



April Commission Wrap-Up

State funding proposals could impact eight-year transportation plan; \$51.5 million in contracts awarded

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Monday, April 7 meeting include recognition of Work Zone Awareness Week, an update on the potential impacts of state funding proposals to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Eight-year Construction Work Plan and approval of contracts for highway reconstruction in Major County, resurfacing in Noble County and federal-aid city street projects in the Oklahoma City metro area.

In honor of a national campaign to improve safety in highway work zones, commissioners wore orange ribbons and ODOT staff members sported orange ties, shirts and even safety vests to bring attention to the increased number of construction zones in the state and the dangers that highway workers face every day. Executive Director Mike Patterson read a proclamation from Gov. Mary Fallin declaring April 7-11 "Work Zone Awareness Week" in Oklahoma and presented awards to ODOT divisions and crews for their safety practices and achievements, including an overall 34 percent reduction in employee accidents in 2013.

Patterson reported to the commission on proposals under consideration by the state legislature that would reduce, by half, the scheduled increases to the Rebuilding Oklahoma Access and Driver Safety fund. Due to the incremental nature of the scheduled increases, approved by lawmakers in 2012 to fund the governor's Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan, a \$30 million reduction in state funding now would result in a \$414 million reduction to ODOT's Eight-year Construction Work plan by 2018.

"Reducing the amount of income tax revenue that goes to the ROADS fund now would impact ODOT's eight-year plan more each year and jeopardize future highway resurfacing, widening and safety improvement projects," Patterson said. "We know the legislature recognizes the importance of investment in transportation and we will continue to work with state leaders on this issue."

Recently, ODOT officials met with experts from the U.S. Geological Survey, Oklahoma Geological Survey and the California Department of Transportation to discuss the increased number of earthquakes in central Oklahoma and share techniques for safeguarding the state's bridges and highways. The input from groups will be used as an important reference as ODOT works to adjust its policies in light of the increased number of earthquakes.

Commissioners approved a contract with a \$13.6 million contract for pavement and bridge reconstruction on more than four miles of US-412 east of US-281 in Major County, one of the largest projects scheduled in ODOT's Eight-year Construction Work Plan for northwestern Oklahoma. They also awarded a nearly \$8 million contract to resurface nearly five miles of US-64 east of Perry in Noble County. Contracts for several federal-aid city street improvement projects were also awarded, including reconstruction of three miles of Cedar Lane Rd. in Norman and installation of an intelligent transportation system on more than five miles of 2nd St./Edmond Rd./US-77 in Edmond.

In all, commissioners awarded 19 contracts totaling more than \$51.5 million to improve bridges, highways, interstates and roads in 12 counties.

Contracts were awarded for projects in Bryan, Canadian, Cleveland, Kay, Le Flore, McClain, Major, Noble, Oklahoma, Osage, Payne and Rogers Mills counties.

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, May 5 at 11 a.m.** in the R.A. Ward Transportation Building in Oklahoma City.

Continued...

INFORMATION RELEASE

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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.

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(Editors and News Directors: For more information, call the ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)



The Skydance Bridge over the I-40 Crosstown in downtown Oklahoma City glowed orange on Monday, April 7 in honor of Work Zone Awareness Week, a national campaign to increase public awareness of the increased number of highway work zones and the crews working in them.



A more than \$13.6 million contract for pavement and bridge reconstruction on more than four miles of US-412 in Major County, pictured here, was approved by the Oklahoma Transportation Commission at their Monday, April 7 meeting. This project on the busy highway corridor is one of the largest planned for northwestern Oklahoma in ODOT's Eight-year Construction Work Plan