



April Commission Wrap-Up

Lieutenant governor recognizes ODOT safety efforts; \$34.7 million in contracts approved

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Monday, April 2 meeting include Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb reading the governor's Work Zone Safety Awareness Week proclamation, presenting safety awards and debuting new work zone safety public service announcements.

Lamb, attending his first transportation commission meeting in his official capacity, opened the meeting by thanking Oklahoma Department of Transportation workers for their efforts, despite the often dangerous nature of their jobs. He noted that 56 ODOT employees have been killed in the line of duty, the most of any state agency in Oklahoma. "It's a testament to the level of commitment ODOT employees have to the betterment of the state," Lamb said. He also read a proclamation from Gov. Mary Fallin declaring the week of April 23-27 "Work Zone Awareness Week." During this week, Oklahoma will join the Federal Highway Administration and other states in a national effort to bring attention to driver and worker safety in work zones.

Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley presented three new public service announcements that encourage drivers to protect themselves and road workers by obeying the law and using caution in work zones. The PSAs feature family members and coworkers of an ODOT worker who was killed when he was struck by a vehicle in a work zone in on US-75 in November. Two ODOT workers, Ira Henderson and Terry Clubb, were killed in work zones last year.

Lamb and Ridley joined commission members in recognizing recipients of the 2011 Safety Awards. The Governor's Safety Excellence Award was presented to Division Two, headquartered in Antlers, which had the lowest overall accident rating in the past year. The Progressive Excellence Award, recognizing the field division with the most improved safety record, was given to Division One, headquartered in Muskogee. Nine crews from across the state earned the Director's Safety Award for excellence in safety training and equipment maintenance, as well as being accident free in 2011. "All of these teams and crews work very hard to get everybody home safely," Ridley said.

Commissioners approved \$10 million in projects through the federal Broadband Technical Opportunity Program, which uses earmarked funds for the installation of fiber optic cable to provide broadband internet connections to schools, hospitals, libraries and public safety facilities. The commission approved BTOP projects in Ardmore, Duncan, Henryetta, Lawton, Oklahoma City, Seminole, Shawnee, Waurika and Webbers Falls. These were the final BTOP projects awarded in Oklahoma this year.

In all, commissioners awarded 26 contracts totaling nearly \$34.7 million to improve highways, interstates and roads in 27 counties.

Contracts were awarded for projects in Bryan, Caddo, Carter, Choctaw, Comanche, Creek, Garfield, Greer, Jefferson, Kay, Le Flore, Logan, Marshall, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Rogers, Seminole, Sequoyah, Stephens, 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 is scheduled for **Monday, May 7 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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Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, left, presents Commission Chairman Greg Love, right, with a proclamation declaring the week of April 23-27 “Work Zone Awareness Week,” as District 5 Commission Member Todd Huckabay looks on. Oklahoma is joining the Federal Highway Administration and other states in a national effort to encourage drivers to be cautious in work zones.



A semi passes through a work zone in southwestern Oklahoma as Oklahoma Department of Transportation workers perform bridge maintenance. Gov. Mary Fallin declared April 23-27 “Work Zone Awareness Week” in Oklahoma as part of a national effort by states and the Federal Highway Administration to remind drivers to protect themselves and workers by using caution in work zones. In 2011, 13 people were killed and 789 were injured in Oklahoma work zones, the highest number of injuries in the last decade.