

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING FEBRUARY 16, 2021

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, HELD FEBRUARY 16, 2021 VIA BY VIDEO TELECONFERENCE ONLY PURSUANT TO THE OKLAHOMA OPEN MEETING ACT, AS AMENDED BY SENATE BILL 1031, RECORDED AND AUDIO LIVESTREAMED FROM 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.

Commissioners joined the meeting some by video teleconference.

Special Note: The public access was monitored by ODOT to ensure that if the audio connection was lost or interrupted, the meeting would be stopped and not resumed until an audio connection was restored.

ITEMS PRESENTED BY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. McKown called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

<u>ROLL CALL:</u>	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 February 16, 2021. For those items amended, deferred, or rejected, those notations were also made. Action taken by the Commission is noted here on these sheets.

Chairman McKown recognized Secretary Gatz for some comments.

Secretary Gatz said I want everyone know that former Executive Director of the Department of Transportation and Secretary of Transportation, Mike Patterson, recently lost his father Joe Patterson. He passed away on January the 27th at the age of 95. Mr. Patterson was a pilot; and "A Pilot" is an understatement, he was an exceptional aviator across the course of his career. He flew in World War II, spent a long career in the National Guard and in service, both to the State of Oklahoma and this Country. He was the Department of Transportation's Pilot until his retirement in 1985. So, we wanted to take just a minute and recognize Joe Patterson and acknowledge his passing; and certainly, our condolences to Secretary Patterson and his family. We so appreciate the service that his father rendered to the nation and to the State of Oklahoma, and we will be indebted and grateful to him.

The other announcement this morning is the Pharaoh Award. As you may know, the Pharaoh Award is presented by the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors for the best bridge each year. The winner of the 2020 Pharaoh award this year is the Division 4 Stillwater Residency, for the SH-33 Cottonwood Creek Bridge in Guthrie. This was an exceptional project for the Department of Transportation, and was about an \$18 million undertaking. It is really a beautiful structure, well executed and well done by the Contractor. So, I wanted to recognize the Stillwater Residency and their efforts.

ITEM PRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION

15. Approval of the Minutes of the Transportation Commission Meeting of January 11, 2021

ACTION: Peterson moved and Dyson 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

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

a) Sequoyah County – Commission District I

In Sallisaw, Construction funding for a Signal and Surface project which includes the installation of pedestal-mounted flashing light signals with gate arms and a 32-foot concrete crossing at the intersection of West Port Arthur Place with the Kansas City Southern Railway mainline. Total cost is \$520,250.00

b) Leflore County – Commission District II

Near Heavener, Construction funding for a Signal and Surface project which includes the installation of pedestal-mounted flashing light signals with gate arms and a 32-foot concrete crossing surface at the intersection of Hicks Road with the Kansas City Southern Railway mainline. Total cost is \$442,380.00

c) Leflore County – Commission District II

Near Heavener, Construction funding for a Signal, Surface and Drainage project which includes the installation of pedestal-mounted flashing light signals with gate arms, a 32-foot concrete crossing surface and a 45-foot drainage pipe at the intersection of Hodgens Road with the Kansas City Southern Railway mainline. Total cost is \$453,150.00

d) Washita County – Commission District V

In Cordell, Construction funding for a Signal and Surface project which includes the installation of pedestal-mounted flashing light signals with gate arms and a 24-foot timber crossing surface at the intersection of West 4th Street with the Grainbelt Railroad mainline. Total cost is \$340,325.00

e) Washita County – Commission District V

In Bessie, Construction funding for a Signal and Surface project which includes the installation of pedestal-mounted flashing light signals with gate arms and three 32-foot concrete crossing surface at the intersection of US-183 with the Grainbelt Railroad mainline. Total cost is \$426,251.00

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

- a) Adair County – District 1 - Stilwell – E-0850 – JP32589(84) – KSC - \$59,900.84 - 17.51%
- b) Adair County – District 1 - Baron – E-0754 – JP33075(24) – KSC - \$7,710.84 - 1.58%

