



**November Commission Wrap-Up:  
Largest project approved; \$66.25 million in projects awarded**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 5, 2008

PR# 08-064

Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Nov. 3 meeting include awarding the largest project in Oklahoma Department of Transportation history, recognition for support of National Guard and military reserve forces and approval of \$66.25 million in bridge and highway construction projects.

The commission approved the first major work of the I-44 widening project between Riverside Dr. and Yale Ave. in Tulsa. The \$42 million bid for construction of an underground drainage structure and frontage road is the biggest and single most expensive project ever put up for bid in ODOT history.

The project is part of a \$330 million plan to widen I-44 from four to six lanes in the area. ODOT Director Gary Ridley noted that stretch of I-44 was built before President Eisenhower approved the interstate highway system in 1956.

Retired Brig. Gen. John Hubbard, state vice chair of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, presented his organization's Patriot Award to the commission for ODOT's Buffalo office. The award is designed to recognize employers for enacting policies and practices that support their employees' participation in the National Guard and reserve military.

The Division 6 headquarters office in Buffalo was nominated for the award by Sergeant Austin Turner. A transportation equipment operator for ODOT and a member of the United States Army Reserve's 129th Transportation Company, Turner was placed on military leave in April 2008 and is currently serving overseas.

In other actions, the commission approved bridge projects on SH-3 in Atoka County, US-64 in Harper County, SH-18 in Lincoln County and SH-33 in Roger Mills County.

Also approved was a \$2.5 million project to widen Rogers Road near I-35 just north of the Texas border. The project is the third of three phases to improve access in the Thackerville area and is being constructed in partnership with the Chickasaw Nation.

In all, commissioners awarded 14 contracts totaling \$66.25 million to improve highways, interstates and county roads in 12 counties. Projects include bridge and highway construction and reconstruction, resurfacing and safety improvements.

Contracts were awarded for projects in Atoka, Blaine, Bryan, Garvin, Harper, Jackson, Lincoln, Love, Pottawatomie, Roger Mills, Seminole and Tulsa 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, Dec. 8, 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**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION  
200 N.E. 21ST ST. OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105-3204 PHONE 405-521-6000



**Officials with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve celebrate the Patriot Award at the Oklahoma Transportation Commission’s Monday, Nov. 3, meeting. The Patriot Award is given to employers that enact policies that support their employees’ participation in the National Guard and Reserve. ODOT’s Division 6 was nominated for the Patriot Award by Austin Turner, who is currently on military leave from the agency and serving overseas. Pictured (left to right) are: John Fuller, Oklahoma Department of Transportation Deputy Director; Robert Ward, ODOT Division 6 Engineer; Bruce Benbrook, Oklahoma Transportation Commission District 6 member; retired Brig. Gen. John Hubbard, vice chair of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve; Phil Tomlinson, Transportation Secretary; Kerry Mitchell, ODOT supervisor; Dan Overland, OTC Chairman; Megan Turner, wife of Sgt. Austin Turner; and Gary Ridley, ODOT director.**



**Gary Ridley, ODOT director, signs a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve following the Monday, Nov. 3, meeting of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission. ODOT's Division 6 was nominated for the Patriot Award from the ESGR by Austin Turner, who is currently on military leave from the agency and serving overseas. Watching are (left to right) John Fuller, Oklahoma Department of Transportation deputy director; Megan Turner, wife of Sgt. Austin Turner; retired Brig. Gen. John Hubbard, vice chair of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve; Kerry Mitchell, ODOT supervisor; and Robert Ward, ODOT Division 6 Engineer.**