



September Commission Wrap-Up

Oklahoma Transportation Commission approves \$5.5 billion Eight-year Plan to address bad bridges

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Monday, September 10 meeting include the approval of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Federal Fiscal Year 2013-2020 Eight-year Construction Work Plan containing \$5.5 billion in planned highway and bridge improvements, and the presentation of ODOT's 2012-2016 Asset Preservation Plan. In accordance with Governor Mary Fallin's Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan, which was approved by the state legislature in May and signed by the governor, the Eight-Year Construction Work Plan includes projects to replace or rehabilitate all known structurally deficient bridges on the highway system. The meeting also included the approval of 35 projects at a cost of nearly \$45 million to improve roads and bridges throughout the state.

In his report to the commission, Transportation Secretary Gary Ridley pointed out the current and upcoming improvements to the state's transportation system would not have been possible without the additional funding provided by the state's lawmakers.

"During this past session, the legislature worked with Governor Fallin on her plan to increase our funding incrementally over the next few years and provide us enough money in the next seven or eight years to be able to fund the other 167 structurally deficient bridges that we did not have a funding source for, a year ago," Ridley said.

Due to increased funding proposed by Governor Fallin's Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan, 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 known structurally deficient bridges on state-owned highways, which peaked at 1,168 in 2004, will be essentially eliminated by the end of the decade.

Updated annually to reflect project completions in the previous year, ODOT's new Eight-year Construction Work Plan includes the addition of projects, and adjustments to upcoming projects due to anticipated adjustments in state and federal revenue and 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.

Due to recent increases in state funding from the legislature over the last decade, 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.

The 2013-2020 Eight-year Construction Work Plan includes 2,030 total projects of which 951 are bridge replacement or major bridge rehabilitation projects. The new Eight-year Plan is available at www.okladot.state.ok.us/newsmedia.

Also at Monday's meeting, Commissioners awarded 35 contracts totaling nearly \$45 million to improve highways, interstates and roads in 31 counties.

Contracts were awarded for projects in Alfalfa, Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Cimarron, Cleveland, Creek, Custer, Delaware, Garfield, Haskell, Jefferson, Kay, LeFlore, Latimer, Logan, Love, McClain, Murray, Noble, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Osage, Pawnee, Pittsburg, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Sequoyah, Texas, Tulsa and Wagoner 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 has been moved from the first Monday of the month to the second Monday of October and will now be held on Monday, October 8 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.

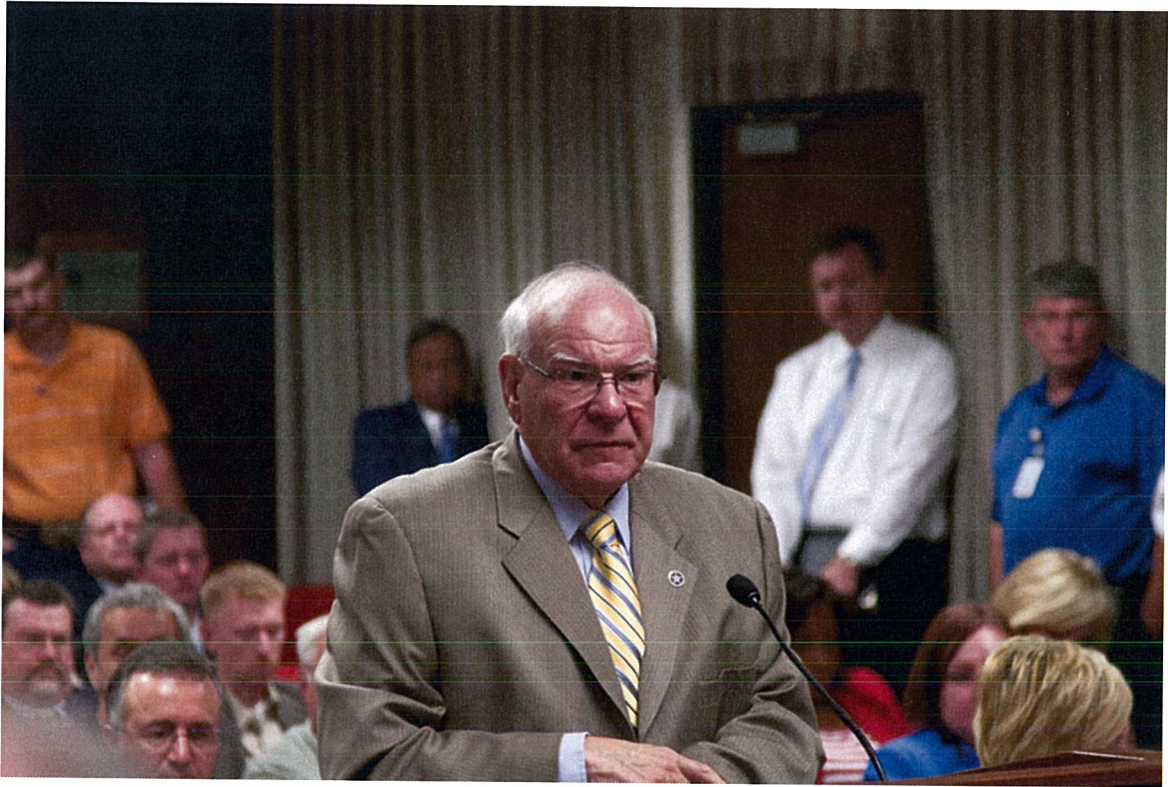
Contracts, bid information, the commission's monthly agenda and project details can be viewed at www.okladot.state.ok.us.

—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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At Monday's Transportation Commission meeting, Transportation Secretary Gary Ridley discusses the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's 2013-2020 Eight-year Construction Work Plan which includes projects to replace or rehabilitate the remaining 634 structurally deficient highway bridges on the state highway system. Thanks to the governor's and state legislature's continued commitment to funding transportation, ODOT will be able to responsibly address the state's remaining known structurally deficient bridges by the end of the decade.



Examples demonstrating the deterioration due to delayed maintenance caused by years of underfunding for state highways and bridges include the I-44 bridge over 38th West Ave. in Tulsa (above) and the SH-15 bridge over Bull Creek in Woodward County (below). Projects to address these bridges are two of the 2,030 total projects included in the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's 2013-2020 Eight-year Construction Work Plan which was approved at Monday's Transportation Commission meeting. In accordance with Governor Mary Fallin's Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan, approved by the state legislature in May and signed by the governor, ODOT's Eight-year Plan includes projects to replace or rehabilitate all known structurally deficient bridges owned by the state.