18. Safety Improvement Projects - Mr. Pendley

Commissioner Districts II & III & VII

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

- a) One location along US 70 in the Town of Bokchito, Bryan County in District II, to include school zone advanced warning signs with flashing beacons, and pavement marking improvements. Estimated Cost \$8,000.00;
- b) One location along SH 56 in the Town of Cromwell, Seminole County in District III, to include school zone advanced warning signs with flashing beacons, and pavement marking improvement. Estimated Cost \$8,000.00
- c) One location along SH 56, in the Town of Sasakwa, Seminole County in District III, to include school zone advanced warning signs with flashing beacons, and pavement marking improvements. Estimated Cost \$8,000.00
- d) One location along SH 19, in the City of Pauls Valley, Garvin County in District III, to include school entrance advanced warning signs with flashing beacons. Estimated Cost \$16,000.00.
- e) One location along US 281 in the Town of Hinton, Caddo County in District VII, to include school zone advanced warning signs with flashing beacons, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons, and pavement marking improvements. Estimated Cost \$16,000.00
- f) One location along SH 281A in the Town of Geronimo, Comanche County in District VII, to include school zone advanced warning signs with flashing beacons, and pavement marking improvements. Estimated Cost \$8,000.00

The total equipment is estimated to cost \$64,000.00

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

END OF CONSENT DOCKET

ITEMS PRESENTED BY DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING – Mr. Tegeler

19. Engineering Contracts

- a) Statewide – All Districts – On-Demand Traffic Engineering
 - CI-2295A Freese and Nichols, Inc.
 - CI-2295B Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

	CI-2295C	Lee Engineering, LLC	
	CI-2295D	Traffic Engineering Consultants, Inc.	
	Total Aggregate Not to Exceed Amount		\$1,000,000.00
b)	Cherokee County – District I - to prepare construction plans for SH-82: from Sequoyah County Line, north 6.35 miles		
	CI-2269B	CP&Y, Inc.	\$1,161,360.00
c)	Muskogee County – District I - to prepare construction plans for US-64B: over UPRR, 2.5 miles south of US-64B/US-62 junction		
	CI-2261C	Grossman and Keith Engineering Company	\$548,910.00
d)	Wagoner County – District I - to prepare construction plans for US-69: from junction at Muskogee Turnpike, north 5.1 miles		
	CI-2266D	HNTB Corporation	\$637,499.00
e)	Garvin County – District III - to prepare construction plans for I-35: from 4.21 miles north of SH-7, north 6.19 miles to SH-29 (northbound only)		
	CI-2263C	MacArthur Associated Consultants, LLC	\$554,505.00
f)	Okfuskee County – District III - to prepare construction plans for SH-84: over Bad and Unnamed Creek, 3.2 miles east of the US-75 junction		
	CI-2269E	Tetra Tech, Inc.	\$452,910.00
g)	Garfield County – District IV - to prepare construction plans for SH-74: from US-412, north 3.5 miles through Garber		
	CI-2263E	TEIM Design, PLLC	\$773,125.00
h)	Grant County – District IV - to prepare construction plans for US-60: from US-81, extending east 8.0 miles		
	CI-2268A	Atkins North America, Inc.	\$785,713.00
i)	Kay County – District IV - to prepare construction plans for I-35: from north of Hubbard Road, north approximately 4.75 miles to north of Adobe Road, I-35: from the Salt Fork River, north approximately 6.0 miles to north of Hubbard Road, and I-35: from north of US-177, north approximately 3.75 miles to the Kansas State Line		
	CI-2263D	Smith Roberts Baldischwiler, LLC	\$2,142,970.00
j)	Kingfisher County – District IV - to prepare construction plans for US-81: from 0.5 miles north of the Canadian County line, extending north 4.7 miles		
	CI-2263A	Atkins North America, Inc.	\$429,600.00

