



June Commission Wrap-Up

ODOT in the home stretch on reopening Purcell/Lexington bridge; \$51 million in contracts awarded

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Monday, June 2 meeting include an update on the final stage of Purcell/Lexington bridge repairs, a briefing on state transportation funding, approval of several engineering design contracts for structurally deficient bridges and awarding of contracts for interstate work in eastern Oklahoma and bridge and highway projects in Oklahoma City and Kingfisher.

With the deadline for reopening the James C. Nance bridge between Purcell and Lexington fast approaching, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is hopeful that the repair work will be completed in time for the planned June 14 opening. The construction contractor is currently performing the final repairs, installation of specially-fabricated metal plates to reinforce cracked areas of the bridge. Additionally, inspectors are checking all previously-repaired areas of the bridge so only the new repairs will be left to inspect. To ensure the safety of drivers once the bridge is opened, ODOT will establish a temporary weight restriction for heavy trucks. Once the performance of the bridge has been monitored for an appropriate amount of time, truck traffic will be allowed on the bridge.

"We are in the final stretch of this long and difficult process," Executive Director Mike Patterson said. "I cannot thank the people of Purcell and Lexington enough for their patience."

Patterson also reported on ODOT's funding outlook for State Fiscal Year 2015, following the recent approval of the state budget by the governor and legislature. Like many agencies, ODOT's state appropriation will be cut by more than 5 percent. While this \$11 million reduction may affect some areas like equipment purchasing, ODOT hopes that no changes will have to be made to the current Eight-year Construction Work Plan due to the cuts.

A record number of engineering design contracts were considered and approved by the commission. A total of 29 engineering contracts, including design work on 18 structurally deficient highway bridges, will enable ODOT to continue the progress made on highway bridges statewide. Among those approved were contracts to design reconstruction of the I-35 bridges over Waterloo Rd. in northern Oklahoma County and N.E. 63rd St. in Oklahoma City, both planned for fiscal year 2020.

Commissioners awarded a contract with a more than \$10 million base bid and potential financial incentives for early completion for a project to rehabilitate more than five miles of I-40 pavement in the Sallisaw area. They also awarded a \$2.7 million contract to perform specialized repairs to bridges on I-35, I-235 and SH-74 (Lake Hefner Parkway) in Oklahoma City and a \$4.2 million contract for highway and bridge reconstruction on SH-33 at Uncle John's Creek in Kingfisher.

In all, commissioners awarded 23 contracts totaling nearly \$51 million to improve bridges, highways, interstates and roads in 19 counties.

Contracts were awarded for projects in Carter, Cherokee, Delaware, Harper, Johnston, Kay, Kingfisher, Logan, Muskogee, Noble, Oklahoma, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Sequoyah, Texas, Tillman, Woods and Woodward 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, July 7 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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A construction contractor with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is currently performing the final stage of repairs to the James C. Nance bridge, which includes installation of metal plates, pictured here, to reinforce cracked areas of the bridge support beams. At their Monday, June 2 meeting, members of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission heard that ODOT is hopeful that the contractor will complete the work in time for the anticipated June 14 opening of the bridge between Purcell and Lexington.