

MINUTES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING FEBRUARY 7, 2022

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WAS HELD FEBRUARY 7, 2022 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 2022 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
	Bob Peterson	Vice Chairman
	TW Shannon	Secretary
	Bob Coburn	Member
	James Grimsley	Member
	Don Freymiller	Member
	David Dyson	Member
	Steve LaForge	Member

Absent: Bobby Alexander

Presiding: Gene McKown

The following items were presented and approved as written at the Transportation Commission meeting February 7, 2022. 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: Bobby Stem, Executive Director of the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors. We really do appreciate everybody coming and participating in our Commission Meeting. He then recognized Secretary/Director Tim Gatz for some announcements and presentations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Secretary Gatz announced that as a part of our Modernization Efforts, Rick Johnson has been appointed as the new Transportation Cabinet "Director of Project Delivery". He will report to the Chief Engineer and will work with several Divisions to ensure that projects are being delivered in a timely manner.

ITEM PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION

10. Approval of the Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting of January 3, 2022

ACTION: Peterson moved and Shannon seconded that the Minutes be approved as presented.
MOTION: Carried by the following vote:
AYES: McKown, Coburn, Grimsley, Shannon, Freymiller and Peterson
ABSTAIN: Dyson and LaForge
ABSENT: Alexander

CONSENT DOCKET PRESENTED BY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

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

a) Carter County – Commission District VII

In Ardmore, Construction funding for a signal and surface project which includes the installation of pedestal mounted flashing lights with gates and a 40' concrete crossing surface on C St. with BNSF's mainline. Total cost is \$352,499.00

b) Carter County – Commission District VII

In Ardmore, Construction funding for a signal and surface project which includes the installation of pedestal mounted flashing lights with gates and two 40' concrete crossing surfaces on SH-199 / Broadway St. with BNSF's mainline. Total cost is \$632,339.00

c) Pawnee County – Commission District VIII

Near Hallett, Construction funding for a signal and surface project which includes the installation of pedestal mounted flashing lights with gates, a 32' concrete crossing surface and two 40' drainage pipes on County Road E5300/Ranch Creek Road with BNSF's mainline. Total cost is \$366,245.48

d) Garfield County – Commission District IV

Near Lucien, Construction funding for a signal and surface project which includes the installation of pedestal mounted flashing lights with gates and a 32' concrete crossing surface on S. Noble Road with BNSF's mainline. Total cost is \$304,343.00

12. Modification of Federal Railroad Crossing Safety Funds - Section 130 Title 23 Funds - Mr. Schwennesen

a) Canadian County – Yukon - SH-4/Mustang Road - JP33075(04) – Union Pacific RR - \$23,461.72 - 78.5%

b) Ottawa County – Miami – 3rd Avenue– JP33587(14) - BNSF - \$90,690.16 – 43.6%

13. Land Sales – Mr. Phillips

a) Muskogee County – District I – located along the north side of SH-165, on the west side of the UP Railroad, approximately 0.50 miles west of US-64 on the south side of Muskogee, OK - \$7,000.00

b) LeFlore County – District II – located on the west side of US-59 (Cavalan Expressway), approximately 1.98 miles north of US-271 on the west side of Poteau, OK - \$10,001.00

c) LeFlore County – District II - located on the west side of US-59 (Cavalan Expressway), approximately 2.10 miles north of US-271 on the west side of Poteau, OK - \$10,000.00

d) Logan County – District IV - located along the west side of US-77 at Triplett Road on the south side of Guthrie, OK - \$62,500.00

e) Oklahoma County – District IV - located along the north side of I-240, where it intersects SE 74th Street in southeast Oklahoma City, OK - \$8,100.00

f) Murray County – District VII - located on the west side of US-177, approximately 1.75 miles southeasterly of SH-7 in Sulphur, OK - \$11,500.00

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

END OF CONSENT DOCKET

ITEMS PRESENTED BY DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING – Mr. Tegeler

14. Programming Item

Tulsa County – District VIII - a project to repair vehicle impact damage to 129th W Avenue over US-64, located 6.9 miles southeast of the county line - \$160,000 - Party responsible for the damage is known.

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

15. Engineering Contracts

a) Statewide – All Districts – Off-System Bridge Inspections

CI-2337A	Burgess & Niple, Inc.
CI-2337B	CEC Corporation
CI-2337C	CONSOR Engineers, LLC
CI-2337D	EST, Inc.
CI-2337E	Garver, LLC
CI-2337F	Guy Engineering Services, Inc.

