

From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 4/22/2022 9:01:16 PM
To: Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MEDIA ADVISORY: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 26



Strategic Communications Friday, April 22, 2022

Contact: James Poling
405-521-6000 | www.pikepass.com
[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) @OKTurnpike

Media Advisory

Oklahoma Turnpike Authority board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 26

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's monthly board meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 26, in the R.A. Ward Transportation Building, 200 N.E. 21st St., Oklahoma City. Items to be addressed at the meeting include:

- The board will consider approval of an agreement with Wells Fargo Bank for a \$200 million line of credit to help provide interim financing for upcoming turnpike projects in the ACCESS Oklahoma program.
- Secretary of Transportation Tim Gatz will recognize two turnpike workers for their heroism while directing traffic during a recent snow storm.
- Board members will consider approval of a new 80 mph speed limit on a segment of SH-375/Indian Nation Turnpike near McAlester following recent safety improvements and speed studies.
- They are also expected to vote on whether to award a nearly \$4 million contract for pavement rehabilitation on I-44/Turner Turnpike near Stroud.

The full agenda may be viewed [here](#).

The public may watch the board meeting video livestream at <https://video.ibm.com/channel/jsW2fC3uurE>. The meeting will be recorded, captioned and available to the public online later.

The board, a six-member panel appointed by the governor to an eight-year term to oversee turnpike development, awards project contracts for road and bridge construction on a monthly basis.

Please click everyone's seat belt each and every time you drive.
Check www.oktraffic.org for real-time traffic information
OTA strongly discourages texting or tweeting while driving.

Oklahoma Transportation
Strategic Communications
Phone: 405-521-6000, email: SCinbox@odot.org

This email was sent to carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Oklahoma Department of Transportation · 200 NE 21st Street · Oklahoma City, OK 73105

From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 4/22/2022 9:01:13 PM
To: Charlie Hannema [charlie.hannema@gov.ok.gov]
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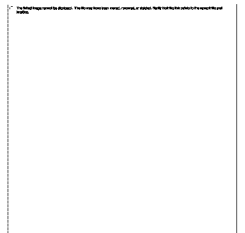
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This email was sent to charlie.hannema@gov.ok.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Oklahoma Department of Transportation · 200 NE 21st Street · Oklahoma City, OK 73105



From: Oklahoma House of Representatives [okhouse@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 4/27/2022 10:03:38 PM
To: Ashley Crall [ashley.crall@ltgov.ok.gov]
Subject: RELEASE: Sterling Passes Legislation Requiring OTA Studies, Report on Proposed Norman Turnpike

Communications & Public Affairs
April 27, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Rep. Danny Sterling
Phone: (405) 557-7349

***Sterling Passes Legislation Requiring OTA Studies, Report on
Proposed Norman Turnpike***

Bill would also give Legislature authority to modify location of turnpike

OKLAHOMA CITY – Rep. Danny Sterling, R-Tecumseh, secured passage Wednesday of legislation requiring the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) to provide a detailed report on the planned turnpike through eastern Norman and give the Legislature authority to modify the authorization for construction or location of the turnpike.

Senate Bill 1610, which was amended by floor substitute, requires the OTA to conduct a study and create a report consisting of certain information in regards to the proposed construction of the South Extension Turnpike, Outer Loop-East-West Connector Turnpike or any part of the turnpike that would pass through any portion of the City of Norman.

"My constituents affected by this proposed turnpike have hundreds of questions that remain unanswered regarding the turnpike's effect on their homes, neighborhoods, livelihoods, natural resources and way of life," Sterling said. "This bill, if signed into law, would hopefully answer many of these lingering questions and ultimately grant the Legislature power to modify the location of the proposed turnpike as the Legislature sees appropriate."

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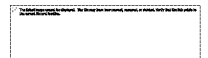
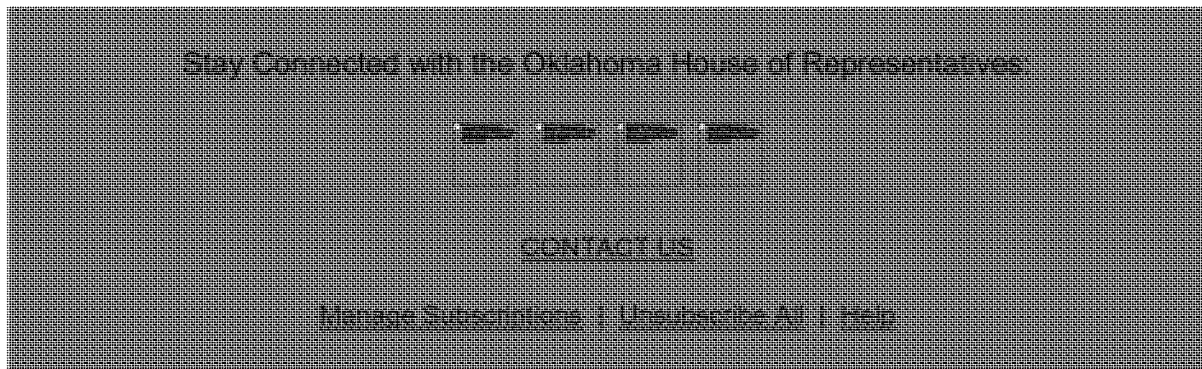
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If signed into law, OTA would be required to give two copies of the completed study and report to the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives at least one year prior to issuing bonds for the construction on the indicated turnpike or extensions.

Additionally, SB1610 codifies that upon receiving the report, the Legislature has the authority to modify the authorization for construction or the location of the turnpike.

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Sent: 4/27/2022 10:03:38 PM
To: Baylee Williams [baylee.williams@gov.ok.gov]
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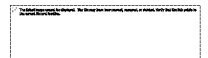
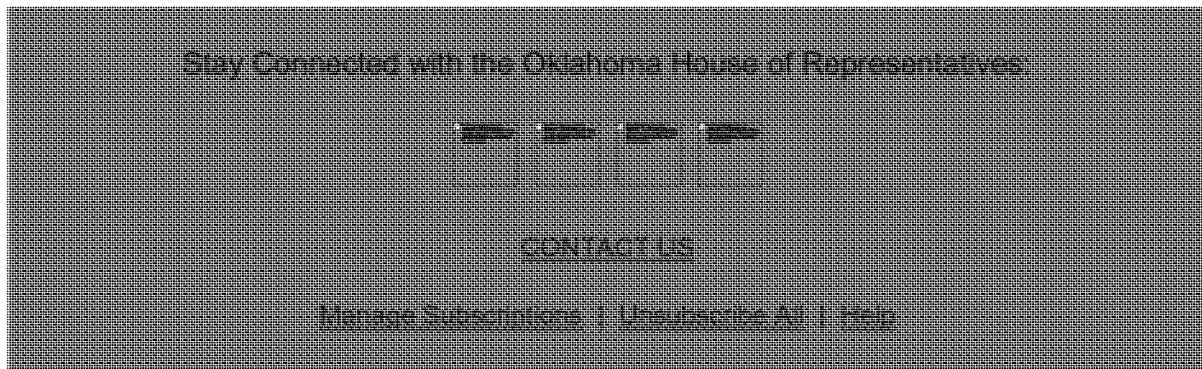
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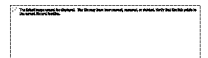
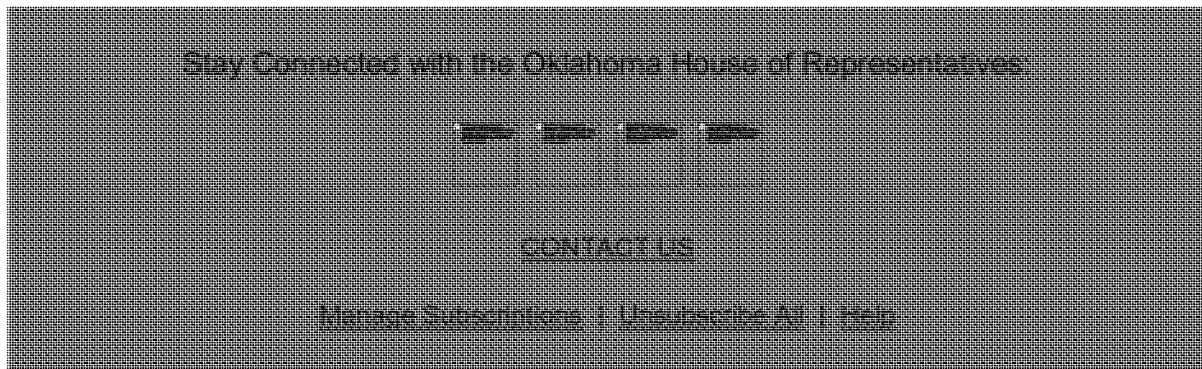
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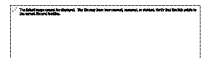
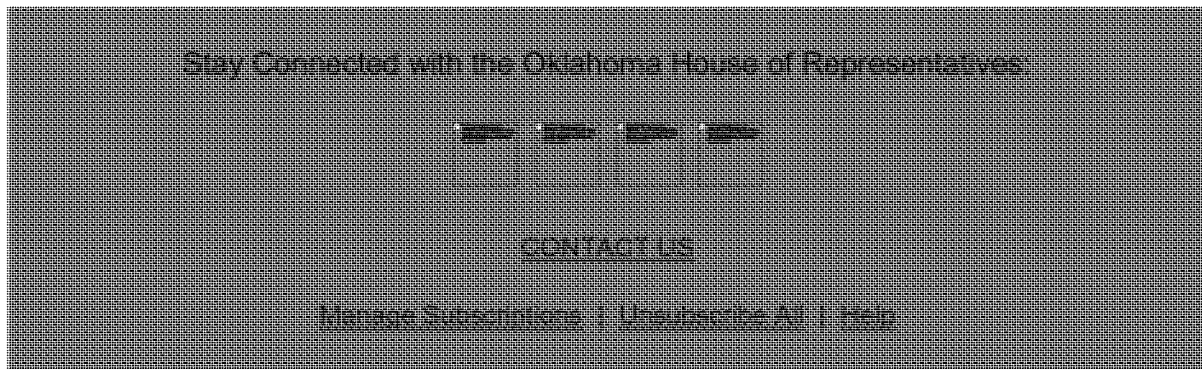
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Sent: 4/27/2022 10:03:38 PM
To: Chase Horn [chase.horn@gov.ok.gov]
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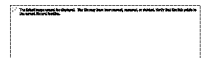
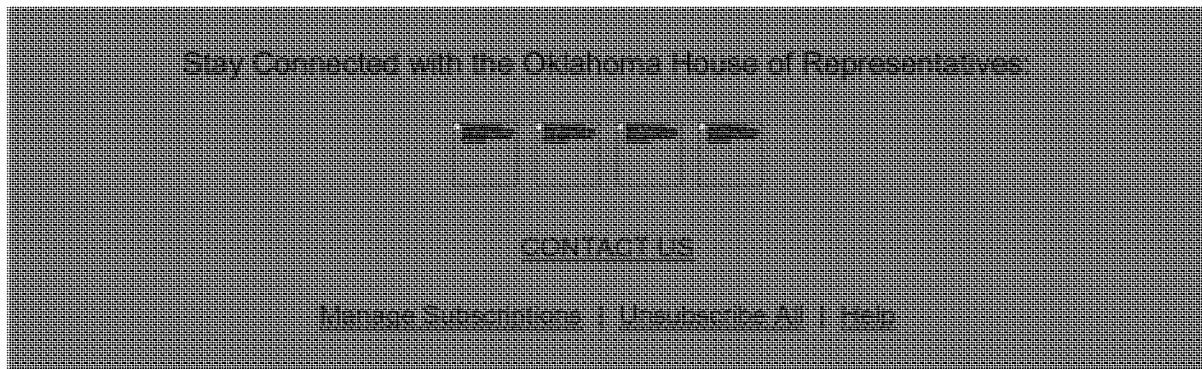
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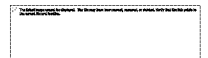
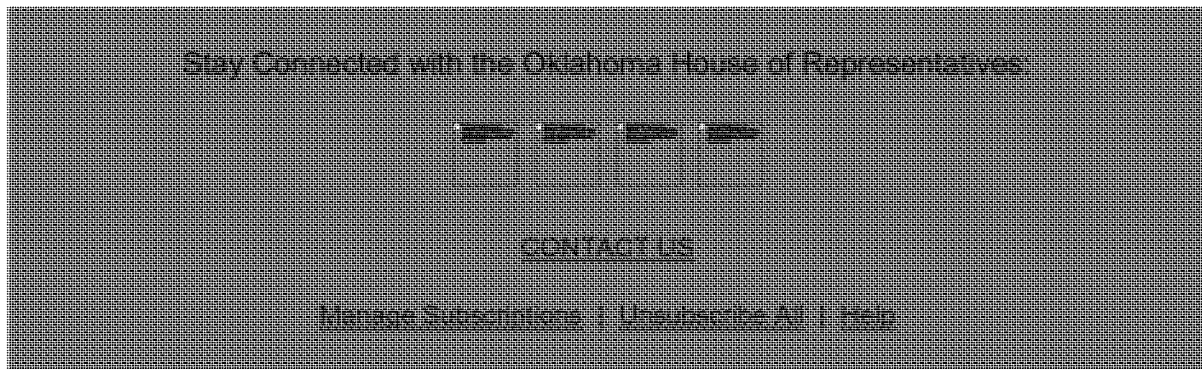
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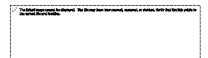
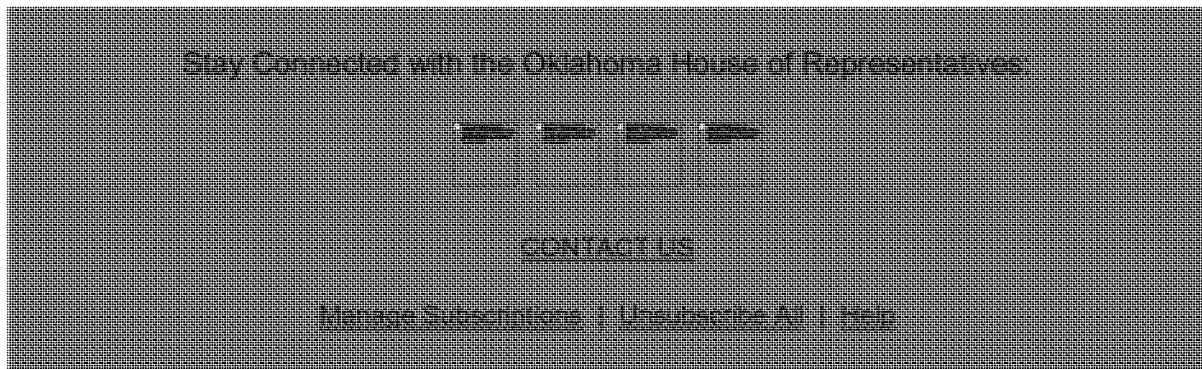
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Sent: 4/27/2022 10:03:38 PM
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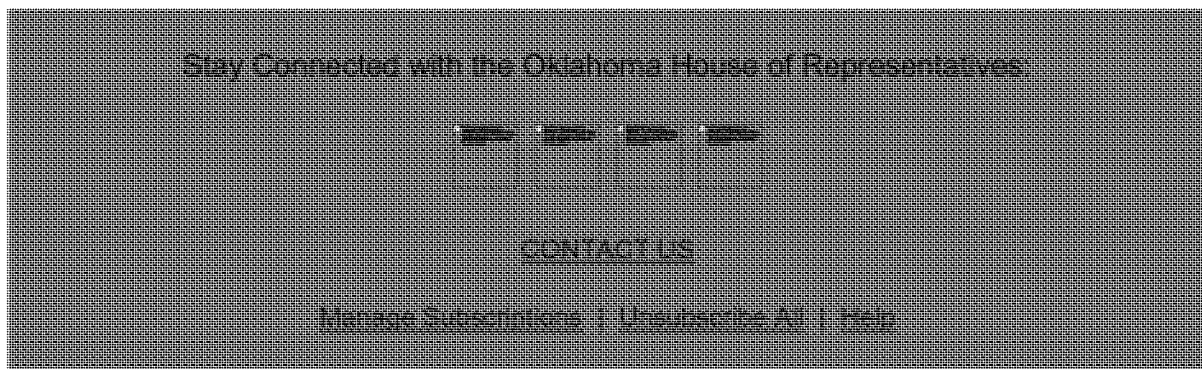
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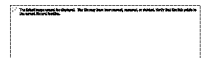
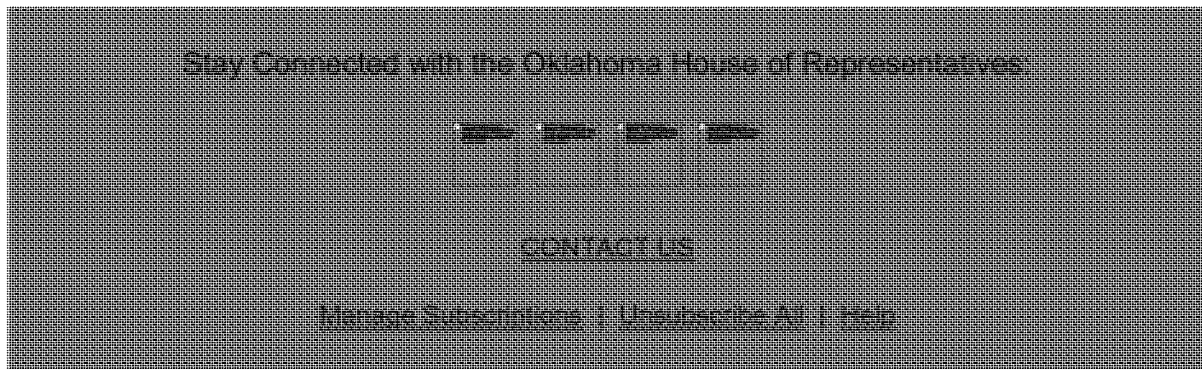
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-END-



From: Oklahoma House of Representatives [okhouse@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 4/27/2022 10:03:38 PM
To: Karlee Gholson [karlee.gholson@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RELEASE: Sterling Passes Legislation Requiring OTA Studies, Report on Proposed Norman Turnpike

Communications & Public Affairs
April 27, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Contact: Rep. Danny Sterling
Phone: (405) 557-7349

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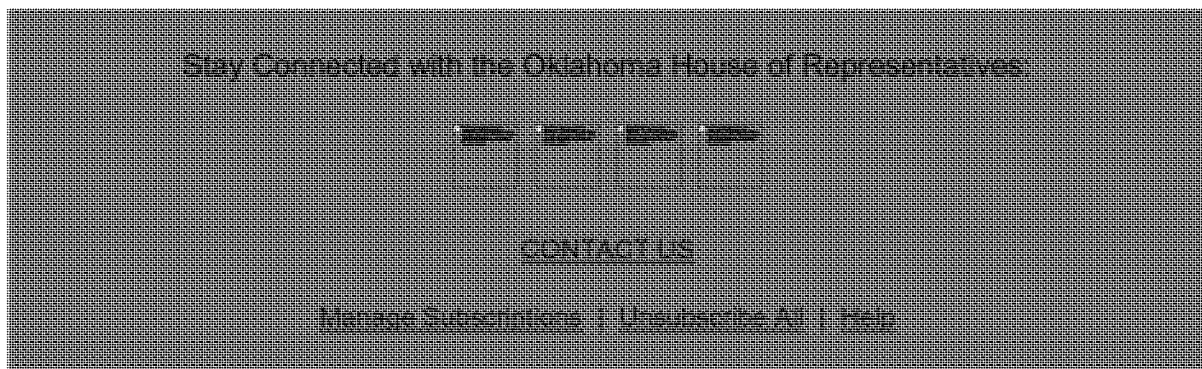
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From: Oklahoma House of Representatives [okhouse@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 4/27/2022 10:03:38 PM
To: Megan Trantham [megan.trantham@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RELEASE: Sterling Passes Legislation Requiring OTA Studies, Report on Proposed Norman Turnpike

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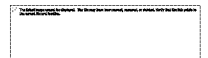
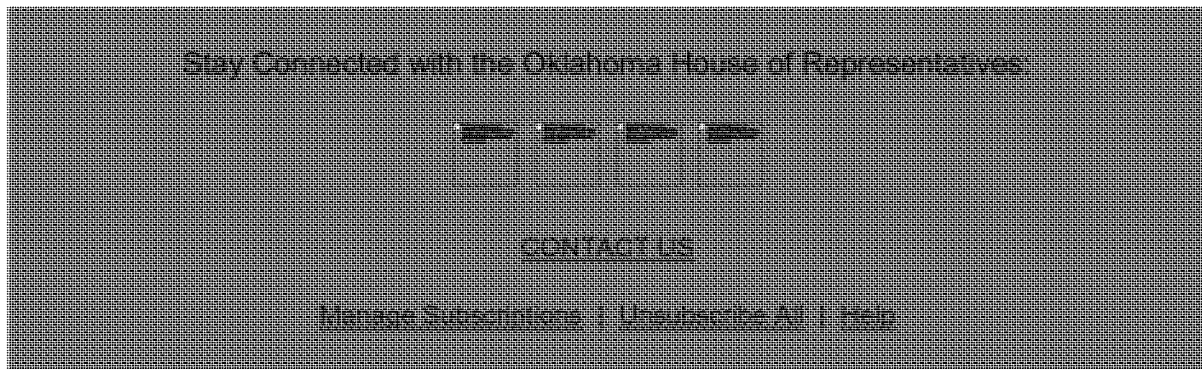
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Sent: 4/27/2022 10:03:38 PM
To: Michaela Lembeck [michaela.lembeck@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RELEASE: Sterling Passes Legislation Requiring OTA Studies, Report on Proposed Norman Turnpike

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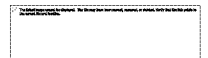
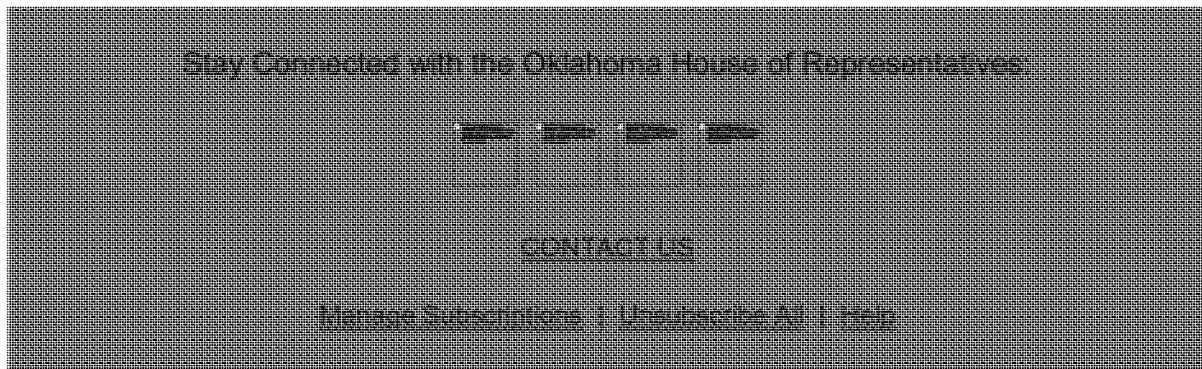
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Sent: 4/27/2022 10:03:38 PM
To: Saxon Allton [saxon.allton@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RELEASE: Sterling Passes Legislation Requiring OTA Studies, Report on Proposed Norman Turnpike

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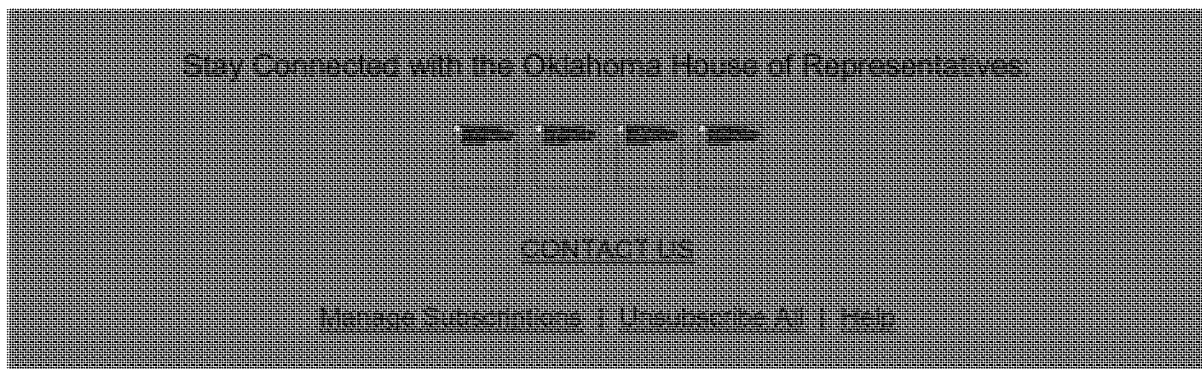
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Sent: 4/27/2022 10:03:38 PM
To: Susan Winchester [susan.winchester@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RELEASE: Sterling Passes Legislation Requiring OTA Studies, Report on Proposed Norman Turnpike

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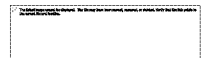
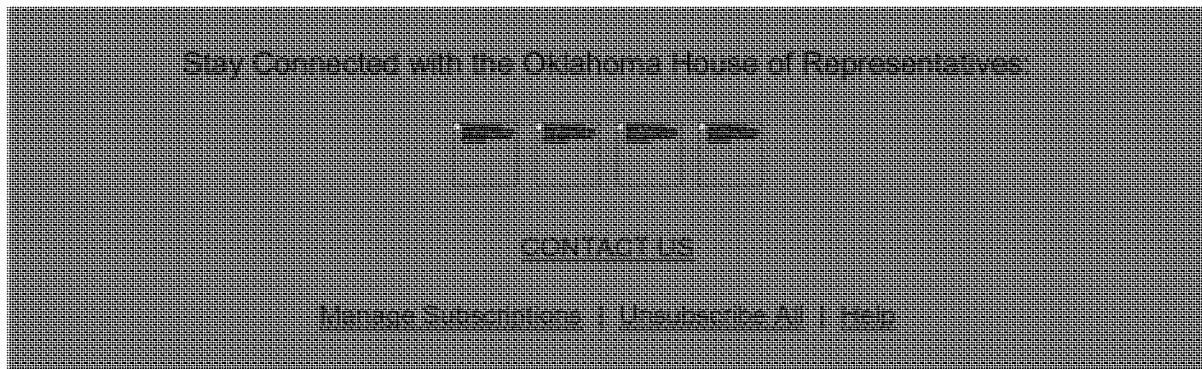
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From: Oklahoma House of Representatives [okhouse@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 4/27/2022 10:03:38 PM
To: Zachary Lee [zachary.lee@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RELEASE: Sterling Passes Legislation Requiring OTA Studies, Report on Proposed Norman Turnpike

Communications & Public Affairs
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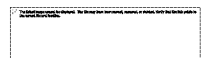
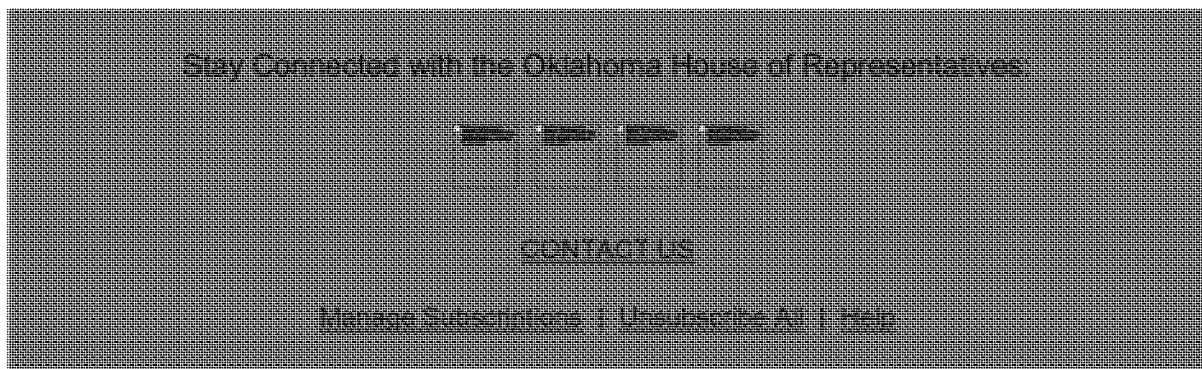
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From: Oklahoma Senate Communications [oksenatecomms@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 4/29/2022 2:25:09 PM
To: Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Boren supports objections to OTA's credit application

Immediate Release: April 29, 2022

Boren supports objections to OTA's credit application

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Attorney Norman pointed out that the authorizing statute for the East-West connector running along the north edge of Norman has specific bonding requirements put in place by the Legislature in 1987, and that the OTA's Access Oklahoma Plan violates those requirements.

Boren has voiced her strong opposition in recent weeks to two proposed projects in her district. The first is a 29-mile southern extension of the Kickapoo Turnpike running from I-40 in Oklahoma City to I-35 near Purcell, which would run through the eastern part of Norman as well as through other nearby communities. The other project is a 28-mile outer loop east to west connector from the I-44 Tri-City area, which includes Newcastle, Blanchard, and Tuttle, then east to I-35 and then east to I-40, running through Moore and Norman. Both are part of the 15-year, \$5 billion turnpike expansion plan called ACCESS Oklahoma.

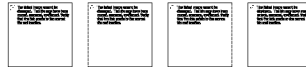
[Dowling Bond Council Objection.pdf](#)

[Norman Bond Council 1705f Objection.pdf](#)

-END-

For more information, contact: Sen. Boren: (405) 521-5553 or
Mary.Boren@oksenate.gov

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Sent: 4/29/2022 2:25:08 PM
To: Christianne Haas [christianne.haas@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Boren supports objections to OTA's credit application

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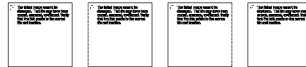
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Sent: 4/29/2022 2:25:09 PM
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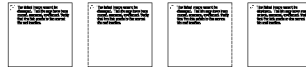
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Sent: 4/29/2022 2:25:08 PM
To: Emma Sherry [emma.sherry@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Boren supports objections to OTA's credit application

Immediate Release: April 29, 2022

Boren supports objections to OTA's credit application

Oklahoma City - Sen. Mary Boren voiced her support for objections to the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's (OTA) \$200 million line of credit application that was filed this week with the Council of Bond Oversight. Attorneys for Norman homeowners and members of the nonprofit Pike Off OTA filed objections, which focused on the OTA's lack of legal authority to build the turnpikes in Norman that could threaten the property and livelihoods of thousands of Oklahomans. The Norman Democrat said she hopes the Council of Bond Oversight realizes the serious legal defects in the OTA's request for funding.

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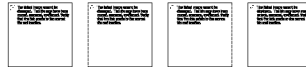
[Dowling Bond Council Objection.pdf](#)

[Norman Bond Council 1705f Objection.pdf](#)

-END-

For more information, contact: Sen. Boren: (405) 521-5553 or
Mary.Boren@oksenate.gov

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Sent: 4/29/2022 2:25:08 PM
To: Evan Brown [evan.brown@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Boren supports objections to OTA's credit application

Immediate Release: April 29, 2022

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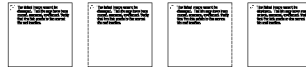
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To: Jamie Deans [jamie.deans@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Boren supports objections to OTA's credit application

Immediate Release: April 29, 2022

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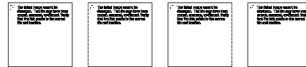
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Sent: 4/29/2022 2:25:09 PM
To: Jason Murray [jason.murray@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Boren supports objections to OTA's credit application

Immediate Release: April 29, 2022

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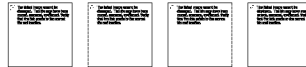
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Sent: 4/29/2022 2:25:08 PM
To: Jessica Cleveland [jessica.cleveland@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Boren supports objections to OTA's credit application

Immediate Release: April 29, 2022

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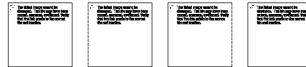
[Dowling Bond Council Objection.pdf](#)

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Sent: 4/29/2022 2:25:09 PM
To: John Riesenbergs [john.riesenberg@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Boren supports objections to OTA's credit application

Immediate Release: April 29, 2022

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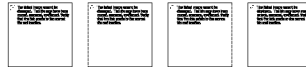
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Sent: 4/29/2022 2:25:09 PM
To: Karlee Gholson [karlee.gholson@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Boren supports objections to OTA's credit application

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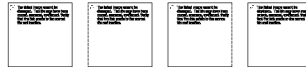
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Mary.Boren@oksenate.gov

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Message

From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 5/5/2022 10:36:59 PM
To: Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OTA provides ACCESS Oklahoma update

Strategic Communications
Thursday, May 5, 2022

Contact: James Poling
405-521-6000 | www.pikepass.com
[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) @OKTurnpike

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2022
Press Release # 007_22

OTA provides ACCESS Oklahoma update

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority appreciates the unanimous, conditional approval Wednesday by the Council on Bond Oversight of a \$200 million line of credit to move forward with some of the first steps in the ACCESS Oklahoma program. This action allows the OTA to utilize this interim financing to move forward with plans to enhance travel on existing toll roads, including widening the John Kilpatrick, Turner and Will Rogers turnpikes; extending the new Gilcrease Expressway Turnpike to the north; building additional access points; and enhancing interchanges along turnpikes.

The Council's conditional approval states OTA cannot use line of credit proceeds on projects at issue in litigation recently filed and pending in Cleveland County.

The OTA will continue planned preliminary engineering design and environmental survey activities in partnership with regulatory agencies to assess the feasibility of the Outer Loop alignments and the South Extension Turnpike. OTA will also fulfill its commitment to several property owners with whom negotiations for property acquisition began prior to approval of the line of credit. These property owners proactively approached OTA about the sale of their property. OTA will pay for these services exclusively from its General Fund. The OTA will monitor and continuously evaluate to determine that these efforts do not violate or conflict with the conditions provided by the Council.

Before OTA sells bonds to finance the construction of new turnpike alignments, the OTA will request judicial validation of those bonds. The Oklahoma Supreme Court has the exclusive original jurisdiction to hear validation actions as defined in state statute, Title 69-1718. Such validation actions give all persons interested in the matter an opportunity to be heard, present legal opposition against the issuance of the bonds, and ensure the Authority has the legal authorization to undertake the projects to be financed by the bonds, thereby providing certainty for all involved. Most recently,

OTA had bonds validated to construct the Kickapoo Turnpike and the Gilcrease West Expressway, both component projects of the Authority's Driving Forward Program. The Oklahoma Supreme Court validated the bonds issued to construct these projects in 2016 and 2018, respectively.

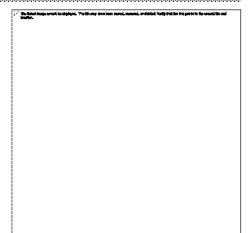
Historically, OTA works from a five-year plan, which is much smaller in scope than the ACCESS Oklahoma program. This 15-year, long-range plan provides the agency flexibility in planning, scheduling and construction and represents better opportunities to engage the public well in advance of future turnpike projects.

While both state and federal transportation funding have increased over time for construction and maintenance of the tax-supported highway system, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation struggles to maintain the existing highway infrastructure in reasonable operating condition and cannot keep pace with demands. The OTA takes its responsibility seriously and works to reinvest back into the existing turnpike infrastructure and can sometimes help ODOT meet every-growing and recognized critical transportation needs that otherwise would go unaddressed. If conditions warrant, OTA can provide alternative routes in areas the tax-supported transportation system cannot. A user-based transportation alternative like toll roads is not a panacea to the state's existing capacity constrained I-35 corridor. State, county and municipal officials must work together in an "all of the above" approach to provide additional modes of transportation to solve today's growing safety and congestion concerns and avoid future gridlock.

###

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Check www.oktraffic.org for real-time traffic information
OTA strongly discourages texting or tweeting while driving.

Oklahoma Transportation
Strategic Communications
Phone: 405-521-6000, email: SCInbox@odot.org



From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 5/5/2022 10:37:04 PM
To: Charlie Hannema [charlie.hannema@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OTA provides ACCESS Oklahoma update



Strategic Communications
Thursday, May 5, 2022

Contact: James Poling
405-521-6000 | www.pikepass.com
[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) @OKTurnpike

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2022
Press Release # 007_22

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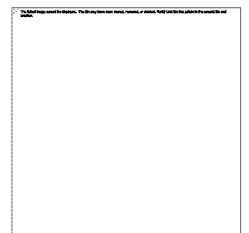
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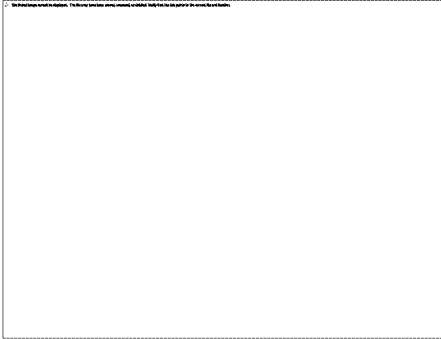
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Oklahoma Transportation
Strategic Communications
Phone: 405-521-6000, email: SCinbox@odot.org



From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 5/10/2022 10:30:30 PM
To: Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oklahoma Turnpike Authority response to SCR28



**Strategic Communications
Tuesday, May 10, 2022**

OTA Contact: Jessica Brown
Phone: 405-521-6000
www.pikepass.com
[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) @OKTurnpike

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release #009-22

Oklahoma Turnpike Authority response to SCR28

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority wishes to clarify information recently published relating to OTA's plans for turnpike extensions within the ACCESS Oklahoma program south of the Oklahoma City metro area. The OTA does not use interim financing or bond proceeds on unvalidated turnpike routes, which includes the East-West Connector, the Tri-City Connector and the South Extension.

The OTA will seek validation of the proposed new routes mentioned above from the Oklahoma Supreme Court. To get to that point, OTA must begin engineering design and environmental studies. OTA will pay for this preliminary work from its general fund, which is common practice. The \$200 million line-of-credit will only be used on existing routes. OTA never intended to use the line-of-credit for unvalidated, new routes in ACCESS Oklahoma south of the Oklahoma City metro.

Upon announcement of the ACCESS Oklahoma program in late February, property owners along Indian Hills Road in Norman and Moore contacted OTA about the possibility of early acquisition many of whom had recently placed their property for sale or were constructing new homes. OTA has an obligation to continue working with these individuals as their properties are situated along Indian Hills Road. To date, OTA has not purchased any property for new routes in the ACCESS Oklahoma program. All OTA and ODOT property acquisition documents are public records, and the agencies follow state law that dictates property acquisition and always negotiate in good faith.

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation work in a fiscally responsible manner and are confident of the safeguards in place and transparency practiced. By statute 69-1720, the Authority must undergo annual financial audits performed by an independent firm of certified public accountants. Both agencies embrace their statutorily defined governance responsibilities and the idea of identifying ways to develop processes of continuous improvement. The Transportation Cabinet recently developed a more robust, cabinet-wide internal audit division. These internal audits are used as a management tool to monitor performance in a variety of areas and ensure we are utilizing best practices, complying with our policies and

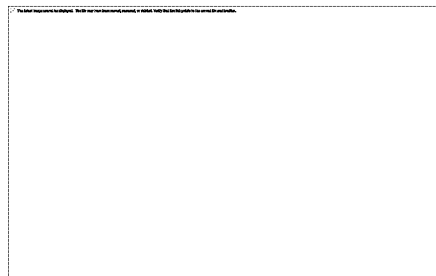
procedures, and helping determine if those practices, policies and procedures are yielding the desired results.

To address concerns about OTA harming the water source for several south Oklahoma City metro cities, the Authority understands the sensitivity of the State's water resources, and water quality is always of primary concern for all transportation improvement projects. The OTA strives for strict compliance with all regulatory requirements and best practices as required by the jurisdictional state and federal oversight agencies.

Large scale transportation improvement projects in Oklahoma and across the nation are regularly implemented that meet or exceed all water quality requirements, and the improvements often present opportunities to create wetlands, buffer areas and drainage filters that even enhance the quality of surface runoff. The OTA will have a construction compliance team in place to monitor environmental protection measures during construction, documenting and reporting their findings.

While both state and federal transportation funding have increased over time for construction and maintenance of the tax-supported highway system, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation struggles to maintain the existing highway infrastructure in reasonable operating condition and cannot keep pace with demands. The OTA takes its responsibility seriously and works to reinvest back into the existing turnpike infrastructure and can sometimes help ODOT meet every-growing and recognized critical transportation needs that otherwise would go unaddressed.

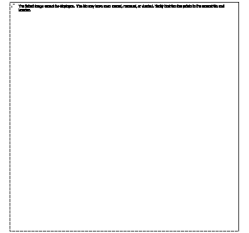
If conditions warrant, OTA can provide alternative routes in areas the tax-supported transportation system cannot. A user-based transportation alternative like toll roads is not a panacea to the state's existing capacity constrained I-35 corridor. State, county and municipal officials must work together in an "all of the above" approach to provide additional modes of transportation to solve today's growing safety and congestion concerns and avoid future gridlock.



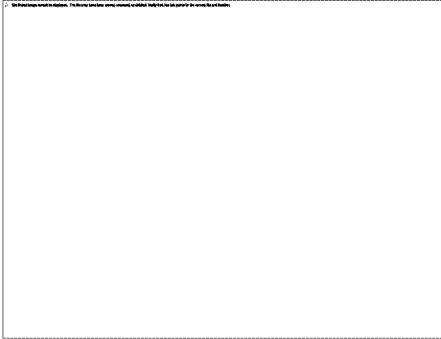
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From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 5/10/2022 10:30:30 PM
To: Charlie Hannema [charlie.hannema@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oklahoma Turnpike Authority response to SCR28



**Strategic Communications
Tuesday, May 10, 2022**

OTA Contact: Jessica Brown
Phone: 405-521-6000
www.pikepass.com
[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) @OKTurnpike

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release #009-22

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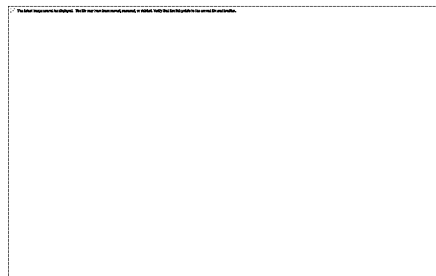
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From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 5/23/2022 3:19:18 PM
To: Charlie Hannema [charlie.hannema@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MEDIA ADVISORY: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 24



Strategic Communications Monday, May 23, 2022

Contact: James Poling
405-521-6000 | www.pikepass.com
[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) @OKTurnpike

Media Advisory

Oklahoma Turnpike Authority board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 24

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's monthly board meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, May 24, in the R.A. Ward Transportation Building, 200 N.E. 21st St., Oklahoma City. Items to be addressed at the meeting include:

- The board will consider approval of a project agreement with the Town of Wellston, Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to participate in the reconstruction of the westbound I-44/Turner Turnpike interchange at SH-66.
- Secretary of Transportation Tim Gatz will provide an update on the safety improvements with the implementation of PlatePay cashless tolling.
- In accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, board members are expected to go into executive session to discuss legal proceedings related to the ACCESS Oklahoma projects in Cleveland County.

The full agenda may be viewed [here](#).

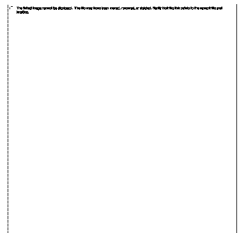
The public may watch the board meeting video livestream at <https://video.ibm.com/channel/jsW2fC3uurE>. The meeting will be recorded, captioned and available to the public online later.

The board, a six-member panel appointed by the governor to an eight-year term, oversees turnpike development and awards project contracts for road and bridge construction on a monthly basis.

