

Special Commission Wrap-Up:
Emergency project OK'd;
\$39.5 million in projects awarded
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2008
PR# 08-030

Oklahoma Department of Transportation

Information Release



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Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's April 25 special meeting include approval of an emergency contract to make \$5.1 million in repairs to SH-20 near Keetonville Hill following a land slide and the awarding of projects to replace two load-posted bridges, to install cable barriers and to construct a new section of SH-6.

Commissioners held a rare emergency session for consideration of a contract to repair SH-20 near Keetonville Hill northeast of Tulsa. The highway received extensive damage as a result of floods and rapid run-off from extremely heavy rains April 10. The repairs will include up to one-half mile of slope repair and replacement of 2,000 feet of pavement. Commissioners approved the \$5.1 million base contract with Muskogee Bridge Co., Inc., to rebuild the roadway. Additionally, monetary incentives up to \$1.5 million are in place in order to expedite the work and open the road as quickly as possible.

In regular business, Commissioners awarded a \$2 million contract to replace the load-posted SH-95 bridge over Teepee Creek in Texas County and a \$4.8 million contract to replace the load-posted US-64 bridge over West Moccasin Creek in Woods County. Bridges are designated as load-posted if they have limited carrying capacity. One of the department's main goals in recent years has been to replace or repair these bridges throughout the state because of the effects to movement of commerce and in some cases school buses.

Also awarded were contracts to install cable barriers along a five-mile stretch of I-40 near the Caddo/Canadian County lines and along another five-mile stretch on I-35 in Kay County. The I-40 project will cost just under \$600,000, and the Kay County project will cost just under \$800,000.

Commissioners also approved an \$8.4 million contract to construct a new alignment on a nearly four mile long section of SH-6 north of Granite in Greer County. The project is part of the Western Oklahoma Economic Development Freeway between Altus and Elk City.

In all, commissioners awarded 39 contracts totaling \$39.5 million to improve highways, interstates and county roads in 28 counties. Projects include bridge and highway construction and reconstruction, resurfacing and safety improvements.

Contracts were awarded in Caddo, Canadian, Carter, Choctaw, Cleveland, Garfield, Garvin, Grady, Greer, Harmon, Kay, Latimer, LeFlore, Lincoln, Logan, McClain, McCurtain, McIntosh, Nowata, Oklahoma, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Sequoyah, Stephens, Texas, Tillman, Tulsa and Woods counties.

The commission - an eight-member panel appointed by the governor to oversee the state's transportation development - awards project contracts for road and bridge construction every month. The panel's next meeting is scheduled for *Monday, June 2, 2008, at 11 a.m.* in the R.A. Ward Transportation Building in Oklahoma City.

Before a project is awarded, ODOT researches, plans and designs work to be done. Contracts are bid competitively, with the OTC selecting the winning firm. Once contracts are awarded, work orders are issued. Contractors have a grace period to begin work, typically several weeks or months after a contract is awarded unless a later specified start date is allowed. Weather or other factors also can delay a project.

Contracts, bid information, the commission's monthly agenda and project details can be accessed at <http://www.okladot.state.ok.us>.

-- www.okladot.state.ok.us --

(Editors and News Directors: For details about projects in your area and to download accompanying pictures, please visit the Web site www.okladot.state.ok.us and click News & Media. Best viewed using Internet Explorer and Adobe Acrobat reader. For more information, call the ODOT Media and Public Relations Office at 405-521-6000.)



Oklahoma Transportation Commission 4-28-08

Heavy rains in early April caused a land slide at SH-20 near Keetonville Hill in Rogers County. Members of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission met in emergency session Friday, April 25, to approve a \$5.1 million contract to repair the damaged highway.



The Oklahoma Transportation Commissioners look on as Oklahoma Department of Transportation Chief Engineer John Fuller illustrates the flood damages and ultimate repairs to SH-20 near Keetonville Hill in Rogers County. Members of the Commission met in an emergency session Friday, April 25, to approve a \$5.1 million contract to repair the damaged highway.