DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Washington DC 20420

Date: December 3, 2021

To: Valued Stakeholders

Subject: Notice of Scoping and Stakeholder Involvement for the Proposed VA Inpatient Facility at 440 South Houston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) proposes to renovate existing buildings and construct a new building to create a new VA Inpatient Facility at 440 South Houston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127. The proposed project would provide state-of-the-art facilities to meet the need for expanded Veteran health care services in the region.

The primary components of the proposed VA Inpatient Facility project are:

- Renovating, constructing, and operating approximately 259,000 square feet within the existing eight-story Kerr Building and the existing four-story Edmondson Building to provide inpatient medical-surgical hospital functions, including space improvements for medical beds, surgical support, operating rooms, and an emergency department.

- Demolishing the existing 25,000-square-foot lobby, connecting link, and auditorium and constructing an estimated 25,000 square feet of new lobbies and connecting link.

- Resurfacing 195 existing surface parking spaces.

- Constructing and operating temporary support areas and utility improvements on and off the proposed project site to accommodate the facility.

The proposed VA Inpatient Facility and an adjacent non-VA development are shown in Figure 1. The adjacent development is a non-federal project to be developed by the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Center for Health Sciences and OSU Medical Authority and is not part of VA's proposed action.

VA is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA will evaluate the potential direct and indirect impacts to the environment resulting from the Proposed Action, as well as cumulative impacts with other actions and projects including the OSU development on the adjacent property.

VA is also currently conducting formal National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and federally recognized tribes to identify historic properties that may potentially be affected by the undertaking and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential adverse effects. The Section 106 consultation process and conclusions will provide the major contribution to the EA's analysis of potential effects to historic and cultural resources.

If you have comments on the scope of issues for analysis, or input on potential alternatives or information/analyses relevant to the Proposed Action, please submit your comments/input via email to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Tulsa VA EA" by January 7, 2022. For additional information or questions, please contact Ms. Christine Modovsky, VA Environmental Engineer, at Christine.Modovsky@va.gov or (202) 632-5352. Reference "Tulsa VA EA" in your correspondence.

VA anticipates publishing the Draft EA for a 30-day public review and comment period in early 2022. VA will notify stakeholders via email/mail, publish a notice of availability of the Draft EA in the Tulsa World, and solicit comments at that time. The Draft EA will be available for review at the Tulsa City County Public Library, 400 Civic Center, Tulsa OK 74103, and via the VA website: https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/.
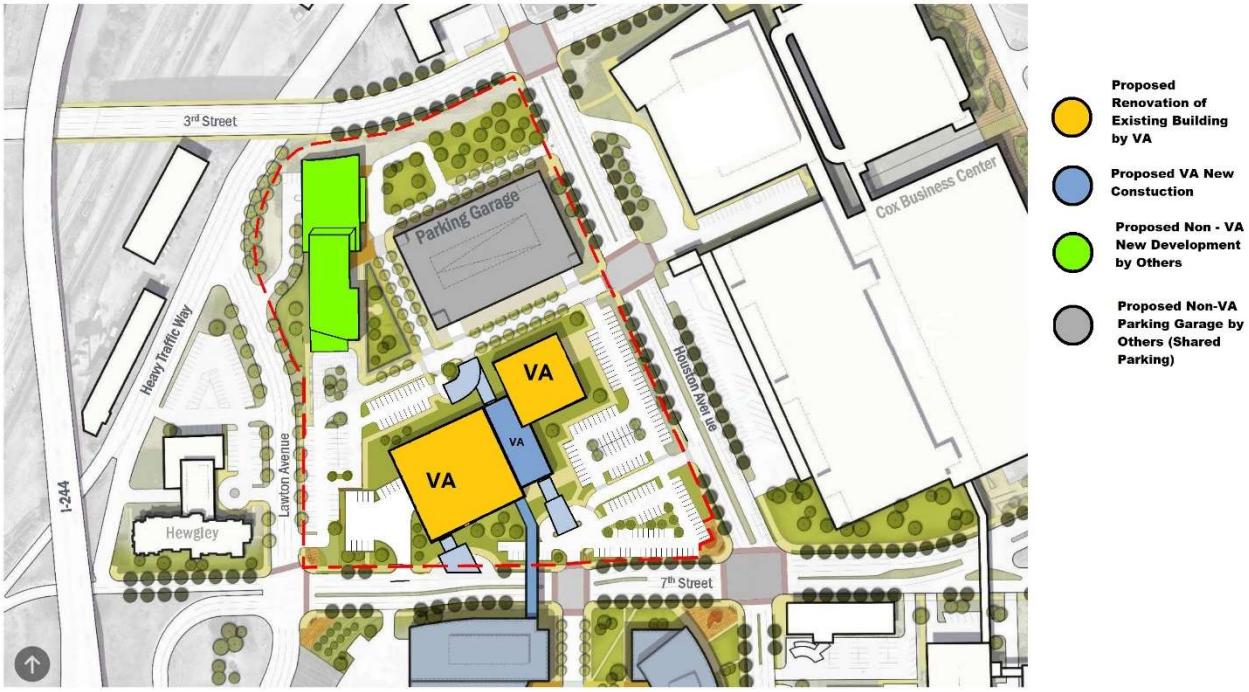
Figure 1 - Proposed Tulsa VA Inpatient Facility