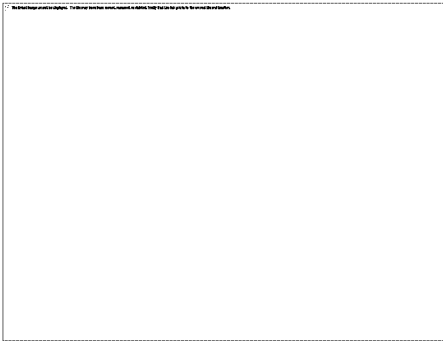
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From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/2/2022 7:09:30 PM
To: Baylee Williams [baylee.williams@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turner Turnpike crash closures exemplify need for ACCESS Oklahoma's modernization of existing turnpike network



Strategic Communications
Thursday, June 2, 2022

OTA Contact: James Poling
405-521-6000
www.pikepass.com
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release #011-22

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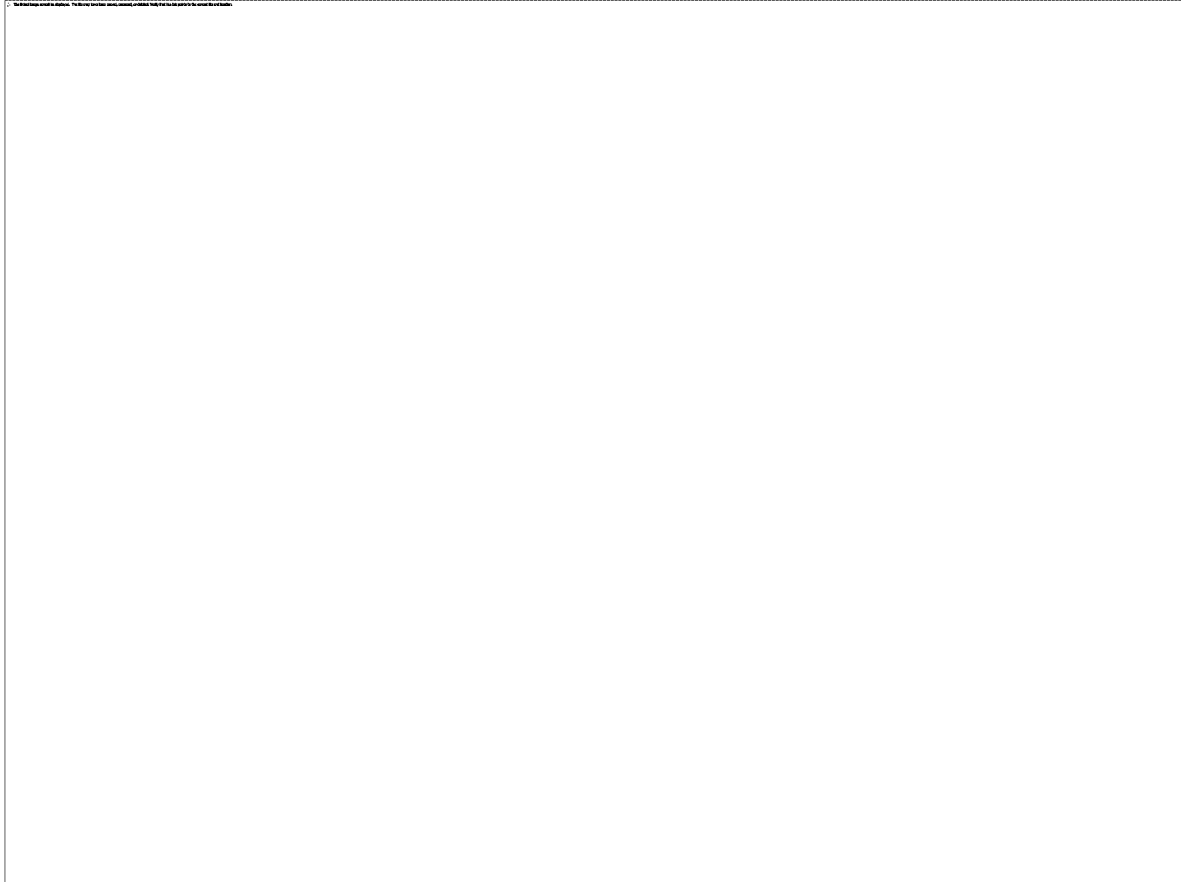
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From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/2/2022 7:09:30 PM
To: Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turner Turnpike crash closures exemplify need for ACCESS Oklahoma's modernization of existing turnpike network



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405-521-6000
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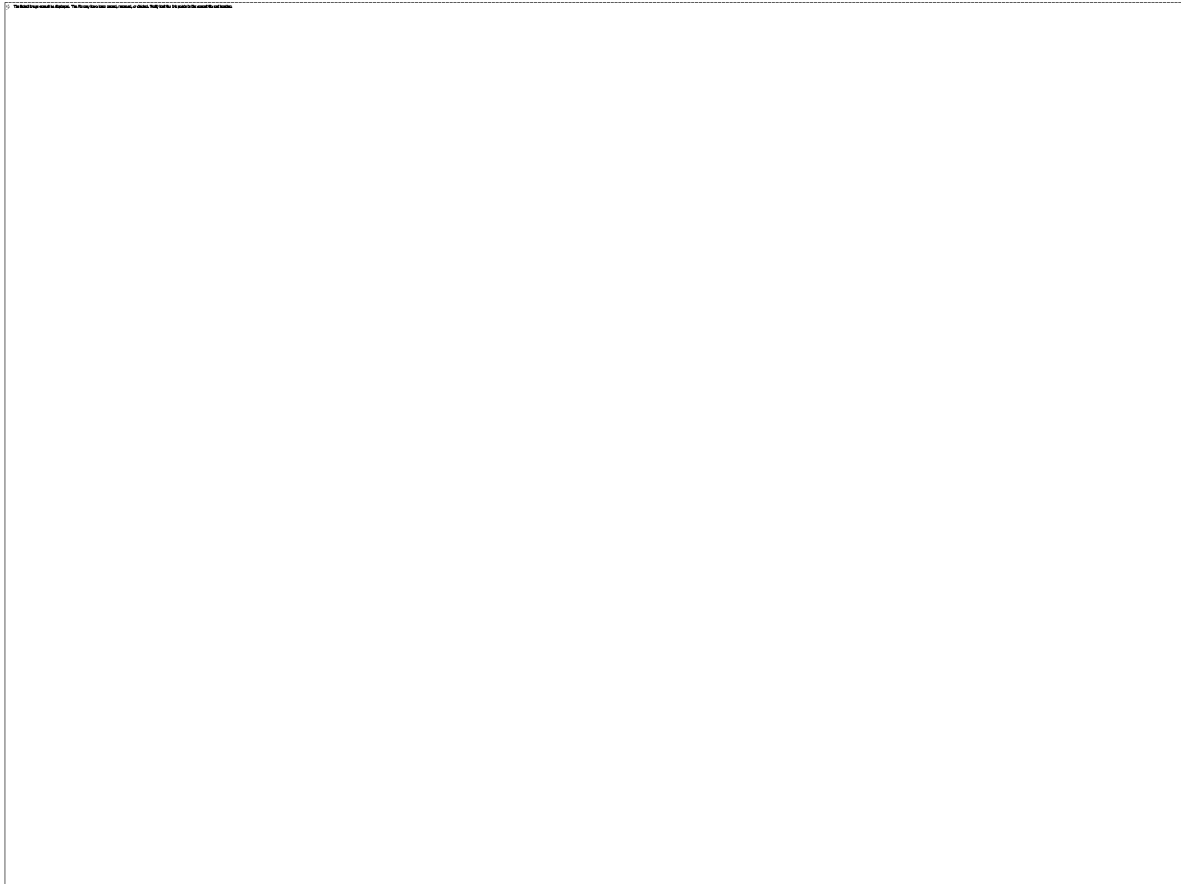
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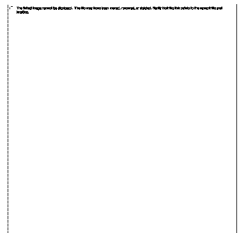
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From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/2/2022 7:09:30 PM
To: Charlie Hannema [charlie.hannema@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turner Turnpike crash closures exemplify need for ACCESS Oklahoma's modernization of existing turnpike network



Strategic Communications
Thursday, June 2, 2022

OTA Contact: James Poling
405-521-6000
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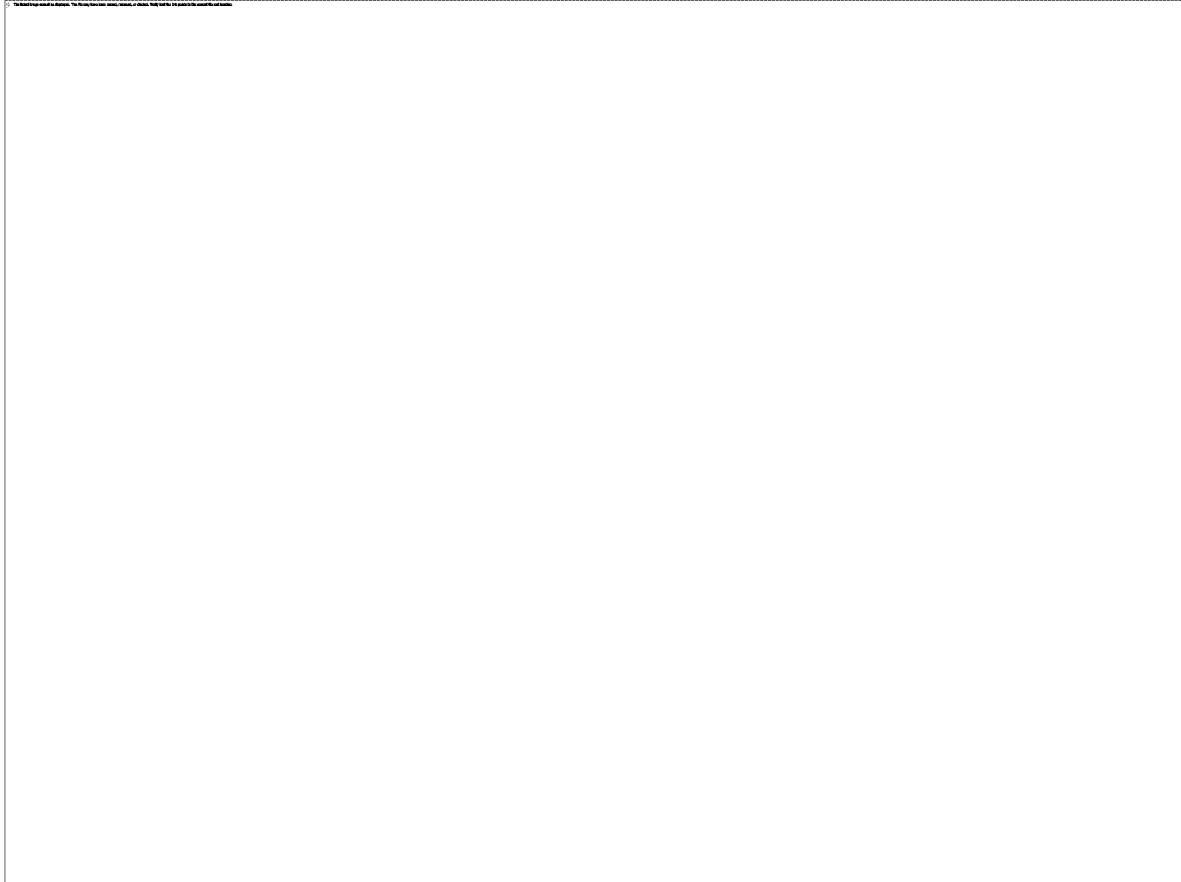
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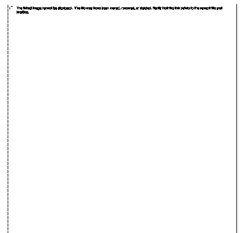
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From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/2/2022 7:11:39 PM
To: Baylee Williams [baylee.williams@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turner Turnpike crash closures exemplify need for ACCESS Oklahoma's modernization of existing turnpike network



Strategic Communications
Thursday, June 2, 2022

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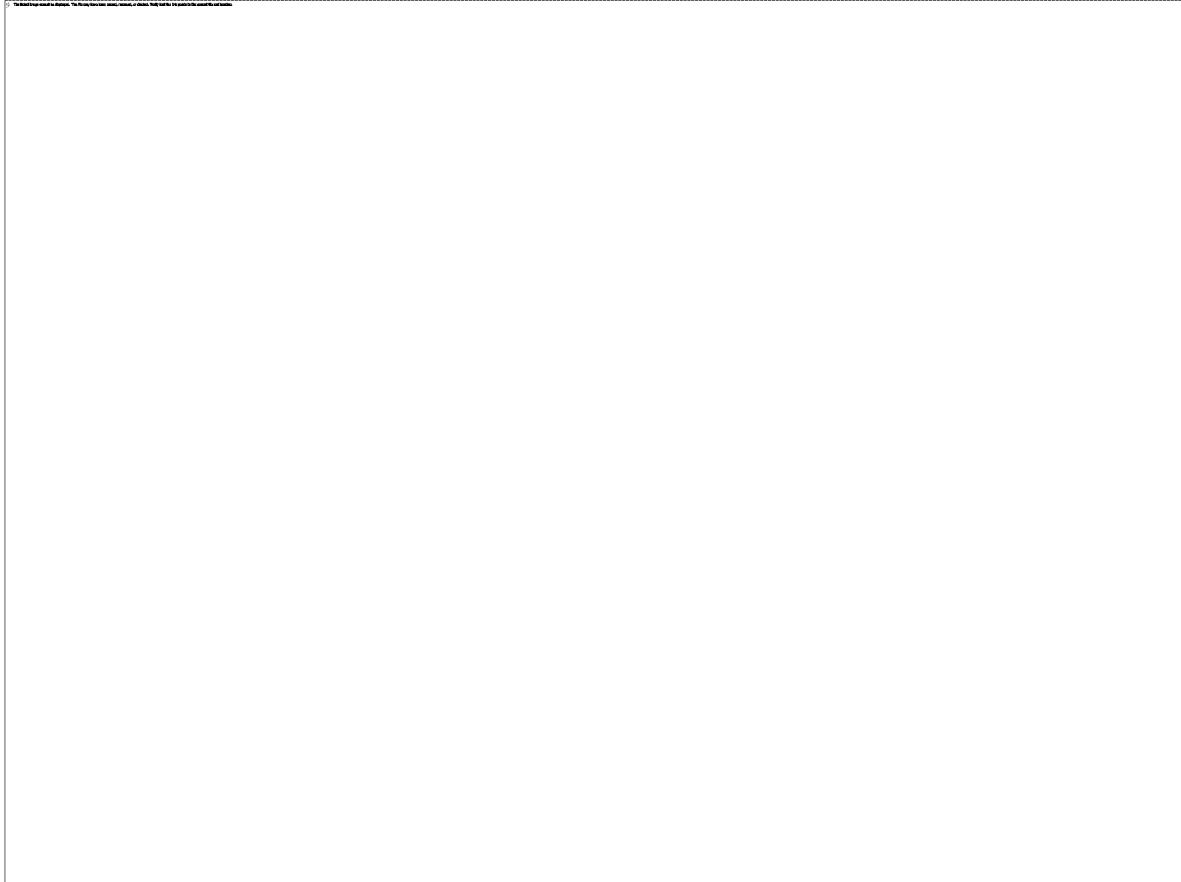
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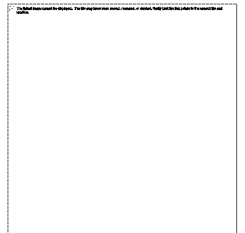
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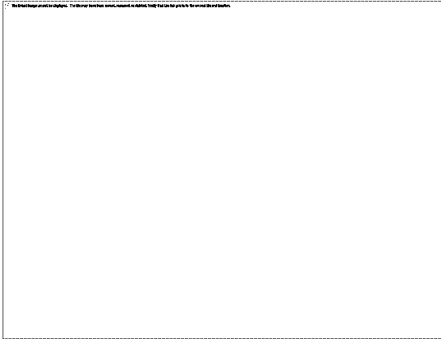


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Sent: 6/2/2022 7:11:41 PM
To: Charlie Hannema [charlie.hannema@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turner Turnpike crash closures exemplify need for ACCESS Oklahoma's modernization of existing turnpike network



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Thursday, June 2, 2022

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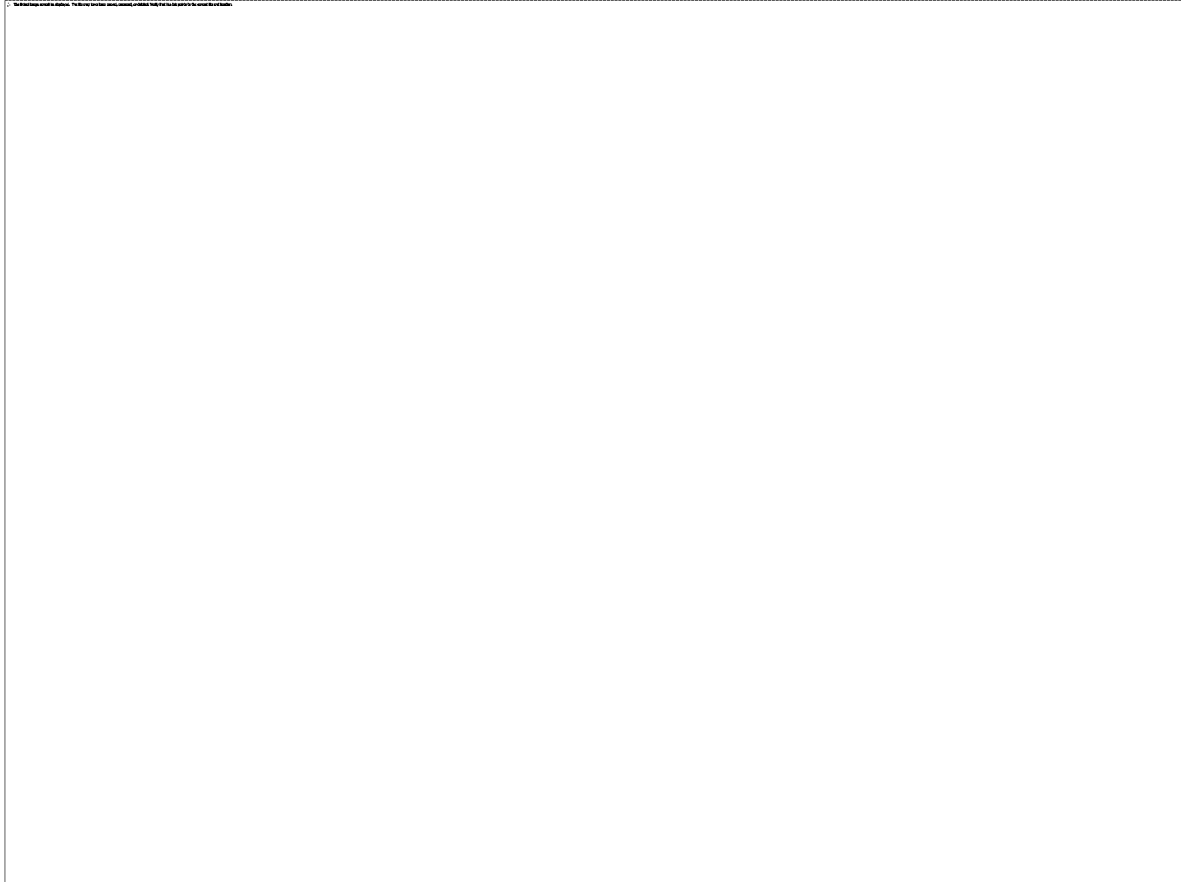
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Sent: 6/2/2022 7:11:39 PM
To: Chase Horn [chase.horn@gov.ok.gov]
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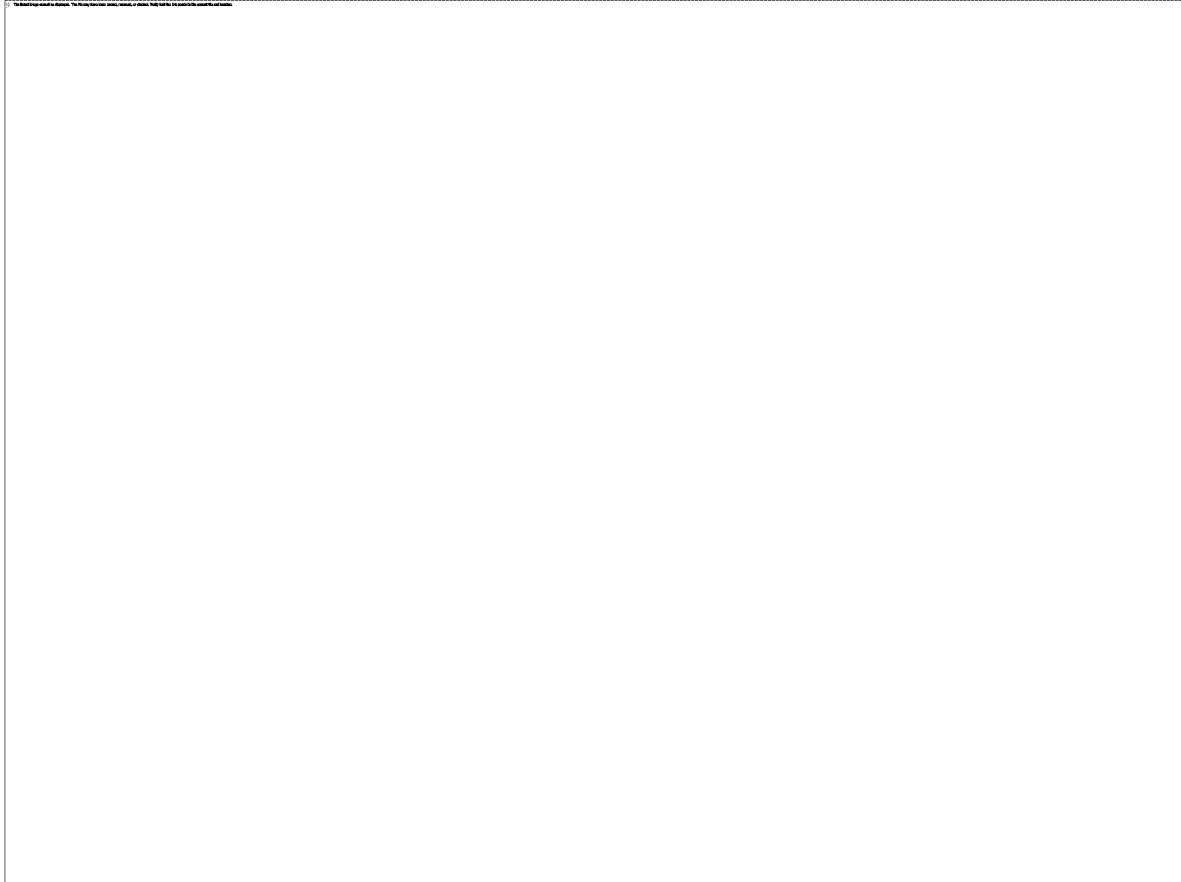
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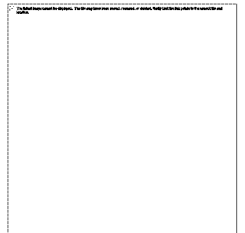
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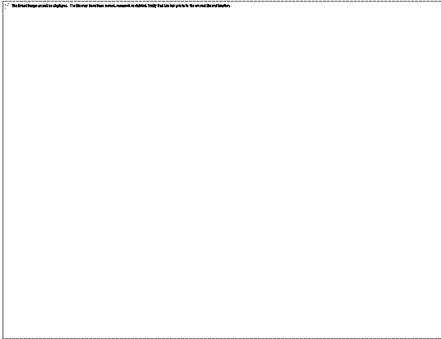


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From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/2/2022 7:11:39 PM
To: Jessica Cleveland [jessica.cleveland@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turner Turnpike crash closures exemplify need for ACCESS Oklahoma's modernization of existing turnpike network



Strategic Communications
Thursday, June 2, 2022

OTA Contact: James Poling
405-521-6000
www.pikepass.com
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release #011-22

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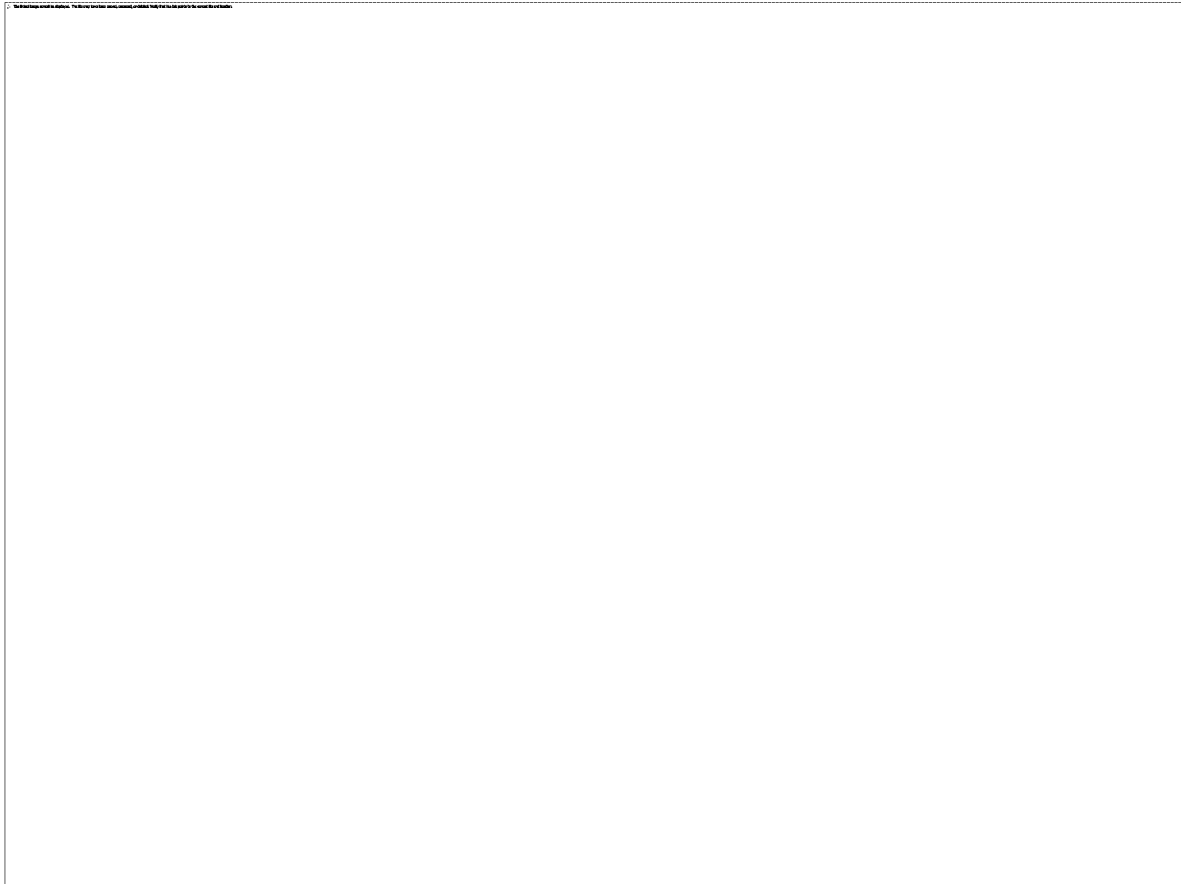
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From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/2/2022 7:11:38 PM
To: Megan Trantham [megan.trantham@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turner Turnpike crash closures exemplify need for ACCESS Oklahoma's modernization of existing turnpike network



Strategic Communications
Thursday, June 2, 2022

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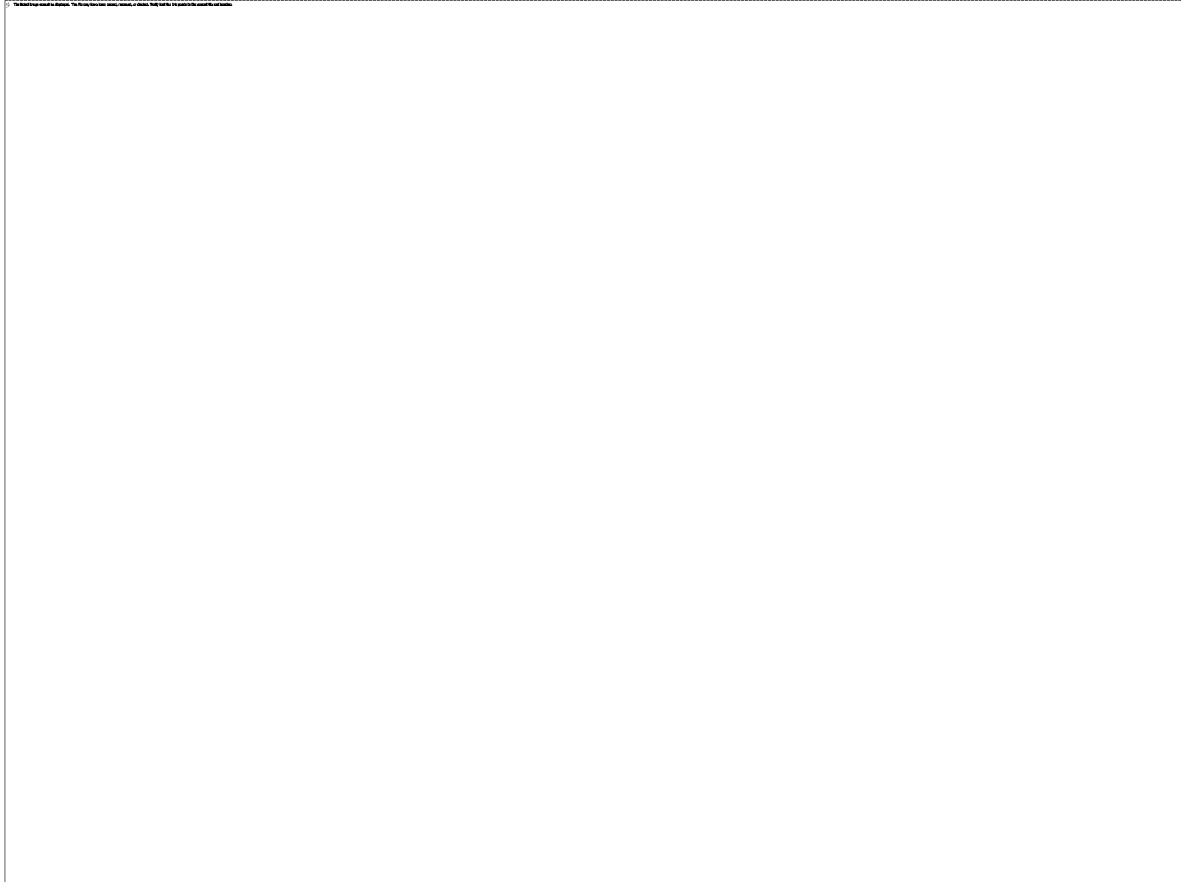
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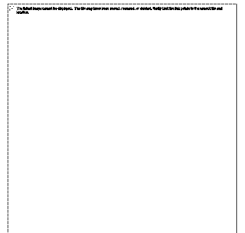
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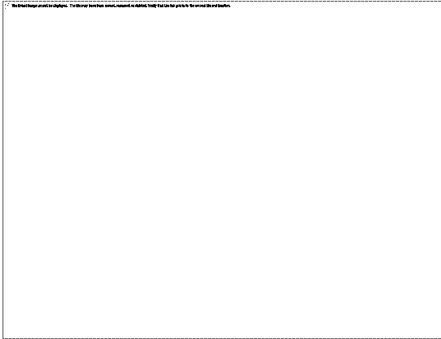


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From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/2/2022 7:11:38 PM
To: Saxon Allton [saxon.allton@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Turner Turnpike crash closures exemplify need for ACCESS Oklahoma's modernization of existing turnpike network



Strategic Communications
Thursday, June 2, 2022

OTA Contact: James Poling
405-521-6000
www.pikepass.com
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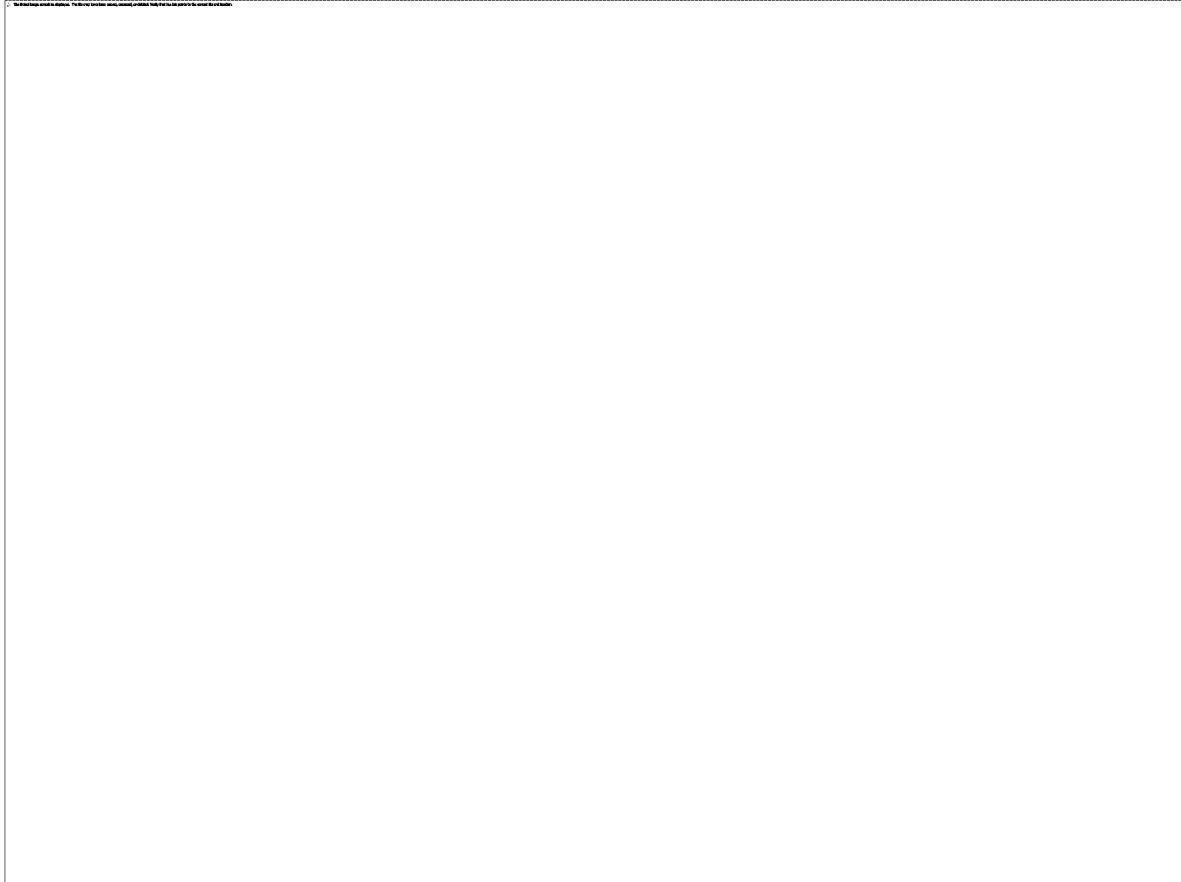
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From: Oklahoma Department of Transportation [odot@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/7/2022 11:02:51 PM
To: Baylee Williams [baylee.williams@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] June Commission Meeting Wrap-Up: ODOT predicts major I-35 traffic concerns in Central and Southern Oklahoma without bold action



Strategic Communications Tuesday, June 7, 2022

ODOT and OTA Contact: Cody Boyd
405-521-6000 | www.odot.org
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2022
Press Release # 22-020

June Commission Meeting Wrap-Up

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The traffic situation on I-35 in the Oklahoma City metro area and in Southern Oklahoma is expected to become unmanageable in the coming years without bold and immediate action, members of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission learned at their Monday, June 6, meeting.

Oklahoma Department of Transportation Chief Engineer Brian Taylor gave a detailed presentation to commissioners about growing traffic concerns on I-35, especially between Oklahoma City and Purcell and at the Texas state line near Thackerville. Traffic data collected by ODOT, third-party consultant EST, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments and the cities of Moore and Norman reveal worsening congestion each year. It's projected to eventually create near standstill traffic during daytime hours on I-35 between I-40 in downtown Oklahoma City and Purcell in the next 30 years.

"I-35 in Oklahoma has regional and even international economic significance, and we know that traffic volumes are only going to continue to increase, especially commercial trucks coming up from Texas," Taylor said. "The data is very clear that the status quo is not an acceptable solution."

Taylor noted that ODOT spent 37 years and nearly \$1 billion to widen I-35 to six lanes from downtown Oklahoma City to the South Canadian River in Norman but that no further widening is possible due to dense commercial development right up against the interstate. Using data and public input gathered in a corridor study that began in 2016, ODOT is working with the cities of Moore and Norman on modifications to interchanges, on- and off-ramps and service roads to help improve the operation of I-35 in this area. Additionally, ODOT's Eight-Year Construction Work Plan includes upcoming projects to reconstruct the I-35 interchange at SH-9 West and widen the

interstate to six lanes south of Norman to Goldsby.

These improvements alone will not be enough to address Central Oklahoma's traffic issues into the future. The department, as well as local and regional government organizations long have acknowledged the need for reliever routes and additional crossings at the South Canadian River, along with improvements to public transit and commuter rail to move traffic in the metro area.

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Traffic issues are also increasing on the southern end of the corridor, as the Texas Department of Transportation is investing more than \$2 billion in the next 10 years to finish bringing eight lanes of I-35 from Denton to the Red River, where it will transition to six lanes in Oklahoma. Thanks to a major federal grant and partnerships between TxDOT, ODOT and the Chickasaw Nation, construction will soon begin to widen the I-35 bridges over the Red River and add lanes to the interstate up to Rogers Rd./Winstar Blvd. (mile marker 3) near Thackerville in Love County. The ODOT Eight-Year Plan also includes funding to begin right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation for future I-35 widening between Thackerville and Marietta. In his report to the commission in May, Secretary of Transportation and ODOT Executive Tim Gatz noted the clear need for a six-lane corridor between Oklahoma City and the Texas state line, but that such an effort will take considerable time and resources.

A recording of the commission's meeting is available [here](#).

Other commission meeting highlights

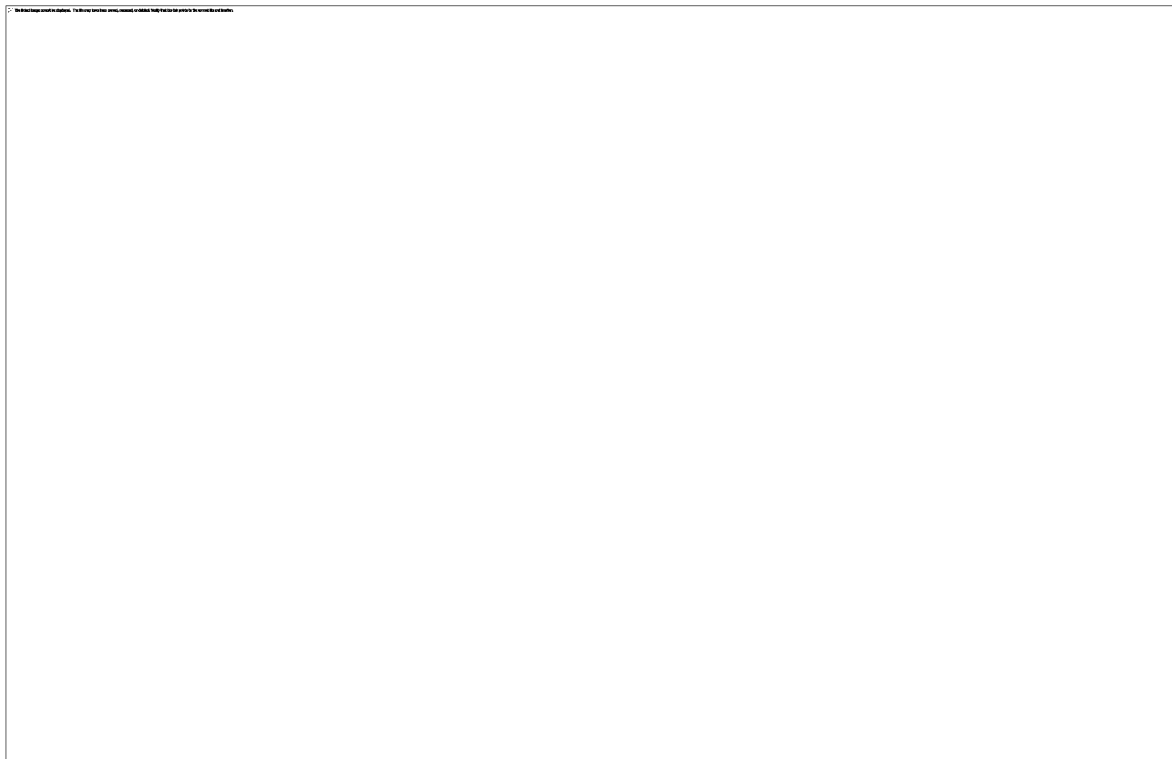
The commission approved speed limit changes at the intersection of SH-99 and SH-22 in Tishomingo, the site of a tragic collision in March that claimed the lives of six teenage girls. Other interim safety measures have been placed and ODOT is working with the City of Tishomingo on a future project to reconfigure the intersection.

Commissioners also heard updates on federal and state transportation funding and awarded several contracts for highway improvements in the Oklahoma City metro area, including bridge reconstruction on SH-37/S. 4th St. in Moore and several resurfacing projects designed to extend the life of deteriorating asphalt pavement until upcoming reconstruction and expansion. Segments to be resurfaced include I-40 near Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City, I-35 north of US-77/SH-66 in Edmond, and I-35 south of SH-9 West between Norman and Goldsby.

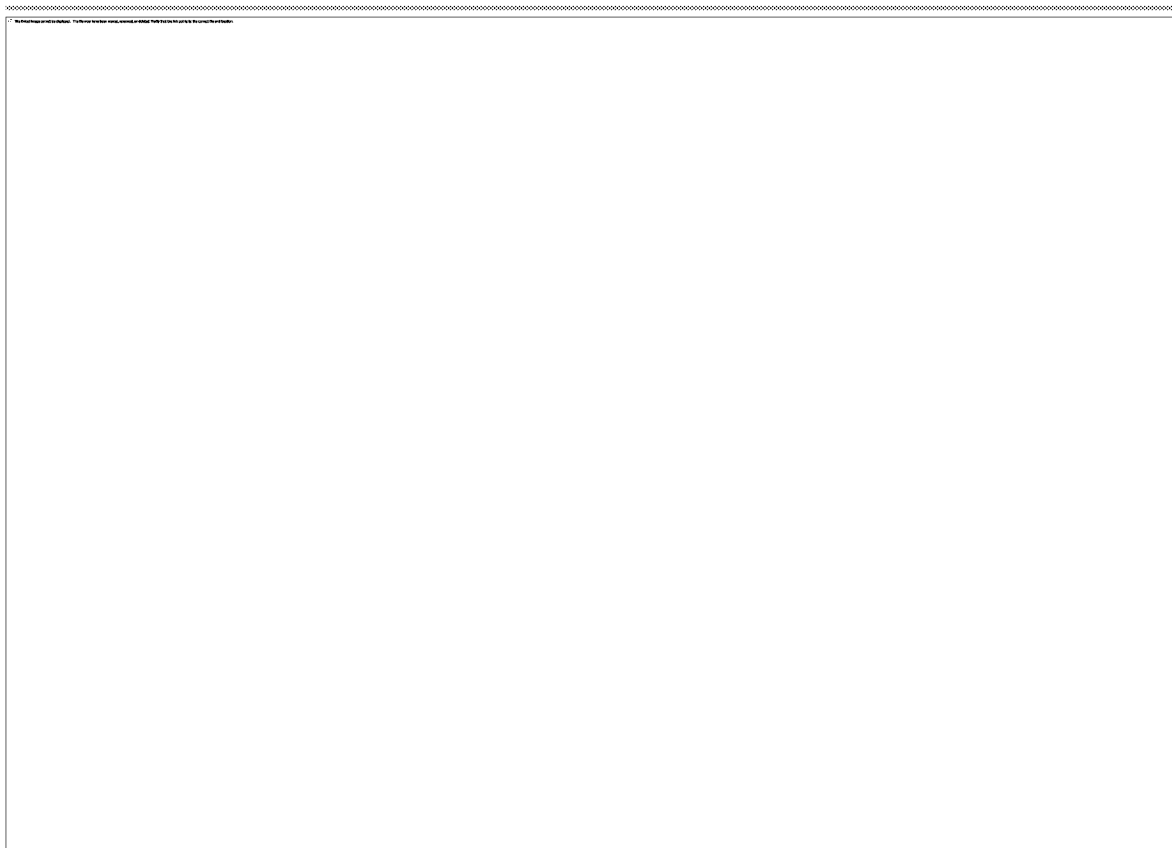
Commissioners voted to award 21 contracts totaling \$66 million to improve highways, roads and bridges in 19 counties. The public may access a list of all awarded contracts at www.odot.org/contracts, selecting the May 2022 a.m. letting, clicking Submit, then Award at the bottom of the page.

