



U.S. 412 Future Interstate Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study

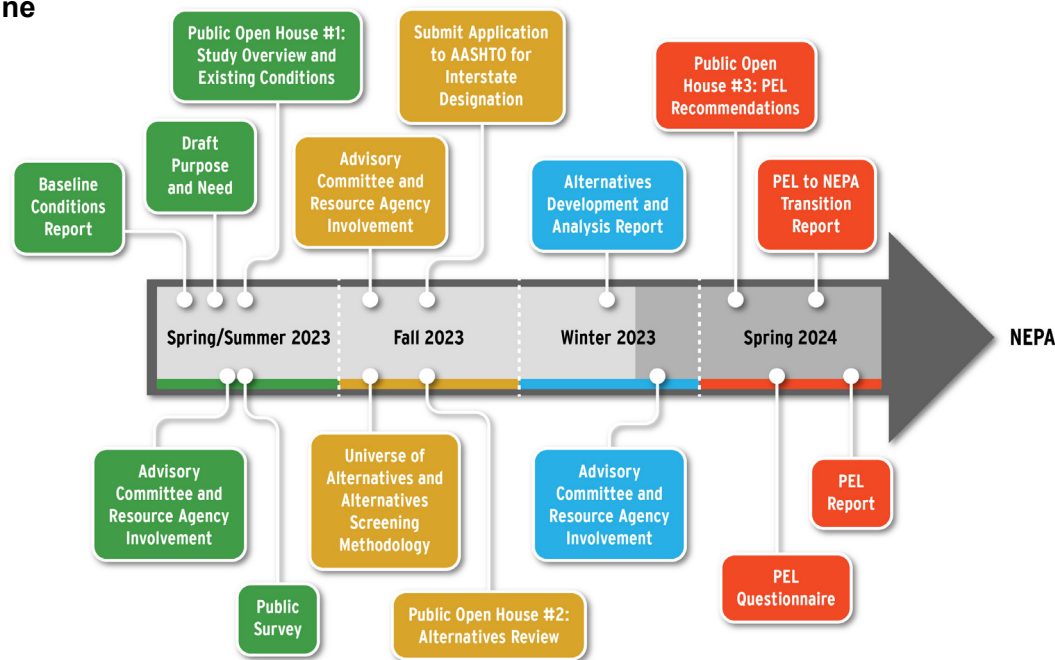
Spring 2023

Upcoming Milestones

The timeline below highlights various milestones and engagement opportunities for the study. Details about engagement opportunities can be found on the study webpage. Key milestones, shown in green on the study timeline, include the following:

- **Baseline Conditions Report** – This report outlines the purpose of the study, identifies the current conditions throughout the U.S. 412 corridor, and documents deficiencies, needs or challenges that will require solutions.
- **Draft Purpose and Need** – This report details the Purpose and Need and overall goals for the study.
- **Advisory Committee/Agency Meeting #1** – This meeting gathers stakeholder representatives and agencies to review information and solicit necessary feedback to help advance the study.
- **Public Open House #1** – The public is invited to learn more about the PEL study, existing conditions, Purpose and Need for the study and timeline for completion. Due to the size of the corridor, a virtual component is also being offered to engage in the process. In-person meetings will take place on June 6 in Tulsa, Okla., and June 8 in Siloam Springs, Ark. More information can be found on the study webpages.

Study Timeline



Note: Community group presentations and electronic surveys will be conducted on an as needed basis to help inform the overall study.

Participate in the Process

Community group presentations, public meetings and surveys will take place at various times throughout the study. The best ways to stay informed of these engagement opportunities are through the following methods:

