

MINUTES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WAS HELD SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM OF THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, 200 NE 21ST STREET, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105

Notice of the schedule of regular meetings of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for the calendar year 2021 having been given in writing to the Oklahoma Secretary of State, and public notice and agenda having been posted in a prominent public view on the website of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, www.ok.gov/odot, and on the glass doors on the north side of the ODOT Building twenty-four (24) hours prior to this meeting, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, in accordance with Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S. Section 311.

ITEMS PRESENTED BY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. McKown called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present:	Gene McKown	Chairman
	TW Shannon	Secretary
	Bob Coburn	Member
	James Grimsley	Member
	Don Freymiller	Member
	David Dyson	Member
	Bobby Alexander	Member
	Steve LaForge	Member
	Bob Peterson	Vice-Chairman
Absent:	None	
Presiding:	Gene McKown	

The following items were presented and approved as written at the Transportation Commission meeting September 7, 2021. For those items amended, deferred, or rejected, those notations were also made. Action taken by the Commission is noted here on these sheets.

Commissioner McKown thanked everyone for coming and introduced Special Guest: Representative Nicole Miller, Baylee Williams from Governor Stitt's office Bobby Stem, Executive Director of the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors and Mike Patterson, former Secretary of Transportation. We really do appreciate everybody coming and participating in our Commission Meeting.

ITEM PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION

116. Approval of the Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting of August 2, 2021

ACTION: Dyson moved and Peterson seconded that the Minutes be approved as presented.
MOTION: Carried by the following vote:
AYES: Coburn, Grimsley, Freymiller, Shannon, McKown, Dyson, Alexander, LaForge and Peterson
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

CONSENT DOCKET PRESENTED BY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

117. Programming of Federal Railroad Crossing Safety Funds - Section 130 Title 23 Funds - Mr. Schwennesen

a) Stephens County – Commission District VII

Near Duncan, Construction funding for a signal and surface project which includes the installation of pedestal mounted flashing lights with gates, and a full-depth concrete crossing surface at W. Fuller Road on the Union Pacific's Duncan Sub. Total cost is \$394,422.00

b) Grady County – Commission District VII

Near Ninnekah, Construction funding for a signal and surface project which includes the installation of pedestal mounted flashing lights with gates, and a full-depth concrete crossing surface at Peach St. on the Union Pacific's Duncan Sub. Total cost is \$392,446.00

c) Grady County – Commission District VII

Near Ninnekah, Construction funding for a signal and surface project which includes the installation of pedestal mounted flashing lights with gates, and a full-depth concrete crossing surface at Old Fred Road on the Union Pacific's Duncan Sub. Total cost is \$376,846.00.

d) Okmulgee, Oklahoma and Rogers County - Commission Districts I, IV, VII – BNSF Preliminary Engineering

Preliminary engineering contract for traffic signal pre-emption at 10 locations of signalized traffic intersection near railroad crossings near BNSF mainlines. Total cost is \$186,952.00

118. Speed Zone Revisions – Mr. Pendley

- a) Okfuskee - District III – Along SH-48 including the Town of Bearden
- b) Garfield County – District IV – Along US-60 including the Town of Lahoma

119. Safety Improvement Projects – Mr. Pendley

a) Commissioner Districts II & III & VI & VII

We have received a request from the Districts II, III, VI, and VII Engineers for the purchase of solar powered equipment for the installation of new school zones at the following locations:

1. SH 9A: District II – In Le Flore County along SH 9A in the Town of Arkoma, to include school zone advanced warning signs with flashing beacons and pavement marking improvements;
2. US 271: District II – In Le Flore County along US 271 in the Town of Talihina, to include rectangular rapid flashing beacons;
3. SH 24: District III – In McClain County along SH 24 in the Town of Washington, to include school zone advanced warning signs with flashing beacons, rectangular rapid flashing beacons and pavement marking improvements;
4. SH 1: District III – In Johnston County along SH 1 in the Town of Mill Creek, to include school zone advanced warning signs with flashing beacons and pavement marking improvements;
5. US 64: District VI – In Beaver County along US 64 near the unincorporated community of Turpin, to include school entrance warning signs with flashing beacons;

