). In accordance with regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended, and Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act, ODOT will pursue future consultation on the project's effect to historic properties.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me at 325-7201.

Sincerely,



Scott Sundermeyer
Director, 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

"The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is to provide a safe, economical, and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma."