

Subject: Re: US 69 Muskogee
From: Gerald <gerald@gmillerpc.com>
Date: 11/2/2018, 12:26 PM
To: Chris Wallace <CWALLACE@ODOT.ORG>

Mr. Wallace,

Since a week has expired with no response to my previous email, and no answer to the questions I have posed to you, could you please reply? I think that would be an adequate time to respond as the questions are not that difficult to answer. As the Division I engineer who is the person that ODOT advises such questions should be directed to, as a taxpayer, I think I should be given the courtesy of a response, one way or the other.

If I don't hear from you by noon, Monday, Oct. 5th, I will presume that you won't be answering my questions or responding further to this or my previous email.

Regards,

Gerald R Miller

On 10/26/2018 9:47 AM, Chris Wallace wrote:

Good Morning Mr. Miller

Yes, there is still an safety improvement project in the eight year construction plan for US-69 in Muskogee County. The change in the project label is just a basic description of the project and may change again as we continue to develop the project.

I am out in the field today, please give me a call next week so we can discuss this further.

Thanks,
Chris

Chris Wallace, P.E.
ODOT – Division 1 Engineer
2800 S. 32nd St.
Muskogee, Ok 74401

Office: 918-687-5407

From: Gerald [<mailto:gerald@gmillerpc.com>]
Sent: Friday, October 19, 2018 9:33 AM
To: Chris Wallace
Subject: Re: US 69 Muskogee

Mr. Wallace,

Thank you for your response. However, my question concerned the US69 Realignment proposal that was

previously proposed and set forth in the 2017 eight year plan, not projects to improve the corridor in general.

There seems to be quite a bit of confusion as to exactly what the change in language in the 2018 eight year plan from the previous year signifies, since there has been no formal announcement by ODOT as to what led to this change in the eight year plan or any public discussion as to what it actually means. Could you clarify your response by answering the following questions:

1. What was the reason for the change of language in the previous eight year plan adopted in 2017 and the language now set forth in the 2018 eight year plan, and what is the significance of that change, specifically as to how it relates to the US69 Realignment as proposed in the 2017 eight year construction plan?
2. Exactly what does "reconstruction of the existing with additional lanes" actually mean in relation to what will be proposed at the January 2019 meeting?
3. Is the US69 Realignment Proposal no longer in the eight year plan? If not, is it still an option that will be proposed at the January 2019 public meeting?

Thank you for your valuable time necessary to answer these questions. Answers to these questions should resolve the confusion that currently exists in regard to ODOT's intentions in regard to US69 as it passes through Muskogee.

Regards,

Gerald R Miller

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2018 3:03 PM, Chris Wallace wrote:

Hello Mr. Miller,

Thank you for your email. Ms. Templin forwarded your email to my office for handling.

The project for the improvement of the US-69 corridor that includes the section in Muskogee has not been removed from ODOT's 8-Year Construction Plan. The description has changed from "grade drain bridge and surface" to now a "reconstruction of the existing with additional lanes."

Our focus is to provide a thirty year corridor improvement to the existing highway alignment. This project like other projects both under construction and being developed along the US-69 corridor in our state will greatly improve both safety and congestion along our second largest north-south truck corridor in Oklahoma. We have continued to have preliminary discussions with the City of Muskogee and the public and anticipate meeting with the public in January 2019 to present improvement ideas for each area of study and to gather formal public input. The overall goal will be to improve safety for not just the travelling public but also for the businesses and residents in the Muskogee area for the current and expected growth for freight and regular traffic in this section of the US-69 corridor.

In response to your second question about grants, there haven't been any applications made at this time. If the opportunity should come up for a federal grant for this or any other improvement that meets the required criteria, we will pursue any chance to be able to bring additional federal

funds to Oklahoma. At this time we are planning the project based on our available regular funding sources.

Thank you again for the email and I look forward to seeing you in January.

Chris

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