



November Commission Wrap-Up

Major metro area interstate and highway projects approved, \$111 million in contracts awarded

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Monday, Nov. 3 meeting include an update on the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's system for displaying traffic information on highway message boards in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, award of contracts for major metro area interstate and highway projects and approval of the updated Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges work plan.

Executive Director Mike Patterson told commissioners that ODOT has recently tested and is preparing to display real-time traffic information on highway message boards in the state's metro areas. The agency plans to implement the system in the Oklahoma City metro area beginning the week of Nov. 10 and in the Tulsa area early next year.

"This is a great tool that will help drivers understand how traffic is moving up ahead and plan their routes accordingly during the morning and evening rush hours," Patterson said.

The message boards will broadcast estimated travel times between major highway junctions from 6-9 a.m. and 3-6 p.m., Monday through Friday. A map of current traffic conditions, message boards and traffic camera displays can be viewed on the Oklahoma Pathfinder website, www.oktraffic.org.

Much-anticipated interstate and highway projects are coming to the state's metro areas next year, thanks to the commission's action on two major contracts. These include a \$38 million project in Tulsa to reconstruct three miles of pavement between Delaware Ave. and 73rd E. Ave. and rehabilitate bridges at Admiral Pl. and 73rd E. Ave. In Oklahoma City, a nearly \$34 million project will widen SH-74 to four lanes from Memorial Rd. to north of N.W. 164th St. and construct a full interchange at N.W. 150th St. Another project scheduled for 2017 will complete widening of the highway to north of N.W. 206th St. (Covell Rd.). To minimize the impact to traffic, both contracts include financial incentives for early completion.

A plan detailing the next four years of state and local transportation projects in Oklahoma was approved by the commissioners. The Federal Fiscal Year 2015-2018 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program includes projects proposed by ODOT, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, tribal governments and other transportation organizations and will be available for public comment until Nov. 30. The plan and public comments will be forwarded to federal transportation officials for final approval.

Commission approval was also given to the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges work program for State Fiscal Year 2015-2019. The Five-year CIRB plan is developed each year in cooperation between ODOT and county commissioners with assistance from their Circuit Engineering Districts. Created by the state legislature in 2006, the CIRB program combines federal transportation funds and state motor vehicle revenue with local resources, allowing counties to undertake major projects.

Highlights of the SFY 2015-2019 CIRB plan to improve the county road system include:

- Nearly \$985 million in improvements
- Replacement or rehabilitation of 541 county bridges
- 69 bridges incorporating recycled I-40 Crosstown bridge beams
- Improvements to 1,050 miles of county roads

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INFORMATION RELEASE

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In all, commissioners awarded 34 contracts totaling more than \$111 million to improve bridges, highways, interstates and roads in 21 counties. Contracts were awarded for projects in Adair, Beaver, Carter, Choctaw, Cleveland, Comanche, Cotton, Haskell, McIntosh, Kay, Kiowa, LeFlore, Logan, Noble, Oklahoma, Pittsburg, Pottawatomie, Rogers, Tulsa, Washita 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. A special meeting is scheduled for **Monday, Dec. 8 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: The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and County Improvements for Roads and Bridges work plan can be viewed at www.okladot.state.ok.us/trans_prog.htm. For more information, call the ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)



At their Monday, Nov. 3 meeting, members of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission learned that ODOT is preparing to display travel time information on metro area highway message boards, like this one on I-35 near SH-37 (S. 4th St.) in Moore. The agency plans to implement the system in the Oklahoma City metro area beginning the week of Nov. 10 and in the Tulsa area early next year. A contract to install message boards at major ports-of-entry at the state's borders is also scheduled to go to bid in Summer 2015.