



May Commission Wrap-Up

Inspection station construction progresses; \$41 million in contracts approved

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Monday, May 7 meeting include an update on transportation funding proposals currently before the state legislature, information on a new weigh and inspection station that recently opened in Kay County and a report on emergency bridge repairs due to flooding in northeastern Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley addressed transportation funding proposals currently being considered by the state legislature. He was grateful for support from many house and senate members and was hopeful that transportation funding would be fully restored after three years of reductions to ODOT's share of motor fuel tax collections.

"We hope that it will be reestablished, so there is not a continuation of the diversion of gas and diesel taxes away from transportation," Ridley said. "That will affect our eight year program, so it is important for us to have that baseline funding."

Ridley also reported on the opening of the first of nine new weigh and inspection stations. He said that the new station on I-35 in Kay County is 90 percent operational and that a second facility on I-40 in Beckham County should be completed in about three months. The state-of-the-art inspection stations are being built by ODOT for use by Department of Public Safety and Corporation Commission personnel, and will serve as ports of entry to the state.

Officials from ODOT updated the commission on road conditions in northeastern Oklahoma, where heavy rainfall closed several highways and damaged the SH-10 bridge over Big Creek near Welch in Craig County. Director of Operations Casey Shell praised the actions of Craig County Superintendent Gayland Wooten, who discovered the damage. As he was crossing Big Creek on SH-10, Wooten felt a dip at the end of the bridge and stopped to investigate. Moments later, flood waters washed out the abutment and Wooten quickly closed the bridge.

"Thankfully, our folks are experienced and they know what to do," Shell said. "He potentially saved somebody's life."

State Highway 10 over Big Creek was reopened on Friday, May 4, after emergency repairs were made to the bridge. Shell noted that the bridge is scheduled to be replaced in 2016.

In all, commissioners awarded 26 contracts totaling nearly \$41 million to improve highways, interstates and roads in 21 counties.

Contracts were awarded for projects in Atoka, Beckham, Bryan, Carter, Cimarron, Cleveland, Comanche, Garfield, Grady, Jefferson, Kiowa, Logan, McClain, McIntosh, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Tulsa, Wagoner and Woods 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. The panel's next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, June 4 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 OTC 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.

—www.okladot.state.ok.us—

(Editors and News Directors: For details about projects in your area and to view accompanying pictures, please visit the website www.okladot.state.ok.us. For more information, call the ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)



INFORMATION RELEASE

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The newly opened weigh and inspection station on I-35 in Kay County is the first of nine state-of-the-art port of entry facilities that will ensure that trucks entering the state meet size and weight regulations. On Monday, Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley explained to Oklahoma Transportation Commission members that the stations will be equipped with new video detection and remote sensing technology that will alert law enforcement officials if a truck improperly enters the state without passing through an inspection station. An identical facility is scheduled to open on I-40 in Beckham County this summer.