Total Aggregate Not to Exceed Amount for these 6 contracts is \$8,396,700.00

b) Statewide – All Districts – Off-System Bridge Inspections

LG-2345C	CED 2
LG-2346C	CED 3
LG-2347C	CED 4
LG-2348C	CED 7
LG-2349C	CED 8

Total Aggregate Not to Exceed Amount for these 5 contracts is \$3,078,250.00

c) Statewide – All Districts – On-Demand Aesthetic Design

CI-2352A	Creative Design Resolutions, Inc.
CI-2352B	Rhombic Engineering, LLC

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

d) Beckham County – District V – to prepare construction plans for SH-6; beginning on the east side of the SH-152 junction and extending east 5.5 miles

CI-2358	Smith Roberts Baldischwiler, LLC	\$1,185,170.00
---------	----------------------------------	----------------

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

16. Engineering Contract Supplement

- a) Garfield County – District IV – this supplement is for additional engineering to develop final construction plans for US-412: from Garland, extending east 6.0 miles to the US-64 junction

CI-2118	Supplement 3	Triad Design Group	\$1,035,100.00
---------	--------------	--------------------	----------------

- b) Tulsa County – District VIII – this supplement is for additional engineering to develop final construction plans for US-64 (Memorial Dr.) and US-169

CI-2225	Supplement 2	Garver, LLC	\$88,399.00
---------	--------------	-------------	-------------

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

ITEMS PRESENTED BY CONSTRUCTION DIVISION ENGINEER – Mr. Leonard

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

- a) Beckham County - SH-34 - SSP-205C(090)PM / 29511(04), \$7,736.32, 0.18%
- b) Beckham County - County Road - STP-205D(093)CI / 32913(04), \$12,000.00, 1.75%
- c) Canadian County - US-81 - SBR-011N(104)SB / 32762(04), \$14,598.86, 0.54%
- d) Canadian County - City Street - TAP-209E(079)AG / 33282(04), \$17,910.00, 2.13%
- e) Cleveland County - SH-9 - STP-214B(103)PM / 20266(11), #2, \$2,200.00, 0.01%
- f) Cleveland County - SH-9 - STP-214B(103)PM / 20266(11), #3, \$8,848.83, 0.06%
- g) Cleveland County - I-35 - STP-214B(104)AG / 31506(04), \$51,945.05, 1.03%
- h) Coal County - County Road - CIRB-215C(024)RB / 24944(08), \$9,186.81, 0.53%
- i) Cotton County - County Road - SAP-4400(098)ES / 35839(04), #1, \$8,192.10, -3.50%
Underrun
- j) Cotton County - County Road - SAP-4400(098)ES / 35839(04), #2, \$1,280.34, 0.55%
- k) Garvin County - US-77 - STP-225C(086)PM / 29667(04), \$19,437.60, 0.56%
- l) Grady County - County Road - CIRB-226C(066)RB / 27856(04), #2, \$7,500.00, 0.08%
- m) Grady County - County Road - CIRB-226C(066)RB / 27856(04), #4, \$4,419.85, -0.04%
Underrun
- n) Kay County - I-35 - STP-252F(086)PM / 24237(07), \$524.90, 0.21%
- o) Lincoln County - SH-66 - STP-241C(073)PM / 27947(04), \$20,900.00, 0.30%
- p) Love County - SH-32 - STP-243C(032)PM / 29576(04), \$19,012.00, -0.29% Underrun
- q) McClain County - SH-76 - STP-244C(074)PM / 23264(07), \$17,250.00, 0.19%
- r) McClain County - County Road - STP-244C(076)CI / 33483(04), \$19,575.21, 0.39%
- s) McIntosh County - US-266 - STP-246C(047)AD / 32839(04), \$8,511.14, 2.48%
- t) Muskogee County - County Road - STP-251D(108)CI / 33051(04), \$29.20, -0.00% Underrun
- u) Muskogee County - I-40 - STP-251F(128)3B / 35284(04), #1, \$8,703.83, 2.04%
- v) Muskogee County - I-40 - STP-251F(128)3B / 35284(04), #2, \$3,787.00, 0.89%
- w) Oklahoma County - City Street. - SBR-4000(124)SB / 34233(04), \$10,350.00, 0.80%
- x) Ottawa County - US-60 - STP-258B(083)AD / 32897(04), \$49,916.22, 8.18%
- y) Pittsburg County - US-270 - STP-261B(103)PM / 29246(04), \$5.07, -0.00% Underrun
- z) Pontotoc County - SH-19 - STP-162B(187)SS / 21841(07), \$11,390.00, 0.07%
- aa) Pontotoc County - I-40 - SSP-262C(064)PM / 23285(12), \$9,175.00, 3.62%
- bb) Pontotoc County - County Road - CIRB-262C(059)RB / 33057(04), \$22,554.64, 0.73%
- cc) Pontotoc County - SH-48 - MC-262C(063)MD / 33755(04), \$12,783.50, 2.76%

