



Public Invited to Celebrate 100 Years of Oklahoma's Transportation on Oct. 28 in Ada

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2011

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Did you know...

- In October 1924, a federal aid project to construct a section of gravel surfaced road from Weleetka and extending north seven miles in Okfuskee County was completed.
- In September 1934, the project to construct three bridges on SH-56 in Seminole County was completed. The entire project cost \$40,874.46.
- In October 1941, construction began on the SH-18 bridge over the North Canadian River south of Shawnee.
- In August 1971, the Transportation Commission began discussing the need for improvements to I-35 from I-40 south through Norman because of growing traffic needs.

These are just a few examples of the important moments in central 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 3 centennial celebration in Ada on Friday, Oct. 28. Events include a centennial plaque dedication and a hot dog 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 3 includes Cleveland, Coal, Garvin, Hughes, Johnston, Lincoln, McClain, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Okfuskee and Seminole 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, October 28

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

Light lunch served 11:30 a.m.

Division 3 Headquarters, 12844 SH-3W in Ada

If you require special accommodations, please contact Division 3 Event Coordinator Carole Grigg at 580-332-1526. 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---

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



INFORMATION RELEASE

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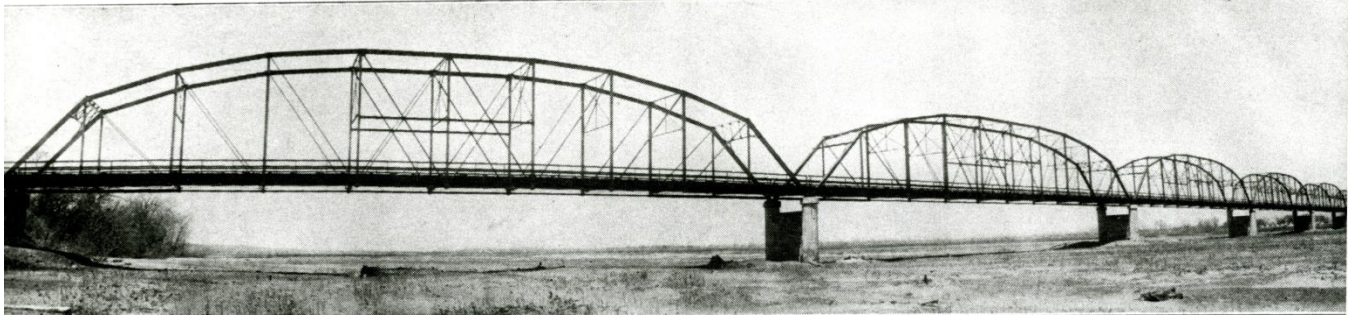


Photo 1 - The first federal highway money was spent on this South Canadian River bridge near present day Newcastle on State Highway 9, connecting Cleveland and McClain Counties on the main highway from Oklahoma City to Chickasha. The length of the bridge was 2,280 feet and was funded by \$162,163.73 in federal aid.



Photo 2 – A view of US-70 in Madill following a National Recovery Municipal paving project in 1934.