



## August Commission Wrap-Up

### **State's bridge outlook continues to improve; \$41 million in contracts approved**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2012

PR# 12-036

Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Monday, August 6 meeting include an update from Transportation Secretary/Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley on recent federal bridge inspection data and a report on ODOT's ongoing efforts to reuse bridge beams from the deconstructed I-40 Crosstown on county bridge projects statewide.

In his report to the commission, Ridley commented on the Federal Highway Administration's annual bridge inspection data from 2011, which is expected to be released to the states in a few weeks. While the data shows 4,636 structurally deficient bridges in Oklahoma owned by cities and counties, bridges on the state highway system continue to make drastic improvements. Ridley pointed out that Oklahoma has trimmed the number of structurally deficient highway bridges nearly in half, from 1,168 bridges in 2004 to 634 in 2011. He was confident that continued support from Gov. Mary Fallin and the state legislature would allow ODOT to address the state's current remaining structurally deficient bridges by the end of the decade.

"If you look at the state system and the bridge improvements that we've made over the years and will continue to make due to the plan put forth by Governor Fallin and the members of the legislature, I think you can see that we are making some progress," Ridley said.

Ridley was also pleased with ODOT's large-scale recycling project, which includes inspection and re-use of old I-40 Crosstown bridge beams on county bridge replacement projects. He stated that deconstruction of the old I-40 bridge continues to progress ahead of schedule and that 1,350 bridge beams have already been shipped to 20 staging areas statewide. Additionally, Ridley said inspections reveal that a greater number of the nearly 2,000 Crosstown bridge beams are in good condition for re-use, which will likely help replace even more county bridges than the 300 originally estimated by ODOT last year.

"Direct recycling of these beams is a big deal," Ridley said. "I believe this may be the largest project of its kind in transportation history in this country."

Commissioners approved a nearly \$7 million project to work with the Texas Department of Transportation to replace an outdated county bridge over the Red River south of Hollis in Harmon County.

In all, commissioners awarded 35 contracts totaling \$41 million to improve highways, interstates and roads in 23 counties.

Contracts were awarded for projects in Bryan, Caddo, Carter, Cleveland, Delaware, Dewey, Grant, Harmon, Jefferson, Kay, Kingfisher, Latimer, Le Flore, McIntosh, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Osage, Payne, Pittsburg, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Rogers and Tulsa 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, September 10 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](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us).

—[www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://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](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us). For more information, call the ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)



**INFORMATION RELEASE**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION  
200 N.E. 21st St. OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105-3204 PHONE 405-521-6000



As deconstruction of the old I-40 Crosstown bridge in Oklahoma City continues to progress ahead of schedule, recycling efforts by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation could help counties reuse most of the old bridge beams to replace more than 300 county bridges. Since deconstruction work began in January, 1,350 beams have been inspected and shipped to 20 staging areas statewide for county use. At Monday's Transportation Commission meeting, Transportation Secretary/ODOT Director Gary Ridley said re-use of the I-40 bridge beams is likely the largest direct recycling project of its kind in the nation's transportation history.