



Transportation Commission approves much-anticipated Construction Work Plan

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After months of deliberating, planning and engineering, members of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission, Monday, approved an estimated \$4 billion construction plan for the next eight years that will include projects in each of the state's 77 counties.

The more than 100-page Oklahoma Department of Transportation eight-year Construction Work Plan is a blueprint of construction anticipated over the next eight years. The plan covers federal fiscal years 2009-2016.

The plan includes projects made possible by funding hikes approved by the State Legislature earlier this year. The legislation increases the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's funding by \$30 million each year until it reaches an additional \$370 million annually in 2016. The Legislature also approved \$300 million in bonds to keep the agency's plans on track.

"This year's program builds on the previous eight-year plan," ODOT Director Gary Ridley said. "This plan is a long term commitment to rebuild our system and improve safety for those who use it."

Highlights of the program include:

- More than 95 miles of median barrier, including concrete and cable barriers.
- 449 bridge replacements.
- 460 miles of safety oriented improvements on inadequate two-lane highways.
- \$2.1 billion of major improvements to high volume highways.
- Reconstruction of high volume facilities including I-44 from Riverside to Yale in Tulsa, I-44/US-412 near Catoosa, the I-40 Crosstown in Oklahoma City and I-35 in Norman.
- Improvements to rural interstates and rural bridges continue to be a focus of the eight-year plan as well.

In addition to increases in state revenue, the plan takes into account projected increases in construction costs and possible decreases in federal revenue. From 2009 through 2016 about 60 percent of Oklahoma's highway construction is paid for with federal funding, as opposed to 85 percent in previous plans.

ODOT's 8-year Construction Work Plan is generally updated annually to reflect projects that have been completed, current technology and adjustments in projected state and federal revenue as well as changes in construction costs, all while adding a final year to each plan.

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(Editors and News Directors: For media inquiries, contact the ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)

INFORMATION RELEASE

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