

# **Virtual Public Open House Summary**

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## **Oklahoma Turnpike Authority**

### **East-West Connector and I-44 Interchange**

**McClain County, EWC-28001, JP 37100(04)**

March 9, 2026

## Table of Contents

|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Table of Contents.....</b>        | <b>ii</b> |
| <b>Executive Summary.....</b>        | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>Introduction .....</b>            | <b>2</b>  |
| Virtual Open House Notification..... | 2         |
| Meeting Information and Format.....  | 2         |
| <b>Summary of Comments.....</b>      | <b>3</b>  |

## **Executive Summary**

This document summarizes the virtual public open house conducted for the OTA ACCESS East West Connector (EWC) and I-44 Interchange project in McClain County. The purpose of the public open house was to present the proposed improvements to the EWC/I-44 Interchange, discuss the environmental impacts, and obtain public input. The open house included information on the proposed design of the project, the construction phasing, environmental impacts, and project schedule.

OTA held a virtual public open house on-line between November 3 and December 3, 2025. According to the website analytics, 2,206 unique users viewed the website 5,119 times over the 31-day period. The “Interchange Design and Construction” page, containing the project design exhibits and videos was the most frequently viewed page (2,222 views). In total, one hundred seventy-seven (177) separate comment forms were received through the website. Some people submitted multiple comments on a single form. In total, 189 comments were categorized.

Eleven (11) comments expressed support for the project. Fifteen (15) comments made specific suggestions and questions for the design, requesting certain movements and/or access be addressed. Seventeen (17) comments expressed opposition to the project or supported a no-build alternative. The remainder (146) of the comments were not specific to this project.

## **Introduction**

This document summarizes the virtual public open house conducted for the OTA ACCESS East West Connector (EWC) and I-44 Interchange project in McClain County. The purpose of the public open house was to present the proposed improvements to the EWC/I-44 Interchange, discuss the environmental impacts, and obtain public input. The open house included information on the proposed design of the project, the construction phasing, environmental impacts, and project schedule.

## ***Virtual Open House Notification***

Notice of the virtual public open house was sent by Every Door Direct Mail (EDDM) to 3,437 addresses in four postal routes (73065-R001, 73065-R005, 73065-R006, and 73065-R007) in the vicinity of the project. The mailing included a postcard with information on how to access the virtual public meeting (QR code and website address) as well as a telephone number and general ACCESS website address for more information. Postcards were delivered to the Newcastle post office on October 31, 2025 for delivery on November 1 or 3, 2025. OTA also advertised the meeting via electronic media. Two Facebook posts were created, each visible for two weeks. These posts generated almost 500 link clicks and received over 40,000 impressions.

## ***Meeting Information and Format***

The virtual public open house was held on-line between November 3 and December 3, 2025 at <https://accesspubinv.transportationplanroom.com>. A link to this page was provided via QR code on the postcard and via direct link from the ACCESS Oklahoma website ([www.accessoklahoma.com](http://www.accessoklahoma.com)). The QR code was scanned 145 times by 134 unique devices. According to the open house website analytics, 2,206 unique users viewed the website 5,119 times over the 31-day period. The “Interchange Design and Construction” page, containing the project design exhibits and videos was the most frequently viewed page (2,222 views). The website included the following pages:

- Homepage with brief overview of the East-West Connector with links to the three EWC interstate interchanges that will have virtual public open houses (I-44, I-35 and I-40).
- I-44 Interchange main page with links to more information about the specific information about the EWC/I-44 Interchange Project, including:
  - Interchange Design and Construction – a PDF exhibit of the ultimate interchange configuration, videos of each of the construction work packages with verbal explanation for the different phases, and general information about Diverging Diamond interchanges.
  - Environmental studies – a summary of the environmental studies completed for the interchange and their findings.

- Submit a Comment – on-line comment form with additional instructions on how to submit comments via telephone.

## **Summary of Comments**

In total, one hundred seventy-seven (177) separate comment forms were received through the website. Some people submitted multiple comments on a single form. In total, 189 comments were categorized. Some comments appear in multiple categories.

Eleven (11) comments expressed support for the project. Fifteen (15) comments made specific suggestions and questions for the design, requesting certain movements and/or access be addressed. Seventeen (17) comments expressed opposition to the project or supported a no-build alternative. The remainder (146) of the comments were not specific to this project. A summary of the comments is presented below.

### **Project Support (11 comments)**

Summary: Expressed support for the project.

Relevant Comments: 2, 11, 12, 37, 40, 70, 72, 77, 86, 90, 104

### **EWC/I-44 Interchange Design Suggestions and Questions (15 comments)**

Summary: Suggested ways to improve existing infrastructure instead of building new toll roads. These included expanding I-35/I-44, adding managed lanes, keeping or modifying ramps, building other road access, and collector-distributor roads.

Relevant Comments: 11, 12, 32, 40, 55, 56, 65, 69, 70, 72, 74, 88, 104, 162, 173

### **No-Build/Opposition to the EWC/I-44 Interchange Project (17 comments)**

Summary: Expressed opposition, for various reasons, for the project and OTA or supported the No-Build Alternative.

Relevant Comments: 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 21, 25, 39, 41, 63, 84, 163, 173

### **Comments Not Specific to the EWC/I-44 Interchange Project (146 comments)**

Summary: Submitted comments not specific to the EWC/I-44 Interchange.

Relevant Comments: 2, 4, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 71, 73, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 174, 175, 176, 177

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