

PUBLIC NOTICE

SH-58 WASHITA RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT SECTION 4(F) DE MINIMIS IMPACTS TO CARNEGIE PARK

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is preparing environmental documentation on the proposed bridge replacement on SH-58 over the Washita River in Carnegie. The alignment for the proposed project indicates the need for new temporary right-of-way from the Carnegie Park, which is owned and maintained by the Town of Carnegie. Several cottonwood trees within the temporary right-of-way will also require trimming or removal. Due to the proposed transportation use of property located within the Park, Section 4(f) regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 apply to the project. Section 4(f) affords protection to publicly-owned recreation areas (resources) including city, state, and national parks, wildlife refuges and management areas and historic sites.

ODOT has coordinated with the Town of Carnegie and the Kiowa Tribe with regard to avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of impacts of the proposed project on Carnegie Park. ODOT is proposing to construct the new 2 lane bridge slightly off-set to the east of the existing bridge in order to permit construction one-half at a time, thus allowing the existing bridge to remain open to thru traffic during construction. The new bridge will have an American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant sidewalk on the east side. The bridge could not be off-set to the west due to the meander in the Washita River. ODOT is proposing to obtain approximately 0.38 acres of temporary right-of-way alongside SH-58, in order to construct a retaining wall that will be built on ODOT's existing right-of-way. The cutting and/or removal of several cottonwood trees in this area will be necessary. Additionally, approximately 0.09 acres of temporary right-of-way, at the Park's entrance, will be required to reconstruct the Park's entrance drive.

The portions of the Park that are included in the temporary right-of-way do not involve the playground, walking trails or the Boy Scout hut. Proposed construction will be scheduled to minimize any conflicts with the annual Kiowa Gourd Clan Celebration, which is held in the Park on an annual basis during late June and/or early July. As requested by Town officials, the proposed new bridge will include an ADA compliant sidewalk that should better serve the Park's pedestrian traffic.

Based on the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of impacts to Carnegie Park, as described above, ODOT is proposing a *de minimis* impact finding with regard to Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act (1966). ODOT welcomes your comments on the effects of this project on the projected activities, features, and attributes of Carnegie Park (the Section 4(f) resource). Please mail or e-mail any written comments you have by July 30, 2013 to:

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