6. US 283: District VI – In Ellis County along US 283 in the Town of Shattuck, to include rectangular rapid flashing beacons;
7. SH 17: District VII – In Comanche County along SH 17 in the Town of Sterling, to include school zone advanced warning signs with flashing beacons and pavement marking improvements;

The Project is estimated to cost \$62,000.00

b) Commissioner District III & IV & VI & VIII

Installation of centerline rumble strip and pavement markings at the following locations:

1. US 177: District III – In Lincoln County beginning near the Lincoln and Pottawatomie County Line, extending northerly approximately 23.5 miles to near CR E840 Road (Hamner Park Road) south of Carney;
2. US 177: District IV – In Noble County beginning near the US 177 and US 64 junction, extending northerly approximately 7.5 miles to near the US 177 and SH 15 east junction;
3. US 64: District IV – In Noble County beginning near Cedar Street east of Perry, extending easterly approximately 11.5 miles to the US 64 and US 177 junction;
4. SH 58: District VI – In Major County beginning near the Major and Blaine County Line, extending northerly approximately 8 miles to near the US 60 west and SH 58 junction south of Fairview;
5. SH 51A: District VI – In Major County beginning near the Major and Blaine County Line, extending northerly approximately 1 mile to near the SH 58 and SH 51A junction;
6. US 60: District VI – In Major County beginning just south of E0490 Road north of Fairview, extending northerly approximately 4.5 miles to the US 60 and US 412 junction in Orienta;
7. US 60: District VI – In Major County beginning near the US 60 and US 281 junction in Chester, extending easterly approximately 26 miles to near 1st Avenue south of Fairview;
8. SH 97: District VIII – In Creek County beginning at the SH 97 and SH 66 and US 75 Alternate in Sapulpa, extending northerly approximately 1 mile to near Bird Avenue;
9. IH 44: District VIII – In Tulsa County beginning near the IH 44 and Memorial Drive junction, extending northerly approximately 1.5 miles to near the IH 44 and US 169 Junction;

The Project is estimated to cost \$1,220,663.00

120. Land Sales – Mr. Phillips

- a) McCurtain County – District I – located along US-70 approximately 2.37 miles west of the Oklahoma/Arkansas State Line and approximately 4.32 miles east of Eagletown, OK - \$9,777.70
- b) Oklahoma County – District IV – located south of the OKC Blvd. on South Shields Blvd. between SW 3rd Street & SW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, OK - \$155,896.00
- c) Oklahoma County – District IV – located along the south side of East Reno Avenue, and on the north side of I-40 in the northeasterly quadrant of the intersection of I-235 & I-40 in Oklahoma City, OK - \$360,000.00

- d) Creek County – District VIII – located along west side and the east side of US-75-A, between 15th Street & the BNSF Railroad on the west and between 15th Street & 16th Street on the east in the Town of Mounds, OK - \$8,500.00

121. Memorial Highway and Bridge Designations - Ms. Smith

ACTION: Coburn moved and Shannon seconded that the Item be approved as presented.
MOTION: Carried by the following vote:
AYES: Coburn, Grimsley, Freymiller, Shannon, McKown, Dyson, Alexander, LaForge and Peterson
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

END OF CONSENT DOCKET

ITEM PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS – Mr. Davis

122. Declaration of Emergency Bridge Repair Project

Cotton County - District VII – County Road over I-44 located 2.6 miles north Oklahoma/Texas State Line - \$315,000

Information Only: No Commission action required.

NOTE: Mr. Davis gave a short timeline of events:

Thursday, August 12th:

Bridge hit happened shortly before noon.

Traffic control was placed and traffic was diverted.

District 7 requested an Emergency Declaration and was declared by Secretary Gatz;

A preliminary plan for the removal of the damaged section was all done by 4:00 p.m. that afternoon.

Friday, August 13th:

At 8:00 a.m. interested contractors met at the site and were given a removal plan and asked to submit bids by 2:00 p.m. that afternoon.

At 2:15 p.m. 4 bids were opened; and C3 Construction out of Ada, Oklahoma, was recognized as the low bidder.

Workers and equipment were on the project site by 7:00 p.m. that night and at 9:00 p.m. work began.

Saturday, August 14th:

Shortly after noon, just over 48 hours after the incident, the detour was lifted and traffic was restored to I-44.

