



July Commission Wrap-Up

Public transit providers recognized for their efforts during Purcell/Lexington bridge closure; \$71 million in contracts awarded

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Monday, July 7 meeting include recognition of public transit operators who assisted with the shuttle service between Purcell and Lexington during the bridge closure, an update on the federal government's Highway Trust Fund, details on emergency projects to repair a county bridge over I-35 in Love County and US-271 in Pushmataha County and approval of a contract to resurface more than seven miles of US-69 in Atoka County and a local government contract for resurfacing a city street in Midwest City.

Oklahoma Department of Transportation Executive Director Mike Patterson recognized the five public transit providers from various areas of the state who assisted with the shuttle service between Purcell and Lexington during the closure of the James C. Nance bridge on US-77/SH-39. Through an ODOT subsidy, the shuttle service was provided free of charge to affected residents and nearly 11,000 riders used the shuttle to make the more than 30 mile detour during the four-month bridge closure. The participating transit operators were Ki Bois Area Transit System, Delta Public Transit, Red River Transportation Service, Cleveland Area Rapid Transit and Southern Oklahoma Transportation Service.

"We at ODOT really appreciate the state's public transit providers for mobilizing quickly with a solution for the detour," Patterson said. "I heard over and over from the people of Purcell and Lexington that the shuttle service and the bus drivers really helped to make the situation more tolerable."

Patterson also updated commissioners on the federal transportation funding outlook for the coming months, as the Highway Trust Fund approaches insolvency. Though the department remains hopeful that Congress will take action to preserve funding, it is possible that federal reimbursement to ODOT and other states for current transportation projects could be curtailed beginning in August. Without federal funding, ODOT will postpone bid lettings for future highway and bridge projects.

An emergency project to repair a county bridge over I-35 that was damaged after being struck by an oversized truck load is scheduled to begin immediately and will take approximately one month to complete. The bridge on Jacobs Rd. near Marietta in Love County was damaged on June 26 and immediately closed to traffic. An emergency declaration from Patterson has allowed ODOT to issue a contract for the repair project, which has an estimated cost of \$375,000.

A landslide in mid-June prompted commissioners to award a contract with a \$1.4 million base bid and possible early completion incentives for emergency repairs to a damaged section of US-271 near Clayton in Pushmataha County that has since been closed to traffic. Work on the repair project began immediately after the contract was approved, with a goal of reopening the highway to at least one lane of traffic in about a month.

The commission voted to award an \$18 million contract that includes early completion incentives to resurface more than seven miles of US-69 near Stringtown in Atoka County. This project on one of the most heavily-traveled routes in southeastern Oklahoma will take about one year to complete. Commissioners also approved a more than \$803,000 contract that combines federal funds and local funds from the City of Midwest City to resurface one mile of Reno Ave.

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INFORMATION RELEASE

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In all, commissioners awarded 33 contracts totaling more than \$71 million to improve bridges, highways, interstates and roads in 25 counties. Contracts were awarded for projects in Atoka, Beckham, Caddo, Canadian, Comanche, Craig, Custer, Grant, Haskell, Jefferson, Johnston, Kay, Garfield, Kingfisher, Kiowa, Logan, Marshall, Noble, Okfuskee, Oklahoma, Payne, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Washita and Woods 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, August 4 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.

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



At the July 7 meeting of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission, five public transit operators – Ki Bois Area Transit System (KATS), Delta Public Transit (DELTA), Red River Transportation Service (RED), Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART) and Southern Oklahoma Rural Transportation Service (SORTS) – were recognized for assisting the Oklahoma Department of Transportation with the shuttle service between Purcell and Lexington during the James C. Nance bridge closure on US-77/SH-39. Pictured on the back row, from the left, are ODOT Director of Finance and Administration Russell Hulin, Oklahoma Transit Association Executive Director Steve Lalli, Scott Matthews, RED; Oklahoma Transit Association President Jeannie McMillian, ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson, Susan Coldwater, CART and Kent Watson and Allen Laird, SORTS. On the front row, from left, are ODOT Transit Programs Division Manager Ernie Mbroh, Gilbert Nuncio and Vickie Holland, RED; Karen Nichols, DELTA; Mike Jordan, KATS; Jackie Perry, DELTA and Brent Morey, RED.



The Oklahoma Department of Transportation will begin emergency repairs to reopen a county bridge over I-35 near Marietta in Love County, pictured here, that was damaged after being struck by an oversized truck load. At their Monday, July 7 meeting, members of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission learned that the Jacobs Rd. bridge over the interstate was closed due to the damage and that the estimated \$375,000 repair project will take about one month to complete.



An Oklahoma Department of Transportation project to resurface more than seven miles of US-69 near Stringtown in Atoka County will be underway soon, thanks to action by the Oklahoma Transportation Commission. At its Monday, July 7 meeting, the members of the commission voted to award an \$18 million contract that includes early completion incentives for work on one of southeastern Oklahoma's most heavily-traveled highway corridors.