



## January Commission Wrap-Up

### **Short-term fix by Congress preserves federal transportation funding; Oklahoma highway project receives national honors**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Monday, Jan. 6 meeting include an update on recent congressional actions to provide continued federal transportation funding, recognition of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for its work on an award-winning pavement rehabilitation project on I-40 in Seminole County and approval of several traffic safety projects.

Executive Director Mike Patterson provided a report on transportation funding included in the federal budget agreement approved by Congress and the President in December. A \$9.6 billion appropriation was made to the Highway Trust Fund, which had a record low balance in late 2013, to ensure federal funding remains available to the states for highway and bridge projects nationwide. The trust fund has relied on congressional appropriations several times in recent years as declining federal fuel tax revenues have failed to keep pace with increased transportation needs and construction costs.

"This infusion of money from Congress will allow ODOT to continue projects in the Eight-year Construction Work Plan," Patterson said. "However, we continue to ask Congress for a long-term fix to the Highway Trust Fund that will provide sustainable and reliable transportation funding."

An ODOT project to rehabilitate six miles of I-40 in Seminole County was recognized by the American Concrete Pavement Association with an Excellence in Concrete Pavement award. The pavement rehabilitation project, which was designed by the ODOT Roadway Design Division and overseen by the agency's Ada-based Division Three, was awarded a prestigious Gold Award in the Divided Highways (Rural) category.

"The project encountered record snow falls and freezing temperatures in the winter and 37 days of temperatures over 100 degrees in the summer," ACPA Oklahoma/Arkansas Chapter Executive Director Brent Burwell said. "Despite these challenges, the project was completed on-time and under budget."

The department's Traffic Engineering Division announced more than \$5.6 million in safety improvements including cable barrier, signage, striping and rumble strips in various counties around Oklahoma.

Since construction projects are typically not let in December, no construction contracts were awarded at the January meeting.

The 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 regular meeting is scheduled for **Monday, Feb. 3 at 11 a.m.** in the R.A. Ward Transportation Building in Oklahoma City.

Before a project is awarded, ODOT researches, plans and designs the work to be done. Contracts are bid competitively, with the commission selecting the winning firm. Typically, work begins several weeks or months after contracts are awarded.

Contracts, bid information, the commission's monthly agenda and project details can be viewed at [www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us).

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An Oklahoma Department of Transportation project to rehabilitate six miles of I-40 in Seminole County was recently recognized by the American Concrete Pavement Association with an Excellence in Concrete Pavement award. At the Monday, Dec. 9 meeting of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission, ACPA Oklahoma/Arkansas Chapter Executive Director Brent Burwell presented the prestigious Gold Award in the Divided Highways (Rural) category to ODOT. Pictured from left are Commission Vice-Chairman David Burrage, retired ODOT Roadway Design Engineer Mohamed Nazari-Robati, Duit Construction Co. Operations Manager John Jones, Purcell Resident Engineer Dr. Caleb Reimer, Division Three Construction Engineer Ron Brown, Burwell and ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson.