



**Historic Byways Grant Provides Investment,  
Fosters Enhancements**  
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Six projects designed to enhance the Oklahoma Byways Program will soon get to take shape across the state. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the University of Oklahoma Outreach have worked with several communities to secure more than \$1 million in Federal Highway Administration grants for the fiscal year 2008. Nationwide, 221 Byways projects in 43 states were selected to receive the FHWA grants, totaling more than \$38 million. Oklahoma's amount was the tenth highest in the nation.

"It is the largest federal Byways Program award amount in the State's history, and reflects well on the strength of the Program and the quality of byways in Oklahoma," Richard Andrews, Oklahoma Byways Program Coordinator and ODOT Project Management Division Assistant Manager said.

Three projects connected to Route 66 in Oklahoma were awarded, including a Street Pole banner project in Erick, funds to develop a promotional plan for the roadway in Stroud, and a multi-state partnership to produce a guide highlighting the Mother Road's route through three states.

Two grants will be going to projects on the Talimena Drive. Funds were approved for an interpretive center in Talihina, and the Living Mountain Byway project will provide an educational resource guide for the Talimena Drive. The Osage Nation Heritage Trail also received a grant, to help complete the Standing Bear Museum and for an interpretive information expansion project.

"The Oklahoma Byways Program is community driven, community led and partners with local entities to enhance the traveler experience along the route," Pam Lewis, Oklahoma Byways Program Director, University of Oklahoma Outreach said. "The grants represent a significant investment in the future of Oklahoma and commitment to communities across the state."

In addition, the FHWA has announced a call for grant proposals for the 2009 Scenic Byways Program grant cycle. The FHWA is targeting large scale, high end projects that provide strategic benefits to the Byway and Byway traveler. Please contact the Oklahoma Byways Program (405) 325-2848 for assistance and support in completing the application process. Completed and signed grant applications must be submitted to Mr. Richard Andrews, State Program Coordinator, at the following address, by 5:00 p.m. on February 26:

Richard Andrews  
Oklahoma Department of Transportation  
200 N.E. 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-3204

The Byways Program is a cooperative effort between ODOT and the University of Oklahoma Outreach to work with local communities to establish, recognize and preserve selected roads based on factors such as archeological, cultural, historic, natural and recreational qualities. Once approved as a state byway by the state Secretary of Transportation, communities collaborate with the Oklahoma Byways Program on goals to help enhance economic development and community sustainability throughout the state. Byway project proposals are submitted to the FHWA where grants are considered and approved. For more details and information on the Byways Program, visit [www.okscenicbyways.org](http://www.okscenicbyways.org)

- [www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us) -

**(Editors and News Directors: For media inquiries, contact Brenda Perry, ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000; Pam Lewis, Oklahoma Byways Program Director, University of Oklahoma Outreach at 405- 325-2848).**

**INFORMATION RELEASE**

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