So, I would like to recognize ODOT District 7 Engineer, Jay Earp and his group of employees, our Traffic and Maintenance guys that helped with traffic control; our ODOT Bridge Division, Justin, Wes, Walt, Oscar and several others here in the central office; and obviously our partners at C3 construction; thanks to *All of you* for doing a great job! But, probably the best part of this story, there were 2 people in that truck and other traffic on that bridge, and *everyone walked away with no injuries!*

ITEMS PRESENTED BY DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING – Mr. Tegeler

123. Programming Item

Cotton County – District VII – a project to repair vehicle impact damage to County Road over I-44, located 2.6 miles north Oklahoma/Texas State Line - \$250,000 – Party responsible for the damage is known

ACTION: Peterson moved and Coburn seconded that the Item be approved as presented.
MOTION: Carried by the following vote:
AYES: Coburn, Grimsley, Freymiller, Shannon, McKown, Dyson, Alexander, LaForge and Peterson
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

NOTE: *Commissioner Peterson stated he thought this bridge hit had already repaired?*

Mr. Tegeler said the first phase of the bridge hit was to remove the damaged part and restore traffic to the area. This is the second phase of the project which is to replace the beam.

124. Engineering Contracts

a) Statewide – All Districts – On-Demand Engineering Services

CI-2294A	Atkins North America, Inc.
CI-2294B	Cowan Group Engineering
CI-2294C	Garver, LLC
CI-2294D	Smith Roberts Baldischwiler, LLC
CI-2294E	TEIM Design, PLLC
CI-2294F	Tetra Tech, Inc.

Total Aggregate Not to Exceed Amount for these six (6) contracts is \$1,500,000.00

b) Statewide – All Districts – On-Demand Airborne LiDAR Mapping

CI-2333A	Aerial Data Service, Inc.
CI-2333B	Bearing Tree Land Surveying, LLC

Total Aggregate Not to Exceed Amount for these two (2) contracts is \$1,500,000.00

c) Statewide – All Districts – On-Demand Cultural Resources Inventories, NRHP Evaluations & Mitigation Proposals

CI-2334A	Ama Terra Environmental, Inc.
CI-2334B	Blanton and Associates, Inc.
CI-2334C	Cox McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.
CI-2334D	Integrated Environmental Solutions, LLC
CI-2334E	Mead and Hunt, Inc.
CI-2334F	Wood Environmental and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.

The aggregate not to exceed amount for these six (6) contracts is \$1,800,000.00

d) Statewide – All Districts – On-Demand Environmental Services for Local Government Projects

CI-2335A	Able Consulting, LLC
CI-2335B	C.H. Guernsey & Company
CI-2335C	CC Environmental, LLC
CI-2335D	Cox McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.

CI-2335E	CP&Y, Inc.
CI-2335F	Garver, LLC
CI-2335G	Kleinfelder, Inc.
CI-2335H	Olsson, Inc.

The aggregate not to exceed amount for these eight (8) contracts is \$2,400,000.00

e) Statewide – All Districts – Architectural Services and Preparation of Building Construction Plans

CI-2338	CEC Corporation	\$3,000,000.00.
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f) Muskogee County – District I to provide preliminary engineering and prepare construction plans for I-40: over Arkansas River, beginning milepost 290, east 1.0 mile.

CI-2324	EST, Inc.	\$380,350.00
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g) Beckham County – District V to prepare construction plans for SH-152: beginning at SH-34 and extending east 6.0 miles to SH-6.

CI-2329	Freese and Nichols, Inc.	\$905,000.00
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h) Tillman county – District V to prepare construction plans for SH-36 at Little Deep Red, Deep Red, Deep Red O'flo & Two Unnamed Creeks, located 3.0, 3.1, 3.9, 4.0 & 4.2 miles north of US-70.

CI-2328B	CONSOR Engineers, LLC	\$654,650.00
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ACTION: Alexander moved and Dyson seconded that the Item be approved as presented.
MOTION: Carried by the following vote:
AYES: Coburn, Grimsley, Freymiller, Shannon, McKown, Dyson, Alexander, LaForge and Peterson
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

125. Engineering Contract Supplements

a) Statewide – All Districts – On-System Bridge Standards

EC-1513A	Supplement 1	CP&Y, Inc.	\$384,867.00
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b) Seminole County – District III – this supplement is for additional engineering to develop final construction plans for SH-99 from 3.05 miles south of US-270, south 4.0 miles and SH-99 from 7.05 miles south of US-270, south 4.0 miles.

