



October Commission Wrap-Up

\$6 billion in highway and bridge projects planned through 2021; East end I-40 Crosstown connection project moving forward; \$167.8 million in contracts awarded

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Monday, Oct. 7 meeting include approval of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's new Eight-year Construction Work Plan and Five-year County Improvements for Roads and Bridges Construction Work Plan, presentation of a new Four-year Statewide Asset Preservation Plan, introduction of two new senior staff members and the awarding of contracts for several major projects including an I-40 Crosstown reconnection, resurfacing a portion of US-177 in Lincoln County and reconstruction of a SH-266 bridge in Tulsa.

Commissioners approved ODOT's Federal Fiscal Year 2014-2021 Eight-year Construction Work Plan, which directs \$6 billion toward nearly 2,000 highway and bridge projects into the next decade. Coupled with the agency's Four-year Statewide Asset Preservation Plan, all of the state's remaining structurally deficient highway bridges are scheduled for replacement or major rehabilitation by 2020.

"With this eight-year plan, we're finally getting our highway bridges in a manageable condition and beginning to address our highway pavement problems," Executive Director Mike Patterson said. "The plan doesn't cover all of the projects we need to do or want to do, but it certainly includes everything we can do with the resources we have."

Much-needed county road and bridge improvements are planned for the near future thanks to the commission's approval of ODOT's State Fiscal Year 2014-2018 Five-year CIRB Construction Work Plan. The more than \$900 million CIRB plan includes 557 county bridge replacement or rehabilitation projects and improvements to nearly 1,000 miles of county roadway.

Patterson announced the addition of two engineers to the ODOT senior staff team. John Bowman was named Director of Capital Programs and Tim Tegeler assumed the role of Director of Engineering in late September. Prior to their promotions, they served as Division Engineers for the Planning and Research Division and Roadway Design Division, respectively.

An emergency project to repair damage to US-62 (N.E. 23rd St.) in Midwest City caused by heavy floodwaters in May was successfully completed early, commissioners learned. Director of Operations Paul Green said the contractor completed the repair project in mid-June, three weeks ahead of the 37 day deadline.

A major project on the east end of the I-40 Crosstown corridor in Oklahoma City is planned to begin early next year. The commission awarded a contract for the more than \$26 million project that will eventually fully reconnect the I-40/I-35/I-235 interchange to downtown Oklahoma City and the future Oklahoma City Boulevard. The contract includes time-based financial incentives for early completion of the project, which is estimated to last 16 months.

Commissioners voted to award contracts for a \$16 million project to widen and resurface more than seven miles of US-177 between Warwick and Carney in Lincoln County. Contracts were also awarded for bridge improvements including 13 highway bridge replacement projects and 17 county bridge projects. Included was a contract for a \$9 million project to reconstruct the SH-266 bridge and interchange at US-169 in Tulsa.

In all, commissioners awarded 50 contracts totaling more than \$167.8 million to improve bridges, highways, interstates and roads in 32 counties.

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INFORMATION RELEASE

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION
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Contracts were awarded for projects in Alfalfa, Atoka, Beckham, Cherokee, Choctaw, Craig, Custer, Dewey, Garfield, Grady, Grant, Greer, Haskell, Kay, Latimer, Le Flore, Lincoln, McIntosh, Major, Mayes, Muskogee, Oklahoma, Ottawa, Payne, Pittsburg, Pottawatomie, Rogers, Sequoyah, Texas, Tulsa, Washita and Woods 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 regular meeting is scheduled for **Monday, Nov. 4 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.)



At their Monday, Oct. 7 meeting, the Oklahoma Transportation Commission awarded a contract for the more than \$26 million project that will eventually fully reconnect I-40/I-35/I-235 interchange at the east end of the I-40 Crosstown corridor to downtown Oklahoma City near Lincoln Blvd. and the Bricktown area, as well as the future Oklahoma City Boulevard. The contract includes time-based financial incentives for early completion of the project, which is estimated to last 16 months.