

Chapter 1 Highlights:

Introduction to Oklahoma Freight Transportation Plan

ODOT is developing the Oklahoma Freight Transportation Plan (OFTP or the Plan) in order to provide a safe, reliable, and efficient freight transportation system that will support the growing economy and population in the state. It will accomplish the following outcomes:

- Increase attention and focus on freight needs and opportunities.
- Improve coordination of freight planning across multiple modes.
- Provide guidance for other state and regional/metropolitan freight planning efforts.
- Obtain input from the public and private stakeholders regarding state freight planning.

The Plan was developed in a manner consistent with the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). The FAST Act establishes a new funding category dedicated to freight—the National Highway Freight Program (NHFP)—and requires that states identify the use of NHFP funds within a state freight plan. Use of the NHFP funds is contingent on the Plan’s coverage of certain specified topics and approval by USDOT by December 2017. Plan products include a review of highway, freight rail, and waterway freight facilities, a bottleneck analysis, and a freight investment element identifying projects to be funded with NHFP funds.

The OFTP exists in a broad planning context. In addition to national freight plans and goals, the OFTP was guided by the Oklahoma Long Range Transportation Plan, which includes by reference the state’s metropolitan transportation plans. The Plan was also informed by the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which incorporates the metropolitan Transportation Improvement Programs, ODOT’s 8 Year Construction Work Plan, and numerous regional and metropolitan transportation plans from around the state. The first four years of the 8 Year Construction Work Plan encompass the STIP four-year program. Finally, it was developed in coordination with the updated Statewide Rail Plan, which is expected to be completed in 2018.