



## 100 Years of Oklahoma's Transportation Celebrated in Ada

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Oklahoma Department of Transportation opened its doors to the public in Ada on Friday, Oct. 28, to celebrate 100 years of transportation in our state. Hundreds of current and former employees of Division 3 joined citizens and dignitaries for an open house and to tour displays of equipment and historic 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 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 3 includes Cleveland, Coal, Garvin, Hughes, Johnston, Lincoln, McClain, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Okfuskee and Seminole counties. This area has a long history of important transportation moments, including:

- 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.

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. 3 office in Ada, located three miles northwest of town on SH-3W, or by calling 580-332-1526.

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](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/odot100).

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



INFORMATION RELEASE

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**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 Ada office on Oct. 28, are {from left to right} ODOT Chief Engineer Gary Evans, Div. 3 Engineer Paul Rachel, ODOT Deputy Director Mike Patterson and ODOT Director of Operations Casey Shell.**