CI-2070	Supplement 6	Benham Design, LLC	\$244,162.00
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c) Osage County – District VIII – this supplement is for additional engineering to develop final construction plans for SH-20: intersection at SH-20 & Jayvine Hill Road, 3.25 miles west of SH-11.

EC-1385	Supplement 3	Poe and Associates, Inc.	\$12,269.00
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ACTION: Shannon moved and Coburn seconded that the Item be approved as presented.
MOTION: Carried by the following vote:
AYES: Coburn, Grimsley, Freymiller, Shannon, McKown, Dyson, Alexander, LaForge and Peterson
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

ITEMS PRESENTED BY CONSTRUCTION DIVISION ENGINEER – Mr. Leonard

126. Change Orders with Cumulative Total of \$75,000.00 or Less – Information Only

- a) Atoka County - SH-3B - STP-203C(074)AD / 34379(04), \$43,131.00, 9.82%
- b) Beckham County - I-40 - NHPPI-4000-(098)PM / 31001(04), \$40,989.81, 0.55%
- c) Caddo County - Ct. St. - HSIPG-208C(066)AD / 32948(04), \$117.03, 0.02%
- d) Caddo County - US-62 - SSR-208B(098)SR / 34417(04), \$34,553.42, 1.86%
- e) Canadian County - I-40 - NHPPI-209N-(078)PM / 30715(04), \$13,919.08, 0.10%
- f) Canadian County - US-281 - NHPP-209N(082)3P / 31366(04), \$495.00, 0.05%
- g) Canadian County - US-81 - SBR-011N(104)SB / 32762(04), \$37,560.60, 1.39%
- h) Cleveland County - SH-9 - STP-214B(103)PM / 20266(11), \$1,500.00, 0.01%
- i) Cleveland County - Co. Rd. - CIRB-214C(105)RB / 31129(04), \$5,500.17, 0.13%
- j) Cleveland County - I-35 - STP-214B(104)AG / 31506(04), \$4,307.16, 0.09%
- k) Cotton County - I-44 - SSR-4400(086)SR / 35183(04), \$2,100.00, 0.31%
- l) Ellis County - Co. Rd. - STP-223C(020)CI / 32857(04), \$48,410.60, 1.78%
- m) Harmon County - Co. Rd. - CIRB-229C(016)RB / 28710(04), \$9,891.01, 0.16%
- n) Johnston County - SH-1 - SBR-235C(049)SB / 33897(04), \$71,946.54, 3.71%
- o) Lincoln County - Co. Rd. - STP-141D(150)CI / 22529(04), \$9,441.00, 1.87%
- p) Major County - US-281 - SSR-247B(034)SR / 33402(04), \$13,693.05, 1.53%
- q) Major County - US-412 - SSR-247N(035)SR / 33404(04), \$3,836.38, 0.20%
- r) Mayes County - SH-82 - SSR-249C(063)SR / 33377(04), \$14,348.80, 0.94%
- s) McCurtain County - US-70 - NHPP-022N(102)SS / NHPP-022N(225)PM / 18859(04), \$7,199.25, 0.03%
- t) McIntosh County - Co. Rd. - STP-246C(030)CI / 29374(04), \$38,417.04, 3.47%
- u) Muskogee County - I-40 - SSP-251C(116)PM / SBR-4000(107)SB / 33440(04), \$1.00, - 0.00% Underrun
- v) Noble County - US-64 - SSR-252N(061)SR / 33426(04), \$38,616.50, 1.43%
- w) Oklahoma County - I-240 FRONTAGE ROAD - TAP-255N(331)AG / 31438(04), \$13,349.25, 2.13%
- x) Oklahoma County - WEST RIVER TRAIL - TAP-255D(527)AG / 33275(04), #2, \$4,333.12, 1.97%
- y) Oklahoma County - WEST RIVER TRAIL - TAP-255D(527)AG / 33275(04), #3, \$5,272.30, 2.39%
- z) Oklahoma County - Ct. St. - SAP-4400(088)ES / 35255(04), \$3,113.15, 6.87%
- aa) Osage County - SH-99 - STP-257B(035)PM / STP-257B(038)PM / 27995(04), \$34,904.52, 0.22%
- bb) Osage County - US-60 - SSR-018N(078)SR / 33374(04), \$2,200.00, 0.29%
- cc) Pontotoc County - SH-19 - STP-162B(187)SS / 21841(07), \$6,300.00, 0.04%
- dd) Rogers County - SH-20 - STP-266B(081)PM / 27031(04), \$5,079.03, 0.01%

