



CONCEPTUAL RENDERING
OF WESTBOUND I-244
BRIDGE OVER ARKANSAS
RIVER IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA
AUGUST 2009

Media Advisory

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December 15, 2010

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation is excited to share the following announcement from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, regarding the formal signing of the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Grant agreement with our agency. This grant was awarded earlier this year in February, and will provide about \$50 million towards an estimated \$80 million project to replace the westbound I-244 bridge over the Arkansas River in Tulsa.

Thanks to the signing of this agreement, ODOT can proceed with letting the contract to bid, currently scheduled for March 2011. The replacement bridge is "multi-modal"; which will incorporate a new section of the westbound highway, two dedicated future rail lines and an area for bicycle/pedestrian traffic into a double-decker style bridge. Design plans have been expedited, and a rendering of the bridge is also attached for your reference.

The selection process for the TIGER Grant was extremely competitive, with more than 1,400 applications received nationwide.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.
www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm

News

FHWA 72-10
Wednesday, December 15, 2010
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U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood Announces \$49.4 Million Recovery Act Grant Agreement

Work to Begin on I-244 Bridge Replacement in Tulsa

WASHINGTON – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced that construction on a new multimodal bridge on Interstate 244 can begin thanks to a signed agreement between the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) for \$49.4 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The reconstructed bridge will be Tulsa's first multimodal crossing to accommodate highway, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, as well as high-speed intercity and commuter rail.

The \$86.5 million I-244 bridge replacement project is considered critical to Tulsa's proposed transit-oriented development plans. Without this bridge, a planned commuter rail line linking Tulsa's central business district and west bank areas will not move forward.

"The I-244 bridge replacement project is another great example of how the Recovery Act is creating jobs and targeting needed transportation projects," said Secretary LaHood. "It is also key to the region's economic competitiveness and will improve both truck and rail freight movement over the Arkansas River."

Recovery Act dollars will pay for the replacement of the existing bridge, which is in deteriorated condition. The bridge requires excessive lane closures for maintenance work, creating delays for travelers and extensive costs for the state. It is ranked as one of the worst five interstate bridges in the state, according to ODOT.

"This project will bring together multiple transportation options at one location, making it easier and more convenient for passengers and offering more choices to businesses for moving their goods and products," said Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez. "In addition, offering more options helps reduce congestion, which will reduce emissions."

The \$49.4 million grant was awarded under the Recovery Act's TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) program. The TIGER program is designed to promote innovative, multimodal and multijurisdictional transportation projects that provide significant economic and environmental benefits to an entire metropolitan area, region or the nation.

The Department announced the selection of \$1.5 billion worth of TIGER grants for 51 projects as part of the one-year anniversary of the Recovery Act on Feb. 17.

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