



## October Commission Wrap-Up

### Thirty-year public-private partnership benefits state and rail industry; \$79 million in contracts approved

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Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Monday, Oct. 8 meeting include the completion of a historic agreement between the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Union Pacific Railroad Company to transfer a crucial rail corridor to Union Pacific after 30 years of state ownership and the approval of two \$12 million projects in Sequoyah and Woodward counties.

Transportation Secretary Gary Ridley joined Tony Love, Union Pacific assistant vice president- real estate, to sign an agreement finalizing the transfer of 351 miles of rail line to Union Pacific. The rail corridor was purchased by the state following the bankruptcy of Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company in 1982. The state's purchase of the railroad preserved the crucial rail corridor that links Enid, El Reno, Oklahoma City, Chickasha, Duncan and Lawton until it could be returned to the private sector. Union Pacific recently paid its final installment on the \$35 million owed for the rail line.

"Union Pacific and ODOT have had a partnership for some 30 years to ensure that business can function freely and be able to move goods and products through the state," Ridley said. "A lot of states wish they would have done the same thing as Oklahoma did in securing these corridors."

Love stated, "We really appreciate the state of Oklahoma and the Department of Transportation for having the foresight to preserve these lines," He added that, without the partnership with ODOT, replicating the same rail corridor today would be very difficult for his company.

Additionally, commissioners approved a nearly \$12 million project to resurface a portion of US-412 in Woodward County and a \$12 million highway and bridge widening project on SH-100 near Gore in Sequoyah County.

In all, commissioners awarded 46 contracts totaling \$79 million to improve highways, interstates and roads in 24 counties.

Contracts were awarded for projects in Alfalfa, Beaver, Beckham, Bryan, Caddo, Canadian, Comanche, Cotton, Craig, Garfield, Garvin, Haskell, Kiowa, McIntosh, Noble, Nowata, Oklahoma, Pawnee, Pontotoc, Sequoyah, Tulsa, Washington, Washita and 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, Nov. 5 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).

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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](http://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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Monday's meeting of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission meeting saw the completion of a thirty-year agreement with the final transfer of 351 miles of rail line by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to the Union Pacific Railroad Company. Pictured from left to right are Commission Chairman Greg Love, Union Pacific Assistant Vice President- Real Estate Tony Love (no relation), Transportation Secretary Gary Ridley and ODOT Rail Division Manager John Dougherty.



## Lease Purchase by the Union Pacific



At Monday's Transportation Commission meeting, officials from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Union Pacific Railroad Company finalized the sale of 351 miles of rail line to Union Pacific after 30 years of state ownership. The public-private partnership allowed the state to preserve a vital rail corridor that connects Enid, El Reno, Oklahoma City, Chickasha, Duncan and Lawton.