



## October Commission Wrap-Up: 8-year plan OK'd; \$77.67 million in projects awarded

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Oct. 6 meeting include the unveiling of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's eight-year FFY-2009 through FFY-2016 Construction Work Plan and approval of \$77.67 million in bridge and highway construction projects.

ODOT Director Gary Ridley said the work plan contains nearly \$4 billion in spending over the next eight years including 449 bridges, 95 miles of cable median barrier and 460 miles of safety-oriented improvements on inadequate two-lane roads.

Ridley said agency officials were conservative in their estimates of funding for the agency and the cost of projects in the upcoming years.

He said recent funding increases by the State Legislature are helping to cover hikes in construction costs as well as anticipated reductions in federal funding. He noted that state funds will make up 40 percent of the agency's construction budget, instead of 15 percent in previous construction work plans.

"Because of what took place last year at the State Legislature with Governor Henry and members of the Legislature passing, House Bill 2272, that enabled us to have certainty in our state funding made it possible to keep everything in the program," Ridley said.

In addition, Ridley told commissioners he had ordered emergency repairs of the SH-10 bridge over Manard Bayou southeast of Ft. Gibson. State law allows the transportation director to contract up to \$500,000 for emergency repairs.

Commissioners approved a \$12.9 million contract to widen nearly three-miles of SH-4 in Canadian County between I-40 and SH-66, and a \$1.25 million municipally-funded contract to reconstruct the I-40 off-ramp at Robinson Ave. in Oklahoma City.

Commissioners also approved spending \$37.6 million for bridge replacements in Carter, Craig, Grant, Logan, Noble, Seminole and Wagoner counties, and they approved contracts to install cable barriers on I-40 in Beckham County and on I-35 in Carter County.

In all, commissioners awarded 32 contracts totaling \$77.7 million to improve highways, interstates and county roads in 25 counties. Projects include bridge and highway construction and reconstruction, resurfacing and safety improvements.

Contracts were awarded for projects in Atoka, Beckham, Bryan, Caddo, Canadian, Carter, Cherokee, Cleveland, Coal, Comanche, Craig, Dewey, Garfield, Grady, Grant, Harmon, Harper, Kay, Lincoln, Logan, Noble, Oklahoma, Seminole, Tulsa and Wagoner 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, Nov. 3, 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 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](http://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](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us). For more information, call the ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)**

INFORMATION RELEASE

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