

# MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING AUGUST 1, 2022

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING OF THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WAS HELD AUGUST 1, 2022 IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM OF THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, 200 NE 21<sup>ST</sup> 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](http://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:**

<b>Present:</b>	Gene McKown	Chairman
	Bob Peterson	Vice Chairman
	Bob Coburn	Member
	James Grimsley	Secretary
	Don Freymiller	Member
	David Dyson	Member
	Bobby Alexander	Member
	Steve LaForge	Member
<b>Absent:</b>	None	
<b>Presiding:</b>	Gene McKown	

The following items were presented and approved as written at the Transportation Commission meeting August 1, 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 Guests: Bobby Stem, Executive Director of the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors, Rich Brierre, Executive Director of INCOG, Paul Zachary, City of Tulsa, State Representatives Denise Crosswhite-Hader and Nicole Miller. We really do appreciate everybody coming and participating in our Commission Meeting.

Chairman McKown recognized Mr. Rick Johnson for an announcement.

Mr. Johnson announced that Ms. Lauren Parrish has been chosen as the new State Traffic Engineer. Ms. Parrish joined the Department in 2013 after working in the private sector for more than 7 years. She has held various positions throughout the Department in our Roadway and Traffic Divisions; some noteworthy stints serving as 5 years as our Geometric Engineer, focusing on geometric design and traffic operations. Since 2020, she has also served as our Assistant State Traffic Engineering, overseeing planning, and analytics safety in our design branches. She received her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 2008. So please help me welcome Ms. Parrish.

Mr. Johnson announced that Mr. Randy Woods has been chosen as the new State Roadway Division Engineer. Mr. Woods is a long-term employee of our Roadway Design Division; he has served in various capacities and multiple divisions. He has routinely been called on to lead some of the Department's most complex design projects. He earned an Associate's Degree in Computer Aided Drafting Design in 2003, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 2008. So, help me welcome Randy to his new role.

Chairman McKown recognized Secretary Gatz for an announcement.

Secretary Gatz recognized a special program ODOT has going on; and said we are going to give some special recognition to District 7. But I want to talk a little bit about Work Zone Safe, which is a program that is really designed to get at our most vulnerable young drivers as they develop their habits and skill set early in their driving career. So, I want to recognize Tom Robins to come up and talk a little bit more about Work Zone Safe and then he will make a presentation to District 7.

Mr. Robins said I know that the #1 priority for you as of all the ODOT family and contractors is the safety of our workers and the traveling public. Unfortunately, as we know, this last year had the highest reported jump in fatalities across the nation because of speeding and distractions. We know this is a particular concern for our work zones; and our young teen drivers, unfortunately, do not have the hands-on opportunity to understand the risks that they're facing and to appreciate the faces behind the flag in our work zones. Most DOTs across the country hand teens a pamphlet, a pen and a bag, and say, "Be Work Zone Safe"; we need to be doing more than that! So, under the encouragement of Secretary Gatz and the leadership team, they have adopted the "Work Zone Safe" Program. It gives a hands-on opportunity for teens across the State of Oklahoma to partner with the Highway Safety Office, to actually go out and learn work zone safe behaviors. In that, we bring and invite our districts to set up a flagger zone to talk with those teen drivers about the face behind the flag and how all of us want to return home safe, and that we need their attention and focus. As they walk them through the flagger zone at the completion of that, they have an opportunity to invite them to take an online course about work zone safety. This Work Zone Safe course is free and it's online; and teens ages 15-19 across the state can take it. They learn about work zone safe behaviors of speeding, distraction, signs, scenarios; most importantly, though, they learn about work zone safe spaces. They are introduced to the Memorial that's out in front of our headquarters; and are told specific stories, about people that have unfortunately had to face the consequences or have had loved ones impacted. But then probably most importantly, we recognize and reward them for being Work Zone Safe Partners so they have an opportunity to receive an insurance discount. Here in Edmond, Oklahoma, they can receive a 60-minute pass to Edmond Sky Zone; they can also receive a \$500 Work Zone Safe Educational 529 Scholarship. Bobby Stem's Association was the first one to offer that; and then starting in September, we'll have three \$500 scholarships that we're able to give out to recognize and reward these. I would like to point out that Oklahoma is leading the country in doing this. As of September, the Work Zone Safe course will be the national teen driver work zone safe course that was pioneered here in Oklahoma and will be adopted and available nationally to any DOT, Highway Safety Office, Driving School, parent, or teen that wants to be educated, engaged, recognized and rewarded. As a part of that, I would say that probably no ODOT field employee joins ODOT because they want to be a public speaker. But we found as we brought them in and they talked to the teens, that after that first go around, they really enjoy the opportunity to share why they chose this as a profession and why they need those teen drivers to be safe.