- dd) Pottawatomie County - SH-102 - STP-163C(328)PM / 21788(07), #2, \$62,783.72, 0.59%
- ee) Pottawatomie County - SH-102 - STP-163C(328)PM / 21788(07), #3, \$5,445.00, 0.05%
- ff) Rogers County - SH-88 - SSR-266C(092)(093)SR / 33379(04), \$34,799.44, 1.26%
- gg) Tulsa County - I-244 - SSP-272F(307)SS / 31943(08), \$1,500.00, -0.53%
Underrun
- hh) Woodward County - US-270 - NHPP-017N(206)(256)PM / 17457(54),
\$66,254.62, 0.31%

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

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

- a) Atoka County - SH-7 - STP-203C(073)PM / 24066(07), \$16.90, -0.00% Underrun
- b) Beckham County - I-40B - NHPP-205N(086)PM / 27900(04), \$8,470.00, 0.18%
- c) Beckham County - SH-6 - STP-205B(077)PM / 28775(04), \$49,144.20, 1.68%
- d) Canadian County - US-81 - SBR-011N(104)SB / 32762(04), \$29,800.00, 1.10%
- e) Dewey County - County Road - CIRB-222C(026)RB / 28699(04), #4, \$10,960.60, 0.12%
- f) Dewey County - County Road - CIRB-222C(026)RB / 28699(04), #5, \$18,356.72, 0.21%
- g) Garfield County - US-60 - ACNHPP-224N(055)PM / 24637(04), \$5,480.16, 0.05%
- h) Garfield County - US-60 - STP-224B(058)(059)SS / 27981(04), \$80,953.45, 0.46%
- i) Haskell County - County Road - CIRB-131C(087)RB / 24967(04), \$84,076.63, 3.13%
- j) Johnston County - County Road - CIRB-135C(020)RB / 17543(04), \$6,720.00, 0.26%
- k) Kay County - US-77 - STP-136B(145)SS / 24380(04), \$403.20, -0.00% Underrun
- l) Kiowa County - SH-6 - STP-038B(232)SS / 15027(04), \$353,573.86, 1.76%
- m) Leflore County - US-259 - SSR-240N(084)SR / 33857(04), \$15,786.54, 0.48%
- n) Lincoln County - SH-18 - STP-241C(071)(076)3P / 33340(04), \$69,745.05, 2.33%
- o) Logan County - SH-51 - STP-242C(057)(058)SS / 27099(04), \$59,136.17, 1.34%
- p) Noble County - NS-327 - CIRB-152C(161)RB / 25421(05), \$76,618.60, 2.01%
- q) Oklahoma County - I-235 - NHPPI-2350-(009)PM / 09033(27), \$210,212.67, 0.21%
- r) Oklahoma County - I-40 - ACNHPP-0040-5(382) / ACNHPP-4000-(047) / 20324(04),
\$39,173.99, 0.05%
- s) Oklahoma County - I-40 - NHPPI-0040-5(394)129SS / NHPPI-4000-(095)PM / 23310(04),
#4, \$383.10, 0.00%
- t) Oklahoma County - I-40 - NHPPI-0040-5(394)129SS / NHPPI-4000-(095)PM / 23310(04),
#12, \$86,452.72, -0.12% Underrun
- u) Oklahoma County - City Street - STP-255B(360)AG / 30326(04), \$34,133.41, 0.77%
- v) Pawnee County - City Street - SBR-259N(058)SB / 33451(04), \$76,872.15, 4.95%
- w) Pittsburg County - US-69 - SSP-261N(092)PM / 34341(04), \$14,299.18, 0.14%
- x) Pushmataha County - US-271 - STP 264B(076)PM / 27026(04), \$48,461.29, 1.79%
- y) Rogers County - SH-20 - STP-266N(094)PM / 34222(04), \$229,118.09, 4.97%
- z) Sequoyah County - I-40 - NHPPI-4000-(248)FP / NHPPI-4000-(064)PM / 10618(07),
\$1,351.74, 0.00%
- aa) Stephens County - SH-53 - STP-269C(080)PM / 30362(04), \$21,577.62, 0.47%
- bb) Tulsa County - SH-20 - STP-172B(360)SS / 24346(04), \$246,251.57, 1.59%
- cc) Tulsa County - City Street - STP-172B(398)(399)(456)IG / 25211(04), \$7,941.02, 0.08%
- dd) Tulsa County - City Street - STP-172B(484)IG / 27291(04), #7, \$1,141.50, 0.01%
- ee) Tulsa County - City Street - STP-172B(484)IG / 27291(04), #8, \$6,618.67, 0.09%
- ff) Tulsa County - City Street - ACNHPP-4440-(002)SS / NHPPI-4440-(004)SS / ACNHPP-
272N(149)SS / ACNHPP-4440-(003)SS / 28865(04), \$100,000.00, 1.08%
- gg) Tulsa County - I-444 - NHPPI-4440(009)PM / SBR-014N(112)SB / 28899(04), \$438,364.52,
1.68%
- hh) Tulsa County - SH-51 SB - SBR-272N(335)SB / 33811(04), \$419,095.00, 80.30%
- ii) Washington County - US-60 - NHPP-018N(053) / 24242(04), \$582,943.56, 3.67%