127. Change Orders with Cumulative Total Greater than \$75,000.00

- a) Atoka County - SH-7 - STP-203C(073)PM / 24066(07), \$129,651.12, 1.37%
- b) Beckham County - I-40 - SSP-4000(041)SS / SBR-4000(038)SB / 27023(04), \$3,368.00, 0.03%
- c) Beckham County - I-40B - NHPP-205N(086)PM / 27900(04), \$7,502.00, 0.16%
- d) Canadian County - US-81 (I-40B) - NHPP-209N(051)SS / 27004(04), #8, \$21,905.45, - 0.22% Underrun
- e) Canadian County - US-81 (I-40B) - NHPP-209N(051)SS / 27004(04), #10, \$11,372.00, - 0.11% Underrun
- f) Comanche County - Co. Rd. - CIRB-216D(070)RB / 28446(04), \$37,082.99, 2.73%
- g) Ellis County - Co. Rd. - STP-223C(020)CI / 32857(04), \$53,750.95, 1.98%
- h) Haskell County - Co. Rd. - CIRB-231C(040)RB / 28499(04), \$93,131.87, 1.24%
- i) Haskell County - SH-2 - STP-231B(042)PM / 31195(04), \$10,800.00, 0.86%
- j) Logan County - SH-33 - ACSTP-242C(046)SS / 21860(04), \$10,947.47, 0.06%
- k) Murray County - SH-7 - TAP-250D(022)TP / SSP-250N(018)PM / 33320(04), \$35,614.90, 1.01%
- l) Muskogee County - US-69 - NHPP-013N(173)PM / 31211(04), \$33.77, -0.00% Underrun
- m) Oklahoma County - I-235 - NHPPI-2350-(009)PM / 09033(27), #11, \$1,383,529.05, 1.37%
- n) Oklahoma County - I-235 - NHPPI-2350-(009)PM / 09033(27), #26, \$27,540.08, 0.03%
- o) Oklahoma County - Ct. St. - OKC-XTWN(006)SS / OKC-XTWN(048)SS / 17428(60), \$306,920.36, 0.76%
- p) Oklahoma County - SH-77H - SBR-255N(517)SB / 27107(04), \$77,092.33, 2.10%
- q) Oklahoma County - Ct. St. - STP-255B(461)AG / 31548(04), \$86,580.18, 1.97%
- r) Oklahoma County - I-44 - SBR-4400(073)SB / 33417(04), \$925.15, 0.05%
- s) Oklahoma County - US-62 - NHPP-255N(522)3B / 34814(04), \$260,438.74, 62.89%
- t) Osage County - SH-99 - STP-257B(056)SS / 28860(04), \$91,750.65, 9.21%
- u) Pittsburg County - US-69 - SSP-261N(092)PM / 34341(04), #2, \$184,140.93, 1.74%
- v) Pittsburg County - US-69 - SSP-261N(092)PM / 34341(04), #3, \$59,103.00, 0.56%

- w) Sequoyah County - I-40/US-64 - NHPPI-4000-(248)FP / NHPPI-4000-(064)PM / 10618(07), \$21,678.00, 0.05%
- x) Stephens County - SH-53 - STP-269C(057)PM / 27967(04), #8, \$96,251.19, 2.05%
- y) Stephens County - SH-53 - STP-269C(057)PM / 27967(04), #9, \$12,114.58, -0.26% Underrun
- z) Tulsa County - SH-20 - STP-172B(360)SS / 24346(04), \$211,703.48, 1.37%
- aa) Tulsa County - Ct. St. - STP-172B(400)IG / 25212(04), #7, \$16,298.85, 0.27%
- bb) Tulsa County - Ct. St. - STP-172B(400)IG / 25212(04), #8, \$198,567.06, 3.23%
- cc) Tulsa County - Ct. St. - STP-172B(400)IG / 25212(04), #9, \$9,865.75, 0.16%
- dd) Tulsa County - Ct. St. - STP-172B(484)IG / 27291(04), \$9,000.00, 0.12%

