



## Highway improvement plan gets commission nod

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The Oklahoma Transportation Commission, Tuesday, Sept. 8, approved a more than \$4 billion construction work plan for the next eight years that includes critical projects throughout the state.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's eight-year Construction Work Plan is a blueprint for bridge and highway projects during federal fiscal years 2010-2017.

ODOT Director Gary Ridley said state funding changes approved by the state Legislature in recent years combined with money from the federal economic stimulus have allowed engineers to plan projects that will lead to an overall upgrade of state highways.

"This is the fourth consecutive year we've been able to increase the number of bridges in the eight-year program," Ridley said. "The new plan includes more than \$1 billion in bridge construction projects, in addition to structures included in other roadway work."

ODOT's eight-year construction plan is normally updated each year to reflect project completions and funding changes. Additionally, this year's plan reflects more projects due to gaps created by economic stimulus funds.

"The positive impact of the economic stimulus program to Oklahoma highways is becoming apparent," Ridley said. "Because we chose stimulus projects from last year's eight-year plan, we were able to fill gaps with new projects."

Highlights of the program include:

- More than 563 bridge replacements or major rehabilitations, an increase of more than 100 over last year's plan.
- More than 446 miles of shoulders and other improvements to two-lane roads, an addition of 58 new miles.
- \$1.9 billion in major improvements to high-volume highways.
- Construction of 62 miles of median barriers (cable and concrete)

ODOT's staff continues to monitor issues relating to the federal Highway Trust Fund that could impact the plan. The 8-year Construction Work Plan is generally updated annually to reflect projects that have been completed and adjustments in projected state and federal revenue as well as changes in construction costs, all while adding a final year to each plan.

The new eight-year Construction Plan is available on the ODOT Web site at [www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us), then click News and Media.

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

(Editors and News Directors: The plan may be viewed at:  
[www.okladot.state.ok.us/projmgmt/8-yr\\_cwp/cwp2010-2017.pdf](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/projmgmt/8-yr_cwp/cwp2010-2017.pdf). For media inquiries, contact the ODOT Media and Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)

INFORMATION RELEASE

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