



August Commission Wrap-Up

ODOT's participation in construction of state's high speed internet network a success; \$36 million in contracts awarded

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Monday, Aug. 12 meeting include presentation of a regional transportation award for the I-40 Crosstown, a report on the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's participation in the state's broadband internet initiative, introduction of a new director of operations and approval of contracts for a highway and bridge reconstruction project in Latimer County and a resurfacing project on I-40 in Pottawatomie County.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's effort to relocate and reconstruct the I-40 Crosstown in Oklahoma City continues to receive recognition from transportation organizations. Director Mike Patterson presented the regional America's Transportation Award from the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. The final project to open the new Crosstown to traffic recently earned the regional prize in the "Ahead of Schedule, Large Project" category at the annual WASHTO meeting in San Francisco. The top 10 transportation projects nationwide will compete for the Grand Prize and People's Choice Award, which will be awarded in October. The Grand Prize will be selected by a panel of transportation officials and engineers. The People's Choice Award will go to the project that receives the most online votes from the public. The department will encourage Oklahomans statewide to participate in the online voting.

"I'm proud that ODOT's Crosstown project was recognized as one of the best in the western states and will now be submitted for further consideration at the national level," Patterson said. "It was the hard work of the professionals at ODOT and our construction and engineering partners that made this project a success."

Commissioners heard a report from Deputy Director Tim Gatz highlighting the success of ODOT's participation in the state's implementation of the Oklahoma Community Anchor Network, which will provide high speed broadband internet access through fiber optic cables located along the state's highways. When fully implemented, OCAN will connect many higher education institutions, law enforcement facilities and hospitals in rural areas of the state. The OCAN initiative was funded through a federal grant and is a partnership between other state agencies, including Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education and Office of Management and Enterprise Services, with ODOT providing right-of-way for the fiber optic lines and selecting contractors to install the cable.

Patterson also introduced Paul Green as ODOT's new Director of Operations. Prior to assuming this role in July, Green served as the Division Four Engineer overseeing construction and maintenance operations for the nine-county region in north-central Oklahoma that includes most of the Oklahoma City metro area.

"I look forward to working with the commission, ODOT staff and everyone in the transportation industry to give the people of Oklahoma the best return on their investment for transportation," Green said.

Commissioners voted to award a nearly \$5.4 million contract for highway and bridge reconstruction on SH-1 in Latimer county near Talihina. They also awarded a more than \$2 million contract to resurface more than eight miles of I-40 near McLoud and Shawnee in Pottawatomie County and a \$3.5 million contract for bridge rehabilitation work on the US-60 bridge over Bird Creek in Pawhuska in Osage County.

In all, commissioners awarded 29 contracts totaling nearly \$36 million to improve bridges, highways, interstates and roads in 23 counties.

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INFORMATION RELEASE

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

Contracts were awarded for projects in Alfalfa, Carter, Craig, Creek, Garvin, Greer, Hughes, Latimer, Le Flore, Lincoln, McCurtain, Mayes, Noble, Nowata, Okfuskee, Oklahoma, Osage, Pawnee, Pittsburg, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, 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 special meeting is scheduled for **Monday, Sept. 9 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 commission selecting the winning firm. Typically, work begins several weeks or months after contracts are awarded.

