



100 Years of Oklahoma's Transportation Celebrated in Buffalo

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Oklahoma Department of Transportation opened its doors to the public in Buffalo on Thursday, Sept. 15, to celebrate 100 years of transportation in our state. Hundreds of current and former employees of Division 6 joined local school children, citizens and dignitaries for an open house and to tour displays of equipment and historic memorabilia.

“As part of our centennial celebration, we are showing our appreciation for the public’s support of a better transportation system,” ODOT Chief Engineer Gary Evans said. “We are hosting open houses across the state this year to share the story of 100 years of transportation and to provide educational opportunities about our programs.”

Division 6 includes Alfalfa, Beaver, Cimarron, Ellis, Harper, Major, Texas, Woods and Woodward counties. This area has a long history of important transportation moments including:

- In May 1932, State Highway Commission Chairman Sam R. Hanks announced the proposed Northwest Highway, between Oklahoma City to 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.

A comprehensive look at the origins of transportation in our state can be found in the new coffee table book, *ODOT100: Celebrating the First 100 Years of Transportation in Oklahoma*. This limited edition book traces 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. It also includes many compelling stories and historic photos. Purchases can be made by check or credit card (no cash purchases) at the Div. 6 office in Buffalo, located on US-64 just west of town, or by calling 580-735-2561.

The open house events are sponsored by the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors, Oklahoma Employees Credit Union and Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma. Information on future open houses and the ODOT centennial can be found at www.okladot.state.ok.us/odot100.

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

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

INFORMATION RELEASE

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Photo 1 - As part of the centennial celebrations at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation headquarters in Buffalo on Sept. 15, students from Buffalo Elementary School learned about transportation by touring the building, talking to crews and getting a first-hand look at road equipment. The students also took part in a coloring contest as a way to wish ODOT a happy centennial. The winners in the 1st to 3rd grade category are {from left to right} second place winner Jose Campos, third place winner Dalton Munson and first place winner Dalton Cosby.



Photo 2 - To help commemorate 100 years of transportation in Oklahoma, a plaque will be placed at each of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation division offices statewide. Dedicating the plaque at the Buffalo office on Sept. 15, are {from left to right} Div. 6 Maintenance Manager James Robison, ODOT Director of Operations Casey Shell, Div. 6 Engineer Ron McDaniel, Div. 6 Construction Engineer Scott Armstrong and ODOT Chief Engineer Gary Evans.