- ee) Tulsa County - I-44 - NHPPI-4400(054)PM / NHPPI-4400(077)PM / 33788(04), \$167,301.54, -0.19% Underrun
- ff) Tulsa County - I-244 - SSP-272N(295)PM / 34487(04), \$315,000.00, 5.77%

ACTION: LaForge moved and Alexander seconded that the Item be approved as presented.
MOTION: Carried by the following vote:
AYES: Coburn, Grimsley, Freymiller, Shannon, McKown, Dyson, Alexander, LaForge and Peterson
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

ITEMS PRESENTED BY THE COMPTROLLER DIVISION

128. Proposed Bid Openings – Mr. Hackney, Project Funding Manager

- a) Final November, 2021 Proposed Bid Opening
- b) Tentative January, 2022 Proposed Bid Opening

ACTION: Shannon moved and Alexander seconded that the Item be approved as presented.
MOTION: Carried by the following vote:
AYES: Coburn, Grimsley, Freymiller, Shannon, McKown, Dyson, Alexander, LaForge and Peterson
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

129. Settlement for Damages to State Property – Ms. Hilmes

- a) Mr. Miller – Pushmataha County - \$287.68
- b) Mr. Jackson – Bryan County - \$385.54

ACTION: Coburn moved and Alexander seconded that the Item be approved as presented.
MOTION: Carried by the following vote:
AYES: Coburn, Grimsley, Freymiller, Shannon, McKown, Dyson, Alexander, LaForge and Peterson
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

ITEM PRESENTED BY THE OFFICE ENGINEER – Mr. Delce

130. Awards

- a) Deferral from the July 15, 2021 Regular Bid Opening
- b) August 19, 2021 – Regular Letting
- c) August 20, 2021 Special Bid Opening (Information Only)

ACTION: Dyson moved and LaForge seconded that the Item be approved as presented.
MOTION: Carried by the following vote:
AYES: Coburn, Grimsley, Freymiller, Shannon, McKown, Dyson, Alexander, LaForge and Peterson
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

ITEM PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR – Mr. Gatz

131. Authority to Enter into Agreements

The Department, through the Director of ODOT, requests authorization to negotiate the terms and conditions of a Lease Agreement with Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority (“OCIA”) related to a loan from the U.S Department of Transportation, pursuant to the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (“TIFIA”), to OCIA authorized by HB2896. Pursuant to HB2896, proceeds of the TIFIA Loan will fund a portion of the Department’s Rural 2-Lane Advancement and Management Program (RAAMP). Rental payments by ODOT to OCIA pursuant to the Lease Agreement will be in amounts sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on, and related costs of, the TIFIA Loan.

ACTION: Freymiller moved and LaForge seconded that the Item be approved as presented.
MOTION: Carried by the following vote:
AYES: Coburn, Grimsley, Freymiller, Shannon, McKown, Dyson, Alexander, LaForge and Peterson
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

132. Director’s Report

Secretary Gatz thanked the Commissioners for their consideration and authorization to proceed with the TIFIA Agreement. This is going to be a big help for us to move these projects forward faster. The way that the USDOT has structured this innovative financing program, really presents such a good opportunity and it is hard for us to ignore it.

He advised the Commission that the that Federal Highway Administration put the Department on notice that the highway trust fund is experiencing some funding issues. The Federal Highway Trust Fund, which is funded by Motor Fuel Collections, will go into the negative about mid-October. This has occurred in the past but the Federal Government has always appropriated additional funds either through the general revenue or some form of extension act. If it is not extended, we may be forced to postpone lettings and possibly current contracts. ODOT is monitoring this situation and will take any necessary actions.

This flows directly into the reauthorization of our Federal Transportation Bill. As we have discussed before the reauthorization of a 5-year highway bill has been rolled up into the bipartisan \$1.2 trillion plan. Not all of that is highway and bridge funding, there are many different types of infrastructure that are funded in that plan and our 5-year reauthorization has been included in that plan. The House is scheduled to vote on this by the end of September; ODOT is closely monitoring the situation and we will keep you updated.

