



100 Years of Oklahoma's Transportation Celebrated in Tulsa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Oklahoma Department of Transportation opened its doors to the public in Tulsa on Friday, Sept. 23, to celebrate 100 years of transportation in Oklahoma. Hundreds of current and former Division 8 employees joined citizens and dignitaries for an open house and to tour displays of equipment and memorabilia.

“As part of our centennial celebrations, we are showing our appreciation for the public’s support of a better transportation system,” ODOT Chief Engineer Gary Evans said. “We have hosted 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 8 includes Craig, Creek, Delaware, Mayes, Nowata, Osage, Ottawa, Pawnee, Rogers, Tulsa and Washington counties. This area has a long history of important transportation moments, including:

- 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.
- 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, the I-44/US-169 interchange in Tulsa 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. 8 office in Tulsa, located at 4002 N. Mingo Valley Expressway, or by calling 918-838-9933.

The open house events are sponsored by the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors, the Oklahoma Employees Credit Union and the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma. Information on 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

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





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 Tulsa office on Sept. 23, are {from left to right} ODOT Chief Engineer Gary Evans, ODOT Division 8 Engineer Randle White and ODOT Director of Operations Casey Shell.