- k) Beckham County – District V - to prepare construction plans for SH-6: beginning 0.1 mile south of 7th street and extending north 0.4 miles to I-40B in Elk City
- | | | |
|----------|-------------------|--------------|
| CI-2266E | TEIM Design, PLLC | \$395,675.00 |
|----------|-------------------|--------------|
- l) Alfalfa County – District VI - to prepare construction plans for US-64: beginning at the junction of US-64/SH-8, extending east approximately 7.2 miles
- | | | |
|----------|-------------------|--------------|
| CI-2269D | TEIM Design, PLLC | \$663,450.00 |
|----------|-------------------|--------------|
- m) Grady County – District VII - to provide preliminary engineering and prepare construction plans for SH-4: at Fox Lane (EW 122), 2.24 miles north of I-44
- | | | |
|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| CI-2270A | CEC Corporation | \$330,235.00 |
|----------|-----------------|--------------|
- n) Stephens County – District VII - to provide preliminary engineering and prepare construction plans for US-81: at the US-81/SH-7 junction south of Marlow (Lawton/Duncan WYE)
- | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------|
| CI-2270B | Freese and Nichols, Inc. | \$248,245.00 |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------|
- o) Creek County – District VIII - to prepare construction plans for SH-48: beginning at Creek/Okfuskee County line, extending north 6.5 miles
- | | | |
|----------|------------------|----------------|
| CI-2268C | Tetra Tech, Inc. | \$1,166,590.00 |
|----------|------------------|----------------|
- p) Ottawa County – District VIII - to prepare construction plans for SH-10: from junction SH-10/SH-137, east 5.0 miles to junction SH-10C.
- | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| CI-2269C | MacArthur Associated Consultants, LLC | \$735,670.00 |
|----------|---------------------------------------|--------------|

ACTION: Dyson moved and Freymiller 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 asked on Items 19 o) and 19 p) what these projects consist of.*

Mr. Tegeler said both projects are a widen and resurface, which consists of roadway, geotechnical, traffic and some environmental studies. Item 19 p) is just a little shorter in length and has some bridges involved.

20. Engineering Contract Supplements

- a) Cleveland County – District III - to perform preliminary engineering for a corridor study on I-35: corridor traffic study from 4th Street to Tecumseh Road (For Indian Hills Road interchange)
- | | | | |
|---------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| EC-1610 | Supplement 2 | EST, Inc. | \$215,658.00 |
|---------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
- b) Garvin County – District III - to perform preliminary engineering and prepare final design plans for SH-76 from SH-19, north 8.0 Miles into McClain County
- | | | | |
|---------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| EC-1331 | Supplement 1 | CEC Corporation | \$18,435.00 |
|---------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|

- c) Grady County – District VII - to perform preliminary engineering and to prepare final design plans for US-81 from 1 mile north of the US-81/US-277 junction south of Chickasha extending northwest on new alignment 8.63 miles to 0.85 miles north of the US-62/US-81 junction

EC-1715 Supplement 5 Triad Design Group, Inc. \$389,050.00

- d) Delaware County – District VIII - to perform preliminary engineering and to prepare final design plans for SH-116: from approximately 2 miles east of US-59, extending east approximately 2.2 miles

CI-2074 Supplement 2 Craig & Keithline, Inc. \$100,000.00

- e) Tulsa County – District VIII - to perform preliminary engineering and to prepare final design plans for US-75 over 81st street south, northbound and southbound, 7 miles north junction of US-75/SH-67

