



## **February Commission Wrap-Up**

### **Final phase of I-40 widening between Yukon and Oklahoma City approved; \$175 million in contracts awarded**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highlights of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission's Monday, Feb. 4 meeting include national recognition of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's partnership with Keep Oklahoma Beautiful to clean up litter in all 77 counties, approval of ODOT's eight-year construction and maintenance plan for state-owned railway and awarding several contracts for major interstate improvements in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metro areas.

In a special ceremony, ODOT was presented with the National Partner Award from Keep America Beautiful, for partnership with Keep Oklahoma Beautiful and support of litter removal efforts during the 2012 Great American Cleanup. During cleanup events last spring, more than 60,000 volunteers in all 77 counties removed more than 5 million pounds of litter, saving state and local governments more than \$6 million, according to Keep Oklahoma Beautiful.

Oklahoma's short-line railroad operators will benefit in coming years thanks to the commission's approval of ODOT's Eight-year State-owned Rail Construction and Maintenance Work Plan for Federal Fiscal Years 2013-2020. This \$34 million plan includes track and bridge improvements to allow better movement on Oklahoma's 420-mile system of state-owned railway.

Deputy Director/Chief Engineer Gary Evans updated commissioners on projects that would repair or replace nine structurally deficient bridges and several large highway reconstruction projects planned for the summer construction season.

"ODOT is looking at about \$274 million in projects over the next two months set to begin at the perfect time of year when we can take full advantage of the construction season," Evans said.

Motorists in the Oklahoma City area can expect major improvements on two heavily-traveled interstate corridors. Commissioners awarded a \$48 million contract to reconstruct nearly five miles of I-40 in Yukon and Oklahoma City and replace the SH-4 (Mustang Rd.) bridge over I-40. This project will improve travel in one of the fastest-growing areas of the state by completing the widening of I-40 between El Reno and Oklahoma City in Canadian County. The commission also awarded a \$7.5 million contract for the next phase of the I-235/I-44 interchange reconstruction in Oklahoma City. This phase will replace the eastbound I-44 ramp to southbound I-235 and includes financial incentives for early completion. All remaining portions of this interchange reconstruction project are scheduled to begin in phases through 2019.

Commissioners also approved a \$15 million contract to replace the I-44 bridge over N. 177<sup>th</sup> E. Ave. (Lynn Lane) in Catoosa in Rogers and Tulsa counties.

In all, commissioners awarded 55 contracts totaling nearly \$175 million to improve highways, interstates and roads in 38 counties.

Contracts were awarded for projects in Atoka, Beckham, Blaine, Bryan, Canadian, Carter, Cherokee, Choctaw, Comanche, Creek, Delaware, Ellis, Grady, Grant, Hughes, Kay, Kingfisher, Lincoln, Logan, Love, McClain, McIntosh, Murray, Muskogee, Noble, Oklahoma, Ottawa, Pittsburg, Pottawatomie, Pushmataha, Roger Mills, Rogers, Sequoyah, Texas, Tillman Tulsa, Washita and Woodward counties.

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**INFORMATION RELEASE**

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The eight-member panel, appointed by the governor to oversee the state's transportation development, awards project contracts for road and bridge construction every month. The panel's next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, March 4 at 11 a.m.** in the R.A. Ward Transportation Building in Oklahoma City.

Before a project is awarded, ODOT researches, plans and designs the work to be done. Contracts are bid competitively, with the OTC selecting the winning firm. Typically, work begins several weeks or months after contracts are awarded.

Contracts, bid information, the commission's monthly agenda and project details can be viewed at [www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us).

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An upcoming highway construction project will complete the much anticipated widening of I-40 between El Reno and Oklahoma City in Canadian County. At its Monday meeting, the Oklahoma Transportation Commission awarded a \$48 million contract to reconstruct nearly five miles of I-40 in Yukon and Oklahoma City and replace the SH-4 (Mustang Rd.) bridge over I-40, pictured here.



Commissioners voted to approve ODOT's Eight-year State-owned Rail Construction and Maintenance Work plan for Federal Fiscal Years 2013-2020 at Monday's meeting of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission. This \$34 million plan includes track and bridge improvements for Oklahoma's 420-mile network of state-owned railway, allowing short-line operators who lease the track to move products more efficiently and competitively.