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

ITEMS PRESENTED BY THE COMPTROLLER DIVISION

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

- a) Final April, 2022 Proposed Bid Opening
- b) Tentative May, 2022 Proposed Bid Opening
- c) Tentative June, 2022 Proposed Bid Opening

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

ITEMS PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

20. Damages to State Property – Ms. Hilmes

- a) Mr. Brummel – Grady County - \$81.83
- b) Mr. Burke – Tulsa County - \$175.59

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

ITEMS PRESENTED BY THE COORDINATOR OF EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION- Ms. Brown

21. Amendments to Department Administrative Rules

- a) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:10-23-4 Use of Funds
- b) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:10-23-5. Project eligibility and approval
- c) Approval to Revoke the OAC Rule No.: 730:10 23-6. Request for funds
- d) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:10-23-7. Project selection
- e) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:10-23-8. Programming of projects
- f) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:15-3-1. Commission dedications and commendations
- g) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:25-3-1. Prequalification
- h) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:30-5-1. Department Consultant Contracts
- i) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:35-1-4. Maintenance responsibilities
- j) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:35-1-11. Department maintenance within municipalities
- k) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:35-5-3. Definitions
- l) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:35-7-3. Traffic control responsibilities
- m) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:35-13-4. Tourist oriented directional signs

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

ITEM PRESENTED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT DIVISION ENGINEER – Ms. Williams

22. Request for Final Approval of the County Designation Order for FY-2022

In accordance with Title 69 O.S. § 636.3 Subsection B) this Designation Order is prepared for use by the County Road Machinery & Equipment Revolving Fund and has been approved by the Department of Transportation County Advisory Board (CAB)

NOTE: *Commissioner Grimsley said this is a very positive and successful program; even more successful than we had anticipated. So glad we can be a part of this.*

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

ITEM PRESENTED BY THE OFFICE ENGINEER – Mr. Delce

23. Awards

January 20, 2022 – Regular Bid Opening

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

ITEM PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR – Mr. Gatz

24. Director’s Report

Secretary of Transportation and Oklahoma Department of Transportation Executive Director Tim Gatz briefed commissioners on the agency’s response to the early February winter storm that affected travel on roadways in all 77 counties. He presented a slideshow of the conditions our Maintenance Crew were dealing with as he talked about the winter storm. In addition to several waves of winter precipitation moving through the state, transportation crews faced extremely low temperatures, high winds and snow drifts as they worked to clear highways. Secretary Gatz also recognized the Stranded Motorist Assistance Response Teams, which are crewed by members of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and Oklahoma National Guard. These teams assist stranded motorists and help remove stalled vehicles from highways during severe winter storms. He said that “Clearing Oklahoma highways was a statewide effort that took several days; and the credit for that work belongs to our Maintenance Crews in the field and to our partners in Law Enforcement and Emergency Management”. He did add that Governor Stitt will typically declare an Emergency Executive Order in advance of these storm events; and this opens the door up for us to really get out and make purchases and acquisitions if we need to.

He said on the Federal Budget funding we are still functioning under a Continuing Resolution through February 18th while waiting on a final budget to be approved. If another Continuing Resolution is passed, we are hoping they will extend the transportation budget through the end of the year.

The Federal Government has launched the “Bridge Formula Program” which will provide funds to repair or replace highway bridges. There will also be a dedicated funding for off-system and tribal bridges. The Department will come up with a strategy on how to manage this program; and we will have better information for you probably by the March Commission Meeting.

