



Public Invited to Celebrate 100 Years of Oklahoma's Transportation on Sept. 23 in Tulsa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Did you know...

- In November 1916, the first toll road on record in Oklahoma was constructed from Chelsea to Claremore in Rogers County.
- In November 1922, a massive federally funded project to pave 64 miles of roadway was completed in Tulsa County. The project included roads from Tulsa to Skiatook, Owasso, Jenks, Keystone and to the Wagoner County line.
- In September 1935, the first Federal WPA Highway Project in the state was awarded for the construction of US-66 (now US-69) in Ottawa County.
- In September 1964, construction of the I-44 at US-169 interchange in Tulsa completed.

These are just a few examples of the important moments in northeast 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 8 centennial celebration in Tulsa on Friday, Sept. 23. Events include a ceremonial tree planting on the front lawn at 11 a.m., a centennial plaque dedication and a hot dog lunch.

Copies of the new coffee table 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 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 8 includes Craig, Creek, Delaware, Mayes, Nowata, Osage, Ottawa, Pawnee, Rogers, Tulsa and Washington 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

Friday, September 23

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

Light lunch served 11:30 a.m.

Division 8 Headquarters, 4002 N. Mingo Valley Expressway (US-169/36th St. North junction)

If you require special accommodations, please contact Marty Stewart at the Div. 8 office, 918-838-9933. Additional information on the ODOT Centennial, including trivia, photos and events can be found at: www.okladot.state.ok.us/odot100

---www.okladot.state.ok.us---



INFORMATION RELEASE

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Photo 1 - A portion of I-244 takes shape near Mingo Rd. in Tulsa in this photo from May 1966. Today there are more than 1,100 lane miles of highways and interstates in Tulsa County.



Photo 2 – In 1971, President Richard Nixon attended the inaugural opening of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System in Catoosa. One of the nation’s largest, most-inland seaports, the Port of Catoosa has more than two million tons of cargo passing through it each year.