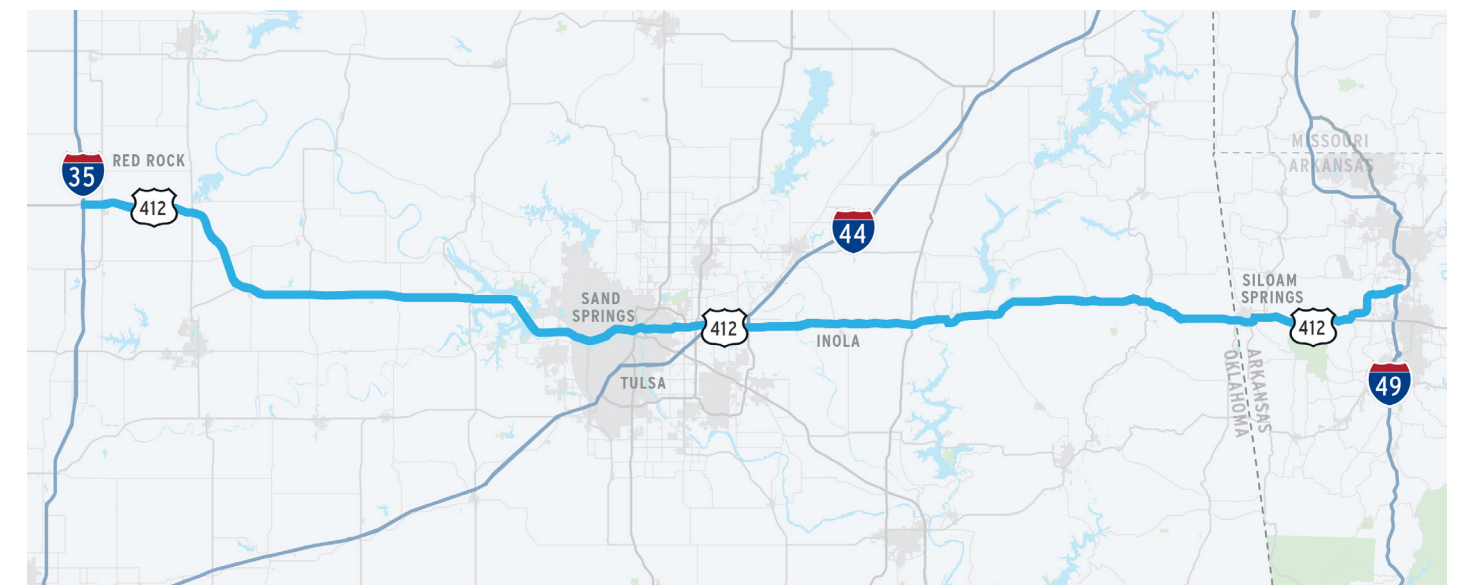
- Follow the ODOT Study webpage at: www.odot.org/US412InterstateDesignationStudy
- Follow the ARDOT Study webpage at: www.ardot.gov/publicmeetings
- Request to be on the email list for study updates at: <https://tinyurl.com/35b4z3jc>

Project Overview

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) are initiating a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study of U.S. 412. The study is being performed in coordination with the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The PEL study limits are from I-35 in Noble County, Oklahoma to I-49 in Benton County, Arkansas, a distance of 190 miles. The goal is to develop a master plan for the transition from a U.S. Highway to an interstate, in accordance with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

ODOT and ARDOT anticipate incorporating recommendations made as part of the PEL study into future National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies, per Title 23 of the U.S. Code, Part 168.

PEL Study Limits



What is a PEL?

Planning and Environmental Linkages, or PEL, is a process that allows information, analysis and decisions made during the planning phase, prior to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) activities, to be used or relied upon during environmental review. A PEL process is “NEPA-like” and can be used to support decisions, such as transportation funding options, defining purpose and need, screening alternatives, and developing programmatic agreements (PAs). The PEL process is part of FHWA’s Every Day Counts (EDC) initiatives, intended to identify, develop, and deploy innovative techniques aimed at accelerating project delivery.