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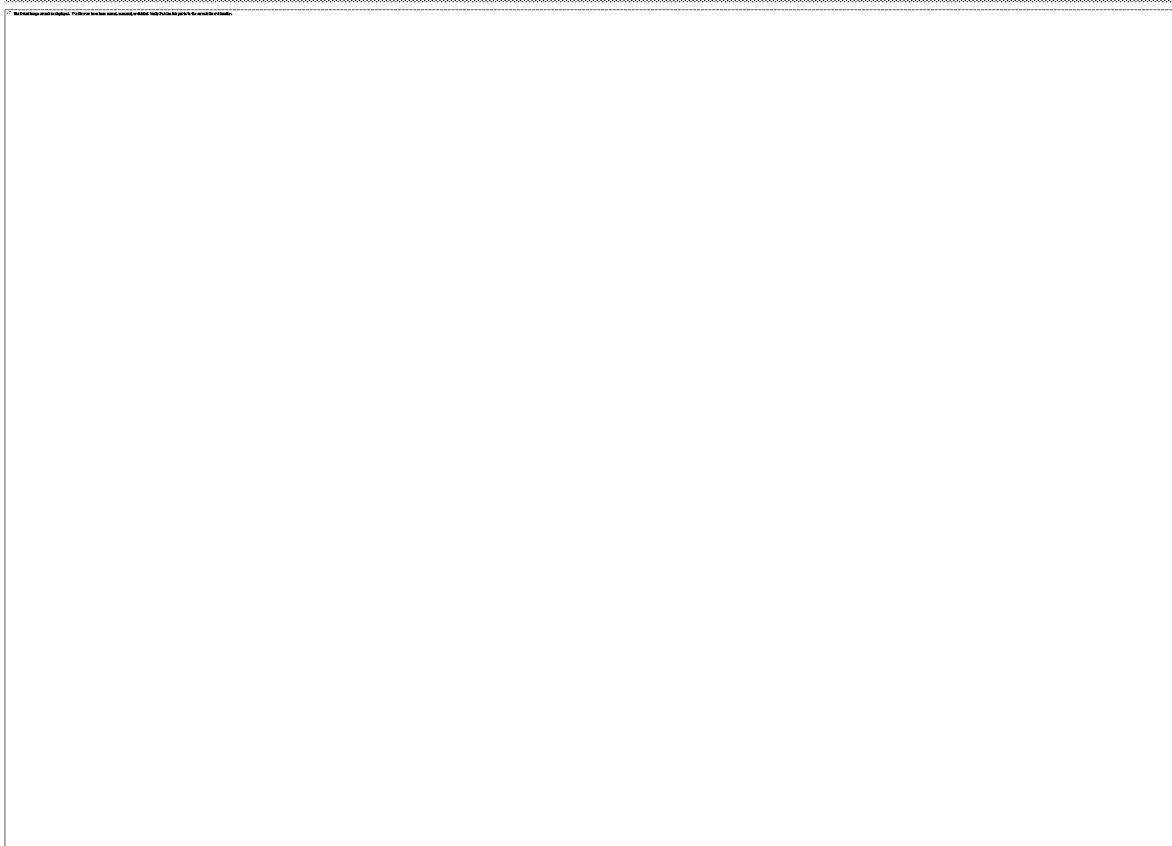
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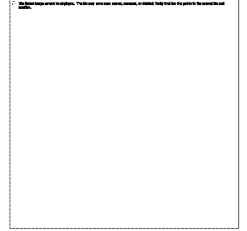
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From: Oklahoma Department of Transportation [odot@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/7/2022 11:02:27 PM
To: Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] June Commission Meeting Wrap-Up: ODOT predicts major I-35 traffic concerns in Central and Southern Oklahoma without bold action



Strategic Communications Tuesday, June 7, 2022

ODOT and OTA Contact: Cody Boyd
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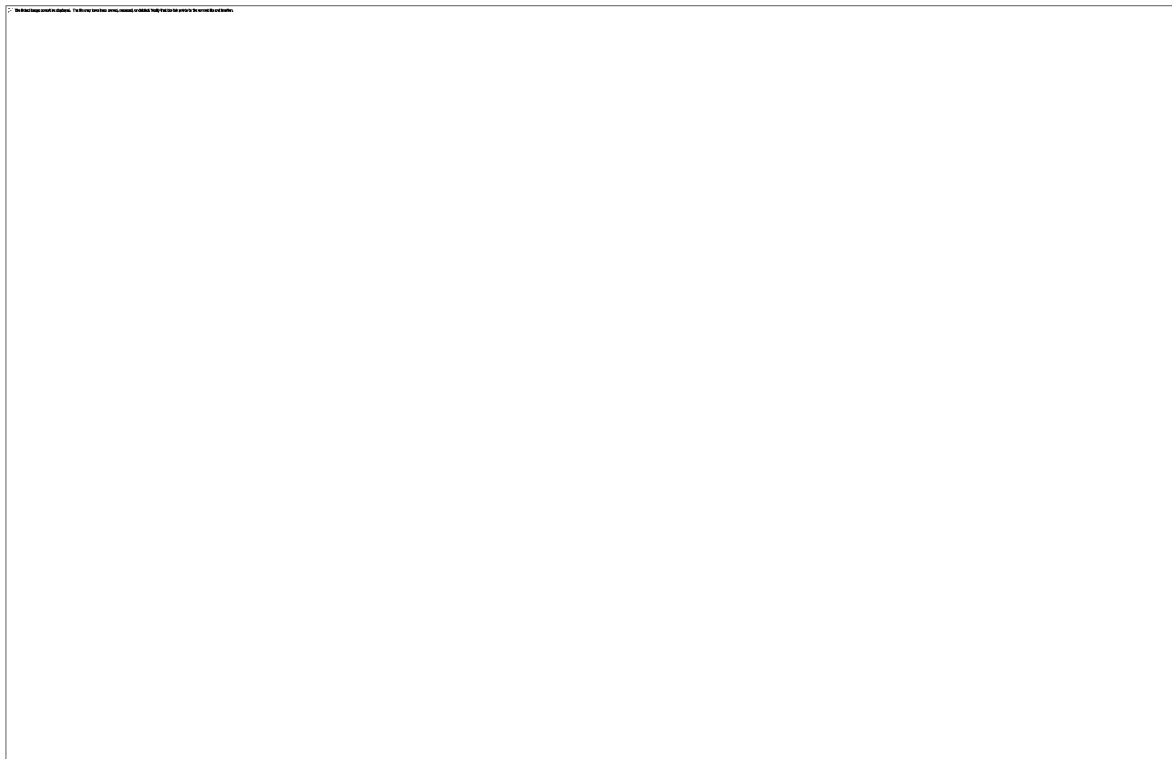
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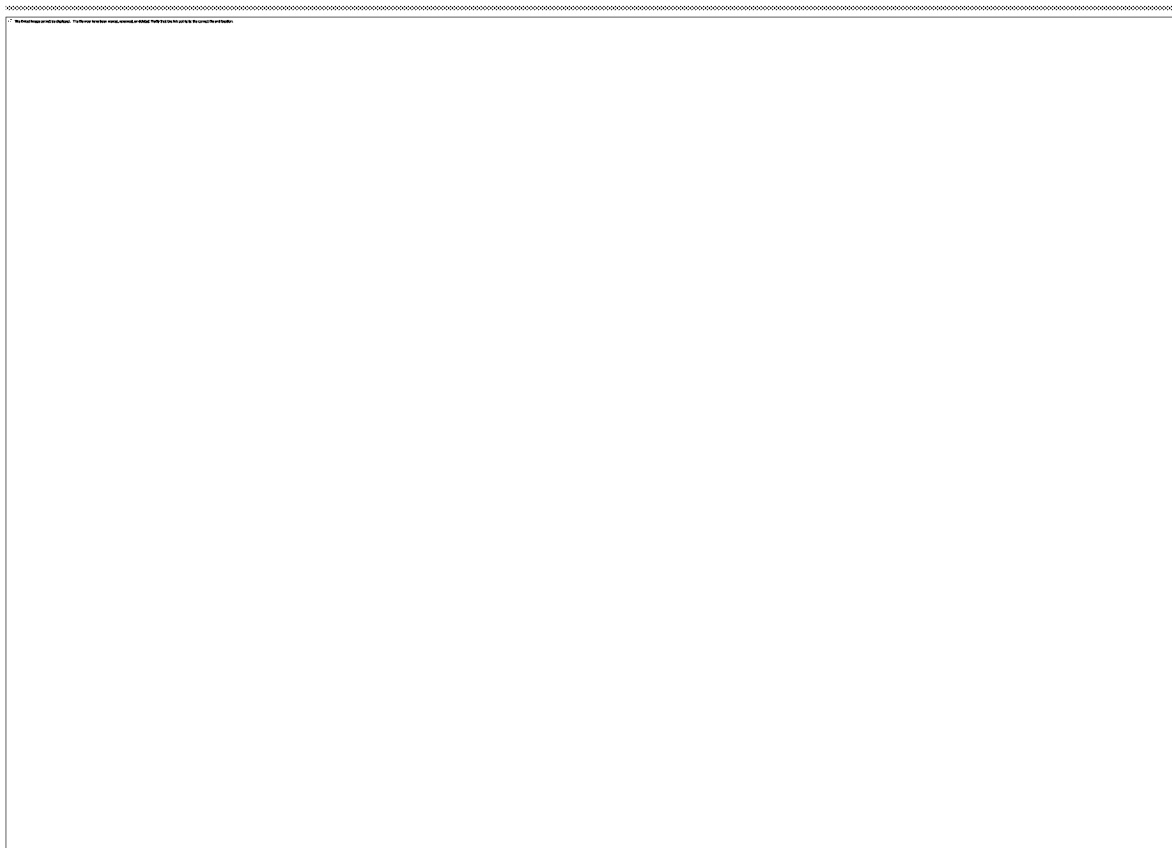
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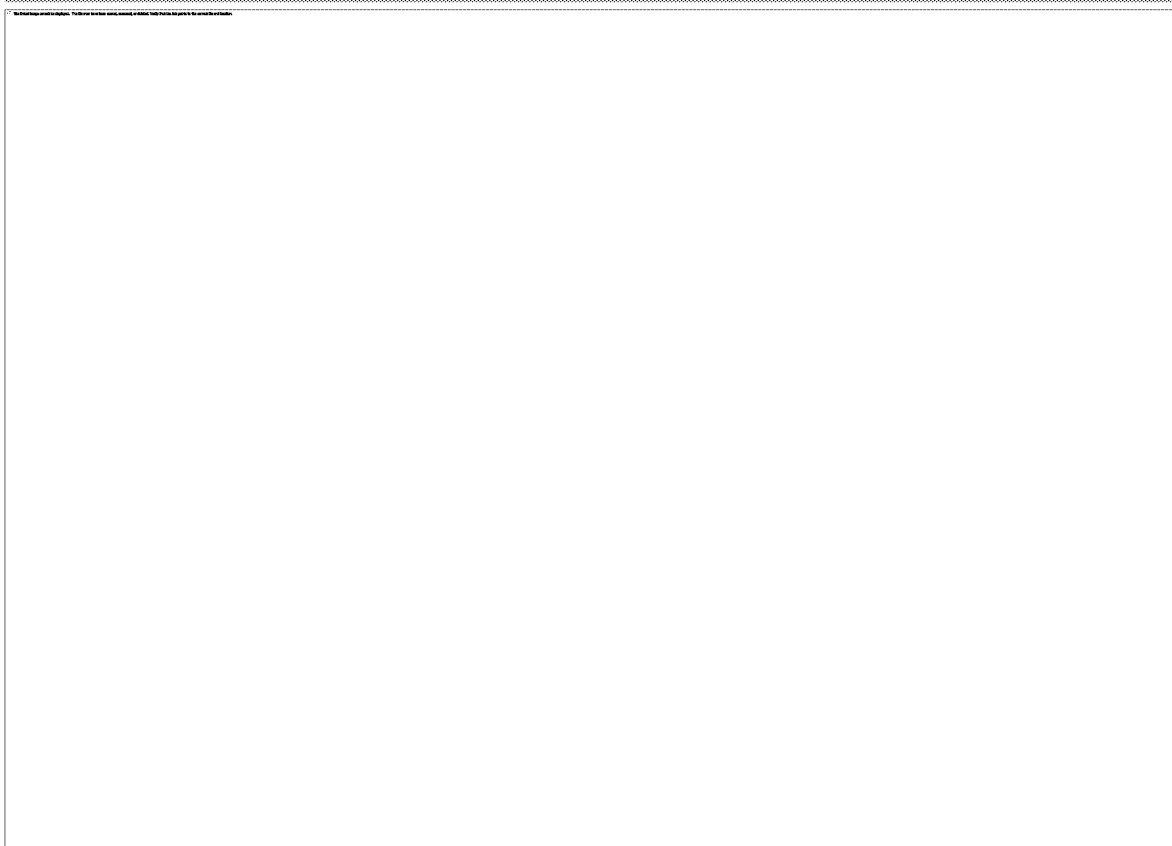
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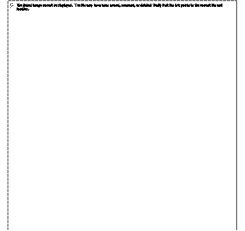
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From: Oklahoma Department of Transportation [odot@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/7/2022 11:02:22 PM
To: Charlie Hannema [charlie.hannema@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] June Commission Meeting Wrap-Up: ODOT predicts major I-35 traffic concerns in Central and Southern Oklahoma without bold action



**Strategic Communications
Tuesday, June 7, 2022**

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June Commission Meeting Wrap-Up

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The traffic situation on I-35 in the Oklahoma City metro area and in Southern Oklahoma is expected to become unmanageable in the coming years without bold and immediate action, members of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission learned at their Monday, June 6, meeting.

Oklahoma Department of Transportation Chief Engineer Brian Taylor gave a detailed presentation to commissioners about growing traffic concerns on I-35, especially between Oklahoma City and Purcell and at the Texas state line near Thackerville. Traffic data collected by ODOT, third-party consultant EST, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments and the cities of Moore and Norman reveal worsening congestion each year. It's projected to eventually create near standstill traffic during daytime hours on I-35 between I-40 in downtown Oklahoma City and Purcell in the next 30 years.

"I-35 in Oklahoma has regional and even international economic significance, and we know that traffic volumes are only going to continue to increase, especially commercial trucks coming up from Texas," Taylor said. "The data is very clear that the status quo is not an acceptable solution."

Taylor noted that ODOT spent 37 years and nearly \$1 billion to widen I-35 to six lanes from downtown Oklahoma City to the South Canadian River in Norman but that no further widening is possible due to dense commercial development right up against the interstate. Using data and public input gathered in a corridor study that began in 2016, ODOT is working with the cities of Moore and Norman on modifications to interchanges, on- and off-ramps and service roads to help improve the operation of I-35 in this area. Additionally, ODOT's Eight-Year Construction Work Plan includes upcoming projects to reconstruct the I-35 interchange at SH-9 West and widen the

interstate to six lanes south of Norman to Goldsby.

These improvements alone will not be enough to address Central Oklahoma's traffic issues into the future. The department, as well as local and regional government organizations long have acknowledged the need for reliever routes and additional crossings at the South Canadian River, along with improvements to public transit and commuter rail to move traffic in the metro area.

"A big part of the discussion about additional routes in the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's ACCESS Oklahoma program is that ODOT does not have the resources to address these challenges alone," Taylor said. "An 'all-of-the-above' approach will be required."

Traffic issues are also increasing on the southern end of the corridor, as the Texas Department of Transportation is investing more than \$2 billion in the next 10 years to finish bringing eight lanes of I-35 from Denton to the Red River, where it will transition to six lanes in Oklahoma. Thanks to a major federal grant and partnerships between TxDOT, ODOT and the Chickasaw Nation, construction will soon begin to widen the I-35 bridges over the Red River and add lanes to the interstate up to Rogers Rd./Winstar Blvd. (mile marker 3) near Thackerville in Love County. The ODOT Eight-Year Plan also includes funding to begin right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation for future I-35 widening between Thackerville and Marietta. In his report to the commission in May, Secretary of Transportation and ODOT Executive Tim Gatz noted the clear need for a six-lane corridor between Oklahoma City and the Texas state line, but that such an effort will take considerable time and resources.

A recording of the commission's meeting is available [here](#).

Other commission meeting highlights

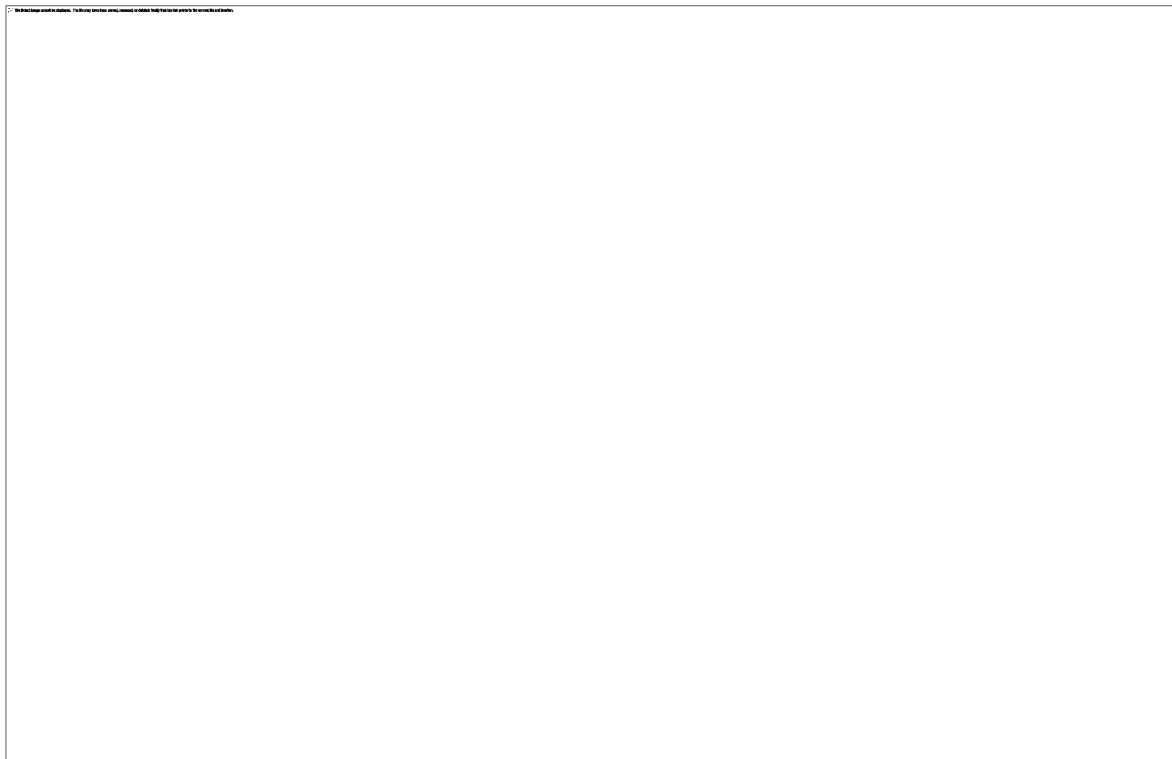
The commission approved speed limit changes at the intersection of SH-99 and SH-22 in Tishomingo, the site of a tragic collision in March that claimed the lives of six teenage girls. Other interim safety measures have been placed and ODOT is working with the City of Tishomingo on a future project to reconfigure the intersection.

Commissioners also heard updates on federal and state transportation funding and awarded several contracts for highway improvements in the Oklahoma City metro area, including bridge reconstruction on SH-37/S. 4th St. in Moore and several resurfacing projects designed to extend the life of deteriorating asphalt pavement until upcoming reconstruction and expansion. Segments to be resurfaced include I-40 near Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City, I-35 north of US-77/SH-66 in Edmond, and I-35 south of SH-9 West between Norman and Goldsby.

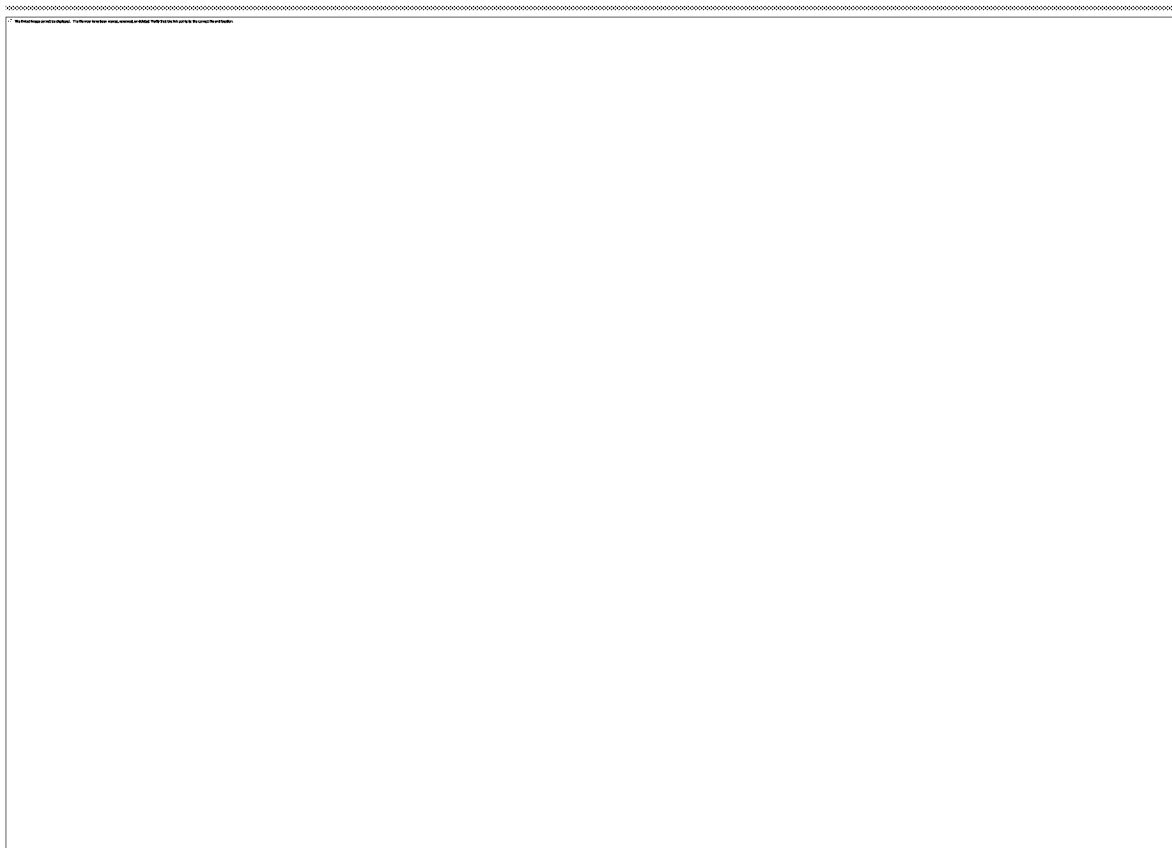
Commissioners voted to award 21 contracts totaling \$66 million to improve highways, roads and bridges in 19 counties. The public may access a list of all awarded contracts at www.odot.org/contracts, selecting the May 2022 a.m. letting, clicking Submit, then Award at the bottom of the page.

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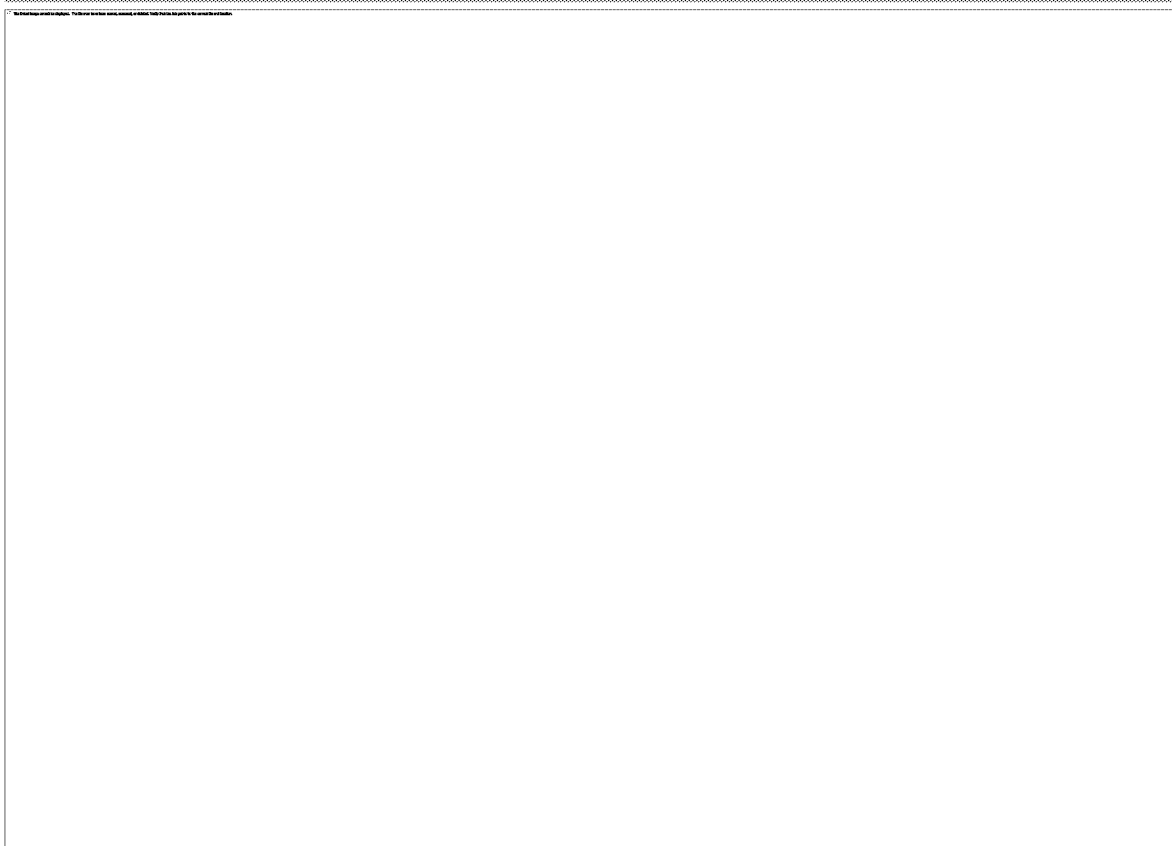
Due to the Independence Day holiday, the next Oklahoma Transportation Commission meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m. **Monday, July 11**. The meeting also will be available to view live on the web.



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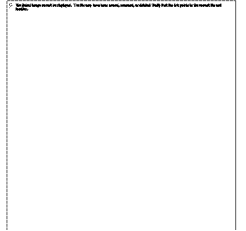
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From: Oklahoma Department of Transportation [odot@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/7/2022 11:02:50 PM
To: Charlie Hannema [charlie.hannema@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] June Commission Meeting Wrap-Up: ODOT predicts major I-35 traffic concerns in Central and Southern Oklahoma without bold action



**Strategic Communications
Tuesday, June 7, 2022**

ODOT and OTA Contact: Cody Boyd
405-521-6000 | www.odot.org
[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) @OKDOT
www.pikepass.com
[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) @OKTurnpike

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2022
Press Release # 22-020

June Commission Meeting Wrap-Up

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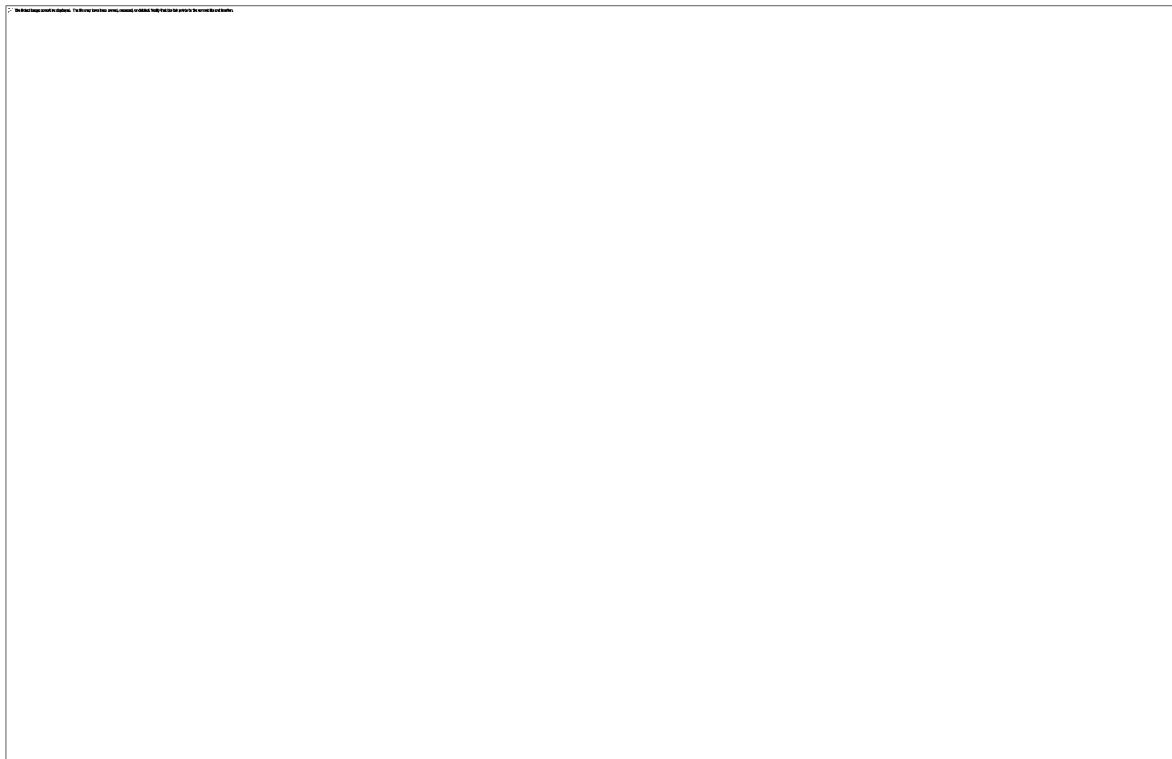
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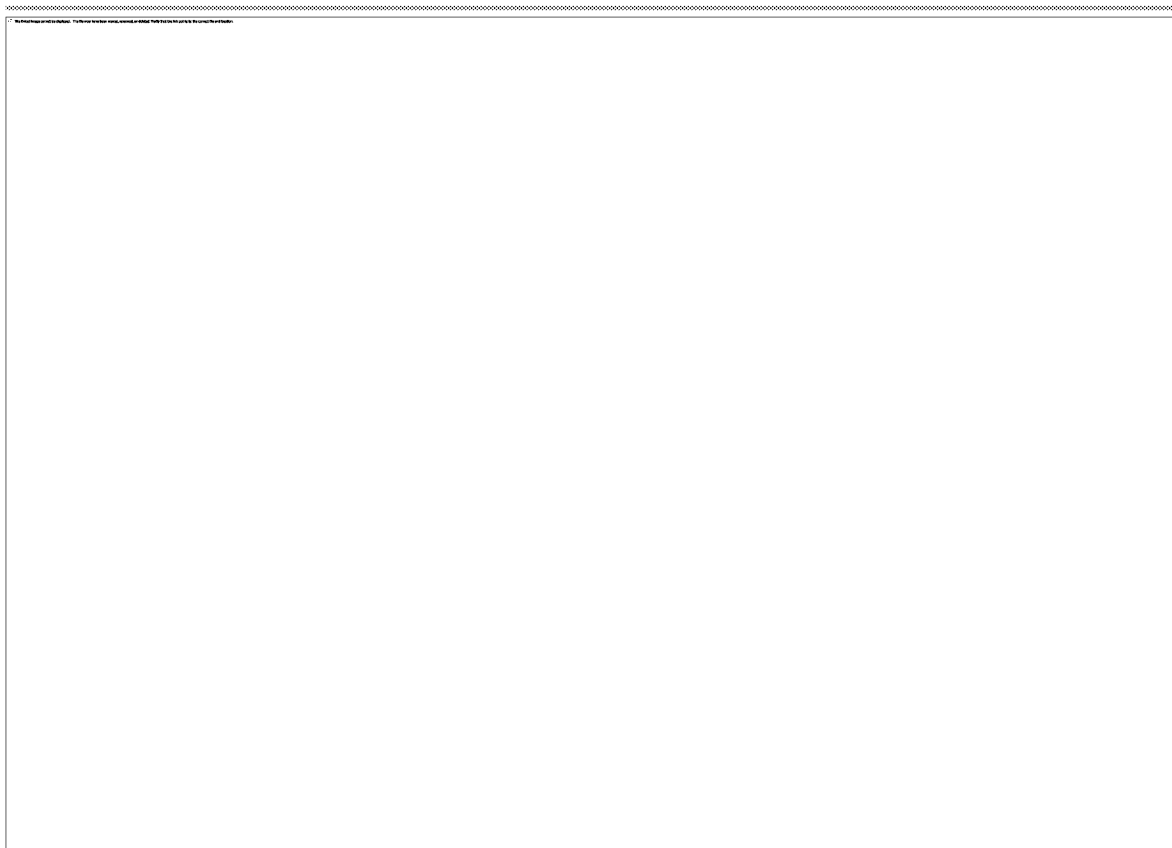
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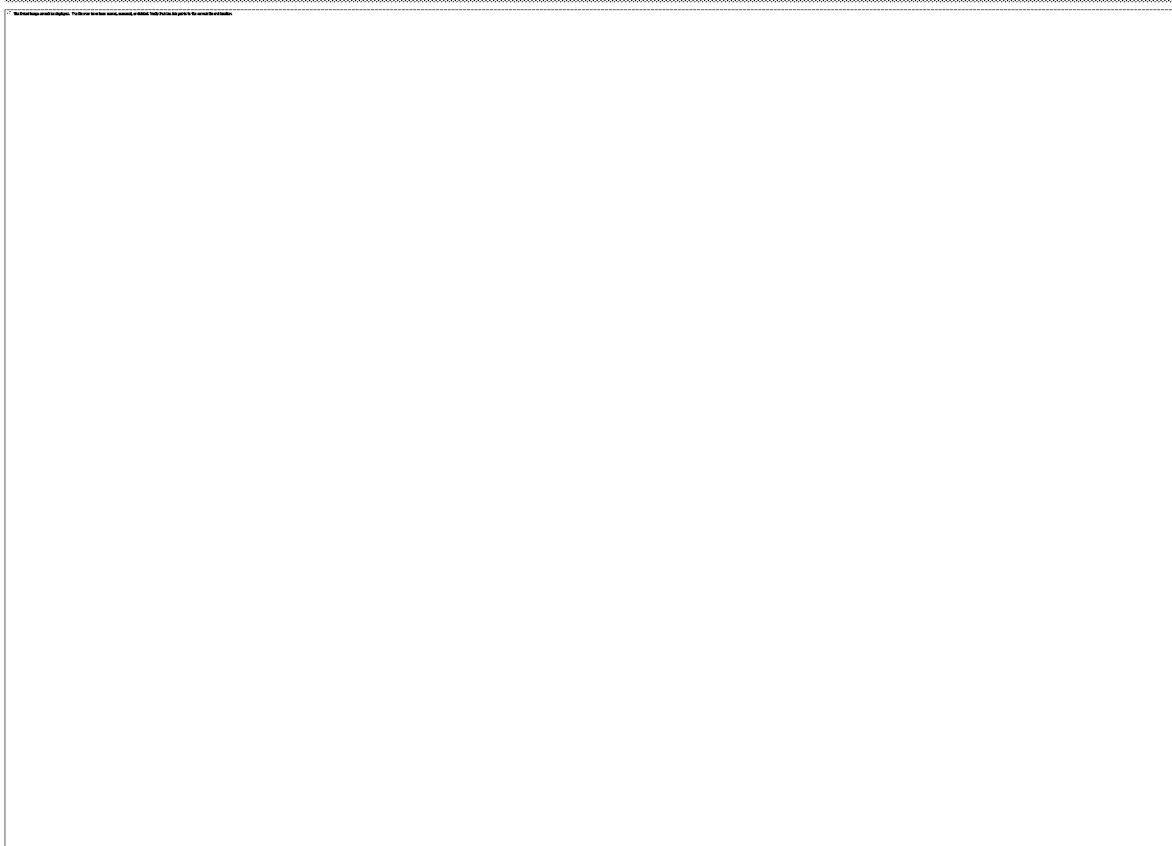
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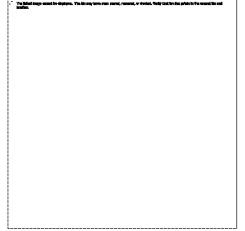
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From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/8/2022 6:59:49 PM
To: Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MEDIA ADVISORY: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority special board meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 9



**Strategic Communications
Wednesday, June 8, 2022**

Contact: James Poling
405-521-6000 | www.pikepass.com
[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) @OKTurnpike

MEDIA ADVISORY: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority special board meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 9

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority has scheduled a special board meeting for 3 p.m. Thursday, June 9, in the R.A. Ward Transportation Building, 200 N.E. 21st St., Oklahoma City.

The meeting will address the board passing a motion at its May meeting directing quick action to address issues within pending ACCESS Oklahoma litigation to bring certainty and clarity to all parties.

Items to be addressed include:

- Resolution authorizing the termination of a \$200 million line of credit, which the Council of Bond Oversight authorized with conditions regarding pending litigation at its May 2022 meeting.
- Resolution authorizing issuance of revenue bonds for purpose of financing ACCESS Oklahoma turnpike projects.
- Resolution authorizing an application with the Council of Bond Oversight for financing ACCESS Oklahoma turnpike projects.
- Resolution directing an application to the Oklahoma Supreme Court for validation of bonds to be issued for purpose of financing ACCESS Oklahoma turnpike projects at issue in pending litigation.
- Proposed design routes for new ACCESS Oklahoma turnpike alignments to send to the Oklahoma Transportation Commission for approval.

The board will also vote on a resolution for PlatePay toll rates on the H.E. Bailey Turnpike. If approved, OTA will expedite its conversion to cashless tolling for a segment of that turnpike, which will greatly improve safety at toll plazas.

The OTA board is still scheduled to meet Tuesday, June 28.

The full agenda may be viewed [here](#). The public may watch the board meeting video livestream at <https://video.ibm.com/channel/jsW2fC3uurE>. The meeting will be recorded, captioned and available to the public online later.

The board, a six-member panel appointed by the governor to an eight-year term, oversees turnpike development and awards project contracts for road and bridge construction on a monthly basis.

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From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
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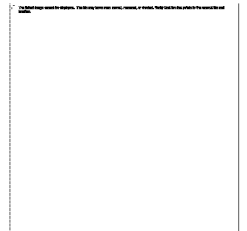
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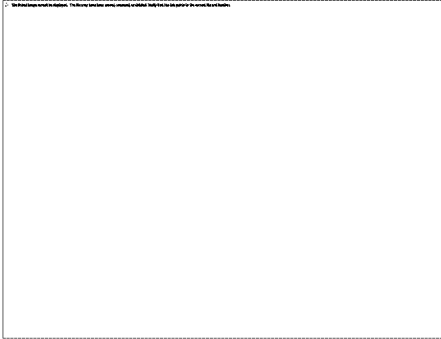
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From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/9/2022 11:55:25 PM
To: Baylee Williams [baylee.williams@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OTA Board approves resolutions addressing ACCESS Oklahoma litigation



Strategic Communications
Thursday, June 9, 2022

OTA Contact: James Poling
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release #012-22

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- Sending proposed design routes for new ACCESS Oklahoma turnpike alignments to the Oklahoma Transportation Commission for approval.

"The board directed us at its May meeting to quickly address the litigation related to the ACCESS Oklahoma long-range plan," OTA Executive Director Tim Gatz said. "We presented the board with resolutions it passed today that will allow us to move forward with meeting that May meeting instruction.

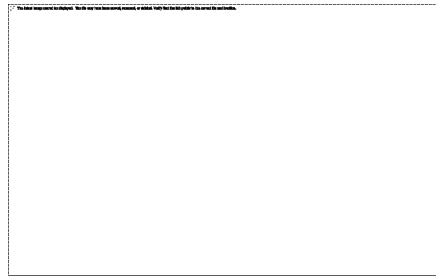
"We have begun the process of requesting bond sale approval from the Council of Bond Oversight and having the Oklahoma Supreme Court validate the routes. By having this special meeting, we avoid months-long delays to critical statewide projects such as the needed widening of the Turner and Kilpatrick turnpikes."

The board also approved toll rates for I-44/H.E. Bailey Turnpike for its conversion to PlatePay (cashless tolling). The approval, expedited after a Friday overnight crash at the Newcastle toll plaza, will allow OTA to convert the H.E. Bailey turnpike between Oklahoma City and Lawton to PlatePay in late June, about five weeks in advance of the originally planned conversion.

To learn more about ACCESS Oklahoma, visit www.AccessOklahoma.com or call the ACCESS Oklahoma hotline at 1-844-562-2237.

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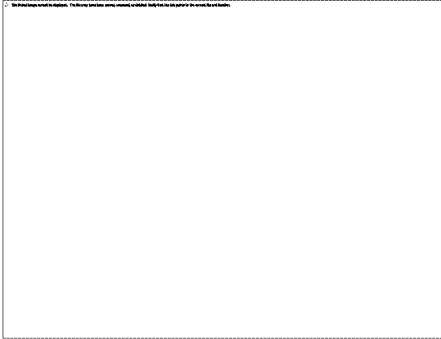
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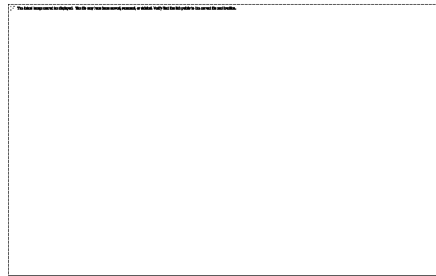
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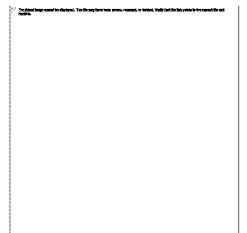
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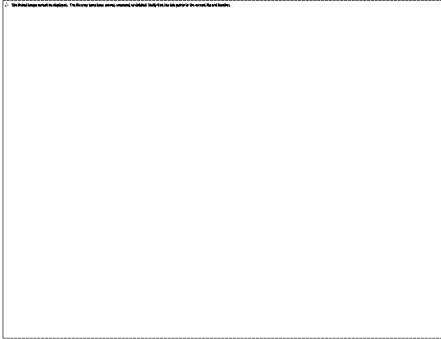
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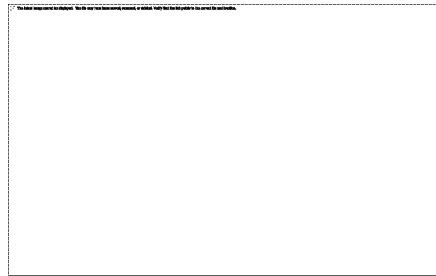
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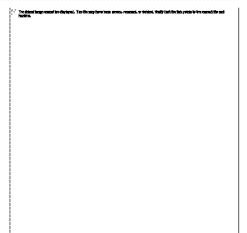
The next Oklahoma Turnpike Authority board meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 28, at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Commission Room, 200 N.E. 21st St., Oklahoma City. The meeting also will be available to view live online.



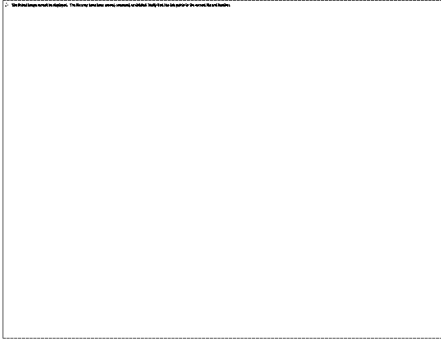
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Check www.oktraffic.org for real-time traffic information
OTA strongly discourage texting or tweeting while driving.

Oklahoma Transportation
Strategic Communications
Phone: 405-521-6000, email: SCinbox@odot.org

This email was sent to charlie.hannema@gov.ok.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Oklahoma Department of Transportation · 200 NE 21st Street · Oklahoma City, OK 73105



From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/9/2022 11:56:59 PM
To: Baylee Williams [baylee.williams@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OTA Board approves resolutions addressing ACCESS Oklahoma litigation



Strategic Communications
Thursday, June 9, 2022

OTA Contact: James Poling
405-521-6000
www.pikepass.com
[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) @OKTurnpike

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release #012-22

Board approves resolutions addressing ACCESS Oklahoma litigation

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority board passed resolutions at Thursday's special meeting aimed at addressing issues within pending ACCESS Oklahoma litigation to bring certainty and clarity to all parties.

Among the resolutions passed:

- Authorizing the termination of a \$200 million line of credit, which the Council of Bond Oversight approved with conditions regarding pending litigation at its May 2022 meeting.
- Authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the purpose of financing ACCESS Oklahoma turnpike projects.
- Authorizing an application with the Council of Bond Oversight for financing ACCESS Oklahoma turnpike projects.
- Directing an application to the Oklahoma Supreme Court for validation of bonds to be issued for the purpose of financing ACCESS Oklahoma turnpike projects at issue in pending litigation.
- Sending proposed design routes for new ACCESS Oklahoma turnpike alignments to the Oklahoma Transportation Commission for approval.

"The board directed us at its May meeting to quickly address the litigation related to the ACCESS Oklahoma long-range plan," OTA Executive Director Tim Gatz said. "We presented the board with resolutions it passed today that will allow us to move forward with meeting that May meeting instruction.

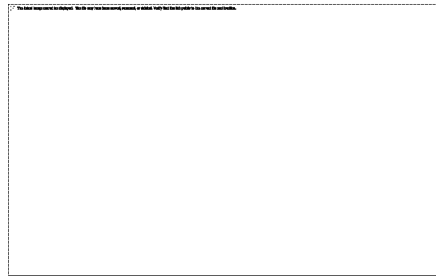
"We have begun the process of requesting bond sale approval from the Council of Bond Oversight and having the Oklahoma Supreme Court validate the routes. By having this special meeting, we avoid months-long delays to critical statewide projects such as the needed widening of the Turner and Kilpatrick turnpikes."

The board also approved toll rates for I-44/H.E. Bailey Turnpike for its conversion to PlatePay (cashless tolling). The approval, expedited after a Friday overnight crash at the Newcastle toll plaza, will allow OTA to convert the H.E. Bailey turnpike between Oklahoma City and Lawton to PlatePay in late June, about five weeks in advance of the originally planned conversion.

To learn more about ACCESS Oklahoma, visit www.AccessOklahoma.com or call the ACCESS Oklahoma hotline at 1-844-562-2237.

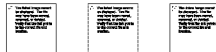
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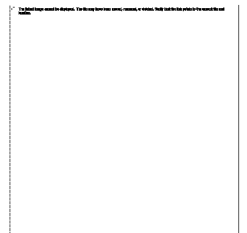
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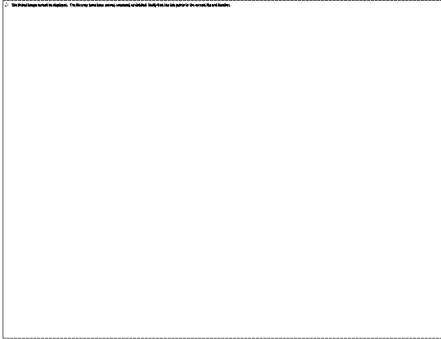


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From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/9/2022 11:56:58 PM
To: Charlie Hannema [charlie.hannema@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OTA Board approves resolutions addressing ACCESS Oklahoma litigation



Strategic Communications
Thursday, June 9, 2022

OTA Contact: James Poling
405-521-6000
www.pikepass.com
[Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) @OKTurnpike

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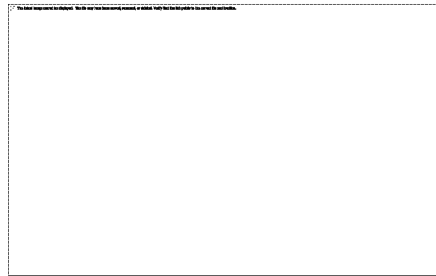
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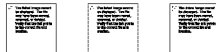
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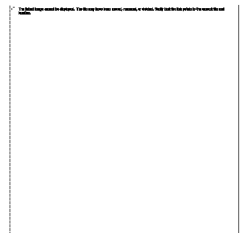
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Message

From: Jessica Brown [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6CFDDD84EE914B919AE04071753AC8F2-JESSICA BRO]
Sent: 6/20/2022 4:58:14 PM
To: glove@[REDACTED]; Dana Weber [dweber@v[REDACTED]m]; toddcone@[REDACTED]n; jtitsworth7@[REDACTED]; John Jones [jjones@[REDACTED]t]; will.dcbass@[REDACTED]n; elair [elair@[REDACTED]g]; Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]; Kate Vesper [kate.vesper@gov.ok.gov]
CC: Tim Gatz - Pikepass [tgatz@pikepass.com]; Joe Echelle [jechelle@pikepass.com]
Subject: 6/19 - 6/20 Earned Media & Social Listening report
Attachments: Kathy Young - Front page of The Norman Transcript.png; Kathy Young - Front page of The Norman Transcript comments.png; Kathy Young - Front page of The Norman Transcript comments 2.png; Dave Moore - Stan Ward article.png; Dave Moore - Stan Ward article cont. 2.png; Dave Moore - Stan Ward article cont..png; Danna Fowble - Realtors & homeowners.png; Pam McIntoch - c4 ad.png; Pam McIntoch - c4 ad comments.png; Pam McIntoch - c4 ad comments 2.png; Change.org petition.png; Paula Dodson - Comments on Lacie Lowry's post.png; Lacie Lowry - Cashless tolling.png; 6_20 TJR OTA Bonds to fund turnpike .png

Social Listening

Note: Screenshots of all posts are attached to this email

- Kathy Young shared yesterday's Norman Transcript paper. The opposition is happy that their cause is gaining attention.
- Dave Moore shared the 'David vs Goliath' Norman Transcript article.
- Dana Fowble shared a post from the Norman sale page warning future Norman, Noble, Purcell or S.OKC residents to check the ACCESS page first to make sure they're not in the path of the turnpike.
- Pam McIntosh posted that she saw the Oklahoma Conservative Patriots Alliance ad against Gov. Stitt. The same c4 organization is running an ad supporting gubernatorial candidate Joel Kintsel. See both ads here.
- The petition to stop the turnpike expansion is circulating again. Dave Moore shared the link to the No More Turnpikes group and Pam McIntosh reshared it to the Ward 5 group. The petition now has 3,298 signatures.
- Lacie Lowry from News 9 posted about the H.E.B starting cashless tolling tomorrow. Paula Dodson commented warning people more turnpikes are coming and that OTA will be taking people's homes. She also encouraged the opposition to comment and share everywhere they can.

Earned Media

6/19 KOCO 5 news at 10:02 p.m., H.E. Bailey Goes Cashless <https://bit.ly/39BoyNL>

Viewership: 35,941

Ad Value: \$15,936.12

6/20 The Journal Record Print, Turnpike Authority authorizes bonds to fund Access Oklahoma plans (Below)

6/19 Yahoo News, 'David vs Goliath' Fight against OTA defined <https://yhoo.it/3O97uNU>

6/20 KOCO 5 news at 6:52 a.m, H.E. Bailey Goes Cashless <https://bit.ly/3tQYaWX>

Viewership: 13,985

Ad Value: \$1,224.10

Thank you,
Jessica

Jessica Brown, M.J. | Director

Strategic Communications Division | Oklahoma Transportation Cabinet

Main: 405-521-6000

Oklahoma.gov | oklahoma.gov/odot





Kathy Young

15h · 🌐

...

This is becoming a movement! Very awesome! I bet it becomes a movie one day.....





  177

11 Comments 29 Shares

 Like

 Comment

 Share

Top comments ▼



Write a public comment...



Joyce Thomas
Fantastic News!

Don't give up!, Keep the GOOD fight!
STOP STITT!
STOP OTA!

Like Reply Share 12h

 7



Twyla Smith
I like happy endings! Let's make it one!! ***

Like Reply Share 12h

  6



LaNell Montgomery
My stomach knots up when I think of what they are planning on doing to change forever the playground of my childhood! Why can't they leave things alone instead of destroying the land??

Like Reply Share 12h

 3



LaNell Montgomery
Have this printed to the Shawnee News-Star, please! It affects us, too.

Like Reply Share 12h

 3



LaNell Montgomery
I really can't read this paper. So, I hope it's some good news.

