



INFORMATION RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 26, 2010
PR# 10-045

RE: Top Federal Highway Official Compliments Oklahoma's Stimulus Work

With bridge decks and roadways under construction all around him, Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez got a first-hand look at Oklahoma's largest stimulus-funded project Tuesday, October 26. The City of Tulsa, the Tulsa Metro Chamber and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation welcomed Administrator Mendez to Tulsa to see the continued progress of the \$75 million Inner Dispersal Loop (I-244) reconstruction project as it nears completion.

"Rebuilding this essential link will improve Tulsa's overall transportation system, which is vital to the city's economic prosperity," Administrator Mendez said. "In addition, it will create a more livable and inviting downtown, and boost the economy."

Work began in June 2009 to replace all the pavement and more than 40 bridge decks on the north and west legs of the IDL. The westbound lanes of I-244 are complete, and the eastbound direction is currently under construction. Weather permitting, crews anticipate the west leg will open by late October, and the north leg is scheduled for completion in early 2011.

"Without stimulus funding, the reconstruction of the IDL would have taken many years and many phases to complete," Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation Gary Ridley said. "The ability to close large sections and tackle all of the work at once ultimately reduces the inconvenience to the driving public and the overall cost of the work. The critically needed roadway and safety improvements on this vital transportation corridor are a win for drivers and for Tulsa."

Administrator Mendez was highly complementary of Oklahoma's progress on this project and also on the state consistently ranking at the top of national lists for putting its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars to work. Of the \$465 million awarded for transportation projects in the state:

- Nearly \$400 million has been pumped into the state's economy through payments to contractors.
- More than 2.6 million hours of work have been logged on ARRA projects.
- About 345 centerline miles of highways and interstates are being addressed.
- Approximately 135 highway and county bridges are being replaced or rehabilitated.

More information about Oklahoma's ARRA funding can be found on the front page of www.okladot.state.ok.us. Information on the IDL project can also be found by clicking on the "Traffic Advisories" link.

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

Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez Visits Tulsa's IDL Project



Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez talks with Sherwood Construction crew members Jose L. Lecona and Jennifer Miller about Tulsa's Inner Dispersal Loop project. On Tuesday, October 26, Mendez stopped by the worksite to see the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's \$75 million reconstruction project firsthand.



Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez tours a closed portion of the I-244 workzone in Tulsa from the cab of a motor grader. Mendez complimented the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's \$75 million stimulus-funded project, which is reconstructing the north and west legs of the Inner Dispersal Loop around downtown and replacing more than 40 bridge decks.



Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez discusses the importance of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's \$75 million stimulus-funded Inner Dispersal Loop project in Tulsa. Mendez is joined at the podium from, left to right, Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett and Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation Gary Ridley.



Standing on a closed section of the I-244 Inner Dispersal Loop, Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation Gary Ridley praises the highway construction taking place in Tulsa. The \$75 million stimulus-funded IDL reconstruction is the single largest project awarded in the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's history. Joining Secretary Ridley at the podium are, left to right, Tulsa Metro Chamber President and CEO Mike Neal, Oklahoma Transportation Commissioner Pete Regan, Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett and Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez.