



The Six Billion Dollar Plan: ODOT's new eight-year plan approved; nearly 2,000 projects scheduled including bridge, major interchange improvements

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 7, 2013

PR# 13-042

We can rebuild it. We have the technology and we now have more of the needed resources. We can make it better, stronger and faster. More than a decade after the Oklahoma Department of Transportation created its first comprehensive eight-year construction plan, great strides have been made in improving the state's highways and bridges, with \$6 billion planned for the next eight years. At its Monday, Oct. 7 meeting, the Oklahoma Transportation Commission voted to approve the Federal Fiscal Year 2014-2021 Eight-year Construction Work Plan, which includes nearly 2,000 highway and bridge improvement projects to carry Oklahoma into the next decade.

With 924 bridge replacement or major rehabilitation projects scheduled, the comprehensive continues progress on Gov. Mary Fallin's Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan to address all of the state's structurally deficient highway bridges. Between the new eight-year plan and its Statewide Asset Preservation Plan, also presented on Monday, ODOT has ensured that all remaining structurally deficient highway bridges are programmed for rehabilitation or replacement by the end of the decade. Thanks to additional state funding in recent years, ODOT has already made great progress in this effort by reducing the number of structurally deficient highway bridges from an all-time high of 1,168 bridges in 2004 to 556 in 2012.

Since the creation of the Rebuilding Oklahoma Access and Driver Safety fund in 2006, annual state funding for highways has increased from about \$200 million to nearly \$569 million through incremental funding increases, most recently with House Bill 2248 in 2012.

"Thanks to the governor, legislature and the people of Oklahoma, transportation planning and funding have become top priorities in the past decade," Executive Director Mike Patterson said. "With this comprehensive eight-year plan, ODOT will continue to address our structurally deficient highway bridges and move Oklahoma over to the list of states with the best bridges in the nation."

Highlights of the FFY 2014-2021 Eight-year Construction Work Plan include:

- \$6 billion in improvements
- 1,999 total projects
- 924 bridge replacement or major rehabilitation projects
- 657 miles of shoulders and other improvements to two-lane roads
- 552 miles of major improvements to high-volume highways and interstates

Work to alleviate congestion on some the state's busiest interstate interchanges has been moved up in the new eight-year plan. Two phases of the ongoing Broadway Extension/I-235/I-44 interchange reconstruction in Oklahoma City have been advanced in the plan to 2015. The plan also fully funds the \$125 million reconstruction of the I-35/I-240 interchange on Oklahoma City's southeast side, with the first construction phase set to begin in 2015. Due to increased freight movement on US-69 in southeastern Oklahoma, an \$18 million project to reconstruct more than seven miles of the southbound lanes near Stringtown in Atoka County is planned for 2014.

The plan also includes major bridge projects, including a \$20 million project to replace the US-169 truss bridges over Bird Creek between Tulsa and Owasso, which has been advanced to 2015. Replacement of the US-60 bridge over the Cimarron River near Fairview in Major County is scheduled for 2017.

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INFORMATION RELEASE

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First implemented in its current format in 2002, ODOT's Eight-year Construction Work Plan focuses on addressing the state's greatest transportation needs in an accountable manner. Each year, transportation commissioners work with the department to identify the state's most critical projects and create a balanced statewide transportation plan, which is updated to reflect project completions, adjustments in projected state and federal revenue and changes in construction costs.

More than \$900 million in dedicated state and federal funds will be going to improve Oklahoma's expansive county transportation system, thanks to the commission's approval of ODOT's Five-year County Improvements for Roads and Bridges Construction Work Plan for State Fiscal Years 2014-2018. The new CIRB plan includes 680 county road and bridge projects statewide. Federal bridge inspection data collected in 2012 found 3,552 off-system bridges owned by cities or counties in Oklahoma to be structurally deficient, a substantial decrease from 5,708 structurally deficient bridges in 2004.

The new CIRB plan also continues ODOT's successful effort to provide more than 2,000 recycled bridge beams from the old I-40 Crosstown bridge for use on county bridge replacement projects. Since late 2012, more than 25 county bridges incorporating recycled Crosstown beams have completed, with 13 currently under construction.

In 2012, lawmakers approved House Bill 2249, which will incrementally increase the percentage of state motor vehicle taxes going to the CIRB fund. When fully implemented in 2015, these increases will generate \$120 million in annual state contributions to the CIRB fund.

"This five-year plan is a collaborative effort between ODOT and the counties to invest in the highest priority transportation needs on our county road system," Deputy Director Tim Gatz said. "CIRB funding and the use of recycled Crosstown bridge beams are enabling the counties to address more of their structurally deficient bridges much sooner than they could have on their own."

First introduced in 2007, the Five-year CIRB plan is developed in cooperation between ODOT and county commissioners with assistance from their Circuit Engineering Districts. Critical county projects receiving CIRB funding are identified through a rigorous selection and approval process, with ODOT coordinating with county commissioners to fund and oversee projects.

Highlights of the SFY 2014-2018 Five-year CIRB Plan include:

- \$900 million in improvements
- 680 total projects
- 557 county bridge replacement or rehabilitation projects
- Nearly 1,000 miles of county road improvements

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(Editors and News Directors: For more information call the ODOT Media & Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000. For a copy of ODOT's FFY 2014-2021 Eight-Year Construction Work Plan, click on www.okladot.state.ok.us/cwp-8-year-plan/index.htm and select photos of planned highway and bridge projects in all eight field divisions are available for download at www.okladot.state.ok.us/newsmedia/press. For a copy of the SFY 2014-2018 CIRB Construction Work Plan, click on www.okladot.state.ok.us/cirb/index.htm.



Two phases of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's ongoing project to reconstruct the busy Broadway Extension/I-235/I-44 interchange in Oklahoma City have been advanced to 2015 in ODOT's new Federal Fiscal Year 2014-2021 Eight-year Construction Work Plan. At their Monday, Oct. 7 meeting, transportation commissioners approved the comprehensive plan, which includes \$6 billion for highway and bridge improvements statewide.



The truss bridges on both directions of US-169 over Bird Creek between Tulsa and Owasso in Tulsa County, pictured here, are scheduled for replacement by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. The \$20 million project was advanced to 2015 in ODOT's new Federal Fiscal Year 2014-2021 Eight-year Construction Work Plan, which was approved by the Oklahoma Transportation Commission at their Monday, Oct. 7 meeting. The plan includes more than 900 bridge replacement or major rehabilitation projects statewide.



More than 657 miles of two-lane highways in Oklahoma are slated to receive shoulders or other improvements in the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's new Federal Fiscal Year 2014-2021 Eight-year Construction Work Plan, which was approved by the Oklahoma Transportation Commission at their Monday, Oct. 7 meeting. Included in the plan is an \$11 million project to resurface nearly four miles of US-412 near Waynoka in Major County, pictured here.