



First of nine state-of-the-art truck weigh and inspection stations opens in Kay County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2012

PR# 12-020

State officials gathered together for a ceremonial handing over of the keys to celebrate the opening of the new state-of-the-art weigh and inspection station in Kay County April 27.

Initiating a major leap forward for commerce and road safety, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and its partners, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Oklahoma Department of Public Safety and Oklahoma Turnpike Authority held an open house at the new facility just south of the Kansas border along I-35 Friday.

The Port of Entry weigh and inspection station, one of nine facilities planned statewide, will provide critical services while protecting the state's infrastructure and the safety of the traveling public.

"The opening of the first of nine state-of-the-art ports-of-entry at Oklahoma's border highlights one of the many initiatives Oklahoma is pressing forward to improve business and commerce in the state," Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin said. "These ports-of-entry not only expedite permitting for the trucking industry, making business run more efficiently, the system also helps to keep drivers safe and protect our continued investment in our state's infrastructure."

Constructed by ODOT and paid for by the Corporation Commission, the Kay County weigh and inspection station is located one mile south of the Kansas border along southbound I-35 and was constructed at a total cost of \$11 million.

Once fully-operational, the facility will include technology designed to thoroughly inspect and weigh commercial trucks while still on the roadway in an effort to work with the trucking industry to verify trucks are following all state and federal laws. Staff at the new station will also be able to electronically and instantly review permits, registration, fuel tax payments and other documentation.

"ODOT is very appreciative of the great partners involved and hard work that went into planning and constructing of this first inspection station," ODOT Director Gary Ridley said. "We commend the Corporation Commission's commitment and vision on the project and its help to protect the driving public as well as roads and bridges."

Prior to the construction of the new weigh and inspection station, less than 10 percent of commercial vehicles operating on Oklahoma's roads were inspected or weighed. The new stations will help protect the traveling public in addition to preserving state and local infrastructures, such as city streets, turnpikes and county roads.

Oklahoma's weigh and inspection stations are staffed by the OCC, DPS performs inspections and ODOT is responsible for providing and maintaining the facilities.

Oklahoma Corporation Commission Chair Dana Murphy expressed her thanks to a former Corporation Commissioner.

"Jeff Cloud championed the plan for funding and building the new facilities," Murphy said. "Now the state can protect the millions of dollars it is investing in our roads and bridges while also improving public safety."

Oklahoma Corporation Commission Vice Chair Bob Anthony said the weigh and inspection stations are good news for both the driving public and the trucking industry.



"As the new technology is phased in at these new facilities, it will mean not only effective enforcement to protect the public and our roads, but efficient enforcement as well, by cutting the time it takes for each truck to be checked. That means business can continue with a minimum of delay," Anthony said.

More than 8 million trucks are estimated to enter Oklahoma at the nine new weigh and inspection station locations annually.

"The completion of the new weigh and inspection facility in Kay County is a major step forward in the Commission's effort to more efficiently regulate the trucking industry and ensure cargo is safely and legally being transported in Oklahoma," Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Patrice Douglas said.

Oklahoma Corporation Commission personnel will staff the weight and document check functions of the Ports of Entry, ODOT will build and maintain the facilities, and DPS will handle the truck safety inspection duties.

"The new port of entry station in Kay County, and the technology incorporated in it will provide a state of the art platform to assist State Troopers in conducting more efficient inspections of commercial trucks, insuring companies and their drivers are in compliance with state and federal laws," Oklahoma Department of Public Safety Commissioner Michael C. Thompson said.

An identical inspection station, along I-40 in Beckham County has been under construction for nearly a year and is expected to be completed and opened later this Summer.

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority will provide funding for the facility on the Will Rogers Turnpike in Ottawa County.

The remaining seven inspection stations will be located along I-40 in Sequoyah County, I-44 in Cotton and Ottawa Counties, I-35 in Love County, US-69/75 in Bryan County, US-271 in Choctaw County and US-412 in Delaware County.



A motor carrier officer from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission screens a semi from the control tower of the new weigh and inspection station in Kay County. The new facility is located a mile south of the Kansas border along southbound I-35.



Inside a protected inspection bay, Trooper Preston Lay from the Oklahoma Highway Patrol gets a close-up look underneath a semi truck. The Department of Public Safety will handle the truck safety inspection duties and the Oklahoma Corporation Commission personnel will staff the weight and document check functions of the Ports of Entry.



State leaders and safety advocates take part in a ceremonial handing over of the keys to a new state-of-the-art truck weigh and inspection station in Kay County on April 27. Taking part are {from left to right} Oklahoma Highway Patrol Lt. Landy Offolter, Sen. Patrick Anderson, Past Chairman of the Oklahoma Trucking Association David McCorkle, Rep. Guy Liebmann, Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Patrice Douglas, Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Chair Dana Murphy, AAA Oklahoma Vice President of Public Affairs Chuck Mai and Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation Gary Ridley.