

100 Years of Oklahoma's Transportation Celebrated in Perry FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 9, 2011 PR# 11-035

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation opened the doors to the public in Perry on Wednesday, June 8, to celebrate 100 years of transportation in our state. Hundreds of current and former employees of Division 4 joined local citizens and dignitaries for an open house and to tour displays of equipment and historic memorabilia.

"The open houses are a chance for us to show our appreciation for the public's support of a better transportation system and provide educational information," ODOT Director of Operations Casey Shell said. "We will be hosting these events at all of our divisions throughout this year and sharing the story of 100 years of transportation in our state."

Division 4 includes Canadian, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Logan, Noble, Oklahoma and Payne counties in north-central Oklahoma. This area has a long history of important transportation moments, including a spot on I-35 in Kay County where the first segment of interstate in Oklahoma under the Federal Interstate Act of 1956 completed in 1958.

In 1911, the Oklahoma Legislature approved House Bill 318 creating the State Highway Department. Highways help build the state's economy, bringing families closer together and making necessary goods and services available in ways likely never imagined in early-day Oklahoma.

The open house events are sponsored by the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors, the Oklahoma Employees Credit Union and the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma. Information on future open houses and on the ODOT centennial can be found at www.okladot.state.ok.us/odot100.

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

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To help commemorate 100 years of transportation in Oklahoma, a plaque will be placed at each of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation division offices statewide. Dedicating the plaque at the Perry office on June 8, are {from left to right} ODOT Director of Operations Casey Shell and Division 4 Engineer Paul Green.