Like Reply Share 12h





Julie Bratt Luna
LaNell Montgomery same

Like Reply Share 11h



LaNell Montgomery

I really can't read this paper. So, I hope it's some good news.

Like Reply Share 12h



Julie Bratt Luna

LaNell Montgomery same

Like Reply Share 11h



Gary Nonya

Wow! 🍷🍷🍷🍷

Like Reply Share 16h



Billi Jean Wietelman

Jessie You are AWESOME! ❤️💕❤️

Like Reply Share 11h



Jessie Newell

Billi Jean Wietelman this has nothing to do with me.

Like Reply Share 1h



Billi Jean Wietelman

Jessie Newell you are helping with the movement by sharing stories!

Like Reply Share 1h



VM Young

Front page too!! 🍷

Like Reply Share 16h

Write a comment...



Dave Moore shared a link. ► **NO MORE TURNPIKES, Oklahoma!**

21h · 🌐

...

'David vs Goliath' Fight against OTA defined

By Mindy Ragan Wood | Transcript Staff Writer

June 19, 2022

Residents who filed a lawsuit against the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority know they have a tough fight on their hands, but gathered to steel their resolve at a meeting with their attorney Friday night.

Attorney Stan Ward invited all 150 of his plaintiffs in the lawsuit to his hilltop ranch in Noble, where a turnpike threatens to forever change the picturesque landscape if OTA builds its southern extension between Oklahoma City and Purcell through east Norman.

The lawsuit alleges the turnpike authority violated the state's Open Meeting Act in January and February agendas, which did not sufficiently inform the public of the OTA's \$5 billion ACCESS plan to expand the state's toll road system.

OTA officials have said that the agency has been more transparent than ever with the announcement of a long range, 15-year plan first mentioned in December rather than the typical five-year forecasts for plans in the past.

Ward contends the OTA acted "willfully" to violate transparency laws which he said will mean the agency will have to start the approval process all over again.

Ward has successfully litigated such violations before, which he noted as he addressed the crowd of nearly 100 people on his front lawn.

The City of Norman lost a lawsuit in 2021 against the local Fraternal Order of Police after Ward proved city council did not sufficiently inform the public of its decision on police funding.

If the court rules in residents' favor, Ward said the punishment carries a fine and possible jail time. He likened the fight between the might of the OTA's privilege of eminent domain against property owners' rights to the cliché "You can't fight city hall."

"Can we do something about it? Can you fight city hall and win?" he asked the crowd. "Well, David was able to defeat Goliath. It's not impossible. Extraordinarily difficult, but not impossible."

A resident asked Ward if the court rules in their favor, how long will it take for the OTA to do what the city council did and simply revote on the matter with a clearly stated agenda?

"Is there anything preventing the OTA from doing something similar?" Mark Wagner asked.

"It had a lawyer looking across the desk," he recalled. "He said, 'You've got a great case. How much justice can you afford?' So, the affordability of justice is always the issue. It shouldn't be an issue here because we're not going to let it be an issue. We're going to take this as far as it has to go. I'm committed."

When asked what residents could do to help, Ward didn't ask for money.

"Make yourself visible," he said. "Put up signs, get bumper stickers on your vehicles and if people ask where you stand, you give them an earful."

Mindy Wood covers City Hall news and notable court cases for The Transcript. Reach her at mwood@normantranscript.com or 405-416-4420.

https://www.normantranscript.com/.../article_05b3d04a...



NORMANTRANSCRIPT.COM

'David vs Goliath' Fight against OTA defined

Residents who filed a lawsuit against the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority know they have a to...

38

4 Comments 13 Shares

Like

Comment

Share

"Is there anything preventing the OTA from doing something similar?" Mark Wagner asked.

"The answer to that is probably not, but I'd like for a bunch of them to vote from a jail cell," Ward said. "If that's what they intend to do, that's exactly where they ought to do it. Now, we all know nobody's going to go to jail for a misdemeanor by an important public official, but spending \$5 billion dollars?"

Ward did not elaborate on whether the amount of money in question would sway a prosecutor to file charges or court's decision to levy a fine or jail time.

GOAL OF THE LAWSUIT

While Ward did not invest hope in prosecutorial results favorable to the cause, he did inform the crowd that a lawsuit may provide answers to questions that remain unknown through the discovery process and through deposition "of key players."

"I'm hopeful that when we litigate this case we're going to find out a lot more about the facts, who the players were, how long our city of Norman officials knew about this, how long these other public officials knew about this and kept us in the dark," he said. "For one, I not being a mushroom, I don't like being kept in the dark and covered with B.S. and that's exactly what we have suffered with this entire project to date."

OTHER MEASURES

As the lawsuit makes its way through the courts, Ward mentioned plans to begin an initiative petition to curtail the state's use of eminent domain.

He warned that it was a difficult undertaking.

"They're costly, they're time consuming, and there's a lot of litigation that usually involves itself in those kinds of efforts," he said.

His discussion did not include a date to begin circulating a petition, but Ward said, "you're getting into the season when it's the best time. Football season, state fair of Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Where you get big crowds, you're going to get the most signatures. If you can get Walmart and big box stores to let you put booths up, you've got another leg up."

COST, HURDLES

Ward did not pronounce an estimated cost for his work on the lawsuit or upcoming petition drive, but he assured everyone not to worry about it.

He referred to a cartoon he saw while a young lawyer in the New Yorker magazine between an attorney and a client who deliberated a case.

"It had a lawyer looking across the desk," he recalled. "He said, 'You've got a great case. How much justice can you afford?' So, the affordability of justice is always the issue. It shouldn't be



Danna Fowble

9h · 🌐

...

This was a post on the Norman Sale page.

AT&T Wi-Fi

10:39 PM
Groups

12%



If you are considering a house in Norman,
Moore, S.OKC, Noble, or Purcell.

Go to accessoklahoma.com first! Scroll
down & enter the address you are looking at.
You may have to zoom in or out depending
on the property.

Realtors & homeowners are NOT required to
disclose the turnpike to potential buyers. It is
your responsibility to know where the house
is in relation to the proposed turnpike. Keep
in mind that it may move 1 mile east/west or
north/south.

8:54

📶 🔋

8:54

📶 🔋

accessoklahoma.com



accessoklahoma.com





Pam McIntosh

21h · 🌐

...

Just saw a great ad against Stitt focused on him wanting to spend \$5 billion on more tollways!

👍❤️ 29

11 Comments 5 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Top comments ▼



Write a public comment...

😊 📷 💬 🗨️



Jane Cox Martin

None of those in office running for reelection will discuss this topic during this campaign season, are they all on the take?

Like Reply Share 21h



Pam McIntosh Author

Jane Cox Martin I would say so. 🗨️

Like Reply Share 21h Edited



Write a public reply...

😊 📷 💬 🗨️



Pam Groom

its about time!! 🗨️

Like Reply Share 20h



Kelly Farris Wilson

A Jaye Watson Crayton posted a link to the video, it was awesome! 🗨️

Like Reply Share 21h



A Jaye Watson Crayton

Kelly Farris Wilson <https://okconservatives.org>



OKCONSERVATIVES.ORG

OK Conservatives | OK Conservatives

Like Reply Share 21h

👍❤️ 2



Dave Moore

A Jaye Watson Crayton Do they support anyone other than Joel

Like Reply Share 2 in



Dave Moore

A Jaye Watson Crayton Do they support anyone other than Joel Kintsel?

Like Reply Share 19h



A Jaye Watson Crayton

Dave Moore I tried to call them and the number just rang and no voice mail. I'll try again later. The building looks generic on google earth. The address used to be a variety care clinic, according to google. 😊 and the phone number is a Noble number.

Like Reply Share 19h Edited



Dave Moore

A Jaye Watson Crayton If you do what's called a "whois" search for any website, it will show you who's in charge, etc. For this website, all the information is hidden. A common practice, but not good form for a political site. Makes it look like you are hiding something. Hmmm.....
<https://who.is/>



WHO.IS

WHOIS Search, Domain Name, Website, and IP Tools - Who.is

Like Reply Share 18h



A Jaye Watson Crayton

Dave Moore Yes agreed. They did give us the phone number. The name of the group. I'll check it out

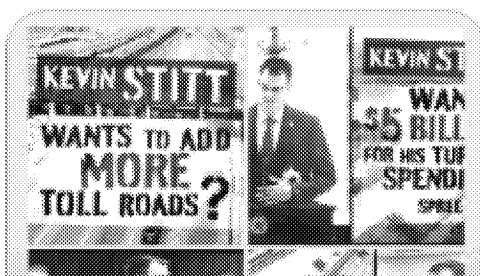
Like Reply Share 17h



Pam McIntosh Author

Kelly Farris Wilson

Great commercial and hope all following No More Turnpikes, PikeOffOTA, Ward 5 and thousands across the state see it and wake up.





Pam McIntosh Author

Kelly Farris Wilson

Great commercial and hope all following No More Turnpikes, PikeOffOTA, Ward 5 and thousands across the state see it and wake up.



Like Reply Share 19h



Tonda Shelton

WooHoo!!!



Like Reply Share 21h



Pam McIntosh shared a post. ▶ **Norman - Ward 5**

June 18 at 2:10 PM · 🌐

...

Ward 5 neighbors - please sign this petition to stop ACCESS and their planned Tollnado through our Ward! Share to get others to sign asap!

Don't stand by while 600 neighbors and their families lose their homes and properties for an unwanted, unneeded turnpike!



Dave Moore ▶ **NO MORE TURNPIKES, Oklahoma!**

June 18 at 11:21 AM · 🌐

<https://www.change.org/.../oklahomans-stop-oklahoma-s...>



CHANGE.ORG

Sign the Petition

STOP Oklahoma's ACCESS Turnpike Development



12

1 Comment 4 Shares



Paula Dodson

38m · 🌐

...

Shared on Lacie Lowry's page....

Share everywhere you can.

Save our Homes, Go Away OTA!

9:12 ↗



Lacie Lowry ●

...

24m · 🌐



Paula Dodson

Be prepared Oklahoma, Our Governor and The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority have more Turnpikes coming. Will your home be next to be taken by a turnpike. NO MORE TURNPIKES, Oklahoma!



4m Like Reply



Paula Dodson



Lacie Lowry

1h · 🌐



MORE CASHLESS TOLLS: Starting tomorrow, the H.E. Bailey Turnpike from Oklahoma City to Lawton will be completely cashless. Drivers will not need to stop and pay tolls. Instead, their PikePass or license plate will be scanned and a bill will be sent to the car owner.



👍👍👍 128

55 Comments 67 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Most relevant ▼



Write a comment...



Turnpike Authority authorizes bonds to fund Access Oklahoma plan

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority says a last-minute special meeting held to move forward with a contested turnpike extension saved it months of delays. Opponents of the turnpike extension say the unusual tactic was evidence of the agency's determination to force through an expensive, unwanted project. The OTA held a special meeting this month, 24 hours after posting notice the meeting would occur, to continue its work on a contested turnpike extension to run through parts of Norman and south Oklahoma City. During the June 9 special meeting, the OTA authorized revenue bonds to fund its Access Oklahoma plan, which includes the contested south extension.

Message

From: Jessica Brown [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6CFDDD84EE914B919AE04071753AC8F2-JESSICA BRO]
Sent: 6/20/2022 9:29:57 PM
To: glove@[REDACTED]; Dana Weber [dweber@[REDACTED]]; toddcone@[REDACTED]; jtitsworth7@[REDACTED]; John Jones [jjones@[REDACTED]]; will.dcbass@[REDACTED]; elair [elair@[REDACTED]]; Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]; Kate Vesper [kate.vesper@gov.ok.gov]
CC: Tim Gatz - Pikepass [tgatz@pikepass.com]; Joe Echelle [jechelle@pikepass.com]; David Streb [David.Streb@[REDACTED]]; Gene Wyckoff [Gene.Wyckoff@[REDACTED].com]
Subject: OTA Weekly binder
Attachments: 6.13 to 6.17 OTA Binder.pdf

Flag: Follow up

Thank you,
Jessica

Jessica Brown, M.J. | Director
Strategic Communications Division | Oklahoma Transportation Cabinet
Main: 405-521-6000
Oklahoma.gov | oklahoma.gov/odot





Oklahoma Turnpike Authority
Board Member Report
June 13 - 17, 2022

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Media Correspondence

Date: June 13 - 17

Documents: 2



Media Correspondence for June 13 - 17, 2022

This week the Strategic Communications office handled:

- 10 Media calls & emails for information/documents/statements
- Closed 8 of the 10 media requests
- 1 response included official statements
 - Statement on ACCESS line of credit & bonds (page 6)

Media Correspondence – June 13 - 17, 2022

Active

- The Oklahoman/Reporter Steve Lackmeyer - ACCESS RFPs for contracts approved in February (Jessica Brown & Brenda Perry Clark)
- Oklahoman/Reporter Steve Lackmeyer - Revenue of in-state vs. out-of-state travelers per turnpike (Jessica Brown & Brenda Perry Clark)

Completed

- Southwest Ledger/Reporter Mike Ray - H.E. Bailey & PlatePay transactions clarifications and photo requests (James Poling)
- Southwest Ledger/Reporter Mike Ray - H.E. Bailey & PlatePay follow-up questions (James Poling)
- Southwest Ledger/Reporter Mike Ray - More H.E. Bailey & Platepay follow up questions (James Poling)
- KSWO/Reporter Diamond Hubbard - H.E. Bailey PlatePay/PIKEPASS mobile store (James Poling)
- State Impact/Reporter Beth Wallis - Minor statement clarification (James Poling)
- Lawton Constitution/Reporter Kim McConnel - H.E. Bailey PlatePay update (James Poling)
- Tulsa World/Reporter Rhett Morgan on surplus land auction info (Brenda Perry Clark)
- Oklahoman/Reporter Steve Lackmeyer - ACCESS timeline for new access points (Jessica Brown/Brenda Perry Clark)

Statements provided to State Impact reporter Beth Wallis on 6/13

- Assuming I understand this correctly, the line of credit was terminated to instead use a bond issuance, with the reasoning that the Supreme Court could validate the bond issuance, the litigation could end, and the project could get started quicker. Could that process not happen with the credit line, or does the Court only validate bond issuances?

The validation process only applies to bonds and vests jurisdiction exclusively with the Supreme Court. The statute (69 OS §1718) that authorizes the OTA to utilize the validation process also provides that the Supreme Court is to give validation applications precedence over the other business of the Court; thus, this process is not for the purpose of starting the Norman area projects quicker, but rather to resolve the legal issue over whether OTA has authorization as soon as possible thereby providing certainty to all parties as soon as possible.

- How would you respond to the accusations from Pike Off that this is being done to avoid the discovery phase in the lawsuit?

"Anything that can be obtained in discovery is already available via public record."

Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority special board meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 9

Sent: 06/08/2022 01:59 PM CDT

Sent By: jpoling@odot.org

Sent To: Subscribers of MEDIA_media list who answered "Capitol Media" or "Commissioners" or "Industry Partners" or "MPR staff" or "OTA" or "MPR home" or "Statewide" or "Adair" or "Alfalfa" or "Atoka" or "Beaver" or "Beckham" or "Blaine" or "Bryan" or "Caddo" or "Canadian" or "Carter" or "Cherokee" or "Choctaw" or "Cimarron" or "Cleveland" or "Coal" or "Comanche" or "Cotton" or "Craig" or "Creek" or "Custer" or "Delaware" or "Dewey" or "Ellis" or "Garfield" or "Garvin" or "Grady" or "Grant" or "Greer" or "Harmon" or "Harper" or "Haskell" or "Hughes" or "Jackson" or "Jefferson" or "Johnston" or "Kay" or "Kingfisher" or "Kiowa" or "Latimer" or "Leflore" or "Lincoln" or "Logan" or "Love" or "Major" or "Marshall" or "Mayes" or "Mcclain" or "Mccurtain" or "Mcintosh" or "Murray" or "Muskogee" or "Noble" or "Nowata" or "Okfuskee" or "Oklahoma" or "Okmulgee" or "Osage" or "Ottawa" or "Pawnee" or "Payne" or "Pittsburg" or "Pontotoc" or "Pottawatomie" or "Pushmataha" or "Roger Mills" or "Rogers" or "Seminole" or "Sequoyah" or "Stephens" or "Texas" or "Tillman" or "Tulsa" or "Wagoner" or "Washington" or "Washita" or "Woods" or "Woodward" or "ODOT Senior Staff" to "Filter-media:"

376 Recipients Email SMS Facebook Twitter RSS**96%**

Delivered



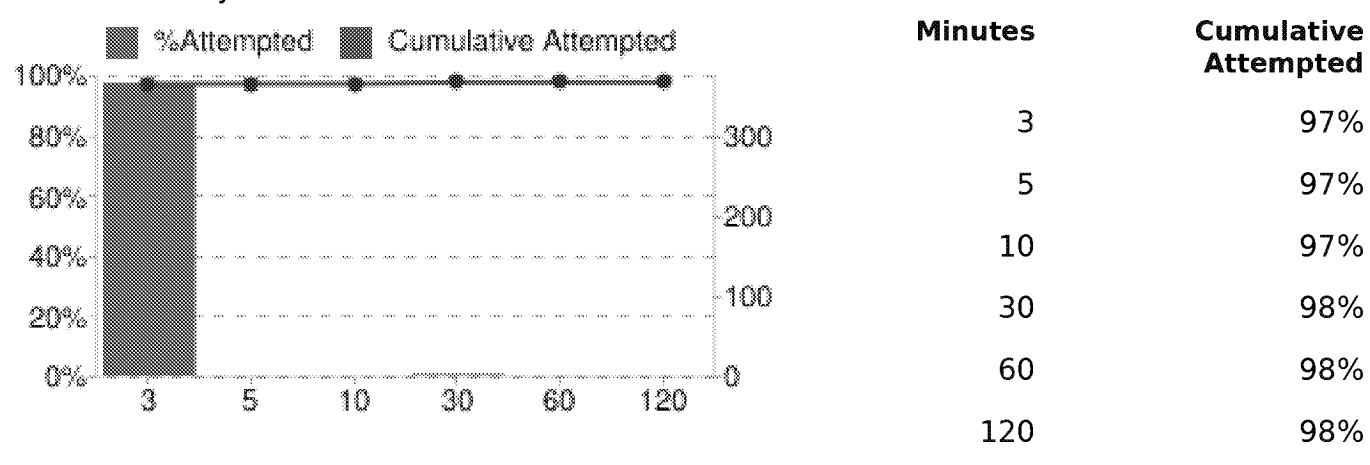
0% Pending

4% Bounced

37% Open Rate

6% Click Rate

Email Delivery Stats



Delivery and performance

These figures represent all data since the bulletin was first sent to present time.

	Progress	% Delivered	Recipients	# Delivered	Opened Unique	Bounced/Failed	Unsubscribes
Email Bulletin	Delivered	95.7%	376	360	134 / 37.2%	16	0
Digest	n/a	n/a	0	0	0 / 0.0%	0	0
SMS Message	Delivered	0.0%	0	0	n/a	0	n/a

Link URL	Unique Clicks	Total Clicks
https://pikepass.com/about/AuthorityMeeting.aspx	9	23
https://video.ibm.com/channel/jsW2fC3uurE	8	20
https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5r...	1	5
https://subscriberhelp.granicus.com/	1	4
https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5r...	1	4

Subject: OTA Board approves resolutions addressing ACCESS Oklahoma litigation

Sent: 06/09/2022 06:54 PM CDT

Sent By: jpoling@odot.org

Sent To: Subscribers of MEDIA_media list who answered "Capitol PIOs" or "Industry Partners" or "MPR staff" or "OTA" or "Senate PIOs" or "Trucking Radio" or "Governor PIOs" or "House PIOs" or "MPR home" or "Statewide" or "Traffax OKC Metro" or "Traffax Tulsa Metro" or "Caddo" or "Canadian" or "Cleveland" or "Comanche" or "Cotton" or "Delaware" or "Grady" or "Kay" or "Mcclain" or "Muskogee" or "Noble" or "Okfuskee" or "Oklahoma" or "Osage" or "Pawnee" or "Pittsburg" or "Rogers" or "Seminole" or "Tulsa" or "Wagoner" to "Filter-media:"

382 Recipients Email SMS Facebook Twitter RSS**95%**

Delivered

0% Pending

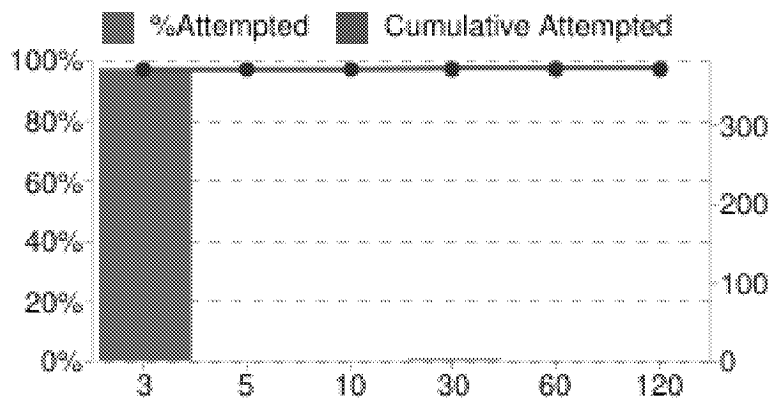
5% Bounced

40% Open Rate

1% Click Rate



Email Delivery Stats



Minutes

Cumulative Attempted

3	97%
5	97%
10	97%
30	98%
60	98%
120	98%

Delivery Metrics - Details

382 Total Sent

361 (95%) Delivered

0 (0%) Pending

21 (5%) Bounced

0 (0%) Unsubscribed

Bulletin Analytics

288 Total Opens

143 (40%) Unique Opens

2 Total Clicks

2 (1%) Unique Clicks

4 # of Links

Delivery and performance

These figures represent all data since the bulletin was first sent to present time.

	Progress	% Delivered	Recipients	# Delivered	Opened Unique	Bounced/Failed	Unsubscribes
Email Bulletin	Delivered	94.5%	382	361	143 / 39.6%	21	0
Digest	n/a	n/a	0	0	0 / 0.0%	0	0
SMS Message	Delivered	0.0%	0	0	n/a	0	n/a

Link URL

	Unique Clicks	Total Clicks
http://www.AccessOklahoma.com	1	1
https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbI9saW5r...	1	1
https://subscriberhelp.granicus.com/	0	0
https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbI9saW5r...	0	0

Open Records

Date: June 13 - 17

Documents: 2



Media - Open Record Requests

Active

- Norman Transcript/Mindy Wood environmental studies on Kickapoo-Wes Watkins Lake, Kilpatrick-Lake Overholser, SH-74/LHP-Lake Hefner (5-2-2022 James Poling) (Awaiting StratComm & Legal Review)
- State Impact/Beth Wallis – ACCESS environmental – 10 requests (4/19/22 James Poling)
 - **Aquifers (Data gathering)**
Emails, phone calls and recording of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding any aquifers potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects during the period of Jan. 1, 2021 to April 16, 2022.
 - **Private property (Data gathering)**
Emails, phone calls and recording of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding any homes or private property potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects in Cleveland and Oklahoma Counties during the period of Jan. 14, 2019 to April 16, 2022.
 - **Water quality (Data gathering)**
Emails, phone calls and recording of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding water quality or water pollution potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects during the period of Jan. 1, 2021 to April 16, 2022.
 - **Watersheds (Data gathering)**
Emails, phone calls and recordings of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding any watersheds potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects during the period Jan. 1, 2021 to April 16, 2022.
 - **Underground water wells (Data gathering)**
Emails, phone calls and recording of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding any underground water wells potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects during the period of Jan. 1, 2021 to April 16, 2022.

- **Rose rocks (Data gathering)**
Emails, phone calls and recording of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding any rose rocks potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects during the period of Jan. 1, 2021 to April 16, 2022.
- **CDM Smith (Waiting on StratComm & Legal review)**
Contracts between the OTA and CDM Smith regarding OTA projects in Cleveland and Oklahoma counties from Jan. 1, 2016 – April 16, 2022.
- **Garver contracts (Waiting on StratComm & Legal review)**
Contracts between the OTA and Garver regarding OTA projects in Cleveland and Oklahoma counties from Jan. 1, 2016 – April 16, 2022.
- **Kickapoo Environment Studies (Data gathering)**
Environmental impact studies from the Kickapoo Turnpike project. Period: Jan. 1, 2013 to Jan. 1, 2021.
- **Poe contracts (Waiting on StratComm & Legal review)** Contracts between the OTA and Poe and Associates regarding OTA projects in Cleveland and Oklahoma counties from Jan. 1, 2016 – April 16, 2022.
- **KOCO/Jeff Raymond on governor's office communication, presentations (4/18/22 Jessica Brown/Brenda Perry Clark) (Data gathering with ODOT & OTA IT)**

Completed

- **State Impact/Reporter Beth Wallis - ACCESS Oklahoma bond holders**
 - **Documentation on the largest holders of bonds in relation to the ACCESS Oklahoma Turnpike project.**
Note: As per the OTA Budget: "While not required to disclose their ownership position in municipal bonds, institutional holders may elect to disclose such holdings. As a result, the Authority can and does on a periodic basis identify its largest holders of bonds."

ACCESS Advertising

Date: June 13 - 17

Documents 2



Court rejects EPA finding that a weed killer is safe

Matthew Daly
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court on Friday rejected a Trump administration finding that the active ingredient in the weed killer Roundup does not pose a serious health risk and is "not likely" to cause cancer in humans.

The California-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to reexamine its 2020 finding that glyphosate did not pose a health risk for people exposed to it by any means — on farms, yards or roadsides or as residue left on food crops.

Glyphosate is the active ingredient in Roundup, the most widely used herbicide in the world. Pharmaceutical giant Bayer, which acquired the herbicide's original producer Monsanto in 2018, is facing thousands of claims from people who say Roundup exposure caused their cancer.

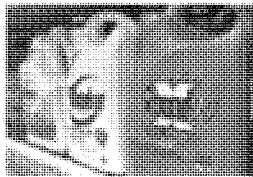
Roundup will remain available for sale. According to an agency spokesman, EPA officials are reviewing the 54-page ruling "and will decide next steps." The Supreme Court is also considering whether to hear an appeal from Bayer that could shut down thousands of lawsuits on the cancer claims.

Writing for a unanimous three-judge panel, Judge Michelle Friedland said EPA's finding of no risk to human health "was not supported by substantial evidence." She also ruled that EPA fell short of its obligations under the Endangered Species Act by inadequately examining glyphosate's impact on animal species and vegetation.

Legal critics said EPA "shirked its duties under the Endangered Species Act. We agree and remand to the agency for further consideration," wrote Friedland, a nominee of former President Barack Obama.

The Center for Food Safety, one of the groups that challenged the decision, called Friday's ruling "a historic victory for farmworkers and the environment."

The decision "gives voice to those who suffer from glyphosate's cancer, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma," said Amy



Pharmaceutical giant Bayer is facing thousands of claims from people who say exposure to Roundup caused their cancer. MATT DAILY/AP PHOTO

van Saun, senior attorney with the center.

"EPA's 'no cancer' risk conclusion did not stand up to scrutiny," she said. "The court agreed that EPA needed to ensure the safety of endangered species before greenlighting glyphosate."

While EPA has said it has not found evidence of cancer risk from glyphosate, California and other states have listed it as a cancer risk and local governments across the country have restricted its use. In 2015, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer classified the chemical as "probably carcinogenic."

Bayer announced last year it is removing glyphosate from the U.S. residential lawn-and-garden marketplace, effective as early as 2023.

Bayer said in a statement Friday night that EPA's 2020 conclusion "was based on a rigorous assessment of the extensive body of science spanning more than 40 years."

The company believes that EPA "will continue to conclude, as it and other regulators have consistently concluded for more than four decades, that glyphosate-based herbicides can be used safely and are not carcinogenic," the statement said.

Last year, Bayer set aside \$4.5 billion to deal with the claims that glyphosate causes non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of cancer. The company had previously taken a charge of nearly \$10 billion for earlier rounds of litigation.



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FOR THE FUTURE

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9TH ANNUAL



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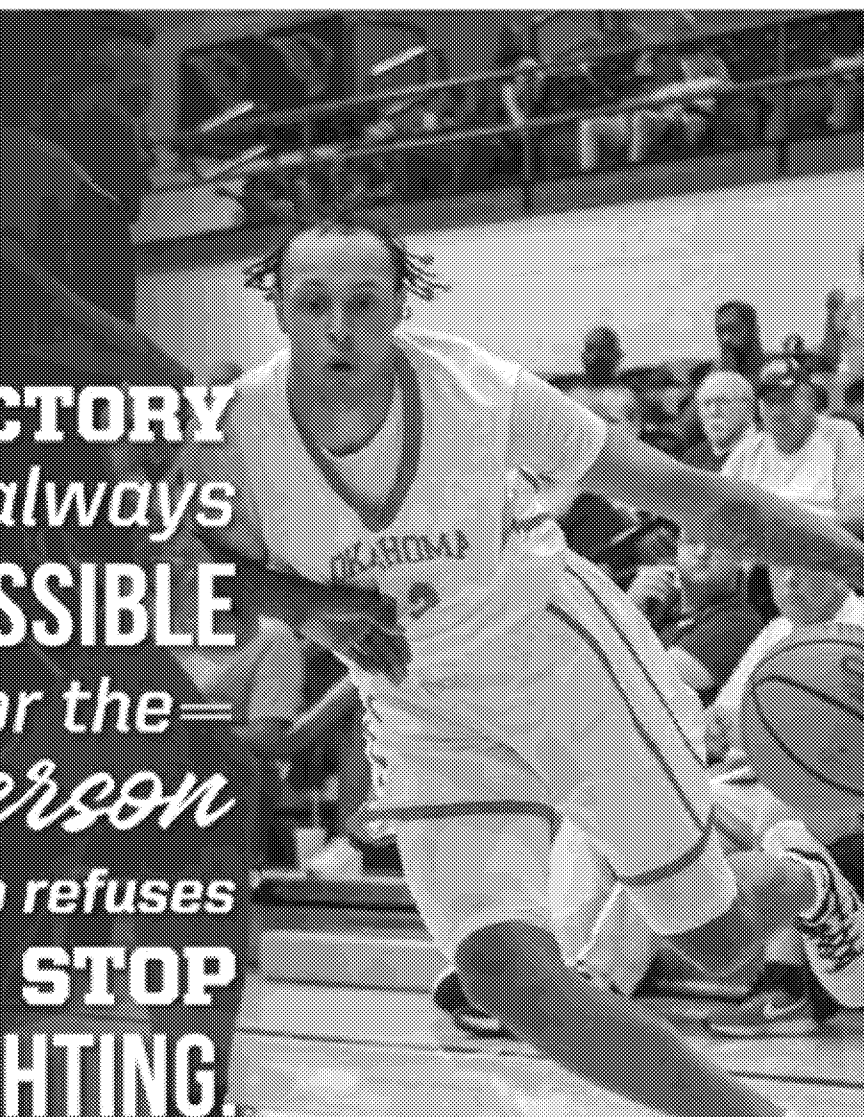


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JACOBI SEBOCK

Midwest City High School



VICTORY is always POSSIBLE
=for the= *person* who refuses **TO STOP FIGHTING.**

Napoleon Hill



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Loyal

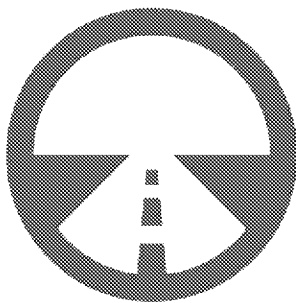
To Oklahoma & You.

MEMBER FDIC

ACCESS Outreach

Date: June 13 - 17

Documents 3

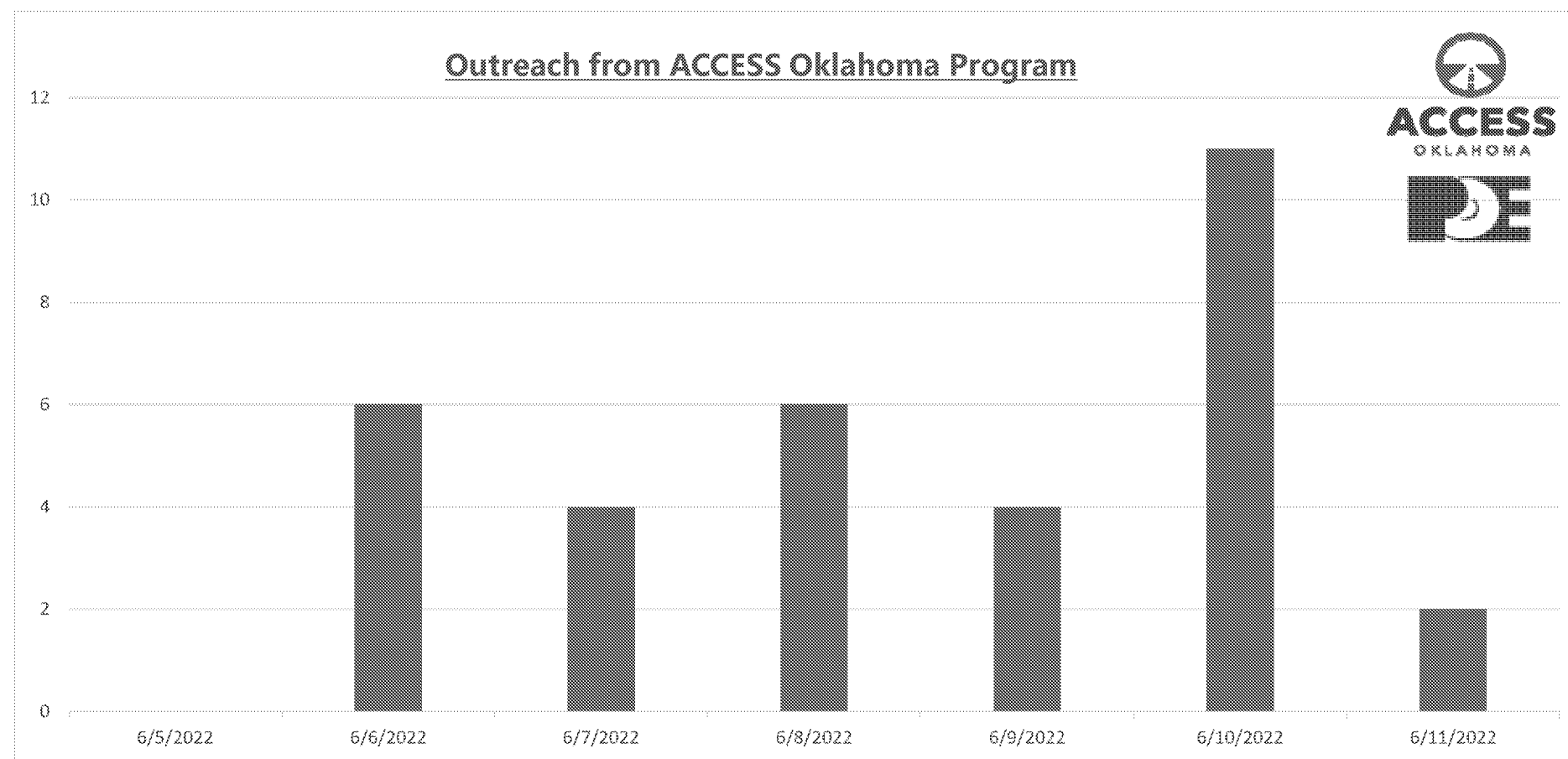


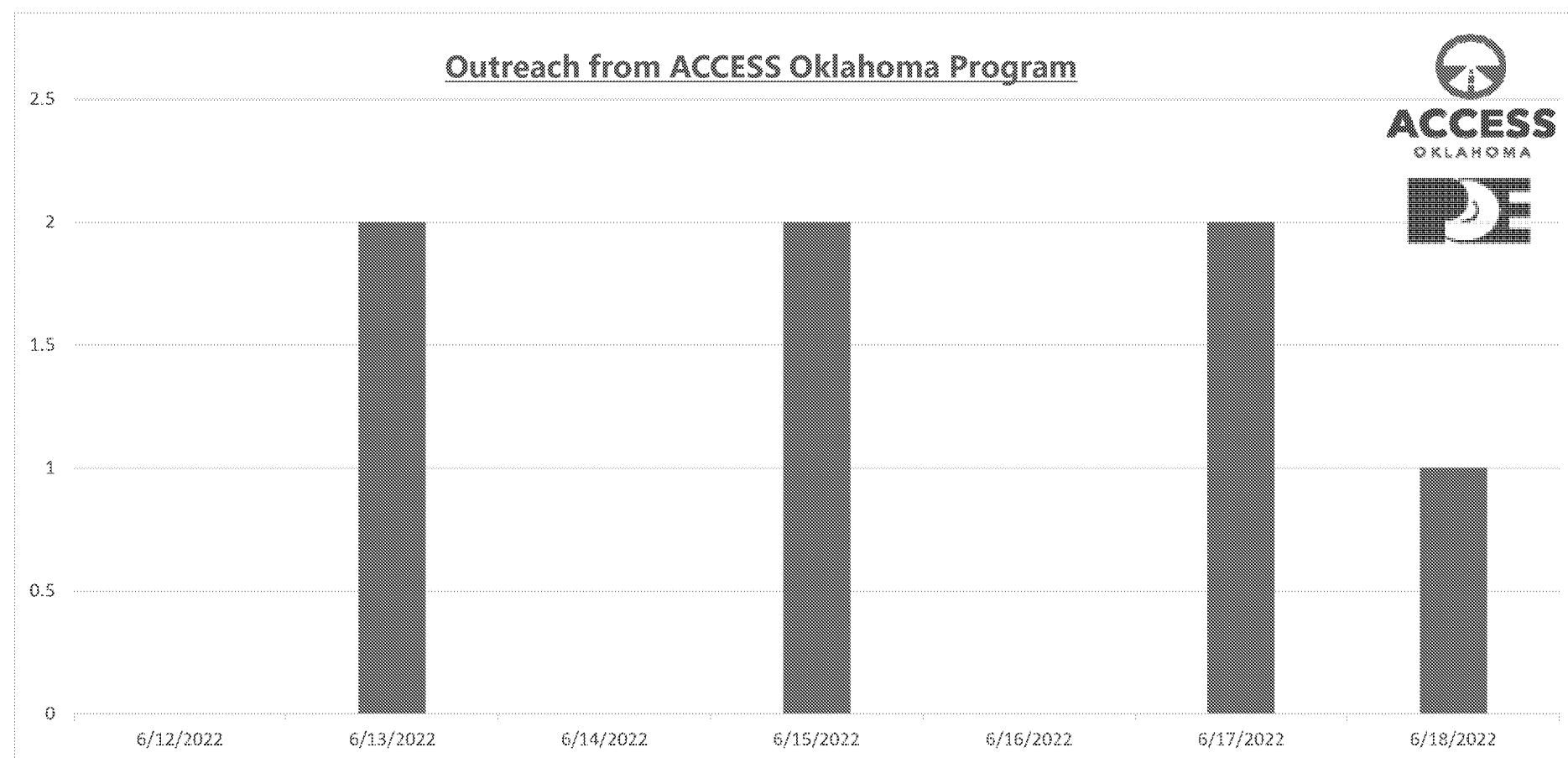
ACCESS
OKLAHOMA

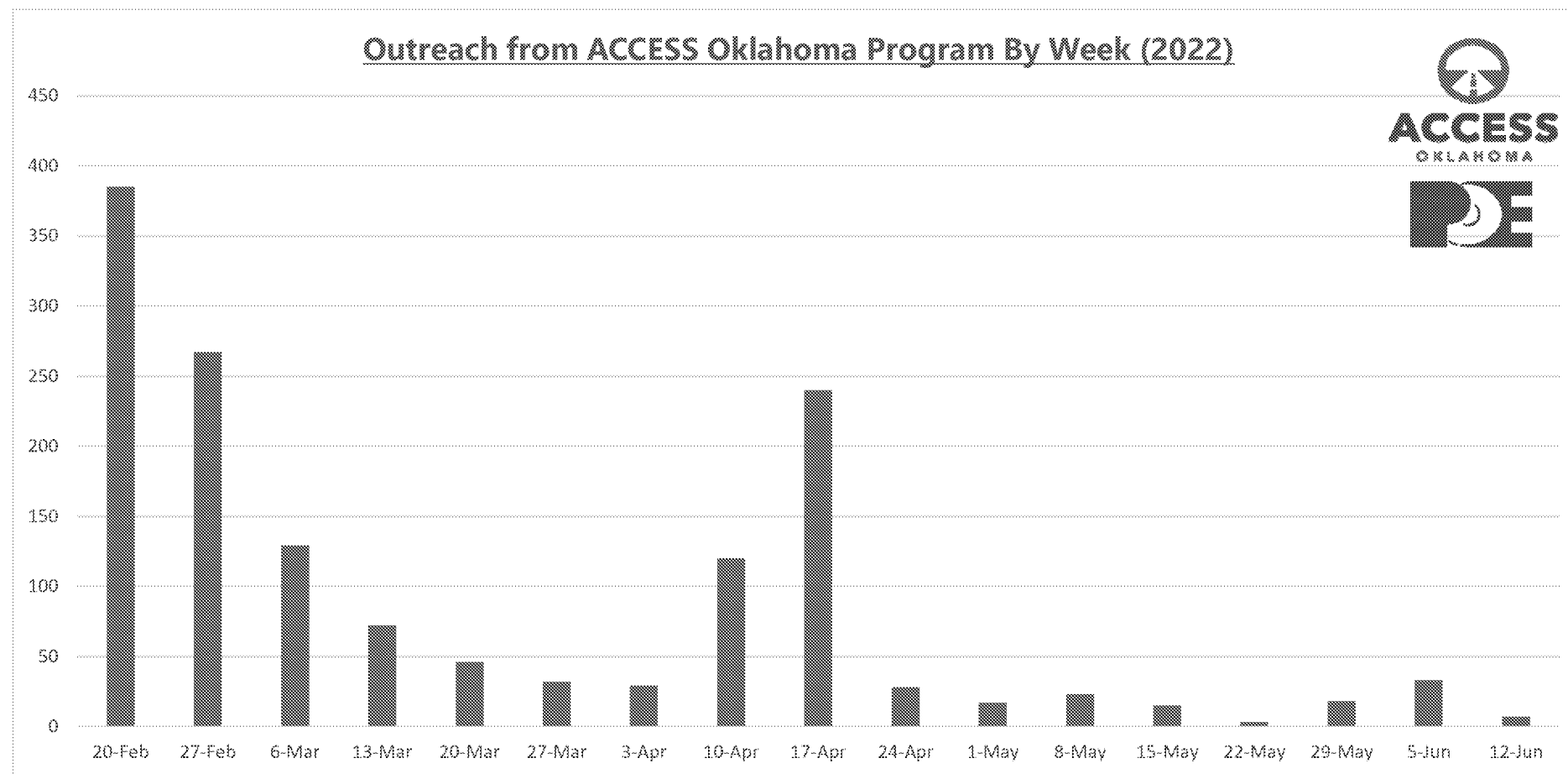
ACCESS Oklahoma Weekly Outreach

Outreach data gathered by Poe & Associates includes:

- Engagement from citizens via:
 - ACCESS Oklahoma hotline
 - Connect page on ACCESSOklahoma.com
 - Emailing info@accessoklahoma.com







Upcoming Projects

Date: June 13 - 17
Documents 1



- **Meeting with Tulsa World Editorial Board June 22**
- **Highlight Oklahoma's opportunities to increase freight transportation on Turnpikes**
- **Sec. Gary Ridley Op-ed to be submitted to the Oklahoman this month**
- **Podcast with Ken Miller, Ph.D., former state treasurer and OCU economics professor**
 - Miller will provide a thought leadership video on how both public and private funds are necessary for the state to achieve the greatest value and benefit for Oklahomans in many public initiatives, especially for safe roads and bridges. The two sources of funding are not mutually exclusive, but must complement and supplement each other in order to address large societal concerns.

Message

From: Jessica Brown [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6CFDDD84EE914B919AE04071753AC8F2-JESSICA BRO]
Sent: 6/23/2022 5:39:51 PM
To: glove@[REDACTED]; Dana Weber [dweber@v[REDACTED]n]; toddcone@d[REDACTED]n; John Jones [jjones@[REDACTED]t]; jtitsworth7@[REDACTED]; will.dcbass@[REDACTED]n; elair [elair@[REDACTED]n]; Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]; Kate Vesper [kate.vesper@gov.ok.gov]
CC: Tim Gatz - Pikepass [tgatz@pikepass.com]; Joe Echelle [jechelle@pikepass.com]
Subject: 6/22 - 6/23 Earned Media & Social Listening report
Attachments: Dave Moore - KFOR news clip.png; Kim Woods - Banner picture.png; Kim Woods - Joel Kintsel's comment.png; Ali Lisenbery - Banner picture and news clip.png; Ali Lisenbery - Banner news clip ward 5 .png; John Frasure - Banner news clip.png; IMPORTANT Weekly Update - June 21, 2022.pdf; Mike Slate - Joel Kintsel brochure.png; Cindi Barnard - Repost of the Joel Kintsel flyer.png; 6_23 Norman Transcript Letter to the Editor ACCESS Oklahoma doesn't make sense 2.png; 6_23 Norman Transcript Letter to the Editor ACCESS Oklahoma doesn't make sense 1.png

Social Listening

Note: Screenshots of all posts are attached to this email

The opposition is sharing pictures and news clips of the 30-foot banner that was placed near a Gov. Stitt fundraiser last night.

- Dave Moore shared the TV news clip of the banner.
- Kim Stewart Woods posted a photo of the banner. Governor-candidate Joel Kintsel commented praising Pike Off OTA.
- Ali Lisenbery posted a picture and a news clip of the banner on the No More Turnpikes group and the Ward 5 group.
- John Fraser posted the TV clip on the Ward 5 group.
- The weekly newsletter came out yesterday. Below are some highlights.
 - Randy's Monday update, where he talks about the Bond Oversight Committee meeting on June 23 and the monthly OTA meeting on July 28, was included.
 - A picture of the 30-foot banner.
 - Two articles – one by Amy Cerato about what to know before voting and one about how to spread the word about OTA's "corruption."
 - The rooftop of the week is Randy Carter's family.
- Mike Slate received a Joel Kintsel flyer in the mail, and the opposition is commenting on his post regarding their support for Joel. Cindi Barnard reposted Mike's post to the Ward 5 group.
- The Lost Ogle published an article regarding Rarchar Tortorello's reasoning for being in D.C. He is there to participate in a documentary on "Civil Rights Violations."

Earned Media

6/22 KFOR, 'PIKE OFF OTA' sets up crane across from Toby Keith's home. <https://bit.ly/3bjJBEX>

6/23 KFOR at 5:04 a.m., 'PIKE OFF OTA' sets up crane across from Toby Keith's home. [Link](#)
Viewership: 7,367
Ad Value: \$247.90

6/23 KFOR at 4 a.m., 'PIKE OFF OTA' sets up crane across from Toby Keith's home. [Link](#)
Viewership: 4,377
Ad Value: \$120.27

6/22 KFOR at 12:45 a.m., 'PIKE OFF OTA' sets up crane across from Toby Keith's home. [Link](#)
Viewership: 1,884
Ad Value: \$101.11

6/22 KFOR at 10:06 p.m., 'PIKE OFF OTA' sets up crane across from Toby Keith's home. [Link](#)
Viewership: 38,553
Ad Value: \$3,698.61

6/23 Norman Transcript, Letter to the Editor: ACCESS Oklahoma doesn't make sense. (attached)

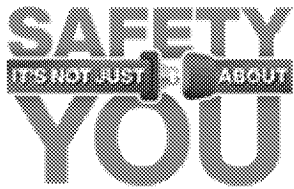
Thank you,
Jessica

Jessica Brown, M.J. | Director

Strategic Communications Division | Oklahoma Transportation Cabinet

Main: 405-521-6000

Oklahoma.gov | oklahoma.gov/odot





Dave Moore

10h · 🌐

...

