



ODOT's 25-Year Plan in Progress; Vital Public Input Received

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Oklahoma Department of Transportation has received your input on the Long Range Transportation Plan and is in the process of completing the document for public review later this year. The Plan serves as a guiding source on ODOT's transportation policies for the next 25 years.

Nearly 400 people across the state made their opinions and preferences known about the Long Range Plan during the initial public input stage in November 2009. Web site information, advisory committee involvement, public meetings, e-mail distribution and public surveys were integral in developing this policy and amount of input considered successful.

"We are pleased with the response we received from our first round of public meetings," Ginger McGovern, ODOT Planning and Research Division Engineer, said. "We were able to reach out and engage communities in a dialogue about Oklahoma's transportation future. We will now take this input and other data we are gathering and use it to help us create a vision and a plan to meet the state's future needs."

Preliminary reviews indicate strong support for increasing maintenance of roads and bridges; safety improvements such as widening or adding shoulders to two-lane roads; expanding mass transit; improving truck and freight rail systems and exploring new funding options.

The Plan contains information and policies for highways, airports, rural transit, waterways, rail, pedestrians and bicyclists. It will address goals related to safety and security, mobility options, transportation system maintenance, freight/shipping options and transportation and the economy. Updated every five years, the Plan was last updated in 2005 and takes into consideration federal regulations as well as the transportation needs and preferences of Oklahomans.

Although the initial input period has closed, another round of public meetings will begin later this year to present and receive input on the final draft. Dates for those meetings will be announced in the fall followed by the final publication release and implementation in early 2011.

More information such as frequently asked questions, links and contacts can be located on the Web site www.oklongrangeplan.com or by calling ODOT's Planning & Policy Analyst at 405-522-0171.

--www.okladot.state.ok.us--

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

INFORMATION RELEASE

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