



## Two Oklahoma Department of Transportation projects honored with regional awards

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Two highway projects in Oklahoma, the SH-20 emergency rebuilding in Rogers Co. and the I-235 at 36th St. reconstruction in Oklahoma City, were recognized as top winners of the prestigious America's Transportation Award in a ceremony in Seattle this morning. This contest, sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, recognizes the best transportation projects in the country. Categories include on time, on budget and innovative management.

"We are thrilled the SH-20 and I-235 at 36<sup>th</sup> St. projects were selected to receive AASHTO's esteemed regional America's Transportation Award," ODOT Director Gary Ridley said. "This recognition highlights the countless hours and tireless work that our ODOT staff, contractors and partners put in to the design and construction of these projects."

Winning the "On Time, Small Project" category was the SH-20 emergency rebuilding project in Rogers County in northeastern Oklahoma. On April 10, 2008, heavy rains caused more than 500 feet of shoulder and guardrail to slide down Keetonville Hill, and major cracks developed in the highway and a local access road. Repair plans were fast-tracked and the rebuilding began within 19 days of the slide. The overall project was scheduled to take 110 calendar days for completion, but crews with Muskogee Bridge Co., Inc. achieved substantial completion and opened the highway to traffic within 38 days.

Winning the "On Budget, Medium Project" was the I-235 at N.W. 36th St. Interchange Project in Oklahoma City. This project made one of central Oklahoma's most heavily traveled routes safer and more beneficial for all by increasing efficiency of travel and commerce in the area. Completed by Duit Construction of Edmond, the project included reconstructing ramps, bridges and widening I-235 at N.W. 36th St. from four to six lanes, in addition to adding sound and visual barrier walls. The I-235 Interchange project cost \$27 million, and was finished in September 2008.

Both the Oklahoma projects received top honor in the region, consisting of the western 18 states, and are now in the running for the national Grand Prize and the People's Choice Awards in October. To find out more, visit: [www.americastransportationaward.org/](http://www.americastransportationaward.org/).

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

**INFORMATION RELEASE**

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An emergency project to rebuild SH-20 at Keetonville Hill in Rogers County following a slide due to heavy rainfall is being honored with the regional America's Transportation Award. The overall project was scheduled to take 110 calendar days, but crews achieved substantial completion and opened the highway to traffic within 38 days.



The I-235 at N.W. 36<sup>th</sup> St. Interchange project in Oklahoma City, completed in September 2008, was honored with the regional America's Transportation Award Monday. The award recognized ODOT and its partners for the top-tier construction, early completion, saving of taxpayer money and adding innovative public art on the \$27 million project northwest of the state Capitol.