



100 Years of Oklahoma's Transportation Celebrated in Muskogee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Oklahoma Department of Transportation opened the doors to the public in Muskogee on Wednesday, July 13, to celebrate 100 years of transportation in our state. Hundreds of current and former employees of Division 1 joined local citizens and dignitaries for an open house and to tour displays of equipment and historic memorabilia.

“As part of our centennial celebrations, we are showing our appreciation for the public’s support of a better transportation system,” ODOT Chief Engineer Gary Evans said. “We are hosting open houses across the state this year to share the story of 100 years of transportation, and to provide educational opportunities about our programs.”

Division 1 includes Adair, Cherokee, Haskell, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Sequoyah and Wagoner counties in eastern Oklahoma. This area has a long history of important transportation moments, including:

- In December 1919, the first Federal Aid Project constructed in Muskogee County was completed. It surfaced 2.5 miles of the Jefferson Highway south from Muskogee.
- In October 1954, the Highway Commission approved US-62 as an Interstate Federal-Aid Primary Route from Oklahoma County to Okmulgee County.
- In November 1968, the project to construct five miles of I-40 beginning at US-59 in Sequoyah County was completed.
- In May 2003, a dedication ceremony was held for the Webbers Falls I-40 Bridge Memorial.

In 1911, the Oklahoma Legislature approved House Bill 318 creating the State Highway Department. Highways help build the state’s economy, bringing families closer together and making necessary goods and services available in ways likely never imagined in early-day Oklahoma.

The open house events are sponsored by the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors, the Oklahoma Employees Credit Union and the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma. Information on future open houses and on the ODOT centennial can be found at www.okladot.state.ok.us/odot100.

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

(Editors and News Directors: For more information call the ODOT Media & Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)

INFORMATION RELEASE

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To help commemorate 100 years of transportation in Oklahoma, a plaque will be placed at each of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation division offices statewide. Dedicating the plaque at the Muskogee office on July 13, are {from left to right} ODOT Chief Engineer Gary Evans, ODOT Division 1 Engineer Darren Saliba, ODOT Director of Operations Casey Shell and ODOT Deputy Director Mike Patterson.