EC-1847 Supplement 3 Benham Design, LLC \$111,000.00

ACTION: Peterson 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

ITEMS PRESENTED BY CONSTRUCTION DIVISION ENGINEER – Mr. Leonard

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

- a) Alfalfa County - SH-8/SH-45 - STP-102B(025)SS / 17668(10), \$19,855.00, 0.20%
- b) Beaver County - Co. Rd. - STP-204C(031)CI / 30500(04), \$43,090.17, 3.17%
- c) Carter County - Co. Rd. - CIRB-210D(076)RB / CIRB-210D(071)RB / 30455(04), \$6,426.61, 0.51%
- d) Cleveland County - SH-9 - TAP-214D(101)AG / 33270(04), \$59,968.99, 8.13%
- e) Comanche County - I-44 - STP-216F(082)PM / 28782(05), \$13,853.76, 2.39%
- f) Custer County - SH-33 - SSP-220B(064)SS / 28772(04), \$48,000.00, 0.69%
- g) Delaware County - Co. Rd. - STP-221D(048)CI / 29897(04), \$4,185.00, 0.41%
- h) Dewey County - Co. Rd. - CIRB-222C(026)RB / 28699(04), \$17,250.00, 0.19%
- i) Garvin County - Co. Rd. - STP-125C(153)CI / 24718(04), \$2,189.95, 0.42%
- j) Grady County - US-81 - SSP-011N(106)RW / 24428(19), #1, \$3,000.00, 2.88%
- k) Grady County - US-81 - SSP-011N(106)RW / 24428(19), #2, \$4,740.00, 4.55%
- l) Grady County - US-62 - STP-NBIP(532)PM / 30079(04), \$2,600.00, 0.37%
- m) Jackson County - US-62/US-62 EB - SBR-020N(048)SB / SBR-020N(047)SB / 32726(04), \$23,901.53, 1.01%
- n) Logan County - I-40 - STP-252F(069)PM / 24238(10), \$2,771.71, 1.52%
- o) Logan County - US-77 - SSR-242B(074)SR / SSR-242B(075)SR / 33803(04), \$0.00, 0.00%
- p) Marshall County - Co. Rd. - STP-248D(044)CI / 29305(04), \$20,887.96, 3.16%
- q) McIntosh County - US-69 - HSIPG-246N(011)TR / 30787(04), \$197,470.67, -5.22%
Underrun
- r) Murray County - SH-7 WB - SBR-3500(080)SB / 31309(04), \$6,226.30, 0.30%
- s) Muskogee County - US-69 - NHPP-013N(172)PM / 33876(04), \$22,567.17, 1.53%
- t) Oklahoma County - SH-152 W-N RAMP - SBR-4400(074)SB / 33747(04), \$75,000.00, 12.29%
- u) Ottawa County - US-59 - SSR-258B(056)SR / SSR-258B(057)SR / 33376(04), \$38,552.98, 1.89%

- v) Rogers County - Co. Rd. - STP-266D(064)CI / STP-266D(065)CI / 30713(04), \$4,385.04, 0.32%
- w) Rogers County - US-169 - NHPP-030N(078)3P / 32718(04), \$550.00, 0.03%
- x) Rogers County - US-169 - STP-272F(228)3B / 33220(04), \$107,786.70, -6.82% Underrun
- y) Seminole County - US-270 - STP-267B(076)PM / 28923(04), \$3,146.79, 0.18%
- z) Seminole County - SH-9 - STP-267C(051)PM / STP-267C(064)PM / 28943(04), \$40,690.49, 0.97%
- aa) Texas County - Co. Rd. - CIRB-270C(038)RB / STP-270C(037)CI / 28465(11), \$80,330.46, -1.36% Underrun
- bb) Wagoner County - Co. Rd. - ACSTP-273C(048)CI / 28504(04), \$4,035.26, -0.27% Underrun
- cc) Woods County - Co. Rd. - CIRB-176C(151)RB / 25493(04), \$1,890.00, 0.05%
- dd) Woods County - SH-50 - STP-276C(041)AD / 33412(04), \$1,250.00, 0.36%
- ee) Woodward County - US-412 - NHPP-019N(140)3P / 31767(04), \$43,385.00, 0.90%

