



ODOT plans more than 2,000 transportation projects through 2020, vows to “finish the job” by addressing remaining bad bridges by end of decade

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 10, 2012

PR# 12-039

An ambitious journey that started in 2002 will reach a major destination as more than \$5.5 billion in highway and bridge improvements are now planned by the end of 2020, following approval of the Federal Fiscal Year 2013-2020 Eight-year Construction Work Plan. The Oklahoma Transportation Commission approved the plan at its Monday, Sept. 10 meeting and it includes all of the known structurally deficient bridges as outlined by Gov. Mary Fallin last year.

“As governor, my number one priority has always been to create jobs and help businesses grow,” Fallin said. “We know that one part of that formula is to deliver a safe, modern and easily traversed transportation infrastructure. The Eight-year Plan and the Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan aren’t just about repairing old bridges and roads, they’re about investing in our future. My thanks go out to Secretary Ridley and his team at ODOT for the great work they have been doing to move this state forward.”

The Eight-year plan focuses on the state’s most pressing transportation needs in a fiscally responsible way.

“Since the first Eight-year Plan was adopted ten years ago, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation has made tremendous strides in addressing the state’s transportation issues to the point that we are in a manageable position for the future,” Transportation Secretary Gary Ridley said. “We believe Oklahomans will be pleased with the upcoming improvements and will reap the rewards of smart investment in our infrastructure.”

Due to increased funding proposed by Gov. Fallin’s Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan, which was approved by the state legislature in May and signed by the governor, the new Eight-year Plan includes replacement or rehabilitation of the remaining 634 current structurally deficient highway bridges. This will ensure that the number of structurally deficient bridges on state-owned highways, which peaked at 1,168 in 2004, will be essentially eliminated by the end of the decade.

ODOT’s Eight-year Construction Work Plan is updated annually to reflect project completions in the previous year as well as adjustments in projected state and federal revenue and changes in construction costs. Each year, transportation commissioners work with the department to balance the state’s most critical transportation projects with available funding to create a comprehensive statewide plan.

Highlights of the FFY 2013-2020 Eight-year Construction Work Plan include:

- 2,030 total projects
- 951 bridge replacement or major rehabilitation projects
- The largest number of bridge projects ever planned

The state’s investment in transportation is finally reaching an effective level, allowing ODOT to address decades of underfunding which resulted in a less than ideal transportation infrastructure system.

“Thanks to the governor and state legislature’s continued commitment to funding transportation, ODOT will be able to responsibly address the state’s remaining structurally deficient bridges by the end of the decade,” Ridley said. “After decades of major bridge problems, Oklahomans will finally have a safe and reliable bridge network that meets the needs of our growing state, and one for which we can all be proud.”

The new Eight-year Plan is available at www.okladot.state.ok.us/newsmedia.

—www.okladot.state.ok.us—

(Editors and News Directors: For more information call the ODOT Media & Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000. For a copy of ODOT’s FFY 2013-2020 Eight-Year Construction Work Plan, click on <http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/cwp-8-year-plan/index.htm>)



INFORMATION RELEASE

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION
200 N.E. 21st St. OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105-3204 PHONE 405-521-6000