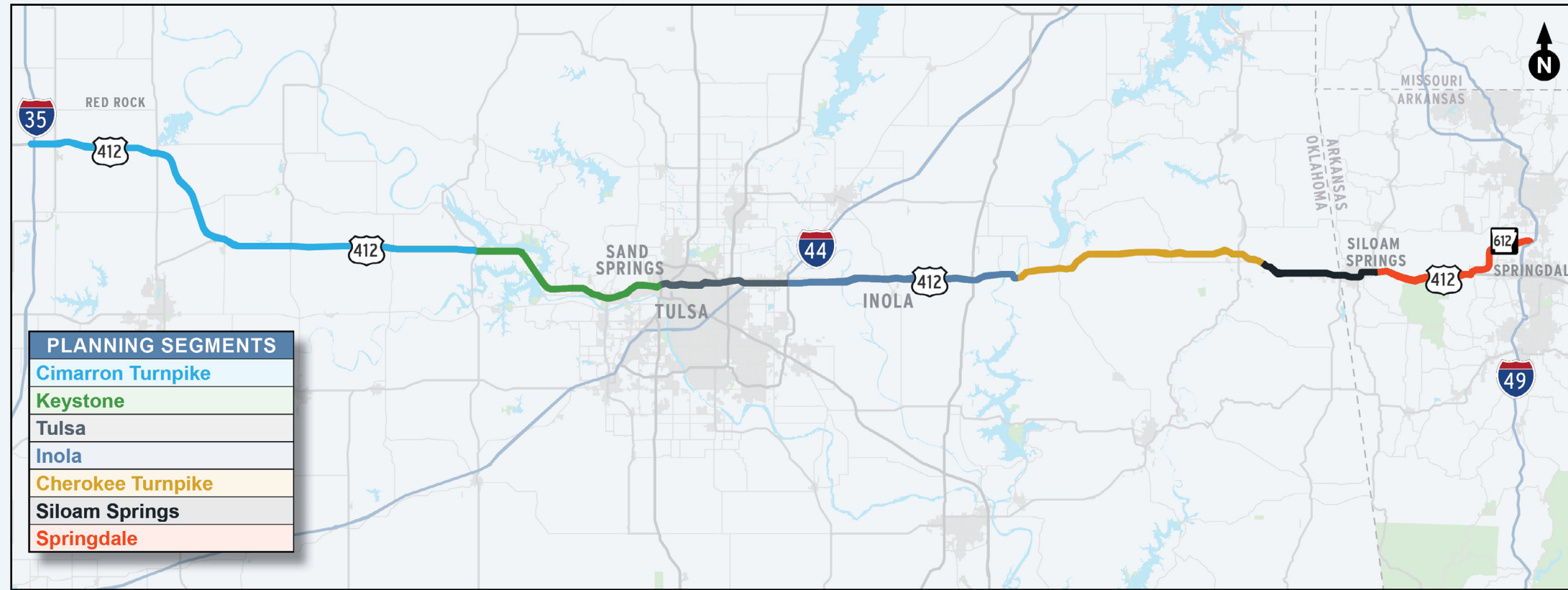
Contact Information

Charles Sims, ODOT Project Manager
CSIMS@ODOT.ORG

Andrew Warren, PE, ARDOT Project Manager
Andrew.Warren@ardot.gov



Planning Segments



Much of the corridor is expected to utilize the existing U.S. 412 alignment, however there are circumstances that may cause the need for an alternative corridor. To better organize the 190-mile study area, the U.S. 412 corridor has been broken down into seven planning segments.

- Cimarron Turnpike** – Within this segment, U.S. 412 spans 59 miles through Oklahoma and is a fully access controlled facility.
- Keystone** – Within this segment, U.S. 412 spans 24 miles through Oklahoma and is almost entirely access controlled. Diamond Head Drive (between Keystone Lake and the Keystone Dam) is an existing at-grade crossing.
- Tulsa** – Within this segment, U.S. 412 spans 15 miles through the highly developed City of Tulsa, Oklahoma and is a fully access controlled facility.
- Inola** – Within this segment, U.S. 412 spans 27 miles through Oklahoma. It is not an access-controlled facility and has numerous at-grade crossings.
- Cherokee Turnpike** – Within this segment, U.S. 412 spans 33 miles through Oklahoma and is a fully access controlled facility.
- Siloam Springs** – Within this segment, U.S. 412 spans 13 miles through the community of Siloam Springs. This segment is partially in Oklahoma and partially in Arkansas. It is not an access-controlled facility and has numerous at-grade crossings.
- Springdale** – Within this segment, U.S. 412 spans 21 miles (Springdale West 11 miles, Springdale East 10 miles) through Arkansas and follows the Springdale Northern Bypass (Highway 612), which is nearing construction.



U.S. 412 corridor.

PEL Benefits

The PEL process offers efficiencies including:

- Minimizing duplication between planning and environmental review processes.
- Narrowing the scope of the environmental review process and determining how much environmental review is necessary.
- Reducing uncertainty by developing a study that leads to a defined project with a clear scope of work and costs.
- Engaging study stakeholders earlier in the decision-making process to understand issues and reduce risk and concerns.
- Defining baseline environmental conditions to identify potential constraints and lead to better environmental outcomes.
- Identifying logical start and end points.
- Identify supporting roadway networks that may need to be improved as a result of improving U.S. 412.
- Developing a project phasing plan, which can also be used to inform and update State and MPO long-range transportation plans.