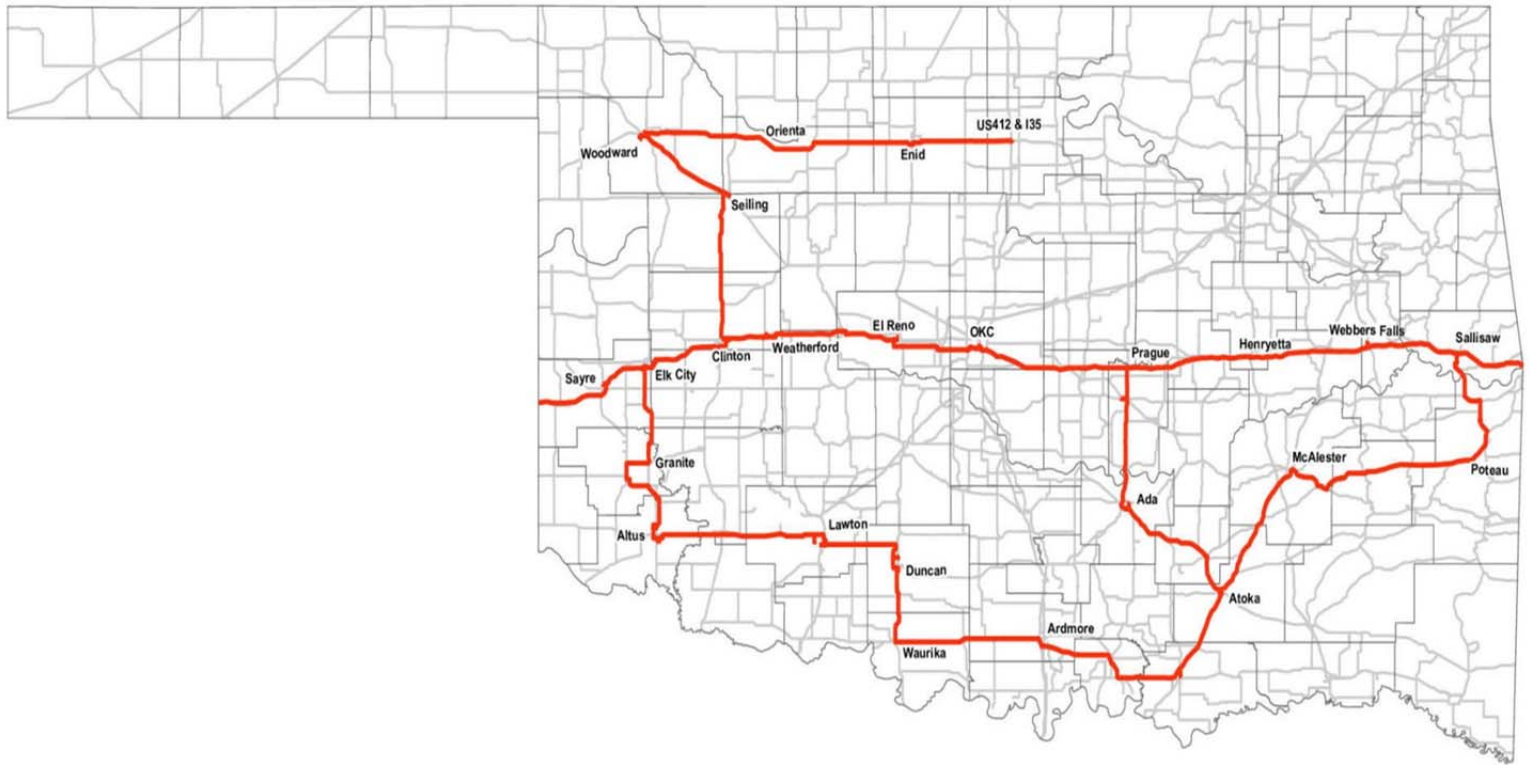
Contracts, bid information, the commission's monthly agenda and project details can be viewed at www.okladot.state.ok.us.

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(Editors and News Directors: For more information, call the ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)



The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's effort to relocate and reconstruct the I-40 Crosstown in Oklahoma City was recently named one of the best transportation projects in the western states. At the Monday, Aug. 12 meeting of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission, Director Mike Patterson presented a regional America's Transportation Award from the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials for the Crosstown project. Pictured from left is Secretary of Transportation Gary Ridley, ODOT Director of Engineering David Streb, Chief Engineer Casey Shell, Director of Operations Paul Green, Director Mike Patterson and Transportation Commission Vice-Chairman David Burrage.



At their Monday, Aug. 12 meeting, members of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission heard a report on the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's participation in the implementation of the Oklahoma Community Anchor Network, which will provide high speed broadband internet access to underserved areas in the state. The OCAN initiative is a partnership between several state agencies, with ODOT providing right-of-way for the fiber optic cable and selecting contractors to install the lines along the state's highways. When fully implemented, OCAN will connect many higher education institutions, law enforcement facilities and hospitals in rural areas of the state, as shown by the above map.