



June Commission Wrap-Up

State legislators, transportation officials praise legislative accomplishments; \$31.8 million in contracts approved

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Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Monday, June 4 meeting include approval of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's budget and awarding of engineering contracts to complete designs for 46 structurally deficient bridges scheduled to be repaired or replaced as part of Gov. Fallin's bridge plan.

In a special ceremony at the State Capitol prior to the commission meeting, commissioners and transportation officials joined state legislators as Gov. Fallin signed two pieces of transportation legislation authored by State Rep. T.W. Shannon, R-Lawton and Sen. Bryce Marlatt, R-Woodward, that will fund her Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan. House Bill 2248 will incrementally increase allocations to the Rebuilding Oklahoma Access and Driver Safety fund and will raise the revenue cap. This will generate the nearly \$480 million necessary to implement the governor's plan to program the state's remaining 167 structurally deficient bridges in ODOT's Eight-Year Construction Work Plan by 2019. House Bill 2249 will provide nearly \$30 million in additional funding to the County Improvement for Roads and Bridges program by 2014 through incrementally increasing allocations each year.

"The legislature has worked along with Gary Ridley and our office to make a substantial commitment beginning today with the signing of these bills to transform Oklahoma from having some of the worst bridges in the nation, to getting rid of those structurally deficient bridges and having some of the best bridges in the United States," Fallin said at the signing ceremony. "That is something we can all be very proud of."

Attending the commission meeting was Sen. Clark Jolley, R-Edmond, who serves as the chairman of the Senate Appropriations and Budget Committee. Jolley praised the restoration of crucial state funding to ODOT and said he was confident that infrastructure improvements would continue to aid Oklahoma's growth.

During the meeting, the commission approved ODOT's \$1.4 billion Budget Work Program for Fiscal Year 2013. Deputy Director of Finance and Administration Mike Patterson explained that after three straight years of cuts totaling \$83 million, ODOT would receive the statutory allocation of fuel tax, returning state funding for transportation to 2009 levels.

In his report to the commission, ODOT Director Gary Ridley thanked state leaders for making transportation funding a priority and supporting the governor's bridge initiative.

"Members and leadership of the legislature in the House and Senate, regardless of party, wanted to come together and develop a plan so they can say that we accomplished something by the end of this decade," Ridley said. "We have an end-game for a problem that has plagued our state for decades."

Commissioners approved \$5.2 million in contracts with eight engineering firms to develop plans for the rehabilitation of 46 structurally deficient bridges. They also approved engineering contract supplements to complete designs for the reconnection of downtown Oklahoma City to the I-40 Crosstown.

In all, commissioners awarded 26 contracts totaling \$31.8 million to improve highways, interstates and roads in 28 counties.

Contracts were awarded for projects in Adair, Alfalfa, Beaver, Beckham, Canadian, Comanche, Creek, Custer, Ellis, Grant, Kay, Lincoln, Major, Mayes, McCurtain, Murray, Muskogee, Noble, Oklahoma, Osage, Payne, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tillman, Wagoner, Washington, Woods, Woodward 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, July 2 at 11 a.m.** in the R.A. Ward Transportation Building in Oklahoma City.

INFORMATION RELEASE

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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.

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(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.)



Transportation commissioners, State Rep. T.W. Shannon (third from right), Sen. Clark Jolley (second from right) and ODOT Director Gary Ridley (right) look on as Gov. Mary Fallin signs two pieces of legislation to fully implement her Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan. House Bill 2248 will provide ODOT funds to program the remaining 167 structurally deficient bridges on the state's highway system for repair or replacement. House Bill 2249 will increase annual state allocations to the County Improvement for Roads and Bridges fund, which counties can use to fund local transportation projects.



The US-59 bridge over Horse Creek in Ottawa County is one of the many structurally deficient bridges addressed by Gov. Mary Fallin's Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan. On Monday, June 4, Gov. Fallin approved House Bill 2248, which will increase allocations to the Rebuilding Oklahoma Access and Driver Safety fund and generate the nearly \$480 million necessary to implement her plan to program the state's remaining 167 structurally deficient bridges in ODOT's Eight-Year Construction Work Plan by 2019.