



US-287 Truck Relief Route Completed near Boise City

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After several years of construction and multiple projects, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's reconstruction of the US-287 corridor through Cimarron County has reached a significant milestone as construction of the final project on the Boise City Truck Relief Route was completed earlier this month.

Thanks to funding from a congressional special appropriation for the US-287 corridor, this more than \$5 million project completed the final two miles of concrete surfacing on the south section of the US-287 realignment.

The Boise City Truck Relief Route projects, which began in fall 2010, reroute US-287 traffic, much of which is commercial trucks, away from the center of Boise City and onto a new highway alignment east of the city. Previously, a bottleneck was created as traffic on the two lane highway went through the middle of town, was forced to stop and then slowly maneuver around the town square, which frequently caused long back-ups of commercial trucks on both the north and south sides of Boise City.

"As a major commercial truck route, the completion of this project will greatly benefit the commerce of the surrounding areas and make for safer and more efficient travel," Bobby Alexander, Oklahoma Div. 6 Transportation Commissioner said.

Removing heavy truck traffic from the central part of Boise City also helps the highway pavement last longer and improve safety by relieving the congestion caused by commercial trucks, resulting in less traffic delays. ODOT, through coordination with local businesses and city officials, is placing signs on the highway informing travelers of businesses in Boise City.

In addition, the recently completed project also included the installation of snow gates on US-287 -the first in Oklahoma- so the highway can more easily be closed in the case of heavy snow and blizzard conditions.

The culmination of this project, which was completed by Dobson Brothers Construction and designed by Cobb Engineering, also signifies a major step toward the completion of Oklahoma's portion of the Ports-to-Plains initiative, a multi-state partnership to improve major truck routes between the U.S., Mexico and Canada. The Ports-to-Plains projects in Oklahoma include reconstructing US-287 through the Oklahoma Panhandle and the realignment of US-287 at Boise City.

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

INFORMATION RELEASE

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