So, of that, I'm pleased to announce that in our 1<sup>st</sup> Inaugural Year, we have selected District 7 to receive our inaugural Oklahoma Work Zone Safe award for their teen driver education and engagement. They, through their efforts at 3 different events, educated and engaged over 1,200 students, giving them an opportunity to have a face behind the flag and be work zone safe.

Jay Earp, District 7 Engineer and his team accepted the Oklahoma Work Zone Safe Award.

#### **ITEM PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION**

##### **103. Approval of the Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting of July 11, 2022**

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

**CONSENT DOCKET PRESENTED BY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN**

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

**a) Bryan County – Commission District II**

In Durant, Construction funding for a signal and surface project which includes the installation of pedestal mounted flashing lights and gates, a 32' concrete crossing surface and grading for each approach at the intersection of North 49<sup>th</sup> Street and the Kiamichi's mainline. Total cost is \$662,252.00

**105. Speed Zone Revisions – Ms. Parrish**

**a) Comanche County - Commission District VII – including the City of Elgin**

1. Along US 277 for 9.03 miles
2. Along SH 17 for 6.94 miles

**b) Osage & Washington Counties - Commission District VIII – Along US 60 for 17.51 miles including the City of Bartlesville**

**106. Safety Improvement Projects – Ms. Parrish**

**a) Installation of School Zone - Commission District II**

We have received a request from the District II Engineer for the purchase of solar powered equipment for the installation of school zones at the following location:

Bryan County - Commission District II - One location along SH 78, in the City of Durant to include school zone advanced warning signs with flashing beacons, and pavement marking improvements

The equipment is estimated to cost \$8,000.00

**107. Land Sales – Mr. Phillips**

**a) McCurtain County – District II - located along the east side of US-259, approximately 11.86 miles northerly of the intersection of US-259 & SH-3 in Broken Bow, OK - \$10,950.00**

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

**END OF CONSENT DOCKET**

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**ITEMS PRESENTED BY DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING – Mr. Tegeler**

**108. Programming Item**

Rogers County – District VIII - a project to repair fire damage to I-44/US- 412 over Spunky Creek - \$250,000 - Party responsible for the damage is known.

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

## 109. Engineering Contracts

Tulsa County – District VIII - to provide preliminary engineering for US-75: from Okmulgee County line, extending north approximately 6.0 miles to 151<sup>st</sup> Street

CI-2372A	Garver, LLC	\$2,095,343.00
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ACTION: Dyson moved and Coburn seconded that the Item be approved as presented.  
MOTION: Carried by the following vote:  
AYES: Coburn, Grimsley, Freymiller, McKown, Dyson, Alexander, LaForge and Peterson  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

## 110. Engineering Contract Supplements

a) McClain County – District III – this supplement is for additional engineering to develop final construction plans for I-35: at SH-9W interchange

EC-647	Supplement 13	Triad Design Group, Inc.	\$1,848,150.00
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b) Oklahoma County – District IV – this supplement is for additional engineering to develop final construction plans for I-44: over the UPRR, 0.7 miles north of I-40

CI-2117	Supplement 2	HNTB Corporation	\$1,388,330.00
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c) Stephens County – District VII - this supplement is for additional engineering to develop final construction plans for US-81: at the US-81/SH-7 junction south of Marlow (Lawton/Duncan WYE)

CI-2270B	Supplement 1	Freese & Nichols, Inc.	\$222,455.00
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ACTION: LaForge moved and Alexander seconded that the Item be approved as presented.  
MOTION: Carried by the following vote:  
AYES: Coburn, Grimsley, Freymiller, McKown, Dyson, Alexander, LaForge and Peterson  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

## ITEMS PRESENTED BY CONSTRUCTION DIVISION ENGINEER – Mr. Leonard

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

- a) Bryan County - SH-78 - STP-207C(105)PM / 24088(04), \$3,250.36, 0.03%
- b) Cleveland County - County Road - CIRB-214C(105)RB / 31129(04), \$11,047.60, 0.26%
- c) Cleveland County - City Street - STPG-214F(118)AG / 35326(04), \$2,005.00, 0.45%
- d) Delaware County - US-59 - NHPP-CRRS(009)(008) / 33781(04), \$5,016.43, -0.08%  
Underrun
- e) Ellis County - SH-15 - NHPP-019N(118)PM / 26497(04), \$10,240.00, -0.16% Underrun
- f) Grady County - US-277 - SSR-226C(094)SR / 34415(04), \$21,581.34, 2.19%
- g) Hughes County - County Road - CIRB-232D(066)RB / 32975(04), \$24,695.04, 0.55%
- h) Johnston County - County Road - STP-235D(066)CI / 33579(04), \$9,011.73, 1.74%
- i) Kingfisher County - US-81 - NHPP-237N(088)PM / 30450(04), \$61,398.75, 4.23%
- j) Logan County - County Road - CIRB-142C(152)RB / 25089(04), \$59,194.50, 1.87%
- k) McCurtain County - County Road - STP-245C(070)CI / 29962(04), \$1,320.00, 0.09%
- l) McCurtain County - US-70 - SBR-022N(223)SB / 34273(04), \$4,950.00, 1.25%
- m) Oklahoma County - City Street - STPG-255F(546)(547)AG / 34173(04), \$8,010.00, -0.76%  
Underrun

- n) Ottawa County - SH-125 - STP-258B(079)PM / 29689(04), \$22,794.39, 0.36%
- o) Texas County - SH-136 - STP-270C(041)PM / 24241(07), \$7,815.00, 0.06%
- p) Tulsa County - City Street - STP-272B(258)IG / 30742(04), \$88,552.96, -1.00% Underrun
- q) Tulsa County - City Street - TAP-272F(339)IG / 33038(04), \$21,660.00, 18.26%
- r) Tulsa County - I-44 - STP-272F(270)PM / 33818(04), \$2,784.00, -0.05% Underrun
- s) Tulsa County - I-44 - SBR-4400(072)SB / 34661(04), \$5,589.45, 0.21%
- t) Wagoner County - US-69 - NHPP-CRRS(007)PM / 32104(04), \$24,471.50, 0.78%
- u) Washita County - County Road - STP-275C(069)CI / 32925(04), \$4,726.80, 1.09%

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

- a) Beaver County - SH-3 - NHPP-017N(268)PM / 31064(04), \$57.00, -0.00% Underrun
- b) Beckham County - I-40 - NHPPI-4000-(098)PM / 31001(04), \$683,581.59, -9.17% Underrun
- c) Blaine County - County Road - CIRB-206C(036)RB / 28704(04), \$289,243.34, 4.20%
- d) Carter County - US-70 - STP-210B(089)3P / 34419(04), \$85,213.86, 7.12%
- e) Choctaw County - County Road - STP-112D(078)CI / 24821(04), \$21,622.03, -0.40% Underrun
- f) Cleveland County - County Road - CIRB-214C(105)RB / 31129(04), \$254,846.30, 6.06%
- g) Coal County - County Road - CIRB-115C(074)RB / 24943(04), \$14,814.43, 0.38%
- h) Creek County - SH-48 - STP-219B(054)SS / 27925(04), \$63,072.80, 0.73%
- i) Grady County - US-62 - NHPP-126N(187)PM / 28182(04), \$24,453.41, 0.20%
- j) Greer County - County Road - CIRB-228C(023)RB / 30033(04), \$157,992.63, 4.12%
- k) Johnston County - County Road - STP-235C(052)CI / 32331(04), \$2,019.41, 0.16%
- l) Lincoln County - SH-66 - STP-241C(073)PM / 27947(04), \$177,443.28, 2.53%
- m) Marshall County - US-377 - STP-248C(036)PM / 28828(04), \$29,704.53, -0.07% Underrun
- n) Marshall County - US-70 - NHPP-248N(050)PM / 31278(04), \$20,607.45, 0.25%
- o) McClain County - SH-59 - STP-244C(072)PM / 29459(04), \$9,905.92, 0.29%
- p) McClain County - I-35 - NHPPI-3500(094)PM / 31045(04), \$336,707.18, 2.74%
- q) McCurtain County - US-259 - SSP-245N(068)(071)PM / 34333(07), \$91,000.00, 2.91%
- r) McIntosh County - County Road. - STP-246C(030)CI / 29374(04), \$94,809.47, 8.56%
- s) Nowata County - County Road - STP-253F(047)CI / 30491(04), #1, \$95,444.48, 4.87%
- t) Nowata County - County Road - STP-253F(047)CI / 30491(04), #3, \$20,812.53, 1.06%
- u) Okfuskee County - I-40 - NHPPI-4000-(100)PM / 21007(09), \$630,725.25, 3.56%
- v) Oklahoma County - I-40 - ACNHPPI-0040-5(382) / ACNHPPI-4000-(047) / 20324(04), \$37,434.71, 0.05%
- w) Oklahoma County - I-44 - NHPPI-4400-(037)(039)(040)(041)(042)(043)PM / 31006(04), \$252,052.45, 0.92%
- x) Osage County - US-60 - NHPP-257N(085)PM / 24233(04), \$298,336.00, 1.00%
- y) Payne County - US-177 - STP-260B(056)PM / 29860(04), \$148,915.40, 0.84%
- z) Pittsburg County - US-270 - STP-261B(103)PM / 29246(04), #4, \$86,244.61, 2.80%
- aa) Pittsburg County - US-270 - STP-261B(103)PM / 29246(04), #5, \$168,128.41, 5.47%
- bb) Pottawatomie County - SH-102 - STP-163C(328)PM / 21788(07), \$48,864.03, 0.46%
- cc) Sequoyah County - I-40 - NHPPI-4000-(076)(075)PM / SBR-4000(080)SB / 28988(04), \$93,561.90, 0.26%
- dd) Tulsa County - City Street - STP-272N(360)IG / 33315(04), \$100,633.00, 6.99%

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

## **ITEMS PRESENTED BY THE COMPTROLLER DIVISION**

### **113. Proposed Bid Openings – Ms. Hilmes**

- a) Final September, 2022 Proposed Bid Opening
- b) Tentative October, 2022 Proposed Bid Opening
- c) Tentative November, 2022 Proposed Bid Opening

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

## **ITEM PRESENTED BY THE OFFICE ENGINEER – Mr. Delce**

### **114. Awards**

July 14, 2022 – Regular Bid Opening

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

## **ITEM PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR – Mr. Gatz**

### **115. Director's Report**

Secretary Gatz said I really appreciate the work of Tom Robins and all of the field districts and their efforts around Work Zone Safe. It is certainly a nice recognition for District 7 Commissioner. I really appreciate whatever we can do to help our young drivers understand the responsibility that comes with receiving a driver's license; and understanding a little bit more about how to safely navigate a construction work zone.

He thanked Chairwoman Miller and Representative Crosswhite-Hader for being with us. He said their support for all things transportation is paramount in everything that we do. And with that, I got a little bit of an announcement this morning as far as our structurally deficient bridge conditions across the highway system; and we are pretty excited about it.

Every year the Department goes through our annual inspection cycle; every public bridge gets inspected at least once every 2 years. We submit the data to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) by calendar year. We just found out that we have moved up from #7 to #5 in the country for having the fewest number of structurally deficient bridges. This is an outstanding accomplishment and I am very appreciative of the funding commitments made by the Governor, previous Governors and the Legislature which has allowed the Department to achieve this goal. However, we are not done, we have got about 1200 bridges out on the highway system that are over 80 years old! So, all of those bridges will need attention eventually and we have to be diligent in our ongoing commitment and continue to work on our bridge infrastructure. We have approximately 800 bridges in the construction work plan that we are going to be working on over the next 8 years. We are going to continue that effort; and we are going to continue to keep Oklahoma as a top 10 State for bridge conditions on the highway system. So, Commissioners, I thank you for your support, each one of you shares a role in making sure that we continue that commitment.

Secretary Gatz thanked Commissioner for awarding several projects today:

- *I-35 bridge and approaches over North 63rd Street at the I-44 interchange in Oklahoma City – very significant project which will take a couple of years to complete.*
- *SH-51 pavement rehabilitation east of I-444 in Tulsa – it is a full depth pavement rehabilitation including adding a barrier wall in place of the grass median. We are not exactly where I would like us to be in pavement conditions; we are probably going to be 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> in the country, so we have got work to do on our pavements. The guys are doing a great job; and it's projects like this that will help make that number look better.*
- *SH-66 asphalt resurfacing in Sapulpa – this is a great community partnership project that will return part of SH-66 to the city's control and give us a little bit of a reliever route around the downtown area of the City of Sapulpa.*
- *US-259 grade, drain, surface, and bridge in McCurtain County – this project starts about 2 miles north of the Texas State line and extends north 6 miles for \$22 million. It's going to add shoulders and improve some curves on that route. Highway 259 in the southeast corner of the state connecting up to Idabel is a primary route for a lot of tourism activity going on, a lot of commerce and public travel in general. This project is going to be well received; and this is one of our more than 5300 miles of rural 2-lane highways that didn't have shoulders on it. So, we are very excited about this and is just a phase of a much larger project that will get us all the way eventually to Idabel.*

Our next Commission Meeting will be September 6<sup>th</sup>, just after Labor Day. With Labor Day weekend coming up we see some peak travel periods, which sometimes translates into peak accident periods. So, I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone to please pay attention, put away distractions and remember to buckle up and drive safely!

**NOTE:** *Commissioner Grimsley said I want to commend the Department; I think one of the most effective things the Department does on social media is the "Memorials to the fallen workers". It gives everyone a sense of human toll and it honors the families.*

*The second thing is the deficient bridge thing is quite an accomplishment; and I would love to see something similar over the next 20 years for improvement to our rural highways. The thing about the deficient bridge effort, it was carried over across multiple administrations, it was bipartisan, we had multiple changes at the legislature, but we had a focus for years. It was really a success story in Oklahoma and I would love to see us figure out how working with the 8 Year Work Plan we could do that for our rural roads. Because I think it's going to take that level of a sustained focus to accomplish that. I do think we are in a much better shape now than we were 20 years ago in terms of being data driven. There's a lot more data we can make decisions on and be more informed on; it's just something that I would hope to see. I know it's a big undertaking, but maybe it's something we could begin to look at how can we tackle this problem more systematically.*

Secretary Gatz said, I couldn't agree more; the Governor has put a focus on rural 2-lane highways without shoulders, and made that one of our performance metrics. It's something we monitor with a goal of trying to reduce that 5300 mile number by 10% over a 4 year window. That's tough to do; but I think as we become more adept at understanding everything from the maintenance needs out on the system, to the safety needs, we are going to be able to really focus our investment strategies on those locations. And for the long term, I think we are going to get on a very similar path to what we have taken with structurally deficient bridges. We are going to make a difference, and having that performance metric and that focus is critical. Just as you point out, the tools we have in the toolbox today to not only gather the data, but to do the analytics on it that support our decision making and our investment strategies, are far better than we've ever had before, and getting better all the time. So, I appreciate your recognition and concur with everything that you said.

**Information Only:** No Commission action required.

**ITEM PRESENTED BY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN**

**116. Adjournment Motion**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.**



Approval of the Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting August 1, 2022.

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Gene McKown - Chairman

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Bob Peterson – Vice Chairman