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

- a) Beckham County - SH-6 - STP-205B(076)PM / ACNHPP-4000(061)PM / 30998(04), \$7,385.80, 0.03%
- b) Cimarron County - US-64 - NHPP-034N(001)PM / 20941(04), #8, \$7,025.26, 0.07%
- c) Cimarron County - US-64 - NHPP-034N(001)PM / 20941(04), #9, \$98,022.43, 0.91%
- d) Cleveland County - Ct. St. - STP-214B(091)AG / 30606(04), \$6,945.44, 0.47%
- e) Coal County - US-75 - SSR-215B(032)SR / 34584(04), \$97,200.00, 2.32%
- f) Cotton County - Co. Rd. - CIRB-217C(042)RB / 29800(04), \$14,055.53, 0.27%
- g) Creek County - SH-33 - SSP-219B(063)PM / 27083(04), \$2,800.00, 0.30%
- h) Garfield County - US-60 - STP-224B(058)SS / STP-224B(059)SS / 27981(04), \$389,574.90, 2.23%
- i) Garvin County - Co. Rd. - CIRB-225C(073)RB / CIRB-225C(074)RB / 27848(04), \$85,448.32, -1.68% Underrun
- j) LeFlore County - US-271 - STP-240N(079)PM / 31289(04), \$151,479.67, 9.01%
- k) Logan County - US-77 - STP-242C(055)PM / 27103(04), \$2,889.12, 0.05%
- l) Marshall County - Co. Rd. - CIRB-248C(034)RB / 29986(04), \$3,799.99, 0.15%
- m) Mayes County - SH-28 - SSP-249C(049)SS / SSP-249C(052)SS / 31884(05), \$34,698.00, 0.25%
- n) McClain County - I-35 - NHPPI-3500-(077)PM / 29734(04), \$75,535.26, 0.45%
- o) Oklahoma County - I-235 - NHPPI-2350-(009)PM / 09033(27), #7, \$43,620.70, 0.04%
- p) Oklahoma County - I-235 - NHPPI-2350-(009)PM / 09033(27), #14, \$1,260,000.00, 1.25%
- q) Oklahoma County - I-35 - NHPPI-3500-(066)FP / 27897(04), \$888,871.68, 3.04%
- r) Oklahoma County - I-44 - NHPPI-4400-(037)PM / NHPPI-4400-(039)PM / NHPPI-4400-(040)PM / NHPPI-4400-(041)PM / NHPPI-4400-(042)PM / NHPPI-4400-(043)PM / 31006(04), #4, \$3,257.52, -0.01% Underrun
- s) Oklahoma County - I-44 - NHPPI-4400-(037)PM / NHPPI-4400-(039)PM / NHPPI-4400-(040)PM / NHPPI-4400-(041)PM / NHPPI-4400-(042)PM / NHPPI-4400-(043)PM / 31006(04), #5, \$100,000.00, 0.36%
- t) Okmulgee County - US-75 - NHPP-256N(024)SS / 21740(04), \$13,431.20, 0.05%
- u) Pawnee County - US-64 - STP-159C(077)SS / 24323(04), \$358,136.91, 3.82%
- v) Pottawatomie County - SH-3E - STP-263C(066)PM / 28922(04), \$101,553.76, 3.94%
- w) Rogers County - I-44 - NHPPI-0044-2(422)238 / 20315(04), \$13,074.66, 0.06%
- x) Rogers County - Ct. St. - STP-266B(072)IG / 33314(04), \$55,817.68, 6.90%
- y) Stephens County - SH-53 - STP-269C(057)PM / 27967(04), \$155,000.00, 3.30%
- z) Texas County - SH-136 - STP-170C(123)SS / STP-170C(127)PM / 24241(04), \$184,044.80, 1.03%
- aa) Tulsa County - SH-11 - NHPPI-2440-(018)PM / NHPP-272N(245)PM / 29076(04), \$99,659.00, 1.18%
- bb) Washita County - US-183 - MC-009N(102)MD / 34770(04), \$1,628.00, 0.11%

cc) Woodward County - Ct. St. - ACSTP-277C(043)UR / ACSTP-277D(044)UR / TAP-277D(041)TP / 29799(04), \$329,914.93, 3.86%

ACTION: Coburn 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

ITEMS PRESENTED BY THE COMPTROLLER DIVISION

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

- a) Final April, 2021 Proposed Bid Opening
- b) Tentative May, 2021 Proposed Bid Opening
- c) Tentative June, 2021 Proposed Bid Opening

ACTION: Shannon moved and Freymiller 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 COORDINATOR OF EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION- Ms. Moore

24. Amendments to Department Administrative Rules

- a) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:1-3-7 Meeting agenda; Unanimous Consent Docket
- b) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:1-5-4 Manuals, maps, printed matter, records
- c) Approval to Revoke the OAC Rule No.: 730:10-7 County Bridge and Road Improvement Program
- d) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:10-23-4 Use of Funds
- e) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:15-3-1 Commission dedications and commendations
- f) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:20-1-2 Acquisition and clearance of right-of-way
- g) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:35-7-4 Speed and vehicle restrictions on fully controlled access highways
- h) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:35-9-3 Warranting conditions for lighting
- i) Approval to Amend the OAC Rule No.: 730:40-5-3 Requirement and criteria

ACTION: Grimsley 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

NOTE: *Chairman McKown asked if any of these amendments include increasing the Change Orders from \$75,000 to \$150,000. I know we had talked about this may be coming.*

Secretary Gatz said the approval of the item that allowed for us to increase the Change Order amount is already in place; but we have not triggered that to this point; and we would not do so without further, pretty extensive, discussion with the Commission about whether or not we are ready to do that.