Well, there you go!



👍❤️ 50

7 Comments 21 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Top comments ▼



Write a public comment...

😊 📷 📺 🗨️



John Frasure

Right On I Love this! 😎👍

Like Reply Share 9h



Sadee Bone

That's my girl!! 🙌

Like Danku Chaaa 9h



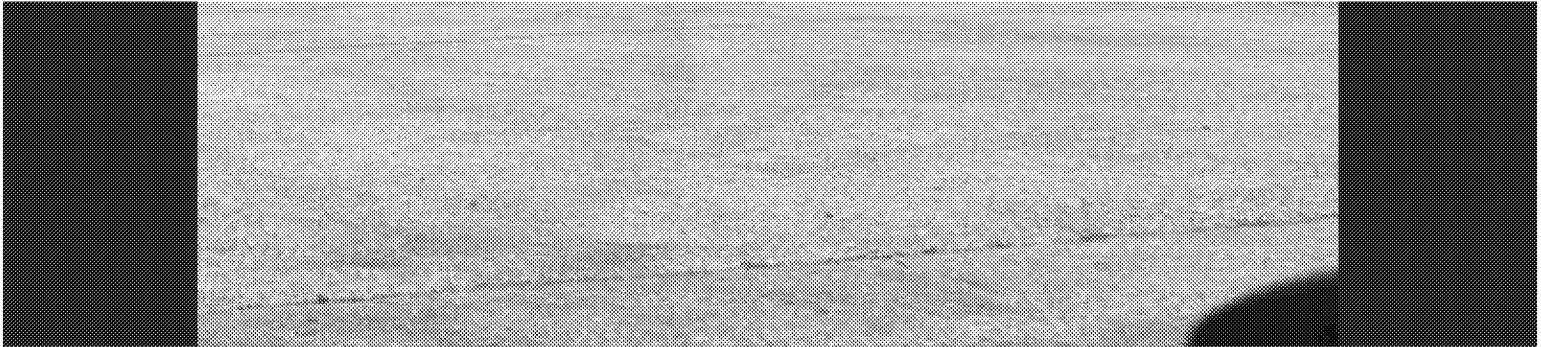
Kim Stewart Woods shared a post. ▶ **NO MORE TURNPIKES, Oklahoma!**

12h · 🌐

...

We regularly use Indian Hills Rd twice a week to get to Blanchard to take care of the horse. We drive it from Anderson Rd to I 35. It's such a beautiful road with lovely trees and homes and obviously well loved property. Pretty much every. single. home. has pike off ota signs or inventive homemade signs. Yesterday we saw really good ones with a hand painted skunk with the words 'OTA STINKS' - my current favorite 🐻🐻🐻🐻🐻 I'm so proud of this group that has formed to SAVE OUR HOMES and peaceful way of life ❤️ We are fighting like the dickens to not only save our homes but to STOP OTA from building toll roads all over our state. We won't give up. We are focused and determined. Thank you Pike Off OTA fighters ❤️





Randi Reed

17h · 🌐

At NE 36th and E Franklin Rd

  138

4 Comments 15 Shares

 Like





 Comment

 Share

Top comments ▼



Write a public comment...



Dana Smith

I feel the same! I drive Indian Hills everyday during the school year and I love seeing all the signs! We are definitely not a silent group! Our message is being heard!

Like Reply Share 10h

  4



Joel Kintsel for Governor · Follow

Well done PIKE OFF OTA!! As Governor, I will immediately direct a halt of the OTA project in CC, a financial audit and an outside, 3rd-party analysis to determine financial sustainability, traffic loads, route, etc. We must have transparency & openness in OK government NOT cronyism & backroom deals.

Like Reply Share 49m



Timothy Neyers

Abolish the Turnpike

Mark Sherwood for Oklahoma Governor

www.Sherwood2022.com



SHERWOOD2022.COM

HOME | Sherwood for OK Gov





Ali Lisenbery

15h · 🌐

...

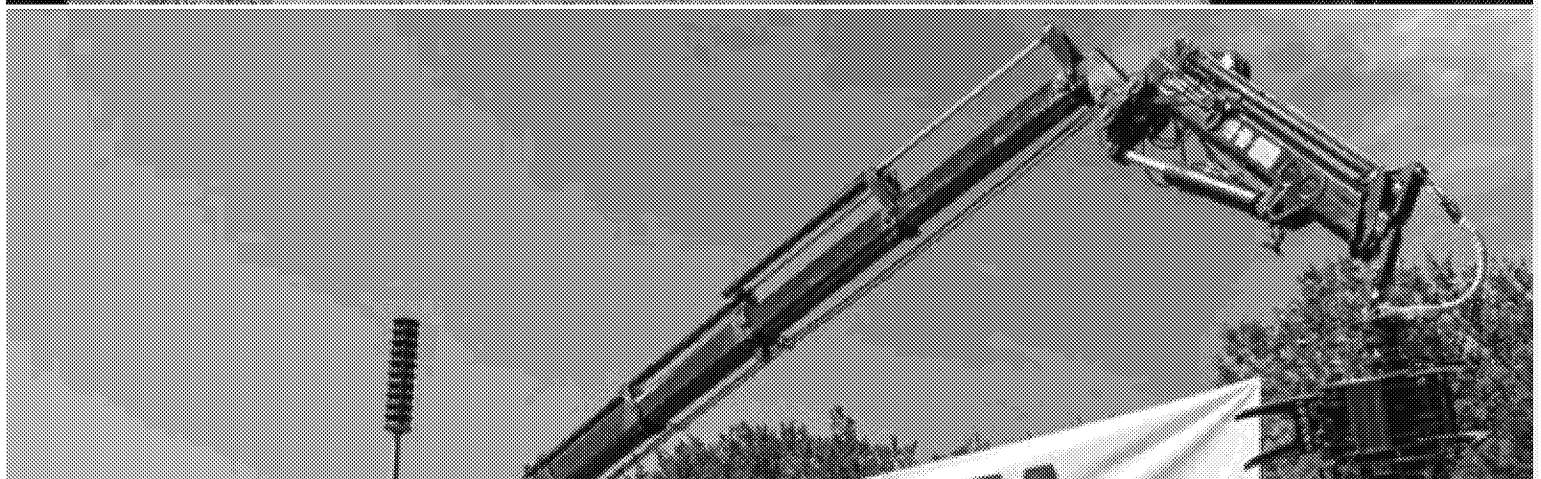
This week's Newsletter is out! Read it here: <https://mailchi.mp/.../important-weekly-update-june-21-2022>

Sneak Peak: Check out our NEW 30 foot banner, currently hung in route to the Stitt fundraiser happening tonight! 📺 <https://kfor.com/.../pike-off-ota-sets-up-crane-across...>

Huge thanks to Statewide TLC Tree, Landscape, & Crane for donating the crane service, and Mappes Trucking for providing the space to park it!!! 🙏

If you didn't get the newsletter in your inbox, make sure you're subscribed here: <https://pikeoffota.us14.list-manage.com/subscribe...> We use this service to send weekly updates, as well as important and urgent notifications when needed.

And of course, SHARE with your friends and neighbors! ❤️





Ali Lisenbery shared a post. ▶ Norman - Ward 5

14h · 🌐

...



Ali Lisenbery

15h · 🌐

This week's Newsletter is out! Read it here: <https://mailchi.mp/.../important-weekly->

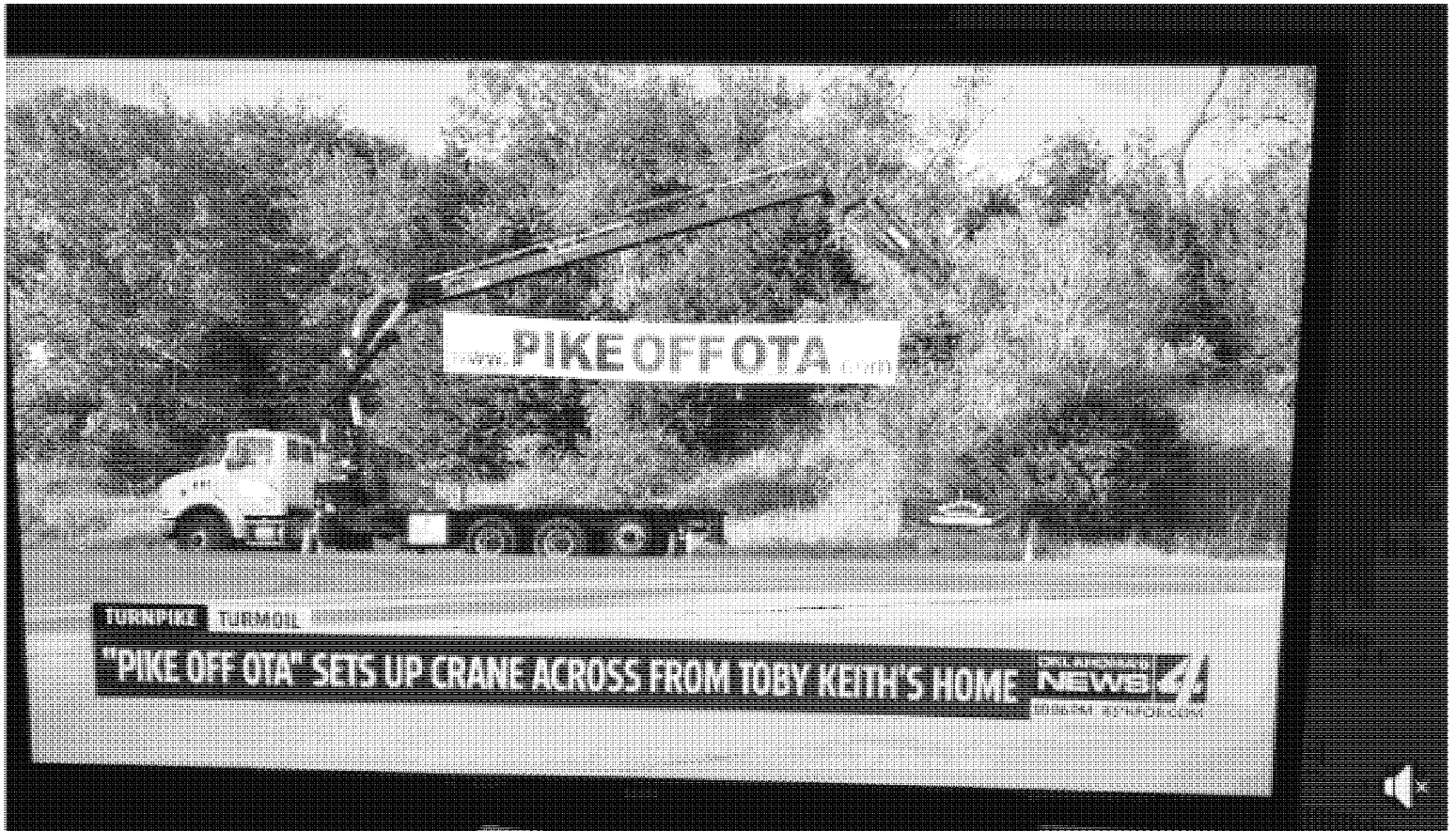


John Frasure shared a post. ▶ Norman - Ward 5

9h · 🌐

...

Good information



Dave Moore

11h · 🌐

Well, there you go!

👍 5

1 Share

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Submit your first comment...

😊 📷 GIF 🗨️

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Weekly Update

PLUS

TWO Very Important Articles!   

 Share

 Tweet

 Forward

 Share

Randy's Monday Update

[Subscribe](#)

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Check Out Our New *30 FOOT* Banner, conveniently hung across the street from a
Stilt fundraiser from 4-8pm today! 🤖

Huge thanks to [Statewide TLC Tree, Landscape, & Crane](#) for donating the crane
service, and [Mappes Trucking \(Gravel, Dirt, Sand\)](#) for providing the space for us!



Oklahoma's 2022 legislative session ended Friday, May 27th.

Our efforts will be shifting focus from the Capitol to our legal strategy and public outreach. **Please consider making a monthly contribution or a one time donation to help us STOP the OTA.** Every little bit helps. Even a small donation, if made by enough people, will make a huge impact.

I want to contribute to STOPPING OTA monthly!

I'd like to just make a one-time donation.

● TWO Articles Worth Reading ●

What You Need to Know Before Heading to The Polls...

Written By: Dr. Amy Cerato, Ph.D., P.E.

election board offices from 8:00 AM-6:00 PM Thursday, June 23 and Friday, June 24 and 8:00 AM-2:00 PM Saturday, June 25.

Sample ballots for the 2022 Oklahoma Primary Election are available at county election board offices during regular business hours or on demand from the OK Voter Portal found [HERE](#). All Oklahomans registered to vote can type in their name and birthdate and find their current affiliation, polling location, sample ballots, voting history and voting districts, among other information.

[We need all registered voters to research the candidates and come out and VOTE.](#)

If you live in Cleveland County, please be aware that Cleveland County has recently changed their precinct maps and polling locations. Do you know where your voting location is? Click [HERE](#).

Do you live in Cleveland County and want to know what your primary ballot looks like and who you will vote for? Click [HERE](#).

Please know how the candidates stand on issues important to you. Please look at their background and how they have acted in the past to attempt to predict how they may act in the future. Please look at how long they have been in public office and how many different tax-payer funded jobs they have held – and STOP career politicians.

This is a much bigger election than simply choosing local representation. This crucial Primary Election will decide many state and national offices that will impact all of Oklahomans. Unfortunately, we have too many professional politicians and bureaucrats running and we have candidates running that have voted against transparency and accountability in government.

For example, can you find the candidate on the Republican Primary ballot that voted against bringing HCR 1021 to the Senate Floor? Hint: This person was a Senator and is now running for Corporation Commissioner. This person obviously didn't want the OTA to be audited, and yet they want your vote to be the person in charge of regulatory control on Fuel, Oil, Gas, Public Utilities and Transportation Industries? Vote for those who will put the best interests of Oklahoma Citizens first; not those that who have been in public office for decades and who continue to protect big government and special interests.

Do you want to know how these candidates feel about turnpikes and infrastructure in our state? We've made it easy for you! Please check out the PIKE OFF OTA's voter guide [HERE](#).

June 28, 2022.

Grooming the Public, the OTA Playbook

Written By: Whitney Mullica

Rhetoric shapes our alliances with others. Powerful people control narrative to create cooperation with their envisionment of reality. The more benign and common sense a narrative may seem, the easier it is for powerful people to keep others cooperating with the status quo.

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority may portray themselves as benevolent, but they do so from a place of power. When dealing with OTA, truth is not enough. OTA has repeatedly led and persuaded Oklahomans to believe facts are contentions of perspective.

The OTA misleads the people to believe there is public input. They claim to rely on traffic models, ensure the need for progress, and promise federal and state regulations are followed, while promoting the new Plate Pay system.

The truth is there is no public input with the OTA. The community meetings they hold do not give citizens the opportunity to be heard. In fact, to speak at an OTA Board Meeting, you sign up a week in advance.

The traffic models are consistently wrong due to a variety of errors, such as axle-spacing overlap between different classes that result in consistently inaccurate numbers by misclassification and outright false negatives in AVC sites, and WIM sites have been found to be completely inaccurate due to miscalibrations and thus unusable in studies [1,2]. Whether the mistakes are legitimate or due to intentional negligence, the end-result is a pattern of multi-billion dollar projects constructed on false pretenses. Average toll revenues were less than 63% of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's projections on recent projects. For example, the Kilpatrick was projected to bring in almost \$46 million in toll revenue during its first 5 years yet only managed \$13.1 million, less than 29% of its projection equating to a whopping \$33 million dollar difference [3].

Most people don't know the people who build turnpikes, and develop properties, are heavily contributing to politicians who give them power to do so. Visit the state's ethics commission [website](#) and look for yourself.

mechanisms against the OTA. They avoid water permits through memorandums of agreement between ODOT, OTA, and OWRB, ignore guidelines on flooding (so long as economic losses are at stake, not human life), and get slapped on the wrist anytime they are cited for polluting water sources. [4]

The seemingly benevolent "plate pay" is requiring the removal of toll booths and installation of plate scanning technology, both of those things cost money and strengthen the power of the OTA.

Corruption may seem like mere speculation by folks threatened to lose their homes. The OTA softens the situation with fake sincerity and references to future needs. By reframing rhetoric to make it appear unimportant to the average person, Oklahomans are led to believe this is someone else's problem, which is simply not true. The roads can be paid off and the tolls removed.

The OTA consistently distances from powerless citizens by discussing the needs of the future, rather than acknowledging that in fact there is no real public input, the traffic models are consistently wrong, the stakeholders who will financially benefit from new turnpikes are heavily influencing politicians, there is no real enforcement of federal and state regulations, and plate pay is one more way to spend the public's money and make the powerful rich.

Oklahoma Christians seem to be experiencing amnesia. Humans are divine ordained stewards of the earth. Polluting water, disrupting wildlife, and paving the way into the future is not how to be a good steward. The OTA is in a position of power, so whatever they decide is viewed by the public as benevolent. When in fact, the OTA actions are powered by greed and malevolence.

Despite what Tim Gatz and the OTA may say, and hope Oklahomans will believe, the truth is transportation problems in Oklahoma will not be solved by the same corporatist behavior that created them.

[1] H. Refai, N. Bitar, J. Schettler and O. Al Kalaa, "THE STUDY OF VEHICLE CLASSIFICATION EQUIPMENT WITH SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE ACCURACY IN OKLAHOMA", Implementation of Research for Transportation Excellence, Oklahoma

[2] M. O. Al Kalaa, S. Rajab, H. Refai and D. Johnson, "Vehicle Classification Accuracy of AVC and WIM Sites in Oklahoma," in Conference: 2014 IEEE Intelligent Vehicles Symposium (IV), June 2014.

[3] R. Ellis, "Oklahoma Turnpike Authority has history of inflated projections," THE OKLAHOMAN, May 2nd, 2016, accessed 6/17/2022

[4] TITLE 785. OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD; CHAPTER 55.
DEVELOPMENT ON STATE OWNED OR OPERATED PROPERTY

WITHIN FLOODPLAINS AND FLOODPLAIN ADMINISTRATOR
ACCREDITATION

[https://www.owrb.ok.gov/rules/pdf/current/Ch55.pdf?
fbclid=IwAR2d_azPTF3n7jgTxSPWw8C97VitLpukTLUPRHSAC9imQSHPJj
C50weKEY](https://www.owrb.ok.gov/rules/pdf/current/Ch55.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2d_azPTF3n7jgTxSPWw8C97VitLpukTLUPRHSAC9imQSHPJjC50weKEY)



LAST WEEK TO ENTER OUR CONTEST! 🎉🎉🎉

Grab some posterboard and a marker, and help us spread the news!

Share your homemade yard/sidewalk signs in the comments

HERE!

If you don't have facebook, you can alternatively submit photos to admin@pikeoffota.com, which will be shared on your behalf.

TWO PRIZES TO BE GIVEN AWAY:

Kids sign (12 & Under) with the most likes will win a summer fun basket valued at \$25! 🎁🎁🎁

Adult sign with the most likes will win a \$25 gift card! 🎁🎁🎁

Share this post and invite your friends to vote!

Sign made by Kathy P, shared by Clare Boggs.



THEY'RE HERE! Car Flags Now Available! ►

Buy Merch, Save Homes 🏠 : <https://www.pikeoffota.com/merchandise>

"Rooftop" of the Week: Randy Carter & Family



By [Jessie Newell](#)

Every American has the dream of paying their mortgage off! Imagine finally making that dream come true, only to find out that the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority will be running a turnpike through your home.

Meet the Carter Family....

In 1979 I bought a little piece of unimproved land way out in the country on East Lindsey and even though it's in Norman City Limits it's a little piece of country heaven. Now the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is proposing to condemn, destroy and demolish my family's way of life.

On this little corner we've built two homes. The first home, in which we raised five kids (who are all fine, upstanding citizens), we built ourselves. We dug every footing, poured all the concrete, drove every nail, wired every wire, and plumbed every pipe ourselves. And it's still standing! Two of my kids were born right here on the property. We laughed, we cried, and we prospered on this little hunk of dirt and now the OTA wants to bulldoze our heritage.

The second home, which we occupy with our 6th child, is next door to the first and even though we didn't do all the construction work ourselves we did serve as general contractors for its construction, doing much of the work ourselves. To say we are attached might be redundant. I now have regular recurring nightmares of a backhoe claw crashing through the roof as we sleep.

The truly sad thing is that if indeed the OTA destroys our homes, I'll have to clean out all the crap I've collected over the years myself instead of my kids getting to do it after I'm gone. That just deprives them of many trips to the dump.

Seriously though this is an extremely sad predicament to be in and causes us much consternation and sadness... just so travelers can save 10 minutes while driving around the OKC metro all the while paying extra for the ride. It just doesn't seem right.

See more families and read their stories at [Stop The Toll OK](#).

****SHARE YOUR STORY! If you would like to be featured as our "Rooftop" of the Week, please email photos and a bit about your home/family to admin@pikeoffota.com.*

Urgent Needs

Pike Off OTA, Inc. is seeking volunteers to help with **coordinating fundraisers, graphic design, and social media** (specifically TikTok).

If you know of anyone with these qualifications, please have them email us at admin@pikeoffota.com!

Support Our Fight

Subscribe

Past Issues

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Pike Off OTA



No More Turnpikes



Pike Off OTA Website



Contact Us

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Our mailing address is:

PO Box 2091

Noble, OK 73068

admin@pikeoffota.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



Mike Slate

16h · 🌐

...

Got this in the mail today. I'm sure others did too. Thoughts?



👍❤️ 29

11 Comments 6 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Top comments ▼



Write a public comment...

😊 📷 GIF 🗨️



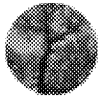
James Skip Wilkinson

Doesn't sound like he is saying he's against the OTA or he will stop the turnpike. It sounds like he will pause it so a study can be done to determine whether it's needed or not.

The statement gives him a way to let the turnpike happen.

Like Reply Share 1h





Cindi Barnard shared a post. ▶ Norman - Ward 5

10h · 🌐



Mike Slate

16h · 🌐

Got this in the mail today. I'm sure others did too. Thoughts?

👍 2

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Submit your first comment...

😊 📷 GIF 🗨️

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

ACCESS Oklahoma doesn't make sense

As a Norman resident for 29 years who followed the now-Norman 2025 plan by purchasing 10 acres to build our forever home: the time, talent, sweat equity, dollars, solid structural and building materials invested to build it to last a lifetime with modernizations seem discounted with the recent Access Oklahoma turnpike announcement.

Not located in the path of the southern extension, 1,000 of my footsteps from my property line is too close. The Norman 2025 plan doesn't call for commercial development in this area, so if my home were ever to be "for sale," the only way to regain my investment is an updated plan identifying commercial development.

As a 10-year, small, homebased and 35-year successful businesswoman, I've traveled the Oklahoma highways, roads and toll roads, putting more than the yearly allowed mileage on vehicle(s).

The Access Oklahoma announcement caught all of us by surprise, making me more keenly aware as I travel and hear media soundbites from our transportation agencies:

- A trip to Lewisville Texas required travel to/from I-35 south and north. Texas turnpikes appear to lead to places that aren't serviced by non-toll roads, with highways including HOV lanes to help eliminate congestion, a novel idea for I-35.

Businesses that bought frontage on I-35, I-240 and HWY 9 knew they were at risk of expansion working with various agencies to keep their business alive. Why do we have to disrupt so many family investments and homesteads with new alignments in east and north Norman when viable alternatives like I-240, newly widened HWY 102 and HWY 9 exist? Where is the justification?

- Outside of Texas, south of Norman and back, I encountered zero standstill traffic during prime time. Recent communications from Secretary of Transportation, Director of the Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) and Director of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) Tim Gatz — all three positions appointed by the governor — presented traffic projections for the I-35 corridor from I-40 in Oklahoma City south to Purcell.

There were no mentions of traffic statistics over the next 30 years north. Graphics show worsening congestion along that corridor each year, yet no data nor calculations or assumptions were provided to back up such a bleak

outlook. This outlook is being pushed as justification for 57 miles of new turnpikes through the Garber-Wellington Aquifer and Lake Thunderbird watershed, destroying more homes per mile than any other turnpike ever built in our state.

In reviewing the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) website and the 1994 ODOT/OTA Norman turnpike feasibility study, it completely botched 2020 traffic projections.

- Repair of existing ODOT infrastructure-maintained roads is a huge and bigger issue than adding toll roads. Much could be improved using federal infrastructure dollars to update interchanges, particularly on-ramps and merge lanes, to help traffic move safer and smoother.

Respecting the office of the governor, as a 35-year veteran of organizational management, state agencies that have no transparency/ accountability to anyone but a governor are a bureaucratic process hampering Oklahoma citizen's input and voice. Praying for all involved and impacted.

DANNA FOWBLE Norman

Message

From: Jessica Brown [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6CFDDD84EE914B919AE04071753AC8F2-JESSICA BRO]
Sent: 6/24/2022 6:19:12 PM
To: glove@[REDACTED]; Dana Weber [dweber@[REDACTED]]; jtitsworth7@[REDACTED]; John Jones [jjones@[REDACTED]]; will.dcbass@[REDACTED]; toddcone@[REDACTED]; elair [elair@[REDACTED]]; Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]; Kate Vesper [kate.vesper@gov.ok.gov]
CC: Tim Gatz - Pikepass [tgatz@pikepass.com]; Joe Echelle [jechelle@pikepass.com]
Subject: 6/23 Earned Media & Social Listening report
Attachments: Surveyors post comments.png; Surveyors around the Choctaw area.png; Surveyors post comments .png; EpicOTA comments.png; EpicOTA comments 2.png; EpicOTA comments 3.png; Corson Hirschfeld - EpicOTA Peter Regan.png; David Posey - Rail transportation.png; Statute comments.png; Statute comments 2.png; Statute comments 3.png; Statute comments 4.png; Dave Moore - Spreading the word .png; Deanna Atkinson - Kickapoo extension .png; Kickapoo extension comments.png; Kickapoo extension comments 2.png

Social Listening

Note: Screenshots of all posts are attached to this email

- The opposition is noticing surveyors in the area of 96th and Bethel near Choctaw. Charity Bussell mentioned telling them that they're not welcome on their mom's property.
- Casey Hirschfeld posted about Peter Regan serving on the Epic Board in 2010. He also served on the Oklahoma Transportation Commission from 2009-2018, which overlaps with his time at Epic. The opposition hopes another investigation takes place.
- The opposition is excited about the commuter rail from Edmond to Norman. They are very hopeful that it goes through and will give OTA reason to walk away from the ACCESS project.
- Jen Wilson had questions about the Oklahoma State Statute 69-1705 and garnered lots of comments regarding the turnpikes.
- Dave Moore posted a screenshot of his comment in one of ODOT's Facebook posts and said he likes the idea of posting to other "concerned" Facebook groups and spreading the word.
- Deanna Atkinson posted that she had environmental attorneys tell her the proposed southern extension of the Kickapoo is an attempt to divert Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) traffic away from the OKC metro to meet air quality emission standards.

Earned Media

6/23 KFOR News 4 at 12:03 p.m., "Pike Off OTA" sets up crane across from Toby Keith's home. [Link](#)

Viewership: 26,490

Ad Value: \$878.50

Thank you,
Jessica

Jessica Brown, M.J. | Director

Strategic Communications Division | Oklahoma Transportation Cabinet

Main: 405-521-6000

Oklahoma.gov | oklahoma.gov/odot



Like Reply Share 511



Gary Nonya

Nice offices. I wonder how a big, fat juicy turdpike would look right over the top of it. 🤔



Smith Roberts Baldischwiler

Land surveying office in Norman,
Oklahoma

Like Reply Share 21h



Glenn Payette

Don't let government steal your land

Like Reply Share 13h



Write a comment...



Charity Bussell is with Retha Colston and Mellisa Blevins. ▶ NO MORE TURNPIKES, Oklahoma!

22h · 🌐

So these guys have been out the last few days,"surveying"for a long period of time 96th and Bethel yesterday and are on Choctaw road today! White trucks with SRB on them (look them up) I told them yesterday they was not welcome on my moms property 😡 She is a widow of a little over a year and this is absolute BS!!! My parents poured their hearts into this property of 45 years . Just to be stolen for some pos road! I will fight for her and everyone else involved!!! So Anyways just wanted to give a heads up for those in the path of the tollnado. PIKEOFFOTA

Exodus 22:22-24-26-27 The Message (MSG)

"Don't mistreat widows or orphans. If you do and they cry out to me, you can be sure I'll take them most seriously; I'll show my anger and come raging among you with the sword, and your wives will end up widows and your children orphans. "If you lend money to my people, to any of the down-and-out among you, don't come down hard on them and gouge them with interest. "If you take your neighbor's coat as security, give it back before nightfall; it may be your neighbor's only covering—what else does the person have to sleep in? And if I hear the neighbor crying out



👍❤️🙏 74

13 Comments 25 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Top comments ▼



Write a public comment...

😊 📷 GIF 🗨️



Mellisa Blevins

Good for you **Charity**. Stand strong!

Like Reply Share 21h

👍❤️ 6



Shelly Logan

There was a team at 108th & Bethel this morning as well...

Like Reply Share 10h

👍❤️ 3



Shelly Logan

There was a team at 108th & Bethel this morning as well...

Like Reply Share 19h



John Frasure

I've seen them bright green shirts standing in the middle of the road blocking an intersection.

Like Reply Share 17h



Shelly Logan

John Frasure that's what they were doing this morning...

Like Reply Share 16h



John Frasure

Shelly Logan I'm going to highlight the OSHA regs they are ignoring like No Hardhats, No Safety glasses, No Flagman warning traffic, No work zone signs, No IDs, Unmarked truck, No Safety cones around truck. You can tell they are State Employees by the ... **See more**

Like Reply Share 14h



Fran-os RD

Sorta thinking ... they can't come on property (out of right of way) without permission. There is not court or legislative backing for this ... yet ...

Like Reply Share 20h Edited



Glenn Payette

Might need to start looking at lawyers this not going to end well

Like Reply Share 13h



Dave Moore

Let's get some video of folks walking up to them, asking questions, etc. Keep it polite! These things need exposure

Like Reply Share 22h



Tina Bellis

Dave Moore I'm on it!

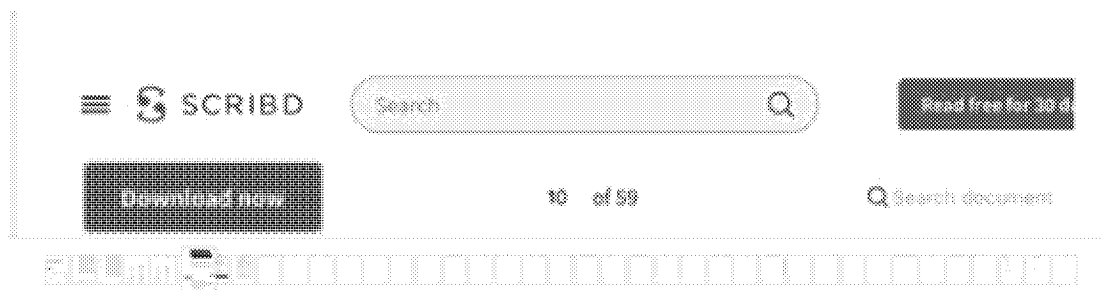
Like Reply Share 9h



Gary Nonya

Nice offices. I wonder how a big, fat juicy turdpike would look right over the top of it. 🤔





60

19 Comments 15 Shares

Like

Comment

Share

Top comments ▼



Write a public comment...



Dawn Goldsmith

I thought Stitt had something to do with them getting money from the state last year. I could be wrong about the money, but I thought I heard of something.

Like Reply Share 14h Edited

3



Corson Hirschfeld Legacy

Dawn Goldsmith they did get public money. And used it for all kinds of dodgy things.

Like Reply Share 14h

2



Dawn Goldsmith

Corson Hirschfeld Legacy

So here's yet another corruption that Shitt has had his hands in. But, I can already hear him saying, he had nothing to do with it and didn't know anything about it.

Like Reply Share 14h

2



Jane Cox Martin

Epic/Swadley's fraud/crimes are the same against the people of Oklahoma, just the criminals names and state offices are different. Vote out stitt, he's a crook.

Like Reply Share 2h

2



David Posey

It took ten years of investigation to get this indictment. If this crap is going on at OTA I hope it doesn't take 10 years.

Like Reply Share 14h

2



Corson Hirschfeld Legacy

David Posey I'm hoping some of our discovery documents from the lawsuits might accelerate things a bit.

Like Reply Share 14h

5



David Posey

It took ten years of investigation to get this indictment. If this crap is going on at OTA I hope it doesn't take 10 years.

Like Reply Share 14h



Corson Hirschfeld Legacy

David Posey I'm hoping some of our discovery documents from the lawsuits might accelerate things a bit.

Like Reply Share 14h



Tina Bellis

I would love to see that guest list! How can we find out who they are?

Like Reply Share 9h



Corson Hirschfeld Legacy

Tina Bellis I will post the list later today.

Like Reply Share 2h



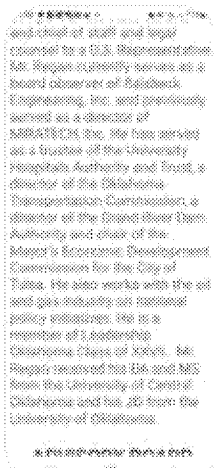
Kimberly Enloe



Like Reply Share 13h

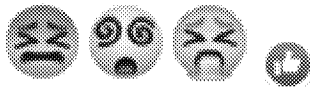


Kimberly Enloe





VM Young



Like Reply Share 14h



Jessie Newell

Interesting...I had a horrible experience working for them.

Like Reply Share 14h



Corson Hirschfeld Legacy

Jessie Newell I think you can read the full indictment at the non doc web site. It is really something. Just gross behavior by a criminal organization. I'm sorry you had to work for them.

Like Reply Share 14h



Jessie Newell

Corson Hirschfeld Legacy I read it. There's so much more, but this was a good day.

Like Reply Share 14h



Joyce Thomas

Well done!

Like Reply Share 13h



Whitney Mullica

Pray to God there is ...  3

Like Reply Share 14h



John Martin Sr

Just wow! 

Like Reply Share 14h

Write a comment...



So those of you following the Epic Charter School scandals might be interested to know there is a thread that connects Epic with OTA.

Peter Regan served on the Epic Board in 2010. I highlighted his name in the indictment screen shot below. He also served on the Oklahoma Transportation Commission from 2009–2018, which overlaps with his time at Epic.

Regan attended the big February 22 OTA Board meeting when the Access Oklahoma project was launched. The guest list included about 100 people from all of the industries that would benefit from new turnpikes: engineering firms, construction, bankers..etc.

Regan seems to be connected with a private equity firm in Tulsa called Omega Capital. It's unclear what their interest in the turnpikes might be—private equity can be pretty opaque.

Regan was not named in the Epic indictments other than as a member of the Board. But Epic and OTA sure seem like kindred spirits. Secretly hoping another investigation might take place.

5:42 PM Thu Jun 23

...

82% 🔋



Untitled 6



CASE OVERVIEW

11 of 72

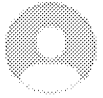
FORMATION OF COMMUNITY STRATEGIES, INC.

1. Community Strategies, Inc. dba: Epic One-on-One Charter School (Epic) was founded in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in 2010 by CHANEY and HARRIS. Community Strategies Inc. is the nonprofit entity that consisted of a board of directors who governed Epic One-On-One Charter School and Epic Blended Charter School.



Epic Charter Schools, 200 West Plaza, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

2. Community Strategies was formed from a former company named Oklahoma Consumer Education Foundation, that HARRIS had control over. HARRIS initiated a name change through the Oklahoma Secretary of State in March 2009. The initial board members for Community Strategies were HARRIS, ELIZABETH VAN ACKER (HARRIS' wife), and CHRIS CARD.
3. During a telephonic board meeting on May 24, 2010, HARRIS, VAN ACKER, and CARD resigned from the board and ROBERT STEM, PETER REGAN, DOUG SCOTT, and TRAVIS BURKETT were installed to serve as members of the board.



David Posey

11h · 🌐

...

Regional Transportation Authority has applied for federal grant, \$100 Million, for rail transportation from Norman through OKC to Edmond. Looks like serious effort to relieve traffic on I-35.

The Left Hand Authority doesn't know what the Right Hand Authority is doing.

Another reason OTA needs to abandon the ACCESS Oklahoma plan.

👍❤️ 66

4 Comments 10 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Top comments ▼



Write a public comment...

😊 📷 GIF 🎭



VM Young

They are going to fight tooth and nail to keep the money because they have overestimated traffic on the toll roads and they need to pay their bills. This is all about the money.

Like Reply Share 11h

👍 9



Joyce Thomas
VM Young

That's a fact

Like Reply Share 10h



Write a public reply...

👍😊 📷 GIF 🎭



Dee Ann Henry Francis
AMEN!!!!



Like Reply Share 11h



Patricia Renae Burress

Keep making the greedy bastards show their hand. Well done.

Like Reply Share 19m

Write a comment...

17

17 Comments 11 Shares

Like

Comment

Share

Top comments ▼

Write a public comment...



TJ Arnold
Existing highways cannot be overtaken by OTA. They must build their own roads. They can build another layer or raised road over, but they cannot pull portions of existing roads into a toll system. The free roads must remain free. ODOT could negle... **See more**

Like Reply Share 18h Edited

2

Dawn Goldsmith
TJ Arnold
Wait, are they not pulling portions of existing roads into a toll system with us? 😊

Like Reply Share 18h

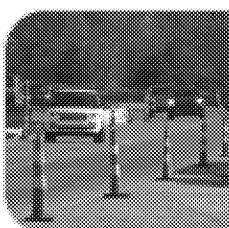
1

Quentin D Lobb
Dawn Goldsmith we may all eventually be paying to drive on what was formerly known as Indian Hills 😊

Like Reply Share 1h

2

Scott Bill Fleschute
TJ Arnold Do some research on this one. I haven't done an indepth research but it is my understanding that the OTA did take an existing road section and in the end it will become a toll road. According to what I have read, there isn't another decent alternative road for people to use. Like I said, I haven't done indepth research in to it. If someone has the time, there has been a lot of news and posting about the road. <https://ktul.com/.../berryhill-prepares-to-fight-to-...>



KTUL.COM

Berryhill prepares to fight Oklahoma Turnpike Authority over toll

Like Reply Share 17h Edited

3



Jen Wilson Author

Scott Bill Fleschute that was my understanding as well but I too could be confused. I thought it was supposed to be free but because they couldn't secure funding they gave it to OTA who can always "find" the money in exchange for it becoming a toll road.

Like Reply Share 17h



Scott Bill Fleschute

Jen Wilson It is a big expense for low income Berryhill residents and small businesses who have commented about the one section that they thought was going to be free.

Like Reply Share 17h



Patricia Renae Burress

Scott Bill Fleschute it was free until OTA took over the project from ODOT and made it a toll from my understanding.

Like Reply Share 14h



David Rainbow

TJ Arnold

Don't bet on it, government has been underhanded on far too many times in the past and present.

Like Reply Share 16h



Write a public reply...



Fran-os RD

SOOOOO ... has anyone gone and looked at this statute???

"§69-1705. Authority - Powers and duties. ...

...

(d) To sue and be sued in contract, reverse condemnation, equity, mandamus and similar actions in its own name, plead and be impleaded; provided, that any and all actions at law or in equity against the Authority shall be brought in the county in which the principal office of the Authority shall be located, or in the county of the residence of the plaintiff, or the county where the cause of action arose. All privileges granted to the Authority and duties enjoined upon the Authority by the provisions of Sections 1701 through 1734 of this title may be enforced in a court of competent jurisdiction in an action in mandamus.



Fran-os RD

SOOOOO ... has anyone gone and looked at this statute???

"§69-1705. Authority – Powers and duties. ...

...

(d) To sue and be sued in contract, reverse condemnation, equity, mandamus and similar actions in its own name, plead and be impleaded; provided, that any and all actions at law or in equity against the Authority shall be brought in the county in which the principal office of the Authority shall be located, or in the county of the residence of the plaintiff, or the county where the cause of action arose. All privileges granted to the Authority and duties enjoined upon the Authority by the provisions of Sections 1701 through 1734 of this title may be enforced in a court of competent jurisdiction in an action in mandamus.

... "

and much more. I don't have time tonight to review this.

Like Reply Share 12h



Fran-os RD

To ... be ... sued ...

Like Reply Share 12h



Fran-os RD

And this on the OP ... "(12) All or any part of an Oklahoma City toll expressway system connecting the residential, industrial and State Capitol Complex in the north part of Oklahoma City with the residential, industrial and Will Rogers World Airport Complex in the south and southwest parts of Oklahoma City. ... "

Like Reply Share 12h



Write a public reply...



Rebecca Marshall Rigsby

Jacob Rosecrants For HD 46

Representative Danny Sterling

Mary for Senate Campaign... See more

Like Reply Share 3h





Rebecca Marshall Rigsby
 Jacob Rosecrants For HD 46
 Representative Danny Sterling
 Mary for Senate Campaign
 Representative Mickey Dollens
 Kate Bierman for House District 44
 Anthony Mackey
 Annie Menz
 Joel Kintsel for Governor
 Joy Hofmeister

OTA simply has too much power. They have the legislative authorization to take over multiple existing interstates and highways and/or to execute eminent domain in such a densely populated area. This shouldn't even be allowable. Please (continue) to do everything in your power to limit their overreach.

Like Reply Share 3h



Patricia Renae Burress
 Is this referencing the Kilpatrick turnpike just recently built from Turner turnpike to airport road on northside Okc?

Like Reply Share 14h



Penny Griffin
 Patricia Renae Burress do you mean the Kickapoo?

Like Reply Share 11h



Patricia Renae Burress
 Penny Griffin nope, it just seems that the recently built toll road the Kilpatrick satisfies this statement. Runs from Turner to Airport road at Council. Providing the connector. All these maps keep me confused lol

Like Reply Share 22m



Jen Wilson Author
 Patricia Renae Burress I don't think that would qualify for this statute. It's not close enough to be the capitol to airport quick trip expressway. Plus, I think that route is already addressed specifically. I'll look again this afternoon.

Like Reply Share 14m



Dave Moore
 An astute observation. And, if I'm not mistake, existing roads CAN be turned into toll roads. Look at what just recently happened in Tulsa.



Dave Moore

18h · 🌐

...

I like KW's idea of posting to other "concerned" Facebook groups. Gotta get the word out!

**Oklahoma Department of Transportation** 

2h · 🌐

...

ICYMI: Director Tim Gatz, Multi-Modal Division Manager Jared Schwennesen, and Commissioner James Grimsley presented at the Road Fest spinoff event, Technology Takes the Wheel®, yesterday June 22, in Tulsa.

#OklahomaTransportation #DriveSafely #MovingForward



  5

5 Shares

 Like

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Deanna Atkinson ► **NO MORE TURNPIKES, Oklahoma!**

21h · 🌐



I had some environmental attorneys tell me the proposed southern extension of the Kickapoo is an attempt to divert Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) traffic away from OKC metro to meet air quality emission standards. If so, that's disturbingly short sighted. Earlier this week, I attended a meeting on Electric Vehicles (EVs) and the federal program to develop that infrastructure in Oklahoma. It really feels like a lack of statewide coordination. I guess I shouldn't be surprised as this is the third legislative session "wrap up" I've attended where policymakers have said this was one of the most dysfunctional sessions ever. Although we have a super majority party in charge, it contains three internal factions. Of which, the Governor disagrees with them all. 🙄🙄🙄 In the meantime, whatever their true agenda is they're callously impacting our lives. So frustrating... Folks, we've all got to get out and VOTE!

👍❤️ 31

16 Comments 8 Shares

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policymakers have said this was one of the most dysfunctional sessions ever. Although we have a super majority party in charge, it contains three internal factions. Of which, the Governor disagrees with them all. 🙄🙄🙄 In the meantime, whatever their true agenda is they're callously impacting our lives. So frustrating... Folks, we've all got to get out and VOTE!

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Top comments ▼



Write a public comment...



A Jaye Watson Crayton

This is a hydrogen report. I hope you can see this.

<https://drive.google.com/.../10zjz37ahB.../view...>

ACCOUNTS.GOOGLE.CO



accounts.google.com

Like Reply Share 20h



VM Young

You have to request access to see the information.

Like Reply Share 20h



A Jaye Watson Crayton

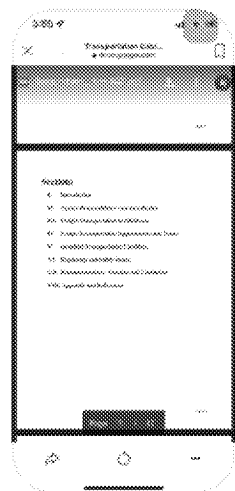
VM Young it's dated November 2021 and no mention about Norman expansion. I have it in pdf. What's your email and I'll send it to you.

Like Reply Share 20h



A Jaye Watson Crayton

VM Young this is the content page.



Like Reply Share 20h

Like Reply Share 20h



VM Young

That made my head hurt, after reading it. A **Jaye Watson Crayton** it looks they have a hazmat route west of I-35.

Like Reply Share 19h Edited



A Jaye Watson Crayton

VM Young I'm sorry. 😊❤️

Like Reply Share 17h



VM Young

What is ICE?

Like Reply Share 20h



Deanna Atkinson Author

VM Young internal combustion engines...

Like Reply Share 20h



VM Young

Thanks. Google was no very helpful.

Like Reply Share 20h



Deanna Atkinson Author

VM Young 😊 if what they say is true about trying to get air quality numbers for internal combustion engines down, it doesn't make much sense when other state regulatory agencies are charged with implementing charging stations for EV's (electric vehicle... [See more](#)

Like Reply Share 20h Edited



Jen Wilson

VM Young I'm glad you asked because the only ICE I knew of was law enforcement related and I was very confused. 😊

Like Reply Share 20h



VM Young

Very short sighted. We have commuter trains and EV coming to the state. Traffic is being diverted around OKC with the new highway going through New Mexico.

Still tells me the toll road is about money.

Like Reply Share 20h



Deanna Atkinson Author

VM Young agreed!

