

June Commission Wrap-Up:

FY-09 budget, traffic monitoring discussed;

\$28.6 million in projects awarded

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Information Release



Public Affairs Division, 200 N. E. 21st Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105 (405) 521-2554

Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's June 2 meeting include approval of an annual budget; presentation of a new Web site to help drivers in Oklahoma City and Tulsa avoid congested areas; approval of industrial, lake and state park access road projects and approval of engineering contracts for inspections of county bridges.

The commission approved a budget of more than \$1.4 billion for fiscal year 2009, which includes federal and state funds. Officials noted there is an increase in funds set aside by the legislature for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, but there is also a decrease in revenue from fuel taxes. The fiscal year 2009 budget does not allocate money from a bond issue recently approved by the legislature, as bonds will not be sold until fiscal year 2010.

Officials also explained the department's new Web site, which allows citizens to view images of traffic at key locations in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. After agreeing to user terms, drivers can navigate the site at www.oktraffic.org and choose among 17 Oklahoma City camera locations or 12 in Tulsa, each displaying multiple stationary views.

Commissioners approved industrial access road projects in Creek, Blaine, Comanche and Okmulgee counties; approved lake access road projects in Choctaw, Delaware, Haskell, Kay, LeFlore, Lincoln, McIntosh, Pottawatomie, Payne, Tillman, Delaware and Muskogee counties; and approved work on park roads in Cleveland, LeFlore, McIntosh, Osage and Woodward counties.

Commissioners also approved six engineering contracts for inspection of county-owned truss bridges. Under a federal requirement, ODOT must make sure inspections are carried out on bridges on county roads in addition to inspections on state-owned structures.

Commissioners approved a \$3.2 million project to construct a new bridge on SH-32 over Rock Creek about 4.7 miles west of Marietta in Love County. Additionally, they awarded a nearly one-mile-long project as part of the I-40 Crosstown in Oklahoma County for \$6.5 million.

Approved was a contract for \$2.9 million to build interchange ramps on the Duncan Bypass on US-81 at Beech Ave. Currently, there is no access to Beech Ave. Also approved were two cable barrier projects along US-75 from Lewis Ave. in Tulsa to 126th St. N. near Skiatook. Barriers would be installed at locations along 10 miles of highway, and the combined cost of the projects was approved for \$1.2 million.

In all, commissioners awarded 24 contracts totaling \$28.6 million to improve highways, interstates and county roads in 19 counties. Projects include bridge and highway construction and reconstruction, resurfacing and safety improvements.

Contracts were awarded for projects in Caddo, Canadian, Cleveland, Cotton, Garvin, Jefferson, Kay, Lincoln, Love, Noble, Oklahoma, Payne, Pittsburg, Pottawatomie, Sequoyah, Stephens, Texas, Tulsa and Woodward 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 11 a.m. Monday, July 14, 2008, 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. Contractors have a grace period to begin work, typically several weeks or months after a contract is awarded. 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/public-info. For more information, call the ODOT Media and Public Relations Office at 405-521-6000.)



Monday, June 2, the Oklahoma Transportation Commission approved contracts with six engineering firms to inspect certain county and municipal bridges across the state. The program will be funded with federal tax dollars.

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Motorists in Oklahoma City and Tulsa have a new tool to help avoid congested areas. A new Web site at www.oktraffic.org allows motorists to check traffic conditions before driving. The federally funded program was demonstrated at the Monday, June 2, meeting of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission.