



## Public Invited to Celebrate 100 Years of Oklahoma's Transportation on Sept. 15 in Buffalo

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2011

PR# 11-050

Did you know...

- In May 1932, State Highway Commission Chairman Sam R. Hanks announced the proposed Northwest Highway, between Oklahoma City and Guymon, would be built.
- In October 1941, 10 highways in northwestern Oklahoma were closed and the towns of Waynoka and Woodward flooded following heavy rains.
- In October 1958, the Highway Commission approved the designation of SH-50A from SH-50 east to Alabaster Caverns State Park in Woodward County.
- In September 2007, the project to construct seven bridges and three miles of SH-11 through the Great Salt Plains in Alfalfa County was completed.

These are just a few examples of the important moments in northwest Oklahoma's transportation history. In 1911, House Bill 318 created the State Highway Department. Since then, highways helped build the state's economy, bringing families closer together and making necessary goods and services available in ways likely never imagined in early-day Oklahoma.

This year, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is highlighting the work of the past 100 years and sharing our transportation history by hosting a series of open houses statewide. As a way to show appreciation for their support, the public is invited to join ODOT employees at the Division 6 centennial celebration in Buffalo on Thursday, Sept. 15. Events include an educational tour for local school children starting at 8:30 a.m., a centennial plaque dedication and a barbeque lunch.

Copies of the new book *ODOT100: Celebrating the First 100 Years of Transportation in Oklahoma* will be for sale. This is a comprehensive look at the origins of transportation in our state, the challenges faced throughout the decades and the current accomplishments on topics such as interstates, bridges, waterways and rail. This limited-edition coffee table book includes many compelling stories and historic photos, and sells for \$25 plus tax at ODOT field offices statewide. (Check or credit cards only; no cash accepted).

Division 6 includes Alfalfa, Beaver, Cimarron, Ellis, Harper, Major, Texas, Woods and Woodward counties. This open house is a great opportunity to learn more about the history and milestones made in transportation in Oklahoma, ask questions about area projects and meet the people who work to keep the highways and interstates safe. The Association of Oklahoma General Contractors, Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma and Oklahoma Employees Credit Union are sponsors of this event.

### ODOT Open House Centennial Celebration

Thursday, September 15

8:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

\*Lunch served 11:30 a.m.\*

Division 6 Headquarters, on US-64 just west of Buffalo

If you require special accommodations, please contact Div. 6 Event Coordinator Joyce Lake at 580-735-2561. Additional information on the ODOT Centennial, including trivia, photos and events can be found at: [www.okladot.state.ok.us/odot100](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/odot100)

---[www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us)---



INFORMATION RELEASE

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



**Photo 1:**



**This view from the panhandle town of Beaver in 1910 shows the presence of automobiles and the need for more roads to accommodate this growing mode of transportation in our state.**

**Photo 2:**



**One of the many challenges for transportation is Oklahoma's weather. The 1947 Woodward Tornado is infamous for the destruction to this northwestern Oklahoma community. This view is of the damage on the SH-15A North Canadian River Bridge just after the tornado.**