ITEM PRESENTED BY THE OFFICE ENGINEER – Mr. Delce

25. Awards

January 21, 2021 – Regular Letting

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

ITEM PRESENTED BY THE DIRECTOR – Mr. Gatz

26. Director's Report

Secretary Gatz talked about the historical nature of the inclement weather. We have had crews out in all 77 counties; that is a rare occurrence, normally these types of winter storms are a little bit regional in nature, and we don't have everybody out all at the same time; but this one we have! We are fully prepared for what may transpire over this afternoon, evening and into tomorrow. We have got plenty of salt and sand supplies and our equipment is ready to go. We have got 1500 workers and about 700 pieces of equipment across the state between ODOT and OTA that will engage, are engaged and have been engaged. Our employees have been working really hard over the last 10 days; in addition, our 3rd party construction contractors have agreed and helped make sure that we are taking care of the highways to the best of our abilities. We will stay on the job pretty much around the clock until we have got all the highways dry and clear after the coming storm. We ask the public for their patience; every weather event is a little bit different. This storm is one of the most significant events that I have ever seen; it has been hard on our equipment, hard on our people and I just want to give a shout out to all the folks that have really worked so hard to keep the highways in as good of condition as we have been able to keep them. Again, every storm is a little bit different, but this one with the brutally cold temperatures has been especially challenging, because last week we got highways treated and cleared after some inclement weather, and that has had a little bit of a residual effect and has actually caused some of the snow we received over the weekend to adhere a little bit tighter to the pavement, but we are working on clearing that. We still ask the traveling public to exercise an abundance of caution as they travel around the state and try to limit their travel; especially into what we are going to experience this afternoon and into Wednesday.

Since February 8th the Department has conducted over 50 interviews with Oklahoma news media and we put out about 40 traffic advisories. Our Media and Public Relation folks have stayed engaged with our field personnel to make sure we were keeping the media outlets up to speed with what's going on. I want to extend our deepest thank you and appreciation to the media outlets because they have done an exceptional job of keeping the public informed about the conditions that are out there on the highway system. I don't know what we would do without their partnership in making sure the public is as informed about the current conditions as they can be.

Our road conditions app has seen off the chart usage, www.okroads.org, and the Drive Oklahoma mobile app, has got a tremendous amount of information on road conditions and certainly encourage everybody to check that out if they are planning on traveling. Our snowplow cameras are extremely popular and that's another tool in the toolbox to help advise the traveling public on what the conditions are like. As this next storm comes in, we would ask the traveling public to be patient with us; as it ends, it's going to take us a while to get it clear.

He said regarding federal transportation funding, the Department is working to sub-allocate some of the \$154 million in federal COVID-19 relief funding that ODOT received to Oklahoma's metropolitan areas, public transit providers and counties to help sustain critical transportation operations. We will have to invest some of those dollars into our Asset Preservation Program; I can't emphasize enough the impact that 2 weeks' worth of subfreezing weather conditions are going to have on our pavement structures.

He commented that on the state budget outlook and opportunities for working with lawmakers on state transportation funding this current legislative session. He noted that Governor Kevin Stitt's executive budget proposes restoration of the full statutory fuel tax appropriation to ODOT and possible use of bonds to cover the \$180 million reduction to the Rebuilding Oklahoma Access and Driver Safety Fund scheduled for 2022.

He thanked the Commissioners for awarding the contract for construction of a new Port of Entry weigh station on US-69/75 near the Texas state line in Bryan County. This new state-of-the-art facility is important in both protecting our infrastructure and the safety of the traveling public. It will weigh and inspect commercial trucks coming into the state from Texas and a virtual weigh station will be added on the southbound lanes to weigh trucks while in motion. The US-69/75 corridor carries interstate levels of traffic and a high percentage of commercial truck traffic.

