



September Commission Wrap-Up

More interstate improvements coming to I-35 in Norman; \$67 million in contracts awarded

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2013

PR# 13-037

Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Monday, Sept. 9 meeting include introduction of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's new Chief Financial Officer and Division Four Engineer, commission approval of a contract for major work on the I-35/SH-9 East interchange in Norman, and approval of contracts to replace a bridge on US-266 in Okmulgee County and three highway bridges in Harmon and Jackson counties.

Oklahoma Department of Transportation Executive Director Mike Patterson introduced the agency's new Chief Financial Officer, Russell Hulin, who recently joined the ODOT after many years with the Oklahoma Tax Commission. Brian Taylor was also introduced as the new Division Four Engineer for the nine-county field division in north-central Oklahoma that includes most of the Oklahoma City metro area. Taylor has 30 years of experience with ODOT, most recently as Division Two Maintenance Engineer in southeastern Oklahoma.

The system used by ODOT to design transportation projects and administer construction contracts has proven to be very effective in keeping costs on target. Data shows that ODOT's cost overruns for construction projects have declined over the last 25 years on average. Out of the 331 construction contracts finalized in State Fiscal Year 2013, total cost overruns totaled a little more than one percent. In fact, contractual payments for increased asphalt material costs and early financial incentives paid to contractors accounted for all of ODOT's total FY2013 construction budget overrun.

"These budget numbers show that ODOT is producing high-quality construction plans and designs, and our construction industry partners are delivering transportation projects in a cost-effective manner," Executive Director Mike Patterson said. "This partnership ensures that ODOT is using taxpayer resources wisely and effectively."

More improvements are coming to one of the state's busiest interstate corridors, thanks to the commission's approval of a contract to reconstruct the south half of the I-35/SH-9 East interchange in Norman. The more than \$12 million contract was awarded to Sherwood Construction of Catoosa and includes financial incentives for early completion of the project, which includes construction of new I-35 ramps to SH-9 East. These ramps will be built on a new alignment with little impact to traffic during construction. On average, more than 75,000 vehicles travel I-35 near SH-9 East on a daily basis. A future project to reconstruct the I-35/Lindsey St. interchange is scheduled for 2014.

Other contracts approved by the commission include an \$8 million contract to replace three bridges on SH-5 and SH-6 in Harmon and Jackson counties in southwestern Oklahoma and a more than \$5 million contract to replace the US-266 bridge over Coal Creek near Henryetta in Okmulgee County. Commissioners also approved a \$8.3 million contract to resurface a portion of US-412 in Major County and a nearly \$3.8 million contract that combines local funds and designated federal funds to resurface four miles of May Ave. in northwest Oklahoma City.

In all, commissioners awarded 32 contracts totaling more than \$67 million to improve bridges, highways, interstates and roads in 24 counties.

Contracts were awarded for projects in Alfalfa, Beaver, Cherokee, Cleveland, Custer, Garfield, Garvin, Harmon, Haskell, Hughes, Jackson, Pittsburg, Logan, McClain, Major, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Payne, Pottawatomie, Rogers, Sequoyah and Woods counties.

Continued...

INFORMATION RELEASE

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

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, Oct. 7 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.

—www.okladot.state.ok.us—

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



Interstate travelers can expect continued improvements in the Norman area. At their Monday, Sept. 9 meeting, the Oklahoma Transportation Commission approved a more than \$12 million contract to reconstruct a portion of the busy I-35/SH-9 East interchange in Norman, pictured here.