

Chapter 3 Highlights: Public Involvement and Stakeholder Outreach

Several tools were used to share information with the public and receive comments and ideas from stakeholders. These include:

- **The Oklahoma Freight Transportation Plan website** <http://www.okstatefreightplan.com> – The Plan website included information under the following categories: presentations, public information, and project materials.
- **Interviews with industry experts** – The purpose of the interviews was to learn about freight issues from the perspective of industry stakeholders. Efforts were made to interview individuals from a variety of modes industries, and geographic locations. A total of 17 interviews were conducted.
- **Meetings with regional and metropolitan area planning organizations** – There are nine rural regional planning organizations, and four metropolitan planning organizations in Oklahoma. Staff and board members from these organizations shared information with ODOT and the freight plan consulting team at various stages in the Plan process.
- **Coordination with neighboring states** – Oklahoma is bordered by Kansas to the north, Arkansas to the east, and Texas to the south. ODOT regularly communicates with the neighboring state DOTs, and more intense communication occurred during the development of the OFTP. Of particular concern to the interstate dialogue were issues where water, rail, or highway freight corridors affected multiple states.
- **Community meetings** – In June 2017, about midway through the Plan process, three community meetings were held in the western, central, and eastern part of the State to provide information to, and receive feedback from, individuals interested in the freight plan process.
- **Freight survey** – A freight survey was developed to help gauge interest in different modes of freight transportation. The survey also asked questions on the following topics: safety, oversize/overweight vehicles, intermodal freight, truck parking, and the informed and efficient delivery of the freight transportation program in Oklahoma.
- **Consultation with the Freight Advisory Committee** – A Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) including but not limited to representatives of agriculture, airports, chambers of commerce, economic development agencies, energy industry, environmental agencies, farmers' cooperative elevators, freight railroads, metropolitan planning organizations, ports, freight safety partners, state and federal transportation agencies, tribal governments, trucking companies and the state turnpike authority. The FAC assisted in the Plan process in areas such as prioritizing goals; identifying issues, bottlenecks and concerns; sharing information related to industry, regulatory, and public priorities; and providing input on proposed strategies and projects.