Secretary Gatz was pleased to report that the SH-28 Bridge at the Pensacola Dam between Disney and Langley was reopened on January 31st more than 1 month ahead of schedule. The next closure, as part of the ongoing bridge rehabilitation project, will begin in late March, allowing a scheduled community event at the dam location to proceed and to take place. The ODOT project is again in partnership with the Grand River Dam Authority and is addressing a facility that is actually part of that dam and the overflow that was in desperate need of some deferred maintenance.

Also, he noted that the Kickapoo Turnpike in Eastern Oklahoma county is now fully open and passable between I-44/Turner Turnpike and I-40. The south segment of the new turnpike opened ahead of schedule and remains under construction by OTA through the spring. He stated this a real game changer project for being able to move traffic around the Oklahoma City metropolitan area and the Turnpike Authority is excited to have it open.

He informed the Commission that the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The 50th anniversary kick off is going to be February 19th and we are working in conjunction with the Arkansas Waterway Commission, the US Army Corps of Engineers, along with our partner port authorities and port operators, to put together an extended celebration where we recognize the significance of the McClellan-Kerr and its importance to Oklahoma.

He said we have kicked off ODOT and OTA's new driver safety education and awareness effort, "Make Safety Stick: Everybody Click." This year-round education and awareness effort are focusing on educating drivers and encouraging behaviors that reduce crashes and save lives, including seatbelt use, attentive driving and proper merging.

Throughout February we are highlighting engineering innovations that improve traffic safety, like new intersection and interchange designs. This month's messaging is well-timed, as the last week in February is National Engineers Week, and a great time to recognize the engineering profession at ODOT, and the folks who dedicate their lives to making our transportation system safer and more efficient.

In closing I want to show how much we appreciate the dedication of our workforce and their efforts out there on the front lines, the boots on the ground folks, and everybody that works behind the scenes to keep the public safe and keep the highways passable during what has been some extremely challenging conditions here over the last 9-10 days. Our folks have done an exceptional job taking care of business, everybody from the guys in the trucks, the support staff, and to the mechanics. I want to tell you that cold weather conditions are exceptionally hard on equipment, and having to work on a snow plow or truck that comes in wet, dirty and covered with ice, our mechanics have just done a fantastic job of keeping that equipment operating. I can't thank them enough for everything that they do for Oklahoma.

He informed the Commissioners that the March Commission Meeting will again be a virtual meeting.

Information Only: No Commission action required.

Chairman McKown gave a shout of appreciation to Commissioner, James Grimsley for what he's doing in the drone industry; and for keeping Oklahoma on the cutting edge. That's one of the fastest growing major businesses in the United States today.

Secretary Gatz said I agree wholeheartedly; Commissioner Grimsley has been instrumental, along with the Choctaw Nation, in really bringing a focus on the unmanned aerial systems to Oklahoma. I couldn't be more appreciative and more excited. I would tell you, and certainly offer the opportunity for Commissioner Grimsley to add to this, but Oklahoma's future as a leader in this area is really, really bright. I think the Choctaw Nation got us out of the starting box quickly and we are only going to experience further growth; really exciting times for the state!

Commissioner Grimsley thanked Secretary Gatz and Chairman McKown for their comments. We are very excited too; I think Oklahoma is well-positioned, and the changes that we are going to see is happening pretty quickly and we are forecasting that this decade is going to be remarkable! Mr. Secretary has already been working with the AV Steering Committee and there's some exciting work there; but we have a lot of common problems between the ground, the changes with electric propulsion, electric vehicles, as well as the electrification of flight. We have a lot of common challenges that we are starting to merge and think across those boundaries now in Oklahoma and I think we are actually one of the first states to start thinking more holistically, it is going to set us ahead. This will mean jobs and opportunity for the next 30, 40, 50 years. So that's something that we are really excited about; but thank you for recognition and the most exciting times are still ahead. I'm just happy that we are moving in that direction, thank you!

Ms. Riddle reported that ODOT had been monitoring the public audio connection; and it was reported that the public audio connection has been maintained throughout the meeting.

ITEM PRESENTED BY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

27. Adjournment Motion

ACTION: Shannon moved and Dyson 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 11:51 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes of the Special Transportation Commission Meeting February 16, 2021.

Gene McKown – Chairman

Bob Peterson – Vice Chairman