Message

From: Jessica Brown [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6CFDDD84EE914B919AE04071753AC8F2-JESSICA BRO]
Sent: 6/27/2022 6:26:18 PM
To: glove@[REDACTED]; Dana Weber [dweber@[REDACTED]]; toddcone@[REDACTED]; jtitsworth7@[REDACTED]; John Jones [jjones@[REDACTED]]; will.dcbass@[REDACTED]; elair [elair@[REDACTED]]; Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]; Kate Vesper [kate.vesper@gov.ok.gov]
CC: Tim Gatz - Pikepass [tgatz@pikepass.com]; Joe Echelle [jechelle@pikepass.com]
Subject: OTA weekly binder 6.20-6/24
Attachments: 6.20 to 6.24 OTA Board report.pdf

Thank you,

Jessica

Jessica Brown, M.J. | Director
Strategic Communications Division | Oklahoma Transportation Cabinet
Main: 405-521-6000
Oklahoma.gov | oklahoma.gov/odot





Oklahoma Turnpike Authority
Board Member Report
June 20 - 24, 2022

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Media Correspondence

Date: June 20 - 24

Documents: 2



Media Correspondence for June 20-24, 2022

This week the Strategic Communications office handled:

- 3 Media calls & emails for information/documents/statements
- Closed 1 of the 3 media requests
- None of the responses included official statements
- Newspaper Articles
 - Sec. Gatz interviewed by Tulsa World (page 6)

Media Correspondence – June 20 - 24, 2022

Active

- The Oklahoman/Reporter Steve Lackmeyer - ACCESS RFPs for contracts approved in February (Jessica Brown & Brenda Perry Clark)
- Oklahoman/Reporter Steve Lackmeyer - Revenue of in-state vs. out-of-state travelers per turnpike (Jessica Brown & Brenda Perry Clark)

Completed

- OETA/Reporter Jason Doyle on PlatePay update – general background (James Poling)

Sec. Gatz interview with Tulsa World on Gilcrease Turnpike & future of toll roads

TOP STORY TOPICAL

Bob Doucette: Betting big on the Gilcrease Expressway and other state turnpikes

Bob Doucette

Jun 24, 2022

Bob Doucette

At some point in September, we'll be watching football and counting the days before the summer heat finally relents.

Oh, and one more thing: Barring any unforeseen delays, drivers will be able to use the Gilcrease Expressway to cross the Arkansas River.

The Gilcrease's opening has been a long-sought and expensive goal for state, county and city leaders. Five miles, four lanes and 22 bridges later, a trip that once might take a half hour will now last all of five minutes.

It took \$330 million to do it, and will cost drivers \$2 to use it.

That latter figure has some people grouching. Of all the turnpikes in the Tulsa area, the Gilcrease will be the priciest. But there are other ways to look at it that might soften the blow.

Time is money. The more time you're on the road means less time to do something else. And more time on the road is more fuel burned. When I went by a gas station down the road from me, the 87 octane fuel I put in my car was \$4.37 a gallon. That's down 12 cents from a week ago, but yikes. Suddenly those two bucks seem like a bargain.

These kinds of cost comparisons point to the present. But what struck me about Oklahoma's turnpikes is how these roads inform the future.

State Transportation Secretary Tim Gatz dropped by the Tulsa World to talk about the Gilcrease, but those discussions eventually ventured into where he sees the future of transportation going.

In terms of the Gilcrease, plans are already being made for housing and business developments along its corridor. The western edge of the Tulsa metro area has long been underdeveloped, despite the scenic appeal of the Osage Hills and the woodlands they host.

Destinations like Chandler Park, the Gilcrease Museum and the Tulsa Botanical Gardens are missed by many Tulsans because getting to these places is more involved than, say, going to Turkey Mountain, the Philbrook Museum of Art or Woodward Park.

Highway accessible housing developments out west could solve other problems. Tulsa, like many cities, is seeing a housing crunch that is driving up home prices and rents. A bigger inventory of homes might mitigate that issue, especially if potential home buyers know that their trip from driveway to workplace is an easy commute.

Opportunity is also being seen on the proposed northern leg of the Gilcrease. North Tulsa could see a boom in business development once that vision is realized, something not lost on investors who are eyeing and buying property there. More jobs and services on Tulsa's north side have been a long-term challenge that the turnpike could unlock.

Beyond the Gilcrease, things get futuristic. It won't be too long before the Turner Turnpike, which connects Tulsa and Oklahoma City, is six lanes the entire way. But looking ahead, planners made an extra-wide shoulder for the day that the Turner might be eight lanes.

Why go that far? Simple: to accommodate self-driving vehicle traffic. More specifically, self-driving trucks used by major shipping companies that are actively pursuing the technology as a way to cut costs.

Self-driving trucks pulling as many as five trailers would be a hazard for other drivers, but if such traffic had its own dedicated lane, it would help shippers transport cargo and stay out of the way of the rest of us.

We're still a ways off from seeing fleets of self-driving trucks (or passenger cars, for that matter) hitting the road, but technology companies like Amazon and Tesla are committed to the idea. For them, it's not a side project, but a business plan. In Gatz's estimation, Oklahoma needs to prepare its most heavily-used roads for the day when driverless rigs become common.

The turnpike system isn't just looking ahead. In some cases, it's attempting to fix errors of the past.

We're seeing that play out in the Oklahoma City area. The city has three interstate highways running through it, with Interstate 35 being the busiest. Transportation officials knew that it would need to be widened, but it has taken decades to finally reach a goal that was set in the 1970s.

Since then, the city has grown substantially. Development has encroached on the I-35 corridor to the point where there isn't room to widen it any further. But the traffic is only getting heavier and the urban sprawl wider as Oklahoma City's growth accelerates.

State transportation officials are planning to extend the Kickapoo Turnpike, which currently runs from Interstate 44 south of Luther to Interstate 40 near McLoud, south and west through Cleveland County. An east-west leg would connect the turnpike to I-44 north of Newcastle, while the main north-south line would skirt the west side of Lake Thunderbird before connecting with I-35 south of Noble.

A group of Norman residents aren't happy with the plan, but the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is moving ahead. A completed Kickapoo Turnpike would divert traffic away from Oklahoma City's busy core and around congested lanes that are prone to gridlock between downtown Oklahoma City and Norman's southern limits.

Similar complaints have come with other turnpikes that were designed to relieve congested traffic, but in time, drivers accepted them. The alternative, according to Gatz, is the type of traffic snarls common to places like the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

If the Kickapoo goes through and functions as planned, it could go a long way toward alleviating a major headache for motorists, especially those driving from Tulsa to Dallas.

Still, no one is joyous over having to pay tolls. When the Turner Turnpike was opened in 1953, it was planned that the tolls collected from drivers would pay it off later. Once that was done, the Turner would be like any other highway.

Nearly 70 years later, Oklahoma has an abundance of toll roads, and they'll never be free. If that grates on you, consider this: If you get a PikePass, it's a lot like buying a subscription service. You pay a little as you go – all voluntarily – and you get there faster than was otherwise possible.

Is the convenience worth it? That's up to you to decide. But history tells us that drivers think they are, especially in the state's two metro areas. Plenty of motorists are taking the on-ramp to the Turner, Creek and Kilpatrick turnpikes now, and a good number of Oklahomans are betting on the Gilcrease Expressway enjoying similar success.

Featured video:

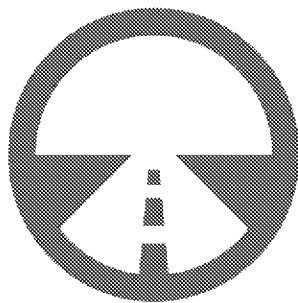
bob.doucette@tulsaworld.com

By Bob Doucette

Open Records

Date: June 20 - 24

Documents: 2



ACCESS
OKLAHOMA

Media - Open Record Requests

Active

- Norman Transcript/Mindy Wood environmental studies on Kickapoo-Wes Watkins Lake, Kilpatrick-Lake Overholser, SH-74/LHP-Lake Hefner (5-2-2022 James Poling) (Awaiting StratComm & Legal Review)
- State Impact/Beth Wallis – ACCESS environmental – 10 requests (4/19/22 James Poling)
 - **Aquifers (Data gathering)**
Emails, phone calls and recording of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding any aquifers potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects during the period of Jan. 1, 2021 to April 16, 2022.
 - **Private property (Data gathering)**
Emails, phone calls and recording of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding any homes or private property potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects in Cleveland and Oklahoma Counties during the period of Jan. 14, 2019 to April 16, 2022.
 - **Water quality (Data gathering)**
Emails, phone calls and recording of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding water quality or water pollution potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects during the period of Jan. 1, 2021 to April 16, 2022.
 - **Watersheds (Data gathering)**
Emails, phone calls and recordings of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding any watersheds potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects during the period Jan. 1, 2021 to April 16, 2022.
 - **Underground water wells (Data gathering)**
Emails, phone calls and recording of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding any underground water wells potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects during the period of Jan. 1, 2021 to April 16, 2022.

- **Rose rocks (Data gathering)**
Emails, phone calls and recording of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding any rose rocks potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects during the period of Jan. 1, 2021 to April 16, 2022.
- **CDM Smith (Waiting on StratComm & Legal review)**
Contracts between the OTA and CDM Smith regarding OTA projects in Cleveland and Oklahoma counties from Jan. 1, 2016 – April 16, 2022.
- **Garver contracts (Waiting on StratComm & Legal review)**
Contracts between the OTA and Garver regarding OTA projects in Cleveland and Oklahoma counties from Jan. 1, 2016 – April 16, 2022.
- **Kickapoo Environment Studies (Data gathering)**
Environmental impact studies from the Kickapoo Turnpike project. Period: Jan. 1, 2013 to Jan. 1, 2021.
- **Poe contracts (Waiting on StratComm & Legal review)** Contracts between the OTA and Poe and Associates regarding OTA projects in Cleveland and Oklahoma counties from Jan. 1, 2016 – April 16, 2022.
- **KOCO/Jeff Raymond on governor's office communication, presentations (4/18/22 Jessica Brown/Brenda Perry Clark) (Data gathering with ODOT & OTA IT)**

ACCESS Advertising

Date: June 20 - 24
Documents 2

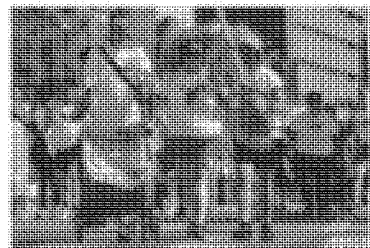
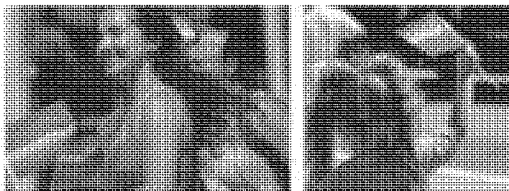


PARADING FOR PRIDE

The second annual Oklahoma City Pride Alliance's PrideFest started Friday and runs through Sunday at Reimertail Park in Oklahoma City. The four-day event — the second of two festivals planned in OKC during June, which is Pride Month — includes live music, drag shows, wellness activities and Saturday's parade.



Crystal (left) Moser and Hadiyah Jackson wear t-shirts of groups meeting through the Pride Alliance downtown Pride Parade.



Participants were at the second annual OKC Pride Alliance's parade as part of OKC PrideFest 2022 on Saturday near Reimertail Park in Oklahoma City. PHOTO BY PHOTON NEWS/OKLAHOMAN.COM

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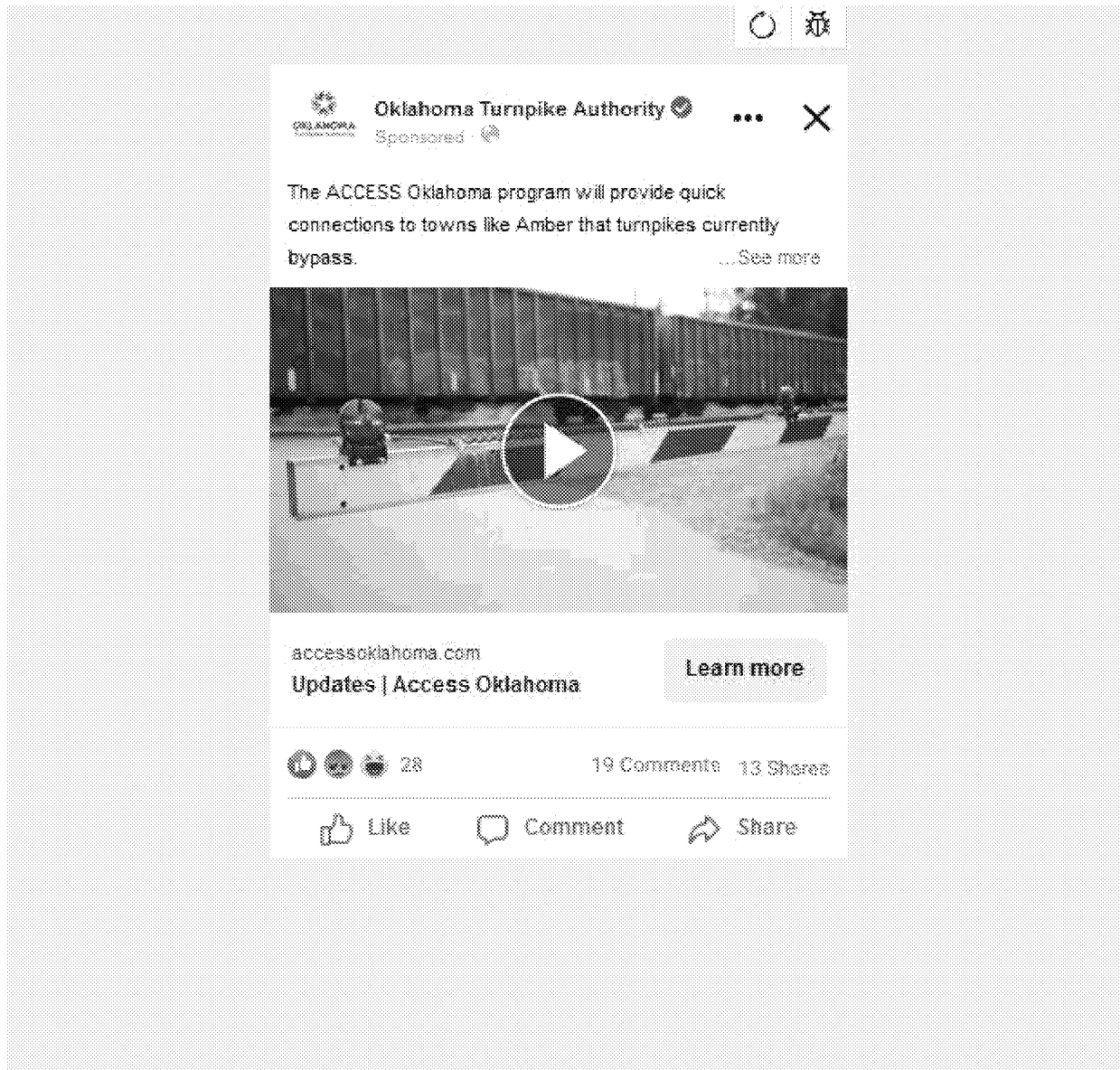
Charge Tickets at (405) 524-8312 or LyricTheatreOKC.org
Reservations by June 30, 2022. Tickets are available at www.lyrictheatreokc.org.

15

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Facebook Advertisement for ACCESS Oklahoma program

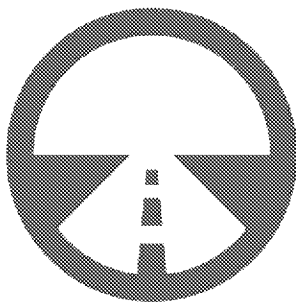


Note: These ads have been paused going forward due to increasing negative pushback.

ACCESS Outreach

Date: June 20-24

Documents 3

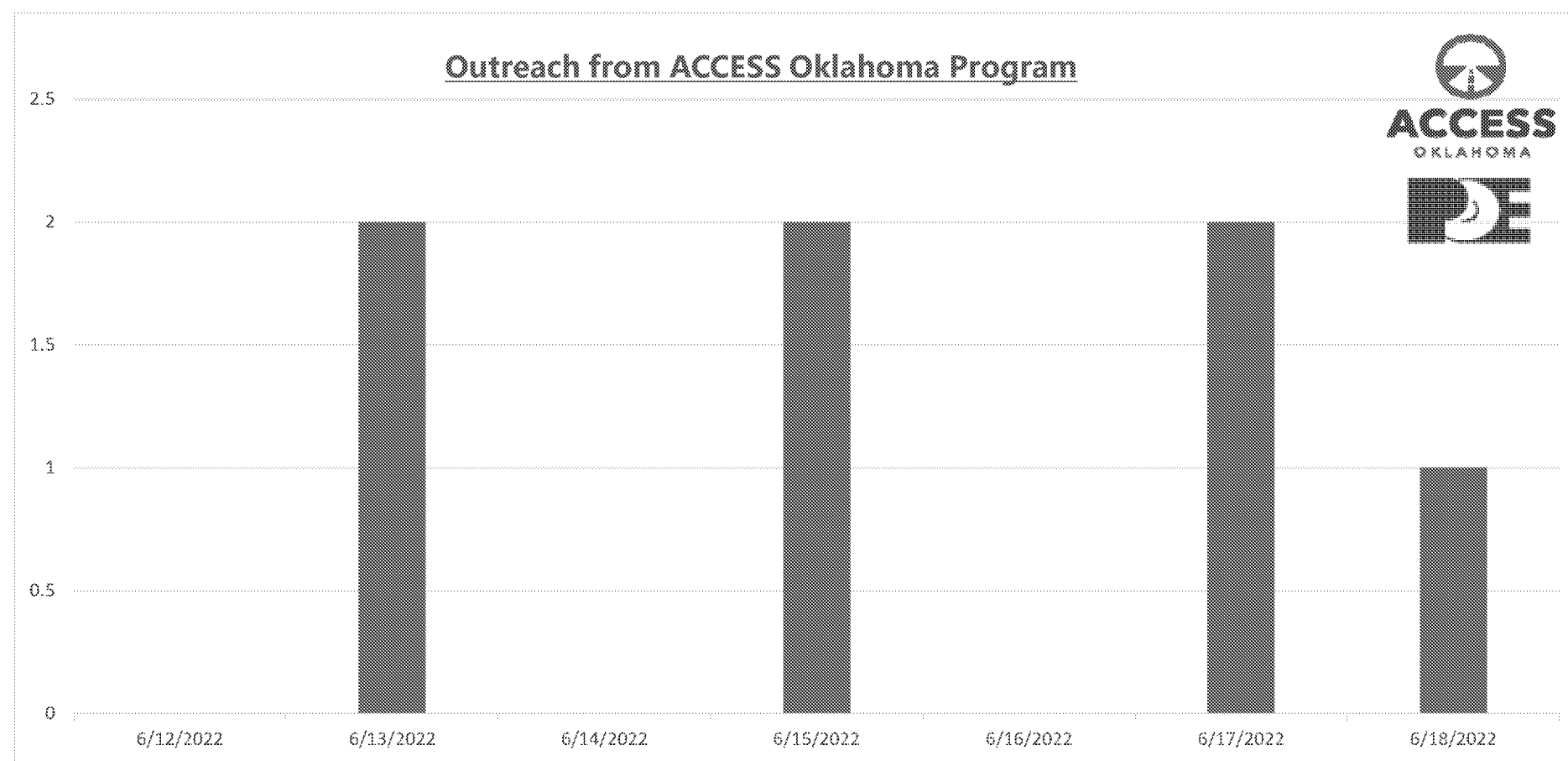


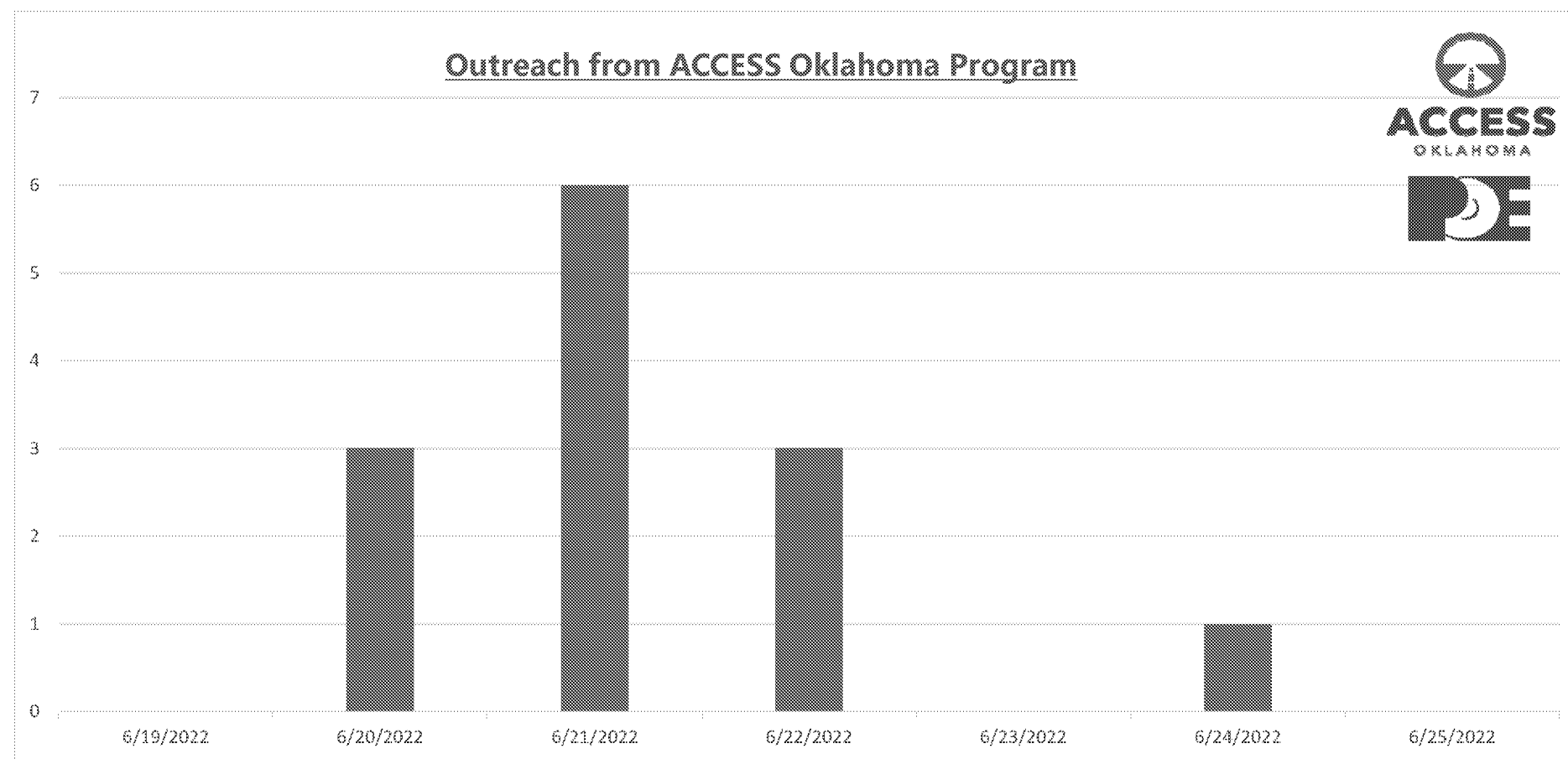
ACCESS
OKLAHOMA

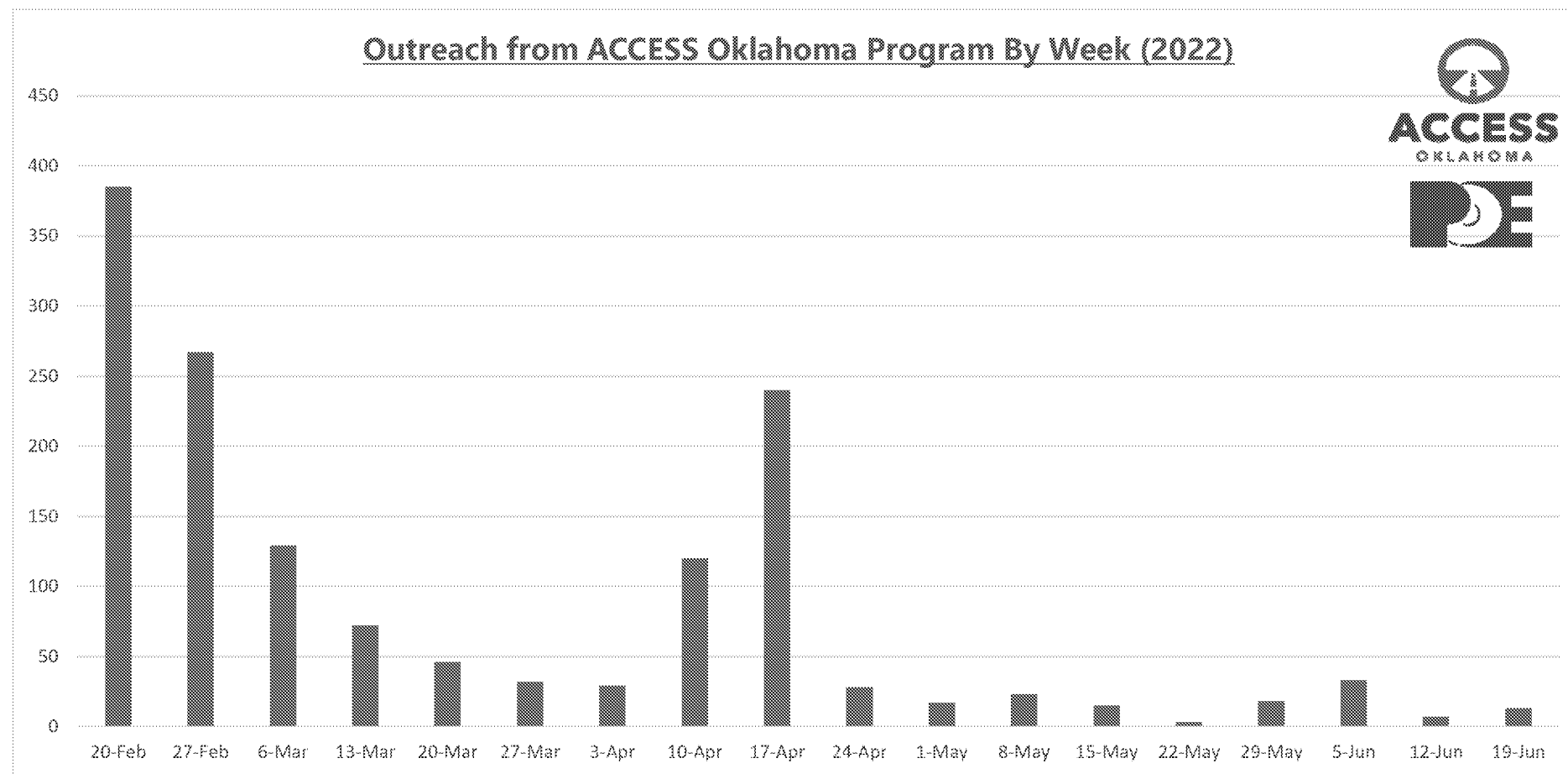
ACCESS Oklahoma Weekly Outreach

Outreach data gathered by Poe & Associates includes:

- Engagement from citizens via:
 - ACCESS Oklahoma hotline
 - Connect page on ACCESSOklahoma.com
 - Emailing info@accessoklahoma.com







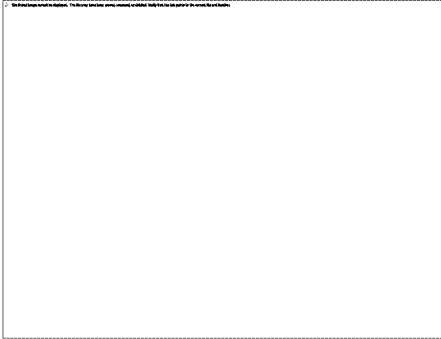
Upcoming Projects

Date: June 20-24
Documents 1



- **Sec. Gary Ridley Op-ed to be submitted to the Oklahoman this month**
- **Video with Ken Miller, Ph.D., former state treasurer and OCU economics professor**
 - Miller will provide a thought leadership video on how both public and private funds are necessary for the state to achieve the greatest value and benefit for Oklahomans in many public initiatives, especially for safe roads and bridges. The two sources of funding are not mutually exclusive, but must complement and supplement each other in order to address large societal concerns.
- **Video highlighting Oklahoma transportation**
 - Video with Sec. Tim Gatz, Sec. Gary Ridley & Sec. Neil McCaleb on transportation & the need for turnpikes.

From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/28/2022 9:32:37 PM
To: Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] June OTA Board Meeting Wrap-Up: Board approves projects aiding in conversion to cashless tolling



Strategic Communications
Tuesday, June 28, 2022

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2022
Press Release # 015-22

June OTA Board Meeting Wrap-Up

**Board approves projects aiding in conversion to cashless tolling on
H.E. Bailey, Indian Nation turnpikes**

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority board approved two projects at its Tuesday, June 28, meeting aimed at continuing the conversion to PlatePay along two more turnpikes. To collect tolls without toll booths or cash, PlatePay cameras will photograph a vehicle's license plate, enabling OTA to mail the vehicle's registered owner an invoice.

A \$17 million contract was approved and includes an agreement for PlatePay conversion, bridge rehabilitation and interchange reconstruction along I-44/H.E. Bailey Turnpike between Chickasha and Newcastle. The contract was awarded to DUIT Construction Co., of Edmond. This project will update roadways, signs and striping for PlatePay, as well as reconstruct the interchange at US-277/SH-5 near Walters, on the southern end of the H.E. Bailey turnpike.

Board members also approved additional design work for the future transition to PlatePay on SH-375/Indian Nation Turnpike in Southeastern Oklahoma. The \$93,760 contract modification will help complete designs at SH-3 near Antlers and ramp improvements at US-270 near McAlester.

"The conversion to PlatePay on the H.E. Bailey Turnpike was accelerated after the crash at the Newcastle toll plaza on June 4," Secretary of Transportation and OTA Executive Director Tim Gatz said. "It certainly added an exclamation point to the need to convert fully to cashless tolling quickly."

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority plans to have all turnpikes in the state converted to PlatePay by the end of 2024.

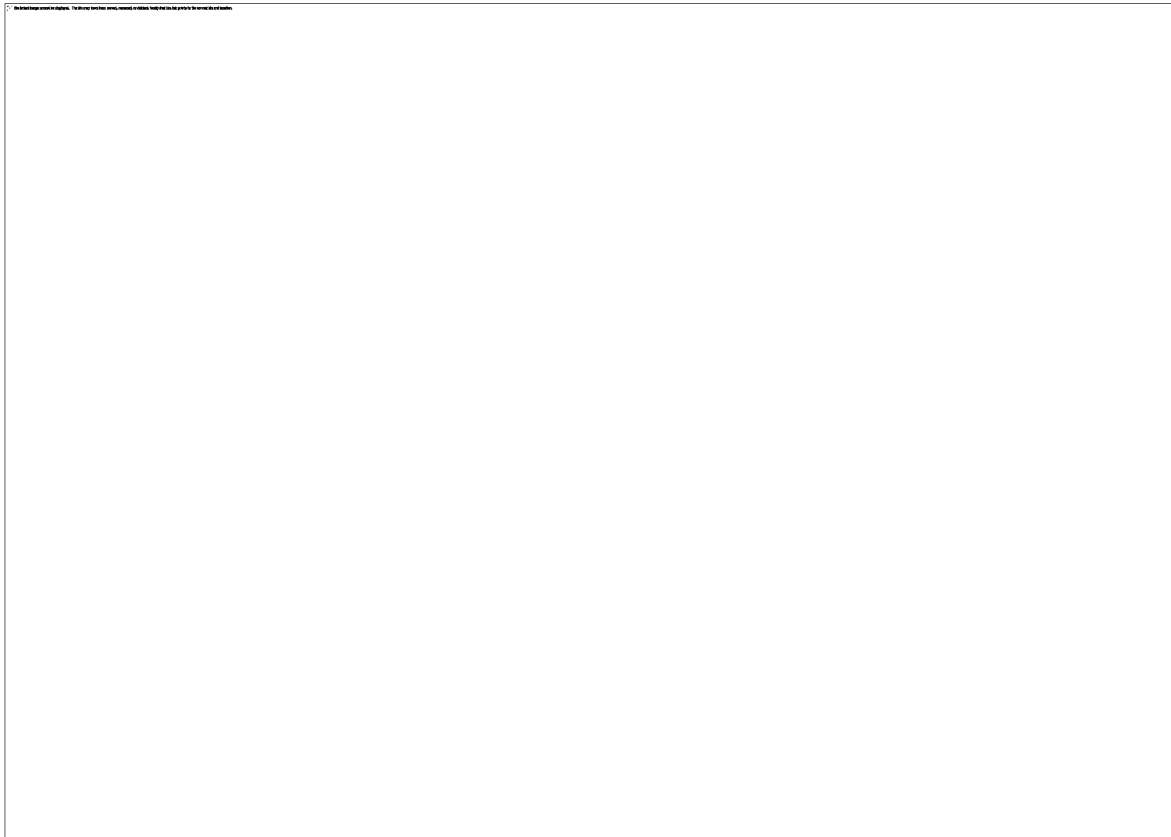
The board also approved two project agreements for emergency bridge repairs on I-44/Turner Turnpike near Bristow and Depew. The contracts, valued at nearly \$120,000 and \$23,000, were both awarded to Built Right Construction, of Savanna, Okla., and include the repair of bridge damage caused by over height vehicle impacts earlier this year.

During his report to the board, Gatz mentioned that ACCESS Oklahoma, OTA's 15-year, \$5 billion, long range-plan, focuses on completing reconstruction of I-44/Turner Turnpike, including raising some bridge heights to provide 18 feet of clearance for trucks.

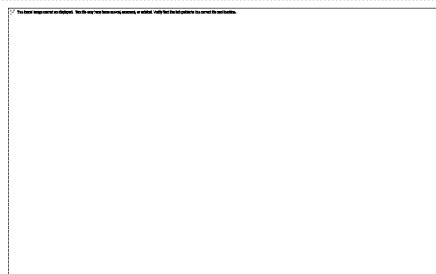
"ACCESS Oklahoma is not only about new routes and increasing capacity, but also reinvesting in existing turnpikes and making sure they are viable for the future," Gatz said.

The board, a six-member panel appointed by the governor to an eight-year term to oversee turnpike development, awards project contracts for road and bridge construction on a monthly basis.

The next Oklahoma Turnpike Authority board meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 26, at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Commission Room, 200 N.E. 21st St., Oklahoma City. The meeting also will be available to view live online.



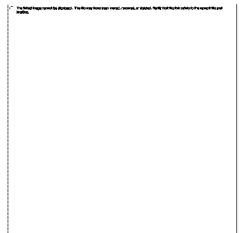
Drivers on I-44/H.E. Bailey Turnpike no longer will stop at toll booths to pay for travel, but rather will be billed by mail through PlatePay. This sign is an example of what motorists will see on the H.E. Bailey Turnpike and more Oklahoma turnpikes in coming months.



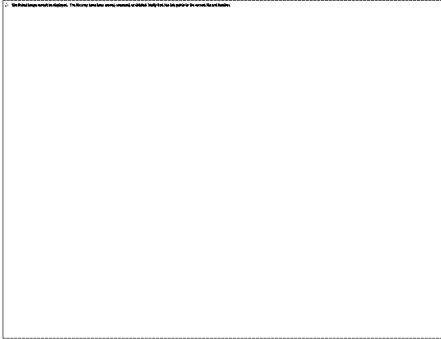
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Oklahoma Transportation
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Phone: 405-521-6000, email: SCinbox@odot.org

This email was sent to carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Oklahoma Department of Transportation · 200 NE 21st Street · Oklahoma City, OK 73105



From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/28/2022 9:32:37 PM
To: Charlie Hannema [charlie.hannema@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] June OTA Board Meeting Wrap-Up: Board approves projects aiding in conversion to cashless tolling



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Tuesday, June 28, 2022

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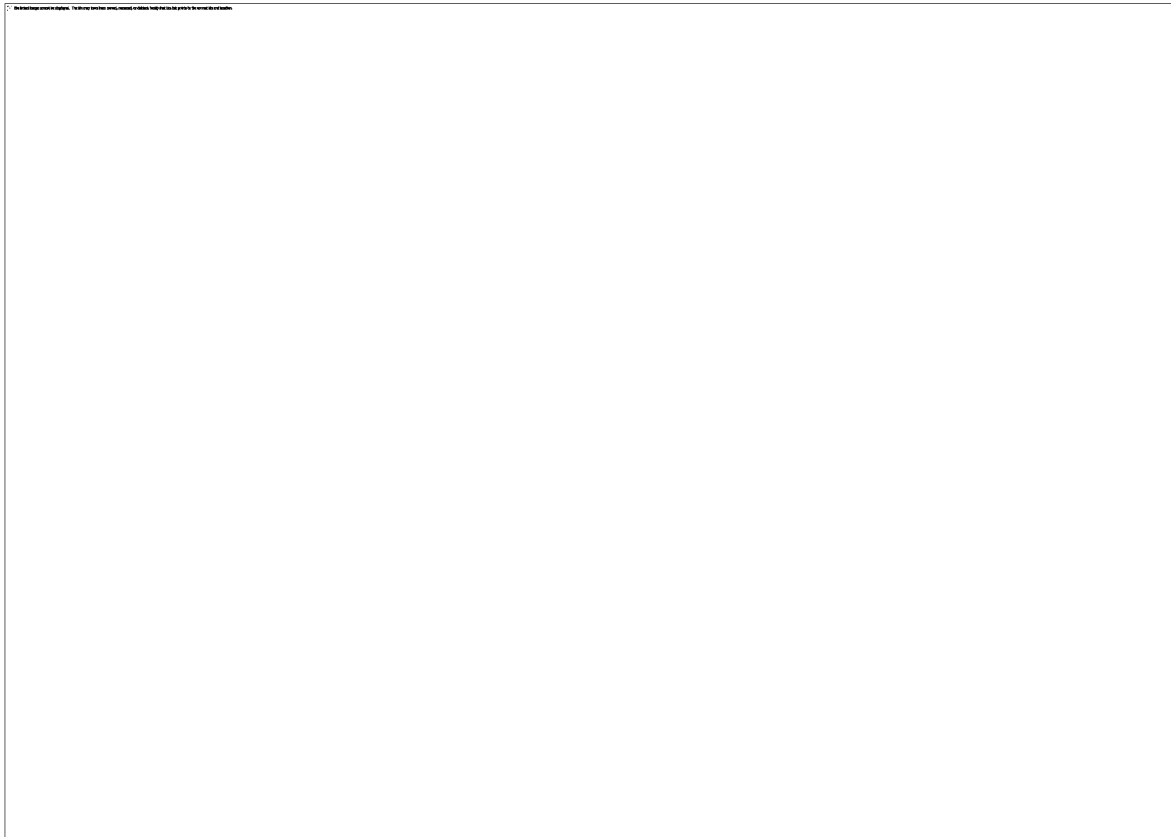
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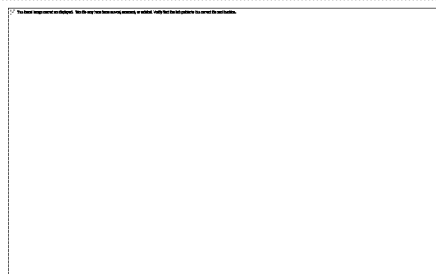
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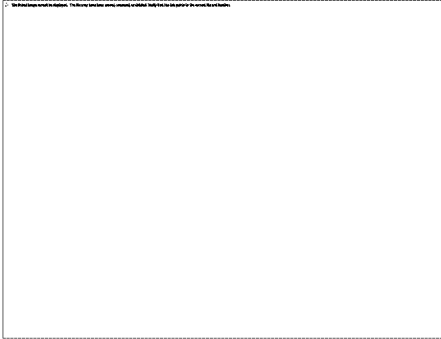


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Check www.oktraffic.org for real-time traffic information
OTA strongly discourage texting or tweeting while driving.

Oklahoma Transportation
Strategic Communications
Phone: 405-521-6000, email: SCinbox@odot.org

This email was sent to charlie.hannema@gov.ok.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Oklahoma Department of Transportation · 200 NE 21st Street · Oklahoma City, OK 73105

From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/28/2022 9:33:35 PM
To: Baylee Williams [baylee.williams@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] June OTA Board Meeting Wrap-Up: Board approves projects aiding in conversion to cashless tolling



Strategic Communications
Tuesday, June 28, 2022

405-521-6000
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2022
Press Release # 015-22

June OTA Board Meeting Wrap-Up

**Board approves projects aiding in conversion to cashless tolling on
H.E. Bailey, Indian Nation turnpikes**

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority board approved two projects at its Tuesday, June 28, meeting aimed at continuing the conversion to PlatePay along two more turnpikes. To collect tolls without toll booths or cash, PlatePay cameras will photograph a vehicle's license plate, enabling OTA to mail the vehicle's registered owner an invoice.

A \$17 million contract was approved and includes an agreement for PlatePay conversion, bridge rehabilitation and interchange reconstruction along I-44/H.E. Bailey Turnpike between Chickasha and Newcastle. The contract was awarded to DUIT Construction Co., of Edmond. This project will update roadways, signs and striping for PlatePay, as well as reconstruct the interchange at US-277/SH-5 near Walters, on the southern end of the H.E. Bailey turnpike.

Board members also approved additional design work for the future transition to PlatePay on SH-375/Indian Nation Turnpike in Southeastern Oklahoma. The \$93,760 contract modification will help complete designs at SH-3 near Antlers and ramp improvements at US-270 near McAlester.

"The conversion to PlatePay on the H.E. Bailey Turnpike was accelerated after the crash at the Newcastle toll plaza on June 4," Secretary of Transportation and OTA Executive Director Tim Gatz said. "It certainly added an exclamation point to the need to convert fully to cashless tolling quickly."

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority plans to have all turnpikes in the state converted to PlatePay by the end of 2024.

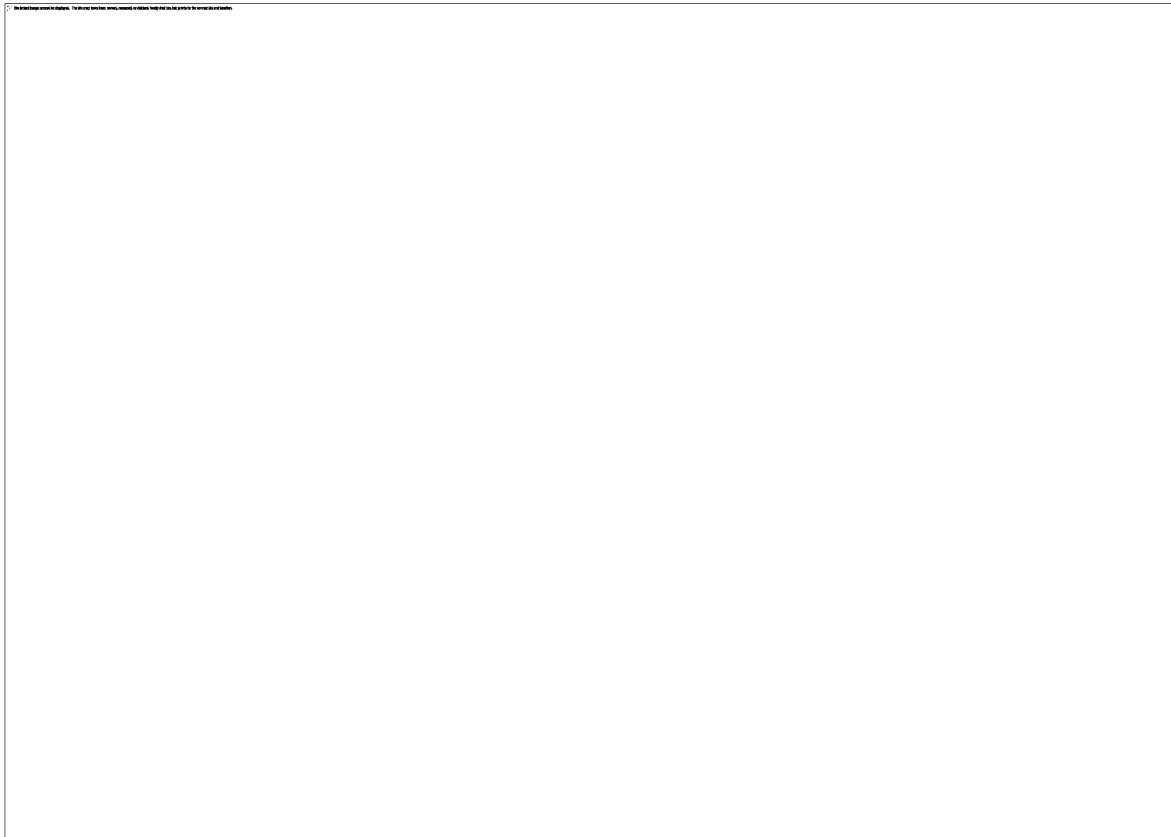
The board also approved two project agreements for emergency bridge repairs on I-44/Turner Turnpike near Bristow and Depew. The contracts, valued at nearly \$120,000 and \$23,000, were both awarded to Built Right Construction, of Savanna, Okla., and include the repair of bridge damage caused by over height vehicle impacts earlier this year.

During his report to the board, Gatz mentioned that ACCESS Oklahoma, OTA's 15-year, \$5 billion, long range-plan, focuses on completing reconstruction of I-44/Turner Turnpike, including raising some bridge heights to provide 18 feet of clearance for trucks.

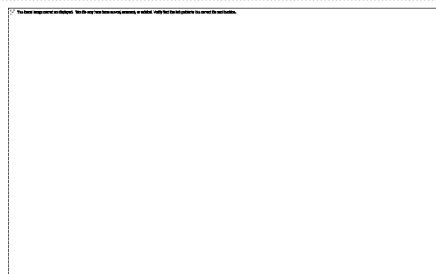
"ACCESS Oklahoma is not only about new routes and increasing capacity, but also reinvesting in existing turnpikes and making sure they are viable for the future," Gatz said.

The board, a six-member panel appointed by the governor to an eight-year term to oversee turnpike development, awards project contracts for road and bridge construction on a monthly basis.

The next Oklahoma Turnpike Authority board meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 26, at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Commission Room, 200 N.E. 21st St., Oklahoma City. The meeting also will be available to view live online.



Drivers on I-44/H.E. Bailey Turnpike no longer will stop at toll booths to pay for travel, but rather will be billed by mail through PlatePay. This sign is an example of what motorists will see on the H.E. Bailey Turnpike and more Oklahoma turnpikes in coming months.



