

Media Advisory

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Media Advisory
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Emergency Transportation Commission meeting to expedite Purcell/Lexington bridge repairs scheduled for Friday, Feb. 14

The Oklahoma Transportation Commission will hold an emergency meeting at **1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14** in the R.A. Ward Transportation Building, 200 N.E. 21st St. in Oklahoma City.

Commissioners will be asked to vote on approval of a contract to perform emergency repairs to the Purcell/Lexington (James C. Nance) Bridge on US-77/SH-39 that was closed on Jan. 31 for safety reasons due to cracks found in structural bridge beams. The repair project has an estimated cost of about \$5 million, with the potential for several million dollars more in financial incentives paid for early completion. Incentives/disincentives are up to \$2,500 per hour, one of the most aggressive in ODOT history.

It will take an estimated 45 days to complete the repairs and reopen the bridge to car traffic; however, the contractor with the winning bid can earn hourly incentives for completing the work sooner and ODOT anticipates contractors will bid fewer days to receive an incentive. The contract will also include disincentives to penalize the contractor for finishing late. After the bridge reopens, the contractor could be finishing up work under the bridge for another month.

Since the closure, ODOT engineers and national bridge consultants have worked tirelessly to design a repair project that will reopen the bridge quickly and safely, and prolong the life of the bridge for another 10 years until it can be replaced. Contracts for bridge inspections associated with this project by two highly specialized bridge firms will also be considered by the commission.

To further fast track this project, the required bidding process was boiled down from 160 days to only three or four days. Once the contract is awarded on Friday, work is anticipated to begin immediately and the clock for the incentives will start ticking at 5 p.m.

The meeting agenda can be viewed at www.okladot.state.ok.us by clicking the Public Meeting link. The meeting is open to the public. Next month's regular Transportation Commission meeting is currently scheduled for March 3 at 11 a.m.

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(Editors and News Directors: For details please call the ODOT Media & Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)