He noted that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed by the U.S. Congress in late 2021 dedicates funding, including \$53 million for Oklahoma, that will benefit bridges on the highway system and roads maintained by cities and counties. We will make sure that those dollars find their way into infrastructure improvements on our state highway systems. We have done a tremendous job managing our structurally deficient bridge problems; and that will continue, we have got plenty of work left to do.

He addressed the troubling nationwide trend of increasing highway fatalities. Recent federal data showed that traffic fatalities increased 12% nationwide from 2020 to 2021. Oklahoma saw a jump from 654 traffic deaths in 2020 to 749 in 2021. In addition to excessive speeding and distracted driving, 50% of these fatalities were because they were not wearing a seatbelt! Currently Oklahoma is ranked 84% and I want to get to 94% to be in the "Top Ten". We have got to get these numbers back down and really start encouraging the traveling public to please wear their seatbelts! We will continue our work on safety initiatives, like adding shoulders to our rural 2-lane roads where those severe injury and fatality rates are the highest. This is a high priority for us and you can certainly see that reflected in our 8 Year Construction Work Plan projects. So, we are going to stay after the safe side of it with engineering and investment in infrastructure; but we need the traveling public's help by driving responsibly and wearing their seatbelts.

He said that the Legislative Session begins today and Governor Stitt will give his "State of the State" speech this afternoon. This looks to be a busy legislative year, and we will keep the Commission informed of any actions affecting the Department. There is a lot of good news and we anticipate that our state budget will be more favorable than in past years. Secretary Gatz mentioned that he hopes to see the full statutory allocation of the State Motor Fuel Tax funding be restored to the Agency for highway maintenance and operations after several years of cuts.

Secretary Gatz thanked the Commission for approving the Bridge Project in Grant County that will address 29 smaller county bridges into 1 project. The project bundles these bridges, including several small wooden structures, into 1 contract combining funds from a competitive federal grant with state and local resources. We are really excited to get that project moving forward and put a dent in the structurally deficient bridge numbers in Grant County. There is a lot of work left to do out there on the local highway system, we have made tremendous progress on our structurally deficient bridge numbers, but even on the highway system we have still got more than 1,100 that are 80 years old. So, we have got to be diligent and continue to invest in our bridges; and work hard to give Oklahoma the transportation system that we are going to need to support us in the future.

NOTE: *Chairman McKown said on behalf of this Commission and the people of Oklahoma; thank you for your organization and what you do every day. But especially when we have weather events like we have had this week; you guys run an incredible operation in the State of Oklahoma and I'm proud to get to serve on this Commission!*

Commissioner Grimsley said on the increase of fatalities, that's been happening over several years. Those fatalities don't include what I think is roughly around 4 million injuries that require some sort of medical assistance, which is a tremendous cost to society, financially, loss of time and all sorts of thing like that. The unfortunate thing is that we have made progress for decades; and then around 2015 effects of distracted driving came in. We are in this precarious position now where things like driver assist are not widespread. There are technologies that are going to make things better, but those technologies are not going to work very well if you don't wear your seatbelt. So, we just have to figure out how we lead by example or do something. It's just so unfortunate when we see other modes of transportation like aviation continue to get safer; but yet in this gilded golden age of safety the ground transportation is getting worse. It's going to take some leadership to really tackle the seatbelt problem; I'm optimistic in a decade we are going to have technology cutting down that number a little bit. Just as we see the driver assist and we move more toward autonomy it will help with safety; but it is still unfortunate where we are right now.

Secretary Gatz responded that the fleet will turn over time, but to your point it's not going to happen fast enough. Whether that's 10-20 years remains to be seen; but those driver assist technologies will eventually make a difference; but to the point of full autonomous vehicles being out there on the highways; but we are a long way from there yet.

Commissioner Freymiller asked if we think it's time maybe to bring the speed limits back down.

Secretary Gatz answered, Commissioner, the thing that I think we really need to focus on is drive the posted speed limit; don't exceed it, that will help more than anything. And then the second part is, that black and white speed limit that's posted out there on the highways, on city streets and county roads, that is for the best driving conditions. Again, it goes back to personal responsibility, if it's wet, foggy or slick like last week you have to adjust your speed accordingly. Too many folks just don't take the responsibility to do that. So again, I reiterate #1 drive the posted speed limit; #2 recognize the responsibility that goes along with having that driver's license and being responsible for your own actions!

Information Only: No Commission action required.

ITEM PRESENTED BY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

25. Adjournment Motion

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting February 7, 2022.

Gene McKown – Chairman

Bob Peterson – Vice Chairman