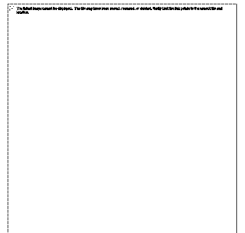
Please click everyone's seat belt each and every time you drive.
Check www.oktraffic.org for real-time traffic information
OTA strongly discourage texting or tweeting while driving.

stay connected:

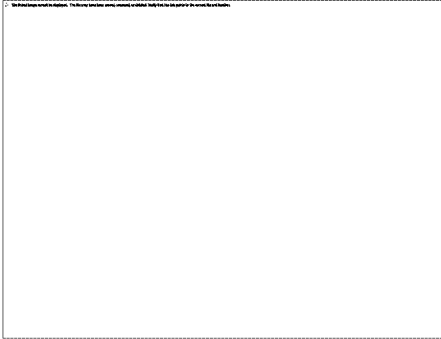


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From: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority [ota@public.govdelivery.com]
Sent: 6/28/2022 9:33:35 PM
To: Charlie Hannema [charlie.hannema@gov.ok.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] June OTA Board Meeting Wrap-Up: Board approves projects aiding in conversion to cashless tolling



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Tuesday, June 28, 2022

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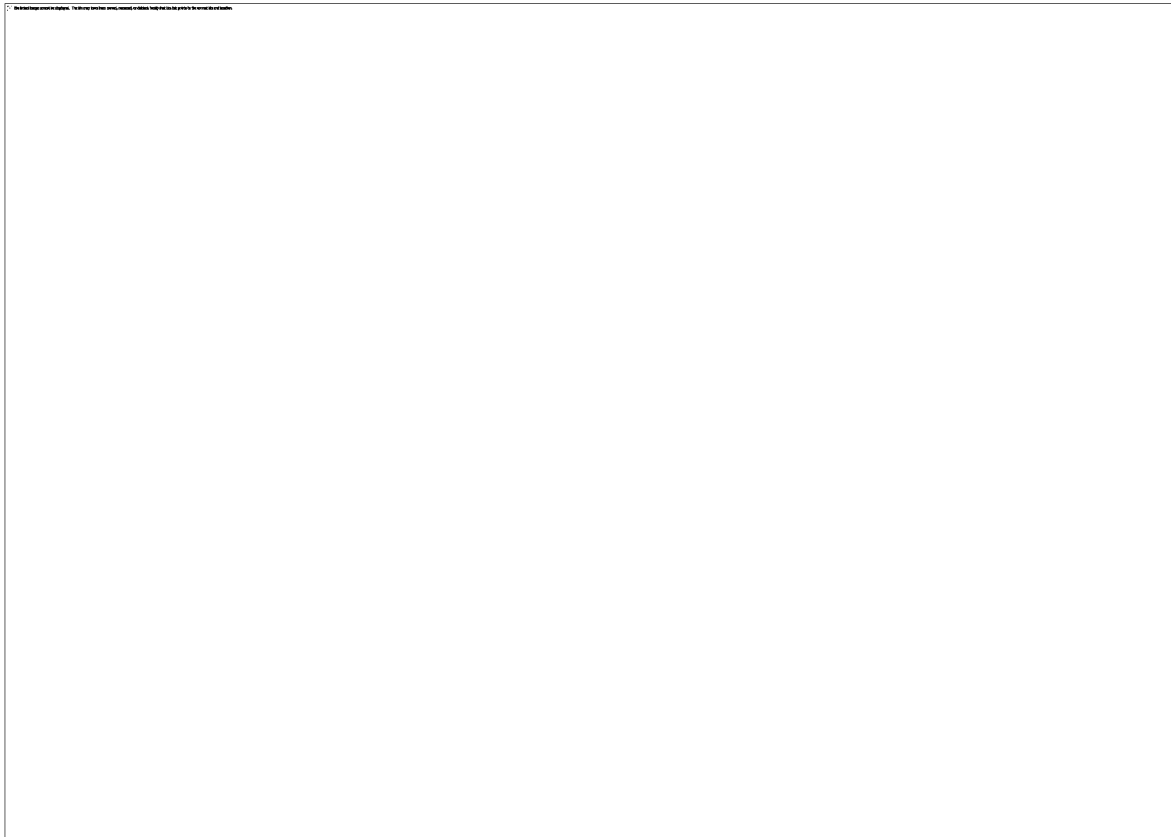
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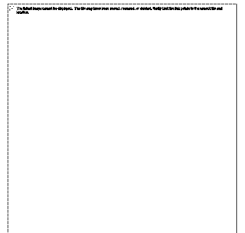
Please click everyone's seat belt each and every time you drive.
Check www.oktraffic.org for real-time traffic information
OTA strongly discourage texting or tweeting while driving.

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This email was sent to charlie.hannema@gov.ok.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Oklahoma Department of Transportation · 200 NE 21st Street · Oklahoma City, OK 73105



Message

From: Jessica Brown [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6CFDDD84EE914B919AE04071753AC8F2-JESSICA BRO]
Sent: 7/5/2022 7:42:54 PM
To: glove@[REDACTED]; Dana Weber [dweber@[REDACTED]]; toddcone@[REDACTED]; jtitsworth7@[REDACTED]; John Jones [jjones@[REDACTED]]; will.dcbass@[REDACTED]; elair [elair@[REDACTED]]; Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]; Kate Vesper [kate.vesper@gov.ok.gov]
CC: Tim Gatz - Pikepass [tgatz@pikepass.com]; Joe Echelle [jechelle@pikepass.com]
Subject: OTA weekly report
Attachments: 6.27 to 7.2 OTA report.pdf

Thank you,
Jessica

Jessica Brown, M.J. | Director
Strategic Communications Division | Oklahoma Transportation Cabinet
Main: 405-521-6000
Oklahoma.gov | oklahoma.gov/odot





Oklahoma Turnpike Authority
Board Member Report
June 27- July 2, 2022

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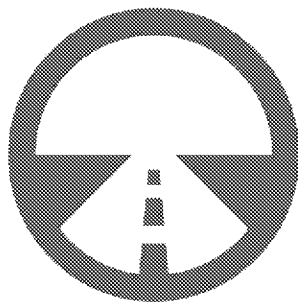
ACCESS Outreach10

Upcoming Projects15

Media Correspondence

Date: June 27 - July 2

Documents: 2



ACCESS
OKLAHOMA

Media Correspondence for June 27 - July 2, 2022

This week the Strategic Communications office handled:

- 6 Media calls & emails for information/documents/statements
- Closed 4 of the 6 media requests
- Sent out a letter to all transportation staff about their roll in the ACCESS Oklahoma program (page 6)

Media Correspondence – June 27 - July 2, 2022

Active

- Oklahoman/Reporter Steve Lackmeyer on ACCESS RFPs for contracts approved in February (Jessica Brown/Brenda Perry Clark)
- Oklahoman/Reporter Steve Lackmeyer on revenue of in state vs. out-of-state travelers per turnpike (Jessica Brown/Brenda Perry Clark)
 - Reporter has not provided an open records request for this information

Completed

- Radio Oklahoma Network/ Reporter Ken Johnson about Cashless Tolling (Brenda Perry Clark)
- Tulsa World/Reporter Rhett Morgan on Land Auction results (Brenda Perry Clark)
- Journal Record/ Reporter Steve Metzger about Cashless Tolling/HEB (Brenda Perry Clark)
- Lawton Constitution/Reporter Kim McConnell on Cashless Tolling/HEB (Brenda Perry Clark)

As a transportation employee, your family, friends and neighbors may ask about OTA's newest and largest construction program named ACCESS Oklahoma. The acronym befits its purpose – advancing and connecting communities and economies safely statewide. Sec. Gatz first introduced the concept of a long-range plan during OTA's December board meeting.

In February, Sec. Gatz formally announced the ACCESS Oklahoma plan as a 15-year-long, \$5 billion, generation-changing program. During that meeting, OTA Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Joe Echelle provided board members a visual overview, walking them through each proposed project on the [ACCESS Oklahoma website](#). This public-facing site provides up-to-date information. Please share this website whenever possible.

While nearly half the projects in the plan reinvest into the current turnpike system by widening facilities and adding dozens of additional access points, much attention has focused on building reliever routes for I-35 traffic. If you have driven I-35 south of OKC, you know traffic growth and accident frequency are increasing. Transportation leaders have called for a solution to this growing problem for decades. The most recent study of the area shows near standstill traffic during peak travel times by 2050. ODOT Chief Engineer Brian Taylor presented those findings recently to the Transportation Commission. At this point, widening I-35 in the metro area is not feasible due to the density of development and ODOT's limited resources.

Building critical reliever routes necessitates property acquisition. Without a doubt, this is the most serious part of building roads. The OTA is mandated by law to provide fair and just compensation for property it acquires, and the Authority will always work diligently to accommodate property owners' needs during the process.

Many folks living in or near the potentially impacted areas are also expressing concern about the environmental impact a turnpike might have. Rest assured, the ACCESS Oklahoma program will be subject to compliance with various state and federal environmental regulations. Each corridor will be somewhat different in what studies are performed, depending on the funding used, the type of development and environmental resources present in the area, and ties to federal facilities such as interstate highways. Regardless of regulatory requirements, OTA is committed to avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating impacts to the environment and Oklahoma communities.

While those protesting the building of reliever routes are vocal, the ACCESS Oklahoma plan does have support from chambers of commerce, local businesses and community members across the state. Economic benefits abound, but more important is the increased safety this program offers motorists for decades to come. Please visit the [ACCESS Oklahoma website](#) for more information.

Thank you,
Jessica

Open Records

Date: June 27 - July 1

Documents: 2



Media - Open Record Requests

Active

- Norman Transcript/Mindy Wood environmental studies on Kickapoo-Wes Watkins Lake, Kilpatrick-Lake Overholser, SH-74/LHP-Lake Hefner (5-2-2022 James Poling) (Awaiting StratComm & Legal Review)
- State Impact/Beth Wallis – ACCESS environmental – 10 requests (4/19/22 James Poling)
 - Aquifers (Data gathering)

Emails, phone calls and recording of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding any aquifers potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects during the period of Jan. 1, 2021 to April 16, 2022.
 - Private property (Data gathering)

Emails, phone calls and recording of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding any homes or private property potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects in Cleveland and Oklahoma Counties during the period of Jan. 14, 2019 to April 16, 2022.
 - Water quality (Data gathering)

Emails, phone calls and recording of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding water quality or water pollution potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects during the period of Jan. 1, 2021 to April 16, 2022.
 - Watersheds (Data gathering)

Emails, phone calls and recordings of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding any watersheds potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects during the period Jan. 1, 2021 to April 16, 2022.
 - Underground water wells (Data gathering)

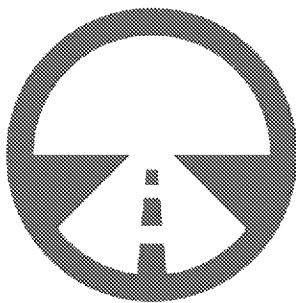
Emails, phone calls and recording of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding any underground water wells potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects during the period of Jan. 1, 2021 to April 16, 2022.

- **Rose rocks (Data gathering)**
Emails, phone calls and recording of electronic meetings initiated from or received by the OTA's board members or executive staff regarding any rose rocks potentially affected by any Oklahoma Turnpike Authority projects during the period of Jan. 1, 2021 to April 16, 2022.
- **CDM Smith (Waiting on StratComm & Legal review)**
Contracts between the OTA and CDM Smith regarding OTA projects in Cleveland and Oklahoma counties from Jan. 1, 2016 – April 16, 2022.
- **Garver contracts (Waiting on StratComm & Legal review)**
Contracts between the OTA and Garver regarding OTA projects in Cleveland and Oklahoma counties from Jan. 1, 2016 – April 16, 2022.
- **Kickapoo Environment Studies (Data gathering)**
Environmental impact studies from the Kickapoo Turnpike project. Period: Jan. 1, 2013 to Jan. 1, 2021.
- **Poe contracts (Waiting on StratComm & Legal review)** Contracts between the OTA and Poe and Associates regarding OTA projects in Cleveland and Oklahoma counties from Jan. 1, 2016 – April 16, 2022.
- **KOCO/Jeff Raymond on governor's office communication, presentations (4/18/22 Jessica Brown/Brenda Perry Clark) (Data gathering with ODOT & OTA IT)**

ACCESS Outreach

Date: June 27 - July 1

Documents 3

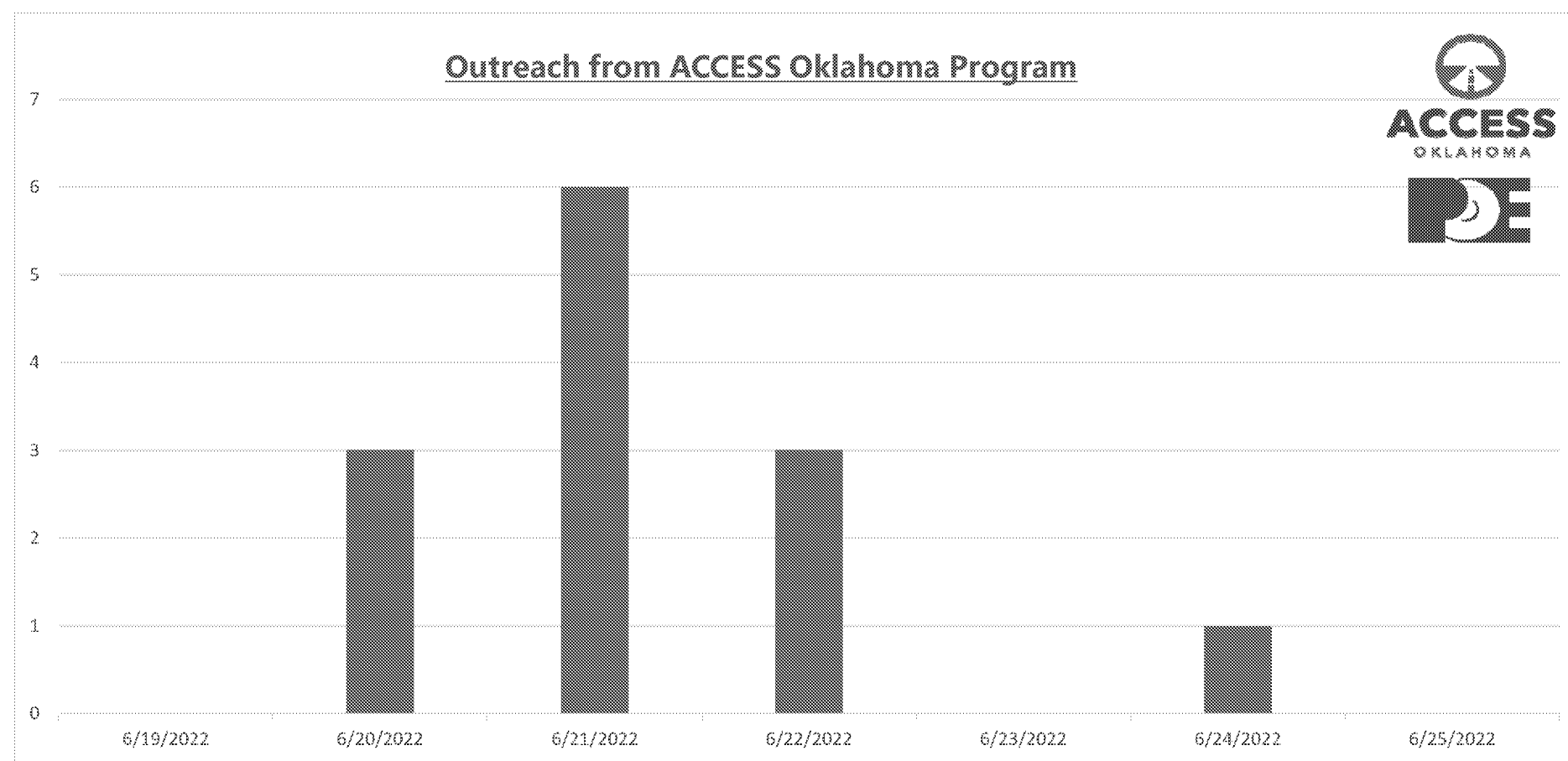


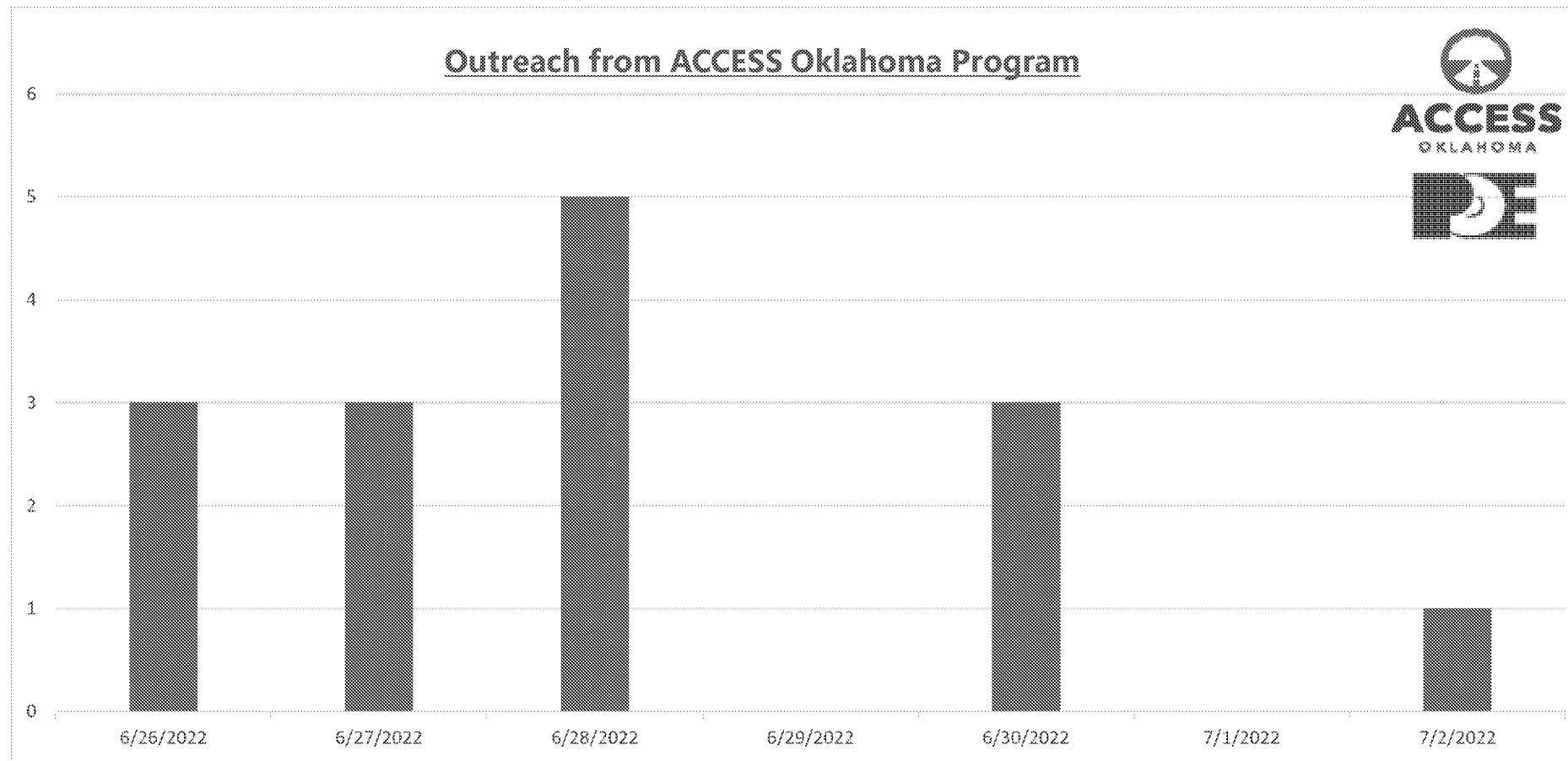
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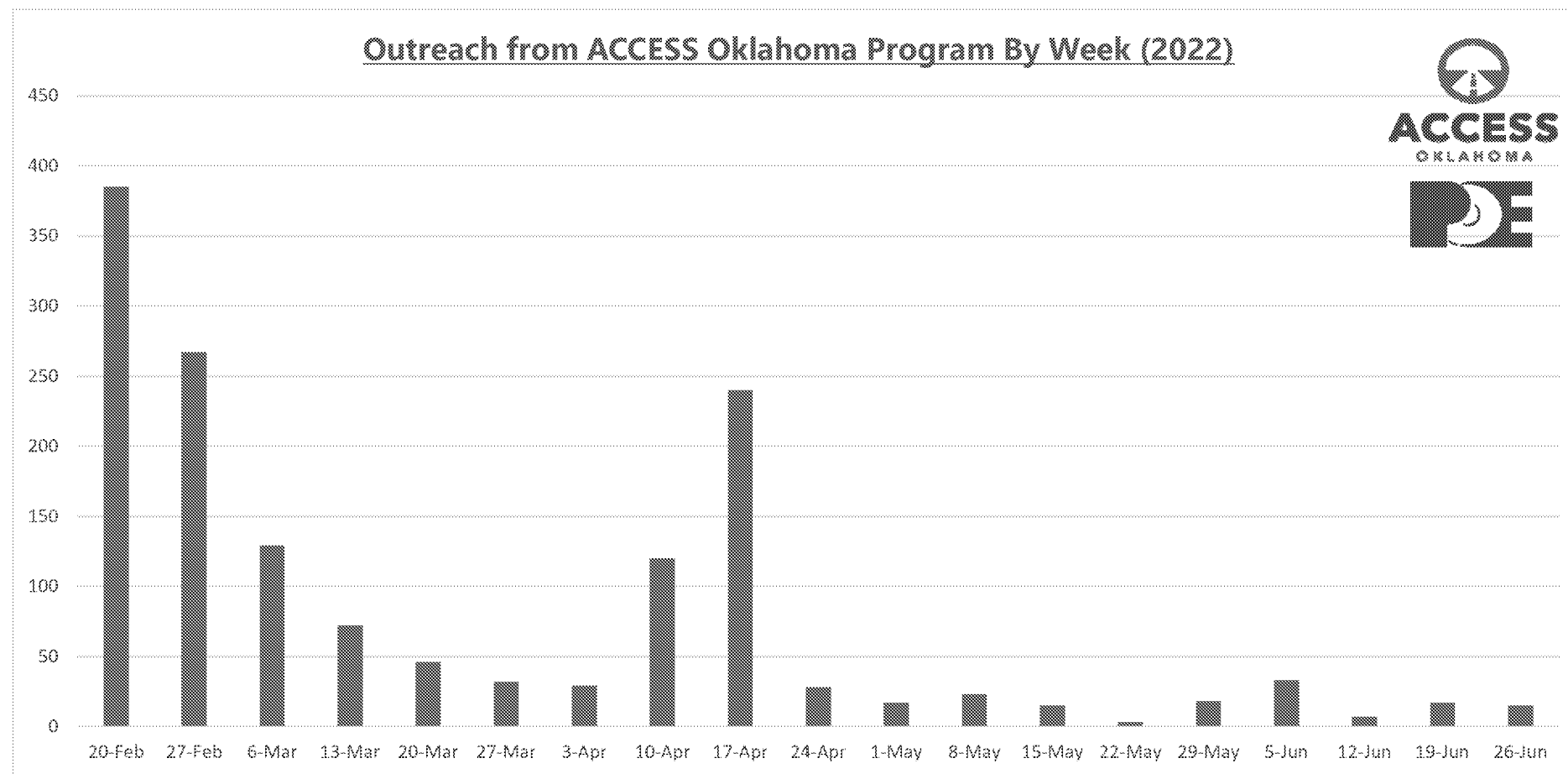
ACCESS Oklahoma Weekly Outreach

Outreach data gathered by Poe & Associates includes:

- Engagement from citizens via:
 - ACCESS Oklahoma hotline
 - Connect page on ACCESSOklahoma.com
 - Emailing info@accessoklahoma.com







Upcoming Projects

Date: June 27 - July 1
Documents 1



- **Sec. Gary Ridley submitted an Op-ed to the Oklahoman**
- **Video with Ken Miller, Ph.D., former state treasurer and OCU economics professor**
 - Miller will provide a thought leadership video on how both public and private funds are necessary for the state to achieve the greatest value and benefit for Oklahomans in many public initiatives, especially for safe roads and bridges. The two sources of funding are not mutually exclusive, but must complement and supplement each other in order to address large societal concerns.
- **Video highlighting Oklahoma transportation**
 - Video with Sec. Tim Gatz, Sec. Gary Ridley & Sec. Neil McCaleb on transportation & the need for turnpikes scheduled for July 15 at the Oklahoma History Center
- **ACCESS Oklahoma digital map update**
 - Now provides project specific information.
- **Development of a digital timeline of the turnpike system**

Message

From: Jessica Brown [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6CFDDD84EE914B919AE04071753AC8F2-JESSICA BRO]
Sent: 7/12/2022 4:56:07 PM
To: glove@[REDACTED]; Dana Weber [dweber@[REDACTED]]; jtitsworth7@[REDACTED]; John Jones [jjones@[REDACTED]]; will.dcbass@[REDACTED]; toddcone@[REDACTED]; elair [elair@[REDACTED]]; Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]; Kate Vesper [kate.vesper@gov.ok.gov]
CC: Tim Gatz - Pikepass [tgatz@pikepass.com]; Joe Echelle [jechelle@pikepass.com]
Subject: OTA Weekly Binder
Attachments: 7.4 to 7.8 binder.pdf

Thank you,
Jessica

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Strategic Communications Division | Oklahoma Transportation Cabinet
Main: 405-521-6000
Oklahoma.gov | oklahoma.gov/odot





Oklahoma Turnpike Authority
Board Member Report
July 3 - July 9, 2022

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Media Correspondence

Date: July 3 - July 9

Documents: 2



Media Correspondence for July 3 - July 9, 2022

This week the Strategic Communications office handled:

- 7 Media calls & emails for information/documents/statements
- Closed 6 of the 7 media requests
- 5 Statements were provided to media outlets including:
 - A statement on the surplus land auction (page 6)
 - A statement on the motion to dismiss the Open Meetings Violation lawsuit (page 7)
 - A statement on the vacancy on the Transportation Commission (page 8 & 9)
 - A statement on the Commission voting on projects with a vacancy. (page 8)

Media Correspondence – July 3 - July 9, 2022

Active

- Norman Transcript/Reporter Mindy Wood: ODOT I-35/Indian Hills Purchasing (James Poling/Brenda Perry Clark)
 - Specifically: The difference in the percentage change from the purchase price and the listed value on the assessor's site.

Completed

- Tulsa World/Reporter Rhett Morgan wanted comment on OTA surplus land auction results (Brenda Perry Clark/Jessica Brown)
- Fox23/Reporter Lara Saavedra confirmation of Tulsa World surplus land sales facts (James Poling)
- Oklahoman/Reporter Lackmeyer requests if any aerials of planned ACCESS Oklahoma/Davenport interchange area (Brenda Perry Clark/Jessica Brown)
- Norman Transcript/Reporter Mindy Wood: Will board cease decisions on turnpike routes until D3 Commissioner seat is filled (Brenda Perry Clark)
- Norman Transcript/Reporter Mindy Wood: OTA statement on the motion to dismiss the Open Meetings Violation lawsuit. (Brenda Perry Clark)
- KFOR/Reporter Ashley Moss requesting information on vacancy on Transportation Commission. (Jessica Brown)

Last month's surplus property auction is the second auction using a public auction house in as many years. Such a method expedites returning property to the public. The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is pleased with the outcome, selling 59 of 64 properties.

The OTA regularly auctions surplus properties it acquires during the right-of-way property acquisition process. Typically, OTA acquires these smaller pieces of property as part of a larger land purchase or if the property would not have access to a public road once construction is complete.

OTA works diligently to keep its property inventory to a minimum with a review process of current and future needs. Once staff deem a property as surplus, the sell process begins. OTA employs several methods to sell surplus property, including direct sell and sealed-bid auctions. No further auctions are planned this year using a public auction house.

Statement on the motion to dismiss the Open Meetings Violation lawsuit provided to
Mindy Wood, Norman Transcript on 7/8/22

From: Mindy Wood

One more thing: in case you'd like to answer the accusation, Ward called the motion to dismiss in the Open Meeting Violation lawsuit a stall tactic. Not sure if you'd want to stress the merits of the claim in the motion to dismiss or not. I'll fully quote the motion to dismiss as much as possible, of course.

From: Brenda Perry

We stand behind the merits stated in the motion to dismiss.

Statement on the vacancy on the Transportation Commission provided to Mindy Wood, Norman Transcript on 7/8/22

The Oklahoma Transportation Commission is comprised of one at-large member and one member from each of the eight transportation department districts of the state. The members of the Commission are appointed in the following manner:

- (a) Members from Districts 5,6,7,8 and the at-large member shall be appointed by the Governor;
- (b) Members of District 2 and 3 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
- (c) Members from Districts 1 and 4 shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

Each member shall serve at the pleasure of his or her appointing authority and may be removed or replaced without cause. Appointed by the Governor, the Director of the Department serves as an ex officio member of the Commission, voting only in case of a tie.

Speaker of the House Charles McCall accepted Transportation Commissioner T.W. Shannon's letter of resignation on March 9, 2022. You will have to direct your question about plans to fill that seat to Speaker McCall.

Statement on the commission's decision to continue voting on projects provided to Mindy Wood, Norman Transcript on 7/8/22

Decisions to table actions by the commission rest with the commission chairman. The commission is designed to make decisions without all members present as long as a quorum is met. The at-large member is in place to represent any of the eight districts. In this case, the at-large member lives in District 3. The only decision made by the Transportation Commission related to the turnpike projects is to confirm the proposed routes do not conflict with state highways and that connections between the two systems will be made if and when built.

Statement on the vacancy on the Transportation Commission provided to Ashley Moss, KFOR
on 7/7/22

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Open Records

Date: July 3 - July 9

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Media - Open Record Requests

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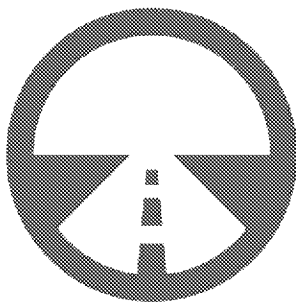
- Norman Transcript/Mindy Wood environmental studies on Kickapoo-Wes Watkins Lake, Kilpatrick-Lake Overholser, SH-74/LHP-Lake Hefner (5-2-2022 James Poling) (going through legal review)
- State Impact/Beth Wallis – ACCESS environmental – 10 requests (4/19/22 James Poling)
 - **Aquifers** (requested IT search)
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 - **Underground water wells** (requested IT search)
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- **KOCO/Jeff Raymond on governor's office communication, presentations (4/18/22 Jessica Brown/Brenda Perry Clark) (File review underway)**

ACCESS Outreach

Date: July 3 - July 9

Documents: 4

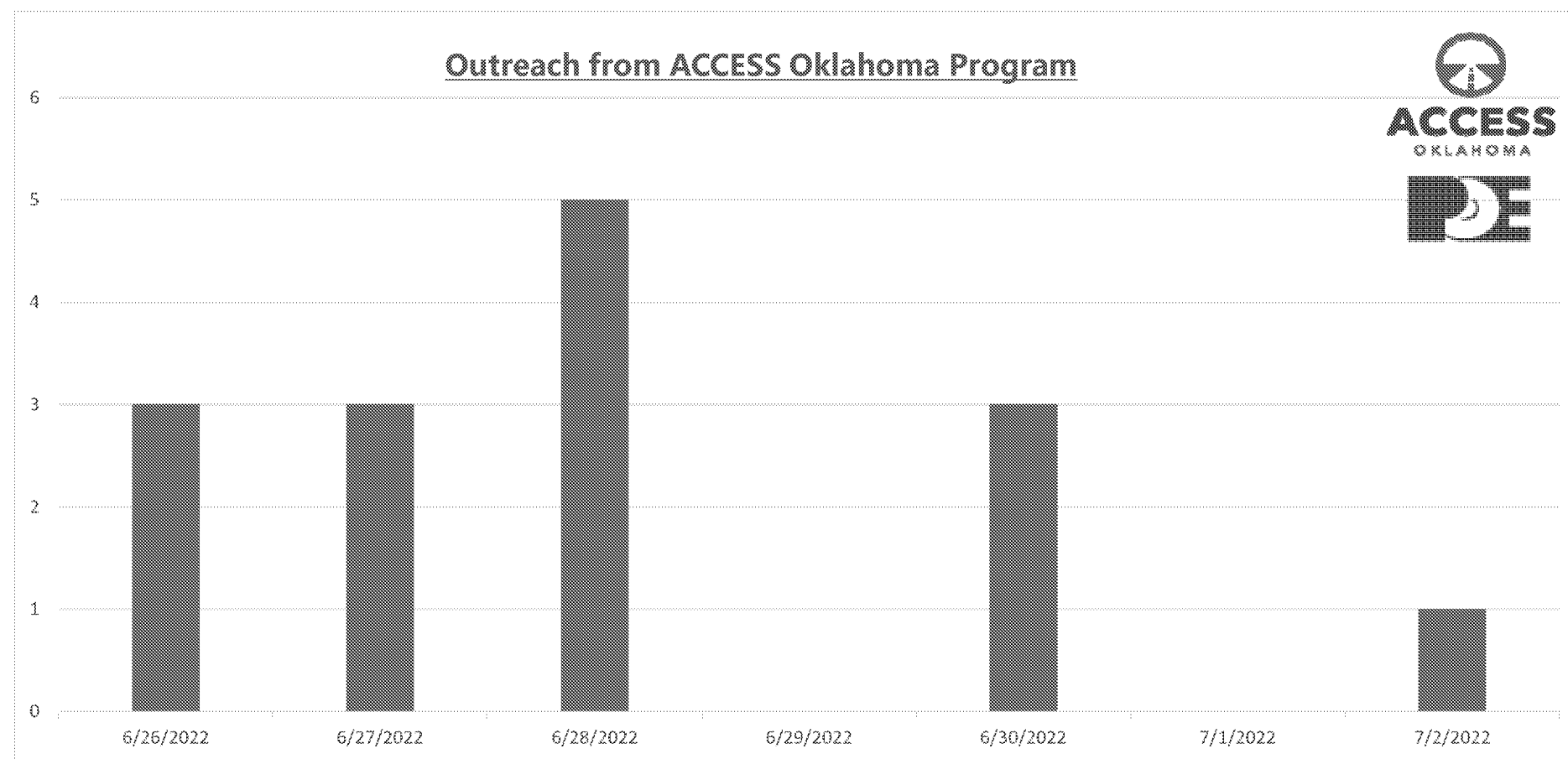


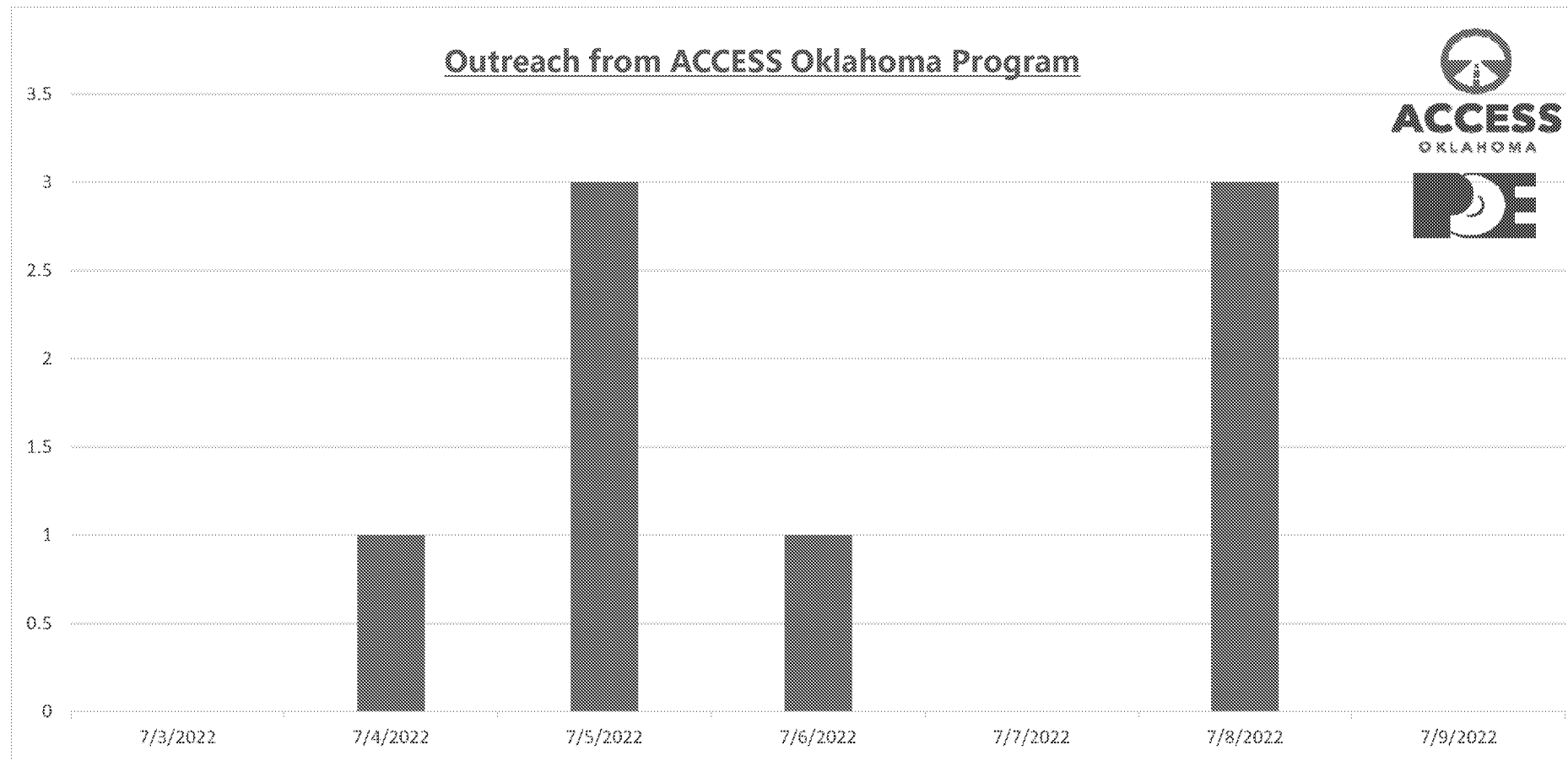
ACCESS
OKLAHOMA

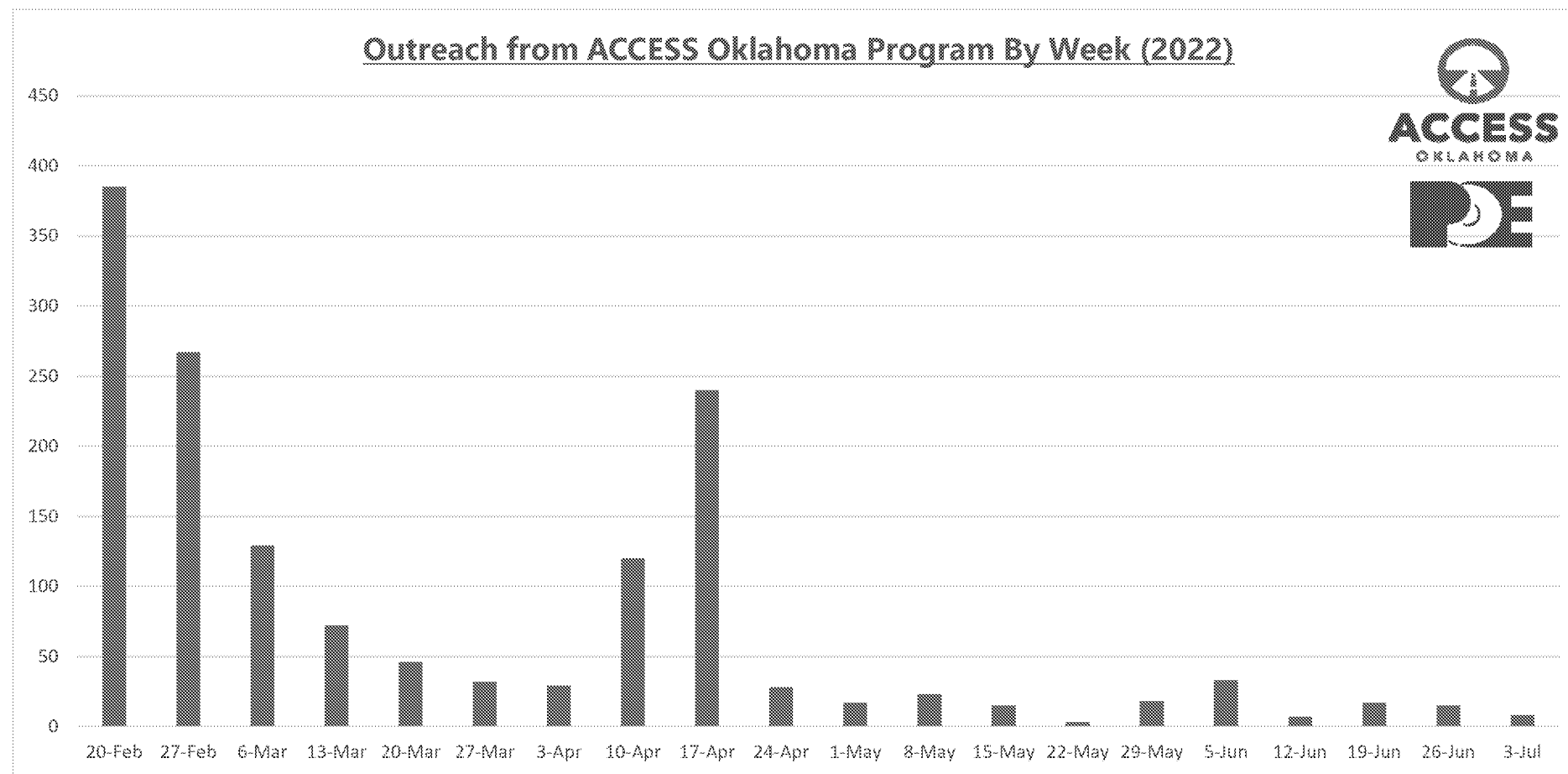
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 - Emailing info@accessoklahoma.com







Public comments collected by the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, through the ACCESS Oklahoma hotline & email

						Pam Cheyne (405) 413-6400 Before you build another Turnpike, you should fix the ones currently in use. Down by Lawton and headed to Broken Bow the right lanes are so rough you think you have flat tires. Take care of what you have before you ruin these peoples lives.
Monday 6/13	1	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	
Tuesday 6/14	0	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
Stan 405-310-2775 wants to remain confidential, as it is dangerous to support the OTA, however he is concerned for the OTA this morning. He claims that a oil drilling rig is actively setting up a drilling rig right in the middle of our path. concerned that it is an effort to stop us and the new turnpike and he wants the rig gone. He feels maybe they want money from OTA as well. Very concerned and very nice and polite.						
Wednesday 6/15	1	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
Thursday 6/16	0	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
Friday 6/17	1	1 complaint about HE Bailey being under construction	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
Weekly Total	3					
Monday 6/20	0	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
Tuesday 6/21	0	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
First customer a complaint Second customer works for environmental division US Fish and Wildlife and had a complaint Unknown male caller referred to Access hotline. He was looking for information regarding the expansion. Customer is asking about WHERE locations are going to be as far as plate pays go in the Norman area because he's renovating his house and just wants to know if it'll be in his line of area so he knows whether to build or not... Provided ACCESS OK hotline number.						
Wednesday 6/22	2			No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
Thursday 6/23	1	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
Friday 6/24	0	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
Weekly Total	3					
Monday 6/27	1	1. Caller concerned about kickapoo extension in Norman	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
Tuesday 6/28	0	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
Wednesday 6/29	0	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
Thursday 6/30	0	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
Friday 7/1	0	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
Weekly Total	1					
Tuesday 7/5	0	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
Wednesday 7/6	0	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report
Thursday 7/7	0	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report	No Data to Report

Upcoming Projects

Date: July 3 - July 9
Documents 1



- **Sec. Gary Ridley submitted an Op-ed to the Oklahoman**
- **Video highlighting the Gilcrease Expressway**
 - Video with Tulsa Co. Commissioner Karen Keith, Tulsa City Engineer Paul Zachary, and INCOG Exec. Dir. Rich Brierre. It will focus on the history, the need and the future of the Gilcrease while also highlighting the important partnerships that built it. The video is set to be completed for the opening of the Expressway.
- **Video with Ken Miller, Ph.D., former state treasurer and OCU economics professor**
 - Miller will provide a thought leadership video on how both public and private funds are necessary for the state to achieve the greatest value and benefit for Oklahomans in many public initiatives, especially for safe roads and bridges. The two sources of funding are not mutually exclusive, but must complement and supplement each other in order to address large societal concerns.
- **Video highlighting Oklahoma transportation**
 - Video with Sec. Tim Gatz, Sec. Gary Ridley & Sec. Neil McCaleb on transportation & the need for turnpikes scheduled for July 15 at the Oklahoma History Center
- **ACCESS Oklahoma digital map update**
 - Now provides project specific information.
- **Development of a digital timeline of the turnpike system**

Message

From: Jessica Brown [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6CFDDD84EE914B919AE04071753AC8F2-JESSICA BRO]
Sent: 7/12/2022 5:33:40 PM
To: glove@[REDACTED]; Dana Weber [dweber@[REDACTED]]; jtitsworth7@[REDACTED]; John Jones [jjones@[REDACTED]]; toddcone@[REDACTED]; will.dcbass@[REDACTED]; elair [elair@[REDACTED]]; Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]; Kate Vesper [kate.vesper@gov.ok.gov]
CC: Tim Gatz - Pikepass [tgatz@pikepass.com]; Joe Echelle [jechelle@pikepass.com]
Subject: 7/11-7/12 Earned Media & Social Listening report
Attachments: Dave Moore - News 9 .png; Dave Moore - Fox 25.png; Dave Moore - KOCO.png; Dave Moore - KFOR.png; Dave Moore - KOCO article.png; Dave Moore - the Oklahoman article.png; Dave Moore p- the Oklahoman cont. 2.png; Dave Moore - The Oklahoman cont. .png; Paula NiBride - News 9 .png; Kristy Salisbury - News 9 .png; Kelly Farris Wilson's comment.png; Linda Barry - Pike Off OTA repost.png; Debbie Saltzman - Dave Moore kicked out of meeting.png; Darla Le Blanc - Video of protestors.png; Kara MP - Letters to James Grimsley.png; Turnpike Summit.png; Ashley Nicole - Tree sits.png; Savine Echonova - Sec. Gatz pay raise.png; Sheryl Hoggatt - OTA abandoned section of highway for sale comments.png; Sheryl Hoggatt - OTA abandoned section of highway for sale.png; Sheryl Hoggatt - OTA abandoned section of highway for sale cont. .png; Rarchar Tortorello - Ward 5 poll.png; Ethan Guenther's comment.png; Dawn Goldsmith - Surveytraffic counters.png; 7_12 Oklahoman OTC approves turnpike plans 1_3.png; 7_12 Oklahoman OTC approves turnpike plans 2_3.png; 7_12 Oklahoman OTC approves turnpike plans 3_3.png; 7_12 Journal Record State Senate scrutinize OTA 1_3.png; 7_12 Norman Transcript Commission approves turnpikes 2_3.png; 7_12 Journal Record State Senate scrutinize OTA 3_3.png; 7_12 Journal Record State Senate scrutinize OTA 2_3.png; 7_12 Norman Transcript Commission approves turnpikes 1_3.png; 7_12 Norman Transcript Commission approves turnpikes 3_3.png

Social Listening

Note: Screenshots of all posts are attached to this email

OTC Meeting

- The opposition is sharing news articles about the meeting yesterday.
 - Dave Moore reshared all of the news outlet's stories about the approved turnpike routes.
 - <https://bit.ly/3IEbzb5>
 - <https://bit.ly/3cbUQjr>
 - <https://bit.ly/3yZKjk6>
 - <https://bit.ly/3yZG7Rx>
 - <https://bit.ly/3nWqtGR>
 - <https://bit.ly/3auNC9J>
 - Kristy Shriner Salisbury and Paula NiBride also reshared the [News 9 article](#) and asked if there was still a chance to fight the turnpikes.
 - Kelly Farris Wilson commented to not give up the fight. She has attorneys who can help fight for the property owners in the path.
 - Linda Barry reshared a [Pike Off OTA post of The Norman Transcript's article](#) about James Grimsley agreeing with the opposition.
 - Dave Moore [was kicked out of the meeting](#) yesterday. Debbie Saltzman said it's on video and a violation of the open records act.
 - Darla Le Blanc [posted a video of the protestors](#) outside of ODOT's offices.
 - Dean Williams commented that she needs to know when they should be looking for a new house or she'll be left out on the street and she has no idea what OTA is going to offer them.
- Kara MP [encouraged the opposition to write James Grimsley a letter](#) thanking him for voting against the new proposed turnpike routes.

