



# WEST LINDSEY STREET WIDENING CONCEPTUAL PLAN SUMMARY REPORT APRIL 12, 2012

PREPARED BY THE DESIGN TEAM OF:



## Conceptual Design Study's Mission

The City of Norman currently has the unique opportunity to address two problematic issues that have long plagued the West Lindsey Street Corridor from Interstate 35 to Berry Road: traffic congestion of a vital, fully developed urban arterial roadway and severe storm water flooding issues that disturb businesses and residences alike. Likewise, the opportunity to transform this corridor into a scenic and picturesque gateway into Norman and the University of Oklahoma should also be paramount and help promote re-vitalization of a critical transportation link.

How does the City best convey the concept and overall improvement plan to the stakeholders, businesses, local residents and citizens of Norman?

This was the challenge laid at the feet of the City's Public Works staff and the engineering design team. The conceptual plan required detailed design information conveyed into schematic plan views as well as three dimensional illustrations that depicted the look and function of the concept. Additionally, the conceptual plan needed realistic costs associated with the improvements to help guide the City's staff toward sensible funding solutions to leverage state and federal funding sources.

Together, working with stakeholders and elected officials, City staff and the design team developed a conceptual plan to widen West Lindsey Street to solve current traffic congestion problems adequately and to safely handle future multi-modal transportation demand; solve storm water drainage problems and alleviate localized flooding of businesses and residence alike; address necessary utility relocations; identify and conceptually solve construction sequencing issues to minimize impact to existing businesses and the traveling public; and have an aesthetically pleasing, landscaped corridor that is vibrant and accessible to all users of West Lindsey Street.

*“LINDSEY STREET IS TOO BUSY,  
NOBODY GOES THERE ANYMORE”  
A LIGHT-HEARTED COMMENT FROM  
A DESIGN CHARRETTE PARTICIPANT*

## Conceptual Study

The desire for efficient east/west corridors (West Robinson Street, West Main Street, and West Lindsey Street) offering connection from I-35 to eastern Norman is crucial. While traffic congestion is already a problem along the West Lindsey Street corridor, the future projections indicate that this problem will worsen with time. Currently, the route is operating well above generally accepted capacity thresholds for three-lane facilities. This capacity constraint, coupled with friction in the traffic stream (created by numerous curb cuts providing access to the variety of retail/office/residential development), has resulted in excessive corridor delays and low travel speeds that extend well beyond the traditional morning and evening peak-travel periods. With high crash rates and unusual peaking characteristics, this corridor is also unreliable for travelers, to the point that many choose to avoid the corridor.

The conceptual plan for the corridor will enhance traveling options and efficiencies for all transportation modes (pedestrians, bicycles, and transit), provide safety for all users, and allow sufficient access to private property. For this reason, safety improvements, access management, and pedestrian/bicycle accommodations were important conceptual plan components in addition to facilitating the efficient movement of vehicular traffic.

Utility coordination is also a significant element of the plan. For the conceptual study, utilities were identified and located. The efforts focused on identifying potential utility conflicts and estimating the cost of relocations.

As one of the gateways into Norman, particularly for those traveling to the University of Oklahoma, West Lindsey Street should have an attractive appearance. Thus, aesthetics and lighting were part of the conceptual study. The design team explored several landscaping features such as landscaped medians, decorative sidewalks, stamped concrete paving, and plantings. Adequate lighting along the corridor is important not only for aesthetics but also safety.

*“WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A GATEWAY OR SOME ARTISTIC FEATURE AT 24TH AVENUE SW & LINDSEY STREET THAT COULD BECOME AN ICONIC IMAGE FOR NORMAN AND THE UNIVERSITY”*  
COMMENT FROM A DESIGN CHARRETTE PARTICIPANT