We recently opened the newly constructed I-40 interchange at Radio Road in Yukon. The City of Yukon did the environmental work, purchased the right-of-way, and moved the utilities. This is a great example of partnering with local agencies to construct this type of project. This is going to be a very high functioning interchange and certainly one we are very pleased to add to the interstate system.

September 20th-26th is “*Rail Safety Week*”. ODOT has partnered with the Oklahoma Railroad Association and through Operation Lifesaver to keep crossings up to date in the form of lights, bells and gate arms. In fact, we had 4 rail crossing improvement projects on today’s “Consent Docket”. So, “*If the gates are down, don’t go around*” is an important safety message for vehicles, as well as pedestrians.

ODOT is continuing our safety campaign “*Make Safety Stick - Everybody Click*”. This month’s emphasis will be on the dangers of impaired driving; whether from alcohol, marijuana, prescription drugs, or just being sleepy. You all have heard me talk about safety belt usage before and how Oklahoma has to do better. One of the ways that individuals can protect themselves from a potential injury accident or, worse yet, a fatality accident is to use that first line of defense and buckle that seat belt. Let’s get our fatality and severe accident numbers down in the State of Oklahoma. There’s a very close relationship between seat belt usage and the number of fatality and severe injury accidents we have. So please buckle your seat belt!

You approved an “Emergency Bridge Repair Project” on a county road over I-44 near Lawton. The bridge was damaged by a dump truck with its bed in the up position. Seems like during the summer we see a lot of bridge hits across the State of Oklahoma. I want to remind everybody that 14’ feet is Oklahoma’s legal over height limit and several of our underpasses are at 14’-6”. So, remember to measure your load to avoid this type of incident.

In better news on the subject of bridges, we received the official ranking from our 2020 bridge data; and ODOT has only 67 structurally deficient (SD) bridges out of 6,800. So, we have met our target of getting to 1% in structurally deficient bridges. Oklahoma now ranks #7 nationally for best bridges in the country, which is a great accomplishment! We started this process back in 2006 and we have made steady progress with a laser focus on bridge infrastructure, diligence, and continued support from this Commission and the Legislators. We are continuing our focus to address the remaining SD bridges for the safety of the traveling public. So, congratulations to the Commission, to all Oklahomans, to everyone with the Department, and our Engineering and Contractor Partners that have played a role in helping us accomplish this goal. This is something to really to be proud of.

NOTE: *Commissioner Shannon asked if this was Oklahoma’s first time in the “Top 10” and what was our ranking before.*

Secretary Gatz said we are up two from #9; we first got into the “Top 10” in 2019. This is an achievement that has taken us years to get to; but it shows what focus and resources can accomplish.

Commissioner Grimsley asked if we could maybe as a part of our safety partnership campaigns, raise public awareness or educate them about Oklahoma bridge heights rules and regulations.

Secretary Gatz said that’s a good idea and we can reach out to Jim Newport with Oklahoma Trucking Association and visit with him and get his input. These operators have to be really, really attentive to those height restrictions. But that’s a great point and I think we can put something together along those lines.

(A lengthy discussion ensued about bridge hits, liability insurance amounts that trucking companies are required to carry, suggested weigh station facilities be open 24/7, investing more money in ports of entry, etc.)

Commissioner Grimsley complimented District II Engineer, Anthony Echelle and his staff for the A-Team work on the Calera Project that has been underway for a couple of years. US-69 is an incredibly busy section of highway and it’s absolutely amazing how that project has progressed; how they are successfully diverting traffic over it, minimizing impacts on the traveling public and keeping me informed.

Secretary Gatz said, “Thank you Commissioner, I appreciate you recognizing that; this is the largest contract the Department ever let, and it’s been well-managed, got a great Construction Contractor on it, and everybody’s doing a good job”. It will be really good when it’s completed, and we look forward to cutting the ribbon on it, in the not-too-distant future.

Information Only: No Commission action required.

ITEM PRESENTED BY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

133. Adjournment Motion

ACTION: Coburn moved and Shannon seconded that the Meeting be adjourned.
MOTION: Carried by the following vote:
AYES: Coburn, Grimsley, Freymiller, Shannon, McKown, Dyson, Alexander, LaForge and Peterson
NAYES: None
ABSENT: None

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting September 7, 2021.

Gene McKown – Chairman

Bob Peterson – Vice Chairman