Other

- The opposition is holding a Turnpike Summit on July 21 at 6 p.m. to go over environmental, legal, and legislative updates.
- Ashley Nicole suggested the opposition do tree sits in protest of the turnpike.
- Savine Echonova posted that it's a conflict of interest having Sec. Gatz be the head of ODOT, and head of OTA, along with a Dec. 2021 Southwest Ledger News article about the Secretary's pay raise.
- Sheryl Hoggatt posted an article from 2014 about OTA placing an abandoned highway for sale that garnered a few comments.
- Rarchar Tortorello posted a poll on the Ward 5 Facebook page asking about what projects the council should discuss during their retreat on July 22-23. The turnpikes are top on the list.
- Dawn Goldsmith posted a picture of survey/traffic counters by 149th and Choctaw Rd.
 - Ethan Guenther suggests the criminal activity of taking it.

Earned Media

7/11 News 6, New Routes For Turnpikes Could Be Up For Final Vote Monday. <https://bit.ly/3P5dvvG>

7/12 The Oklahoman, OTC approves turnpike plans. (attached)

7/12 The Oklahoman, Oklahoma turnpike expansion plan approved by transportation panel despite concerns. <https://bit.ly/3yyKly6>

7/12 Journal Record, State House, Senate to scrutinize OTA. (attached)

7/12 Norman Transcript Commission approves turnpikes. (attached)

7/12 KFOR News 4 at 6:55 a.m., Three proposed turnpike routes approved. [Link](#)
Viewership: 16,473
Ad Value: \$1,467.36

7/12 Good Day Oklahoma at 8:17 a.m., Oklahoma Transportation Commission approved 3 routes. [Link](#)
Viewership: 10,221
Ad Value: \$440.64

7/12 Rise and Shine Oklahoma at 8:04 a.m., Turnpike expansion routes get green light. [Link](#)
Viewership: 7,597
Ad Value: \$1,073.52

7/12 Good Day Oklahoma at 8:04 a.m., Oklahoma Transportation Commission approves routes. [Link](#)
Viewership: 7,590
Ad Value: \$1,236.96

7/12 Good Day Oklahoma at 7:16 a.m., Oklahoma Transportation Commission approves routes. [Link](#)
Viewership: 7,590
Ad Value: \$309.24

7/12 Good Day Oklahoma at 6:03 a.m., Oklahoma Transportation Commission approves routes. [Link](#)
Viewership: 5,157
Ad Value: \$930.24

7/12 News 9 at 6:32 a.m., ODOT on turnpikes. [Link](#)

Viewership: 29,688
Ad Value: \$2,310.48

7/12 News 9 at 5:35 a.m., ODOT on turnpikes. [Link](#)
Viewership: 23,104
Ad Value: \$1,887.84

7/12 Good Day Oklahoma at 5:05 a.m., Transportation Commission approves turnpike routes. [Link](#)
Viewership: 2,041
Ad Value: \$609.12

7/12 KFOR News 4 at 5:10 a.m., Three proposed turnpike routes approved. [Link](#)
Viewership: 10,750
Ad Value: \$530.64

7/12 KFOR News 4 at 12:48 a.m., Three proposed turnpike routes approved. [Link](#)
Viewership: 3,533
Ad Value: \$187.50

7/11 KFOR News 4 at 10:10 p.m., Three proposed turnpike routes approved. [Link](#)
Viewership: 37,570
Ad Value: \$4,015.65

7/11 Fox 25 Late Edition at 10:06 p.m., Transportation Commission approves 3 routes for ACCESS Oklahoma. [Link](#)
Viewership: 9,066
Ad Value: \$2,517.50

7/11 KFOR News 4 at 9:07 p.m., Turmoil over the proposed turnpike plan continues. [Link](#)
Viewership: 4,193
Local Publicity Value: \$297.35

7/11 KOCO 5 News at 6:26 p.m., Turnpike routes approved. [Link](#)
Viewership: 31,358
Ad Value: \$1,806.42

7/11 KFOR News 4 at 6:04 p.m., Turnpike expansion routes get green light. [Link](#)
Viewership: 44,287
Ad Value: \$4,421.76

7/11 News 9 at 5:05 p.m., Turnpike routes approved. [Link](#)
Viewership: 63,530
Ad Value: \$2,164.05

7/11 KOCO at 5:00 p.m., Turnpike routes approved. [Link](#)
Viewership: 32,996
Ad Value: \$6,267.80

7/11 KFOR News 4 at 4:04 p.m., Turnpike expansion routes get green light. [Link](#)
Viewership: 30,571
Ad Value: \$2,471.00

7/11 News 9 at 4:01 p.m., OTA approves 3 routes. [Link](#)

Viewership: 36,131

Ad Value: \$3,495.80

7/11 KFOR News 4 at 12:01 p.m., Protesters gather at OK Transportation building. [Link](#)

Viewership: 5,174

Ad Value: \$384.46

7/11 News 9 at 12:04 p.m., Meeting pushback. [Link](#)

Viewership: 42,887

Local Publicity Value: \$2,755.50

7/12 Good Morning Oklahoma at 6:05 a.m., Oklahoma Transportation Commission approving 3 proposed routes. [Link](#)

Viewership: 8,326

Local Publicity Value: \$1,216.47

7/12 News on 6 Morning Update at 5:33 a.m., State department of transportation approves 3 routes. [Link](#)

Viewership: 20,918

Ad Value: \$877.22

7/12 Good Morning Oklahoma at 5:04 a.m., Oklahoma Transportation Commission approving 3 proposed routes. [Link](#)

Viewership: 7,019

Ad Value: \$489.90

7/12 News on 6 Early Morning at 4:45 a.m., ODOT has approved plans for turnpike. [Link](#)

Viewership: 23,211

Ad Value: \$939.55

7/11 News on 6 at 10:12 p.m., State department of transportation has approved 3 routes. [Link](#)

Viewership: 57,248

Local Publicity Value: \$4,717.90

7/11 Tulsa's Channel 8 at 10:04 p.m., Oklahoma transportation commission approved 3 routes. [Link](#)

Viewership: 24,040

Local Publicity Value: \$6,212.80

Thank you,

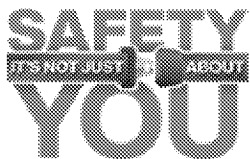
Jessica

Jessica Brown, M.J. | Director

Strategic Communications Division | Oklahoma Transportation Cabinet

Main: 405-521-6000

Oklahoma.gov | oklahoma.gov/odot





Dave Moore shared a link.

48m · 🌐

...

<https://www.news9.com/.../new-routes-for-turnpikes-could...>



NEWS9.COM

New Routes For Turnpikes Could Be Up For Final Vote Monday

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation could vote Monday morning to finalize routes ...



1



Like



Comment



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Dave Moore shared a link.

44m · 🌐

<https://okcfox.com/.../oklahoma-transportation-commission...>



OKCFOX.COM | BY KOKH FOX 25 NEWS, OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Transportation Commission approves 3 routes for Access Oklahoma Project



1



Like



Comment



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Dave Moore shared a link.

50m · 🌐

<https://www.koco.com/.../oklahoma-turnpike.../40576733>



KOCO.COM

Oklahomans protest as state transportation leaders discuss turnpike expansion plan



Like



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<https://kfor.com/.../oklahoma-transportation-commission.../>



KFOR.COM

Oklahoma Transportation Commission approves turnpike routes, protesters gather against decision



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Dave Moore shared a link.

51m · 🌐

...

<https://www.koco.com/.../oklahoma-transportation.../40579264>



KOCO.COM

Residents upset as Oklahoma transportation leaders approve 3 turnpike plans

Oklahoma is one step closer to three new turnpikes despite residents' fight to keep them fr...

👍👎 2

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Write a public comment...





Dave Moore

1h · 🌐

...

Oklahoma turnpike expansion plan approved by transportation panel despite concerns

📍 Steve Lackmeyer, The Oklahoman

Oklahoma Progress Now

July 12, 2022

Three proposed new turnpike routes were approved Monday by the Oklahoma Transportation Commission despite concerns by one member that the process is being rushed and the absence of a member representing threatened homeowners.

The turnpikes are part of Access Oklahoma, a \$5 billion, 15-year expansion of the state's turnpike network that opponents say will uproot hundreds of homes and businesses where new toll roads are proposed between south Oklahoma City and Norman.

PIKE OFF, a grassroots group battling the three turnpikes, unsuccessfully asked the commission to delay a vote until a new District 3 representative could be appointed by Oklahoma House Speaker Charles McCall.

John Estus, House spokesman, said the appointment, required after the seat was vacated by T.W. Shannon, is one of hundreds requiring McCall's attention.

"While this is a recent vacancy, it has been prioritized and will be filled very soon," Estus said. "Nobody has advised the speaker's office on why the vote on this matter occurred before the appointment was made."

Secretary of Transportation Tim Gatz said the routes approved Monday can still be adjusted based on talks with property owners and other considerations.

"While it's unfortunate that the District 3 commissioner is currently vacant, acknowledging district-based appointments, the commission collectively acts in the interest and oversight of transportation in Oklahoma," Gatz said. "It's timely and appropriate to consider the item as presented today."

The vote on Monday is part of a multi-step process the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority must follow before it can move forward without any further political or legal delays. The authority at its June meeting quickly and without comment sped up plans to seek approval and validation for the \$5 billion in bonds from the Council of Bond Oversight and the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Gatz said the accelerated schedule was in response to a ruling by the Council of Bond Oversight that a \$200 million line of credit requested by the authority could not be used for any purpose related to construction of the turnpike routes being challenged in court by residents who face losing their homes.

Taylor also dismissed claims that teleworking is dampening traffic loads. He said the peak may be a bit lower, but it's also wider with traffic delays lasting longer than before the pandemic.

"You would think it would solve a lot of problems, and that's not the case," Taylor said.

James L. Grimsley, who represents southeast Oklahoma, was the only commission member to vote against the turnpike plans, saying the use of eminent domain should be "exceedingly difficult" and that more traffic engineering should be looked at before road expansions.

"I'm not a big fan of building new highways," Grimsley said. "I think it destroys ecosystems and divides and destroys communities."

Grimsley also questioned why the state ranks 14th in the country for highways and yet is ranked 28th in population.

"I don't think it's a tenable future where we continue to build highways because we're running to \$60 million a mile (for construction)," Grimsley said. "And then we have to maintain that."



Gatz said the accelerated schedule was in response to a ruling by the Council of Bond Oversight that a \$200 million line of credit requested by the authority could not be used for any purpose related to construction of the turnpike routes being challenged in court by residents who face losing their homes.

Lawsuits filed on behalf of homeowners allege plans for the south extension do not follow the corridors detailed in statutes from 1987, and that the bonds for toll roads listed in that legislation should have been issued in 1989.

Access Oklahoma was unveiled in February and includes funding for expansions and improvements along the Kickapoo, Turner, Will Rogers, Kilpatrick, H.E. Bailey turnpikes and the Gilcrease Expressway.

"The needs have been projected and the prescribed routes have been contemplated since the late '80s and early '90s," Gatz said. "Today ODOT and the Turnpike Authority engineers believe the construction of these turnpike routes over the course of the next 15 years is critical to manage traffic in the metro area of Oklahoma City, especially in the Interstate 44 and Interstate 35 corridors."

Monday was the first time transportation commission members discussed at length concerns presented by PIKE OFF. Commission member Robert Peterson, who represents northeast Oklahoma, asked Gatz and highway engineers to answer questions and concerns presented by PIKE OFF member Dr. Amy Cerato.

Brian Taylor, chief highway engineer, told Peterson he disagreed with Cerato's suggestion ongoing construction of a Ports to Plains highway from Mexico to Canada will relieve I-35 congestion. Taylor said the parallel corridor west of I-35 will mostly divert agricultural shipping.

"Ports to Plains is a route that is not a priority for Texas, but something they are working on," Taylor said. "They've been working on it for decades, and they are going to be working on it for decades."

Taylor also disagreed with Cerato's argument that the Access Oklahoma traffic projections for I-35 are "substantially wrong" and "way over-estimated congestion." Taylor said the forecasts are based on data available online and that they followed the highway capacity manual.

"The growth we used was 3%, which is well within the range of corridors are experiencing," Taylor said. "I find the information complete and compelling."

Taylor also dismissed claims that teleworking is dampening traffic loads. He said the peak may be a bit lower, but it's also wider with traffic delays lasting longer than before the pandemic.

"You would think it would solve a lot of problems, and that's not the case," Taylor said.

James L. Grimsley, who represents southeast Oklahoma, was the only commission member to vote against the turnpike plans, saying the use of eminent domain should be "exceedingly difficult" and that more traffic engineering should be looked at before road expansions.

"I'm not a big fan of building new highways," Grimsley said. "I think it destroys ecosystems and



Paula NiBride shared a link.

16h · 🌐

...

Nothing will stop these bastards except federal intervention!



NEWS9.COM

3 Proposed Turnpike Routes Approved By ODOT

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's commission approved three new turnpike ro...

👍👍 18

6 Comments 4 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

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Most recent ▼



Submit your first comment...

😊 📷 GIF 🗨️



Kristy Shriner Salisbury shared a link.

21h · 🌐

...

So, is that it? Do we still have a chance to fight it?



NEWS9.COM

3 Proposed Turnpike Routes Approved By ODOT

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's commission approved three new turnpike ro...

👍👍 35

45 Comments 5 Shares

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Top comments ▼



Write a public comment...

😊 📷 GIF 🗨️



Wanda Dollar

Was told an attorney handling cases making thousands and knows they can't win...Sure hope their wrong..This is absolutely wrong and unethical.

Like Reply Share 11h



Kelly Farris Wilson

Wanda Dollar we have excellent attorneys fighting for all of the property

NEWS9.COM

3 Proposed Turnpike Routes Approved By ODOT

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation's commission approved three new turnpike ro...

35

45 Comments 5 Shares

Like

Comment

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Top comments ▼



Write a public comment...



Wanda Dollar

Was told an attorney handling cases making thousands and knows they can't win...Sure hope their wrong..This is absolutely wrong and unethical.

Like Reply Share 11h



Kelly Farris Wilson

Wanda Dollar we have excellent attorneys fighting for all of the property owners in the path, and everyone who comes after us! Don't give up, we will prevail!! There will be wins and losses along the way, this fight is far from over, but hang in there and keep your spirits up 😊

Like Reply Share 10h



Write a public reply...



Kelly Farris Wilson

This meeting isn't a final approval by a long shot, they still have several BIG hurdles ahead of them. Pike Off is holding a meeting on July 21st, we will present a lot of information and be there to answer your questions.



Like Reply Share 19h





Linda Barry shared a post.

13h · 🌐

James Grimsley has courage, we need more like him to step up!



PIKE OFF OTA

14h · 🌐

We are thankful for one courageous commissioner who spoke up and voiced his concerns.

https://www.normantranscript.com/.../article_8538957a...



NORMANTRANSCRIPT.COM

Commission approves turnpike plans; lone dissenter sides with Cerato

The Oklahoma Transportation Commission voted to approve the state Turnpike Authority's ...



87

19 Comments 12 Shares

Like

Comment

Share

Top comments ▼



Write a public comment...





Debbie Saltzman

...

Yesterday at 8:56 AM · 🌐

Dave Moore was just thrown out of meeting. A clear violation of open records act. On video



40

27 Comments 5 Shares



Like



Comment



Share

Top comments ▼



Write a public comment...





Darla Le Blanc

21h · 🌐

...

Hot morning



👍❤️👤 42

5 Comments 5 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Top comments ▼



Write a public comment...

😊 📷 GIF 🗨️



Dean Williams

Thank you so much for trying but it looks like they're going to go with it I just wish they would let us know what they're going to do and what we can expect this waiting is driving us crazy at our age we need to know where the we need to start looking for a house I'll be left out on the street we have no idea what they're even going to offer us or what we can buy

Like Reply Share 14h



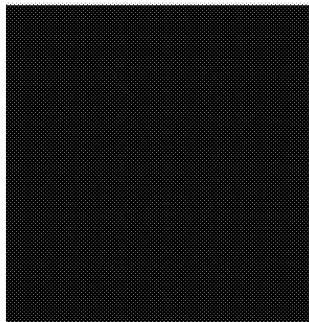


Kara MP shared a link.

18h · 🌐

...

If you would like to call or write Mr. Grimsley to say thanks his number is 405-514-7365 and address is P.O. Box 421, Calera, OK 74730. – Transportation Commissioner James Grimsley (district 2) spoke at the ODOT/OTA meeting today (7/11/22) and reminded his colleagues the Commission represents and serves the public, not ODOT/OTA. He reiterated and confirmed concerns raised by Dr. Cerato and Pikeoffota, stating more and more highways and turnpikes are not sustainable and are not the answer; rather, the lack of traffic engineering and forethought, particularly at on/off ramps, is the primary cause for traffic congestion, contributes to car accidents, and implementing real traffic engineering, not turnpikes, is the answer.



OKLAHOMA.GOV

James Grimsley

James Grimsley

i

👍❤️ 38

9 Comments 5 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Top comments ▼



Write a public comment...

😊 📷 📺 🗣️



Keith Brewster

I happen to know James via his work in aviation. Indeed, a great guy. He has connections with OU Research, Norman aviation, engineering and weather communities.

Like Reply Share 13h Edited

👍 2



Lance Maxwell

We definitely should be reaching out to thank those in support of our cause as frequently as we reach out to those against.

Like Reply Share 17h

👍❤️ 4



David Posey

Common sense is available but the rest of the board can't see it when it's in the same room.

Like Reply Share 12h

👍




Rebecca Marshall Rigsby shared an event.

July 8 at 7:12 AM · 🌐

...

Join us for the first of several informational summits!

**PIKEOFFOTA**

THE TURNPIKE COUNTY TURNPIKE SUMMIT
EDUCATION & INFORMATION

PIKE OFF UPDATES
What are the latest developments in the Turnpike fight?
Meet the Pike Off FOTA leaders & sign up for upcoming & upcoming events.

LITIGATION | STAN WARD & ROBERT NORMAN
What are the latest developments in the Turnpike fight?

EMINENT DOMAIN | CLINT SCHWABER
What are the latest developments in the Turnpike fight?

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WILDLIFE IMPACT | INGER GUFFRIDA
What are the latest developments in the Turnpike fight?

LEGISLATION | RANDY CARTER
What are the latest developments in the Turnpike fight?

please join us
DATE: Thursday, July 21
TIME: Sign in begins at 6:00pm
LOCATION: National Weather Center
120 David L Boren Blvd. Norman, OK 73072
WWW.PIKEOFFOTA.COM

Get Your Merchandise
t-shirts bumper stickers yard signs banners buttons stickers

THU, JUL 21 AT 6 PM

Turnpike Summit

120 David L Boren Blvd, Norman, OK 73019, United States

75 people interested

☆ Interested

👍👤👤 26

9 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share



Write a public comment...





Ashley Nicole

4h · 🌐



Tree sits anyone? I know peeps who can
show you how 🤪



2

1 Comment



Like



Comment



Share

Top comments ▼



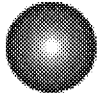
Write a public comment...



Ashley Nicole Author

I'm an Absentee Shawnee tribal member who has fought several oil & gas projects slated for the Tbird watershed. I'm also a climber & happy to share those skills.

Like Reply Share 4h



Savine Echonova shared a link.

16h · 🌐

...



It's a total conflict of interest that Gatz is the Secretary of Transportation, head of ODOT, and head of OTA! Of course the ODOT was going to approve these f'ing turnpikes!



SOUTHWESTLEDGER.NEWS

State proposes pay hike for transportation chief

OKLAHOMA CITY – The \$55,000 raise proposed for State Transportation Secretary Tim Ga...



23

12 Comments 9 Shares



Like



Comment



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Top comments ▼



It's insane. I didn't know until about 6 weeks ago that portions of the Will Rogers turnpike were simply abandoned because of lousy design.<https://abandonedok.com/will-rogers-turnpike/>



Will Rogers Turnpike I-44 | 40+ Photos | Abandoned Oklahoma

Like Reply Share 12h



Dave Moore Yes, this is that portion.

Like Reply Share 12h



Typical of eminent domain scams. They take the land usually more than they need then hold on to till the value has been driven up exponentially and then they sell it. They used eminent domain for a Wal-Mart in Alabama before I moved they took an entire farm but used 5 acres or so and Wal-Mart ended up selling the rest at a very good profit. It's not the first place it was done and certainly not the last. But nobody cares until it's their home or their land. That's the problem.

Like Reply Share 10h



They assume, falsely, that most people want to trade farm, pastureland and wildlife for cement. It destroys the natural beauty everywhere it goes.

Like Reply Share 11h



These people need to go!!

Like Reply Share 12h



Like Reply Share 10h



Almost posted an angry face, but don't want to make FB think I'm angry with the group or whatever their stupid algorithm does with angry faces.



Sheryl Hoggatt

12h · 🌐

...

ABSOLUTELY NO ACCOUNTABILITY! ... It's bad enough that they take peoples land, then they leave it in a mess like this! This is how much respect OTA has for the land... and it doesn't look like the development on the south side of town resulted in the "possibilities" they were expecting!

(more pictures in the links below article)

Oklahoma Turnpike Authority to place abandoned section of highway for sale

April 25, 2014 at 9:19 pm CDT Fox 23 News

None — CATOOSA, Okla. - For more than a decade, the city of Catoosa has had to live with the remnants of an abandoned four-lane highway on its eastern city limits. FOX23 learned Friday what changes are in the works for the once busy section of road.

Hundreds of cars used to drive over the portion of the Old Will Rogers Turnpike in Catoosa before it was closed.

"There's no reason why we held onto it this long. It's just we've never received any interest in people wanting to develop that area. So we held onto it," said Jack Damrill with the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority.

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority told FOX23 that it will try to sell off the entire stretch of four-lane highway next month. The turnpike authority tried to sell the highway as one long piece of land earlier this year, but was unsuccessful and had to take it off the market. Now it has a new strategy.

"We tried to sell it as a whole. We're going to break it up into three parcels this time. So people can either bid on one of the three parcels, or buy it as a whole," Damrill said.

OTA officials told FOX23 that with Catoosa seeing development on the south side of town in the area near the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, now is the time someone may feel is right to purchase the old highway.

FOX23 spoke with one Catoosa city councilor who said any new development will help the city.

"I think this is a great opportunity for the people of Catoosa. The possibilities are endless," said Councilor Thomas Sweet.

<https://www.fox23.com/.../oklahoma-turnpike.../109102836/>

<https://www.alpsroads.net/roads/ok/i-44/o.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjXS5eu1xaU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHnla88y4T0>



21

8 Comments 8 Shares

Like

Comment

Share

Top comments ▼



Rarchar S. Tortorello created a poll.

1h · 🌐

Good morning Ward 5!

What project priorities should council discuss during our retreat on 22-23 July? I am looking forward to hearing additional suggestions and concerns.

I've already added our continued fight with OTA's turnpike (this also includes impacted areas and wildlife) and homelessness.



OTA/Turnpike

55% >



Homelessness

23% >



Added by Joshua Adkisson

Diplomacy - Working WITH people you don't agree with.

8% >



Added by David Sims

Public transportation including inner city rail

12% >

Add poll option...



3

47 Votes 1 Comment 1 Share



Like



Comment



Share

Most recent ▼



A Jaye Watson Crayton

They don't have common courtesy to inform the city of their actions. Does it have a label or internet connector?

Like Reply Share 10h



A Jaye Watson Crayton

Surveyors of some kind? If surveyors have rights to go where they want, would they have permission to block street signage?

<https://law.justia.com/codes/oklahoma/2021/title-69/section-69-1213/#:~:text=2021%20Oklahoma%20Statutes%20Title%2069.%20Roads%20...> **See more**

JUSTIA
U.S. Law

LAW.JUSTIA.COM

2021 Oklahoma Statutes :: Title 69. Roads Bridges and Ferries :: §69-1213. Obstructing or damaging roads -...

Like Reply Share 10h



Ethan Guenther

Take it



Like Reply Share 13h



Dawn Goldsmith Author

Ethan Guenther

Looks like this one goes into the ground

Like Reply Share 13h



A Jaye Watson Crayton

Ethan Guenther no! Lol.

Like Reply Share 10h



Amy Chambles

My husband thinks it may be a traffic counter

Like Reply Share 13h



Dave Moore

There should be a label with manufacturer identifiers, model numbers, etc. on the box at the bottom. Hop out of the car and See if you can get a picture. The odd loop at the top? An antenna of some sort, maybe.

Like Reply Share 1h



Dave Moore

Pawn shop material

Like Reply Share 1h



Dawn Goldsmith

14h · 🌐

Not sure what this is, but it showed up this afternoon. After the OTC meeting..... At 149th and Choctaw Rd./or also known as 120th and Stella. (on/off ramp to go in between 143-147 on Choctaw) Any ideas ???



OTC approves turnpike plans

New routes advance
despite concerns

Steve Lackmeyer

The Oklahoman

USA TODAY NETWORK

Three proposed new turnpike routes were approved Monday by the Oklahoma Transportation Commission despite concerns by one member that the process is being rushed and the absence of a member representing threatened homeowners.

The turnpikes are part of Access Oklahoma, a \$5 billion, 15-year expansion of the state's turnpike network that opponents say will uproot hundreds of homes and businesses where new toll roads are proposed between south Oklahoma City and Norman.

PIKE OFF, a grassroots group battling the three turnpikes, unsuccessfully asked the commission to delay a vote until a new District 3 representative could be appointed by Oklahoma House Speaker Charles McCall.

John Estus, House spokesman, said

See TURNPIKE, Page 2A



Residents clap in support of stopping turnpike expansion in March. Those proposed new turnpike routes were approved Monday for the Oklahoma Transportation Commission despite concerns by one member that the process is being rushed. [oklahoman.com](https://www.oklahoman.com)

Turnpike

Continued from Page 3A

the appointment, required after the seat was vacated by Tim Shannon, is one of hundreds repeating Metcalfe's situation.

"While this is a recent vacancy, it has been prioritized and will be filled very soon," Ertel said. "Nobody has advised the speaker's office on why the vote on this matter occurred before the appointment was made."

Secretary of Transportation Tim Guts said the routes approved Monday can still be adjusted based on talks with property owners and other considerations.

"While it's unfortunate that the District 1 commissioner is currently vacant, acknowledging district-based appointments, the commission collectively acts in the interest and oversight of transportation in Oklahoma," Guts said. "It's timely and appropriate to consider the item as presented today."

The vote on Monday is part of a multi-step process the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority must follow before it can move forward without any further political or legal delays. The authority at its June meeting quickly and without comment voted up plans to seek approval and validation for the \$1 billion in bonds from the Council of State Oversight and the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

Guts said the accelerated schedule was in response to a ruling by the Council of State Oversight that a \$200 million line of credit requested by the authority could not be used for any purpose related to construction of the turnpike routes being challenged in court by residents who fear losing their homes.

Lawrence Reed, on behalf of www.oklahoman.com, argued that the routes do not follow the corridors detailed in statutes from 1997, and that the bonds for toll roads stated in that legislation should have been issued in 1997.

Access Oklahoma was awarded in February and inclusive funding for expansions and improvements along the Muskogean, Turner, Will Rogers, Kilpatrick, H.E. Bailey turnpikes and the Oklahoma Expressway.

"The roads have been projected and the proposed routes have been contemplated since the late '80s and early '90s," Guts said. "Today OKDOT and the Turnpike Authority engineers follow the construction of these turnpike routes over the course of the next 25

years is critical to manage traffic in the urban area of Oklahoma City, especially in the Interstate 44 and Interstate 35 corridors."

Monday was the first time transportation commission members discussed at length concerns presented by PACE OKS Commission member Robert Peterson, who represents northeast Oklahoma, asked Guts and highway engineers to answer questions and concerns presented by PACE OKS member Dr. Amy Cota.

Brian Taylor, chief highway engineer, told Peterson he disagreed with Cota's suggestion regarding construction of a Route to Plains highway from Mexico to Canada will relieve I-35 congestion. Taylor said the parallel road the west of I-35 will mostly divert agricultural shipping.

"Route to Plains is acute that is not a priority for Texas, but something they are working on," Taylor said. "They've been working on it for decades, and they are going to be working on it for decades."

Taylor also disagreed with Cota's argument that the Access Oklahoma traffic projections for I-35 are "substantially wrong" and "way over-estimated congestion." Taylor said the forecasts are based on data available online and that they followed the highway capacity manual.

"The growth we used was 3%, which is well within the range of corridors are experiencing," Taylor said. "I find the information complete and compelling."

Taylor also dismissed claims that increasing in cheapening traffic loads. He said the peak may be cut in two, but it's also wider with traffic delays lasting longer than before the pandemic.

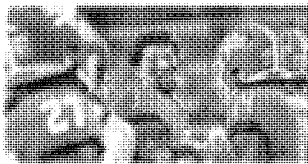
"You would think it would solve a lot of problems, and that's not the case," Taylor said.

James L. Clineberry, who represents southeast Oklahoma, was the only commission member to vote against the turnpike plans, saying the use of eminent domain should be "overwhelmingly difficult" and that more traffic engineering should be looked at before road expansion.

"I'm not a big fan of building new highways," Clineberry said. "I think it disrupts ecosystems and divides and destroys communities."

Clineberry also questioned why the state ranks 31st in the country for highways and yet is ranked 28th in population.

"I don't think it's a realistic future where we continue to build highways because we're spending \$100 million a mile for construction," Clineberry said. "And then we have to maintain that."



OSU football: 5 things to watch during Big 12 Media Days

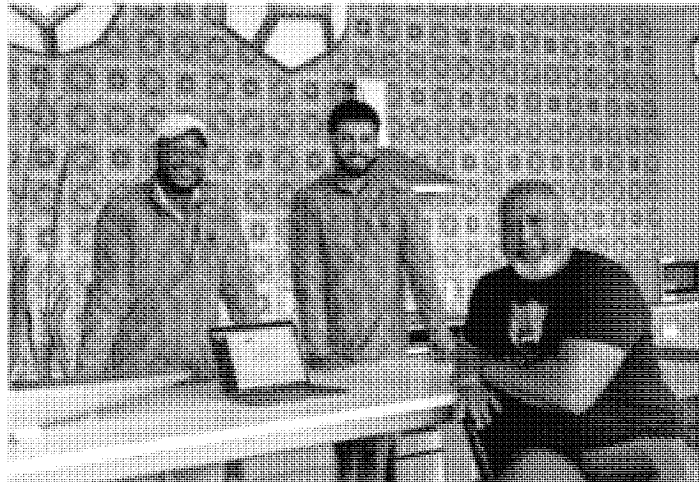
SPORTS, 1B



THE OKLAHOMAN

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2023 | OKLAHOMAN.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



James Foster and cousins Chris and Curt, from left to right, explain the new app, Bluejay, they are developing to help make police traffic stops safer, Friday at Wood Village Apartments in Oklahoma City. (Photo by Megan Koenig/THE OKLAHOMAN)

Giving wing to change

OKC-based family creates Bluejay app to help make safer police traffic stops

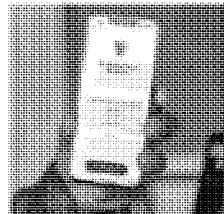
Jason Meyer
The Oklahoman
OKC TODAY AT 10:00 AM

The three sons — two died in matching collisions and another is a 7-11 clerk displaying their company's logo — gathered around a laptop one Friday afternoon. Their mother was teaching as they discussed the features of an app called Bluejay: they've created to make traffic stops safer for police officers and drivers.

With features like notifying emergency contacts a driver is being pulled over,

alerting drivers to inform an officer a weapon is in the vehicle and even self-identify any disabilities or language barriers they have, Bluejay was created to "reduce tension" between police and people being pulled over. Bluejay is founder Chris Foster and the ultimate goal is for everyone to get home safely.

The journey for the Bluejay app began six years ago when Curt Foster, co-founder and Chris' father, heard of the killing of Philando Castile during a traffic



Chris Foster walks through the interface of the app Bluejay that he is developing with his father and cousin to help make police traffic stops safer for everyone involved.

See BLUEJAY, Page 2A

OTC approves turnpike plans

New routes advance despite concerns

Steve Lukemeyer
The Oklahoman
OKC TODAY AT 10:00 AM

Three proposed new turnpike routes were approved Monday by the Oklahoma Transportation Committee despite concerns by one member that the process is being rushed and the absence of a member representing threatened businesses.

The turnpikes are part of Access Oklahoma, a \$1-billion, 10-year expansion of the state's turnpike network that opponents say will spread burdens of taxes and businesses where new toll roads are proposed between south Oklahoma City and Norman.

PACE OFF, a grassroots group battling the three turnpikes, unsuccessfully asked the commission to delay a vote until a new District 3 representative could be appointed by Oklahoma House Speaker Charles McCall.

John Carter, Okla. Highway Commission, said

See TURNPIKE, Page 2B

Deadly beating in jail leads to inquiry

Arrested man lashed 15 minutes with cellmate

Nathan Clay
The Oklahoman
OKC TODAY AT 10:00 AM

After being arrested June 24 for a recent rape, Shawn Michael Shreve was placed in a cell at the Oklahoma County jail with a cellmate suspect with a history of assaults.

He lasted only 15 minutes, records show.

Detention officers rushed to the cell on the jail's mental health floor at 10:45 a.m. June 25 because of a "possible inmate-on-inmate altercation," the records show. Shreve was found on the floor, beaten and unresponsive.

His third Monday morning at a hospital

See BEATINGS, Page 10A

Abortion travel bans could be next legal fight

Elizabeth Buckwald
OKC TODAY

Even before the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, 11 states limited whether employers could encourage plans could cover abortions with exceptions for rape, incest, life endangerment and fetal impairment.

But those states, which include Texas, Indiana and Oklahoma, could prevent plans from covering out-of-state abortions, said Hurley Collins, a principal lawyer with Baker & Bony's health consulting group.

After the court's ruling paved the way for new states to pass abortion bans, a slew of companies including Google, Amazon and Disney offered employees out-of-state coverage and reimbursement for travel expenses.

But it's too early to tell whether those benefits will make it through inevitable legal challenges.

Before Ex parte v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, which resulted in Roe being overturned, "employers who wanted to offer a broad scope of reproductive health benefits could do so," Collins said, except for plans that were fully

insured.

Such plans are subject to state regulations because the federal, not employers, assume the financial risk of providing health care coverage. People who are covered by a fully insured plan might not be able to receive out-of-state coverage for abortions.

Most employer-based plans are self-funded, according to a 2021 study published by the Kaiser Family Foundation, meaning employers assume the financial risk of financing employees and the

See TRAVEL BANS, Page 5A

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USA TODAY

Designated weeks 10K approval for over-the-counter with contract 10K

Reserve Drive

Event brings annual crowd, economic boost to Okla. 5A

Weather

High 84° Low 70° Partly cloudy, breezy 5A

Phone 100 calls, 10A

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Lawmakers who faced tough questions from constituents last session over proposed new turnpikes are taking a closer look at the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority over the next few months. COURTESY PHOTO/PIKE OFF OTA

State House, Senate to scrutinize OTA

BY JANICE FRANCIS SMITH

The Journal Record

Lawmakers who faced tough questions from constituents last session over proposed new turnpikes are taking a closer look at the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority over the next few months. Both the Oklahoma House of Representatives and Senate have approved interim studies focused on the OTA.

The interim studies were approved just days before transportation officials approved new turnpike routes before a crowd of protesters at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation meeting on Monday.

Both lawmakers and their constituents are asking who and what can halt the OTA's plans, as the agency has continued to press forward with its turnpike expansion project despite protests, a lawsuit and a hold on funding for the project.

In the House, state Rep. Danny Sterling, R-Tecumseh, is heading up an interim study reviewing the current procedures and design of the OTA.

The study will examine "the current process of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, including, acquisition of property in the proposed paths of the turnpikes, the criteria used in determining the projected future routes, financial procedures, selection process of the OTA Board Members, etc."

State Sen. Rob Standridge, R-Norman, had gotten an earful from constituents last legislative session over the proposed turnpike extension. A group calling itself Pike Off OTA contends the proposed route for the South Extension would displace hundreds of homes and businesses, disrupt environmentally sensitive areas and create yet another toll road taxpayers have to pay an additional fee to use.

Ordinarily, road improvements would be handled by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation using traditional funding methods, including state appropriations and federal transportation dollars. But Tim Gatz,

Turnpike:

From Page B1

Norman and several counties south of Oklahoma City that would be impacted by the turnpike plan.

Dr. Amy Cerato, a civil engineer at the University of Oklahoma, delivered a written analysis of traffic patterns, route alternatives and upcoming projects that she said would relieve congestion on Interstate 35.

She argued the state ignored past transportation studies, exaggerated assumptions and isn't adhering to the Law of Induced Demand with the turnpike plan.

District 2 Commissioner James L. Grimsley cast the lone "no" vote in the 7-3 decision to approve the proposed toll money at the meeting.

He sided with Cerato, whom he said is qualified enough to testify as an expert witness in a court of law.

"Her opinion and comments resonate with me very much because it matches my own observations," Grimsley said. "I don't think it's a tenable future where we build highways with really no limits on that, because we're running \$20-\$40 million a mile. That's not sustainable, and then we have to have around and maintain those."

At the top of Grimsley's concerns were residents whose private property rights "weighed more" than any other issue.

"The most important thing is, as a member of this commission, we represent the public," Grimsley said. "We do not represent ODOT. We represent and protect the interest of the public, and one of the strong values I brought with me is property rights. I do believe in the

sanctity of private property rights, and I also believe that something like eminent domain should be exceedingly difficult for the government. It is not something we should speed up."

OTA spokeswoman Brenda Perry said the vote was necessary because those routes will intersect with some state highway systems.

It was a routine decision that left residents who attended the meeting in tears.

"At least one person had the courage to actually take the time to understand the situation and learn something, become educated and speak up," Linda Barry said on the choked back tears. "It's painful that there's so much control in a hand, but of appointed people that make decisions that are obviously not qualified. They're so stupid about it."

Barry added that she and her husband will likely lose a portion of their property, which she fears will mean the property value will plummet. Barry worries the market value will drop.

"We're never going to be able to sell our house," Barry said. "We're stuck there forever. Everything we worked our whole lives for. It would be different if it was justified ... fair compensation doesn't mean, take my property I've worked for 30 years, spent my life paying off so we can have that safety net. Now I can't sell it for what it was worth. I promise you, the value is not going to go up."

Linda Hensel said she opposes the turnpike plan because it would take property from friends of hers and it would change the nature of lands that are home to wildlife.

"Nature means a lot to me," she said. "It's a violation of civil rights, as far as I'm concerned. The idea that some of our own people can come in and take away our homes from

our families? It's not a junk land."

Cerato's argument

Cerato argued in a packet delivered to the commission last week that state transportation officials have ignored a 2000 report on U.S. Highway 68.

She stated that more trucks use the highway to avoid I-35 from Texas through Durant to save 70 miles.

"The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1990 specifically authorized the highway be upgraded and made a part of the interstate highway system," Cerato wrote. "In 1996, the Oklahoma Transportation Authority (formerly and currently the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority) spent \$195K on a preliminary study of the highway to determine if a parallel tollway, upgrading the existing highway as a state-supported road or building toll lanes alongside the existing state highway fit would be the most feasible."

Cerato alleged an upcoming federal highway project, "Ports to Plains Corridor," would divert truck traffic and span from Mexico-Laredo, Texas, and Lubbock through the Oklahoma panhandle to Canada.

"We do not need turnpikes to displace hundreds of Oklahomans when the Federal Government is funding the expansion of an existing corridor that will better serve traffic needs," Cerato wrote.

ODOT Chief Engineer Brian Taylor told the commission the federal project will be decades down the road before it's built and that the distance from Oklahoma City ... 250 miles west ... will not significantly impact traffic on I-35.

The Transcript requested a copy of the report on U.S. 68 following the commission meeting, but Trans-

portation Secretary Tim Gutz told The Transcript he could not speak in the report.

"I've looked at a lot of reports. I don't know that I could speak to any issue in that," he said.

Gutz said while studies on the long system go back to the 1960s, the most recent report to support the east Norman toll road, or Outer Loop, is from 2006.

During a press conference, Gutz said he witnessed the Ports to Plains project, and numerous others such as improvements to U.S. 68, emerging rapid bus transit and further commuter rail to solve the traffic congestion problems in the state. Freight traffic is increasing on I-35 and other highways across the state, he said.

"I think there is no [one] magic bullet that's going to solve the traffic problems we're going to experience going forward," Gutz said. "I think it is in any 'all of the above' approach."

Cerato also took aim at

traffic models ODOT and OTA have used to justify the toll road in her report. She provided graphs and a detailed model that challenged the agencies' assumptions as "significantly exaggerated."

District 3 Commissioner Robert Peterson asked Taylor about Cerato's traffic analysis, which claimed transportation engineers "way over estimated" congestion.

Taylor told the commission he had complete confidence in the presentation he made last month.

"That data that we use is public data, off an open and transparent system that the public uses," Taylor said. "It's our most accurate information."

He said calculations were done according to the Highway Capacity Manual, "the authority on all matters capacity related."

Gutz later told a room full of reporters of his confidence in his staff's ability to make decisions based on traffic projections that are

"unfathomable."

"I'll tell you that they've considered all the things that I think are necessary and again, I've got confidence in the recommendations that they're bringing forward in light of all the different studies," he said.

Cerato also argued transportation engineers have failed to adhere to the Law of Induced Demand and the practice of managing congestion rather than building additional highway systems. The theory is widely accepted and used to implement congestion controls like toll lanes added to or built on existing highway systems to divert congested lanes.

High occupancy toll lanes are installed and drivers digitally tolled a higher or lower rate depending on congestion.

Taylor said the solution is toll roads.

Shady Wood covers City Hall news and notable court cases for The Transcript. Reach her at news@normantranscript.com or 405-271-6425.

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 **ranscript**

CORRECTION

Single-family residence construction has risen in Norman over the years, but developers are deterred from building due to construction fees. This was misstated in an article on A1 in the Sunday edition.

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OKC has big stake in franchise businesses



This Sonic Drive-In in Oklahoma City is one of more than 3,500 franchise locations; the Oklahoma City-based company has in 46 states. AP PHOTO/SCOTT GORDON

BY KATHRYN MCNUTT
The Journal Record

Franchise opportunities are available in Oklahoma for auto painting and transmission shops, soul food and sushi restaurants, janitorial and early childhood services, and fitness studios, just to name a few.

Roughly 3% of U.S. businesses with employees are franchises, according to a new LeadingFree analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. Among the top 50 metro areas with at least 529 franchises, Oklahoma City ranks 11th for the highest share at 7.4%.

Topping the list is El Paso, Texas, where 11.2% of businesses are franchises. That's more than double the national average. Texas and the southeastern U.S. dominate the top 10, while East Coast and West Coast cities make up a good portion at the bottom. San Diego and New York City have the lowest rates of

franchise ownership at 3.2% each.

Hospitality is the dominant industry, with 19.7% of accommodation and food-service businesses being partially or wholly owned as franchises, the report shows.

Hotels and restaurants with a long, proven track record are recognized as having a high rate of return. Accommodation and food service was one of the top five industries that contributed to gross domestic product growth in 2007, the report points out.

Rounding out the top five industries are educational services, 12.4%; computer and enterprise management, 11.3%; arts, entertainment and recreation, 8.5%; and retail trade, 8.4%.

"One of the advantages of buying a franchise is that the name, track record and reputation of the

Turn to **FRANCHISE** • p.12



Lawmakers who faced tough questions from constituents last session over proposed new turnpikes are taking a closer look at the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority over the next few months. COURTESY/OKTAPPE OF OTA

State House, Senate to scrutinize OTA

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In the House, state Rep. Darmy Sterling, R-Tucuman, is heading up an interim study reviewing the current procedures and design of the OTA.

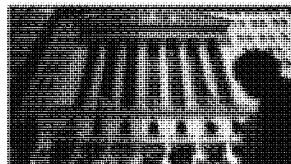
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Turn to **OTA** • p.12

INSIDE



« 10 »

Wall Street closes in the black

DJ Index gains 1.3% for week. The Journal Record index added 25.88 points, or 1.51%, last week and closed at 1,396.88. However, declining issues dominated advancing issues by a 78-to-8 count.

Tribal voters recall painful boarding school memories

» p.2

ERC cost-cutting, others get some relief as pump prices decline

» p.3

Newest in Brief	4A
Perspectives	6A
Finance	8A
The Index	10A
Classifieds	12B
Crossword	12B
Public Notices	20B

CRUDE OIL	NATURAL GAS	GASOLINE
		
Aug \$104.09	Aug \$6.426	Aug \$3.4622

OTA a from pt

who as secretary of transportation heads both ODOT and OTA, claimed ODOT is struggling financially to maintain current roads, while OTA is able to use nontraditional funding methods to get construction projects completed.

Transportation officials contend that the proposed extension is necessary to alleviate increasing traffic along Interstate 35, which cannot be widened any further. Planning for the proposed route has been underway for decades, but only now have OTA officials begun the studies and land acquisition required to move the project forward.

At the start of the legislative session in February, OTA and Gov. Kevin Stitt an-

nounced a new \$5 billion, 15-year, long-range plan for OTA. The South Extension is included in upcoming projects for the ACCESS Oklahoma program.

Members of Pike Oil Oklahoma filed a lawsuit contesting the new turnpike plan, and the Oklahoma Council of Bond Oversight voted to prohibit the OTA from using a \$200 million line of credit for work on any of the three new turnpikes in dispute, which include the South Extension, the East West Connector and the Tri-City Connector.

When its funding mechanism for the project was set aside by the Council on Bond Oversight, however, the OTA responded by redirecting its general revenues to continue with land acquisition for the project.

Residents and lawmakers alike began

questioning if there is any way legally to stop the OTA from moving ahead with the project. State Sen. Mary Boren, D-Norman, requested an audit of the OTA to see how the agency was able to redirect funding in order to move ahead with the project in dispute.

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Commission approves turnpikes



Max Bryan / The Oklahoman

Oklahoma Transportation commissioners are seen before a meeting Monday to vote on the state's proposed turnpike expansion at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation headquarters.

Lone dissenter sides with Cerato

By Mindy Ragon Wood
Times Staff Writer

The Oklahoma Transportation Commission voted to approve the state Turnpike Authority's plans to expand toll roads Monday, save for one commissioner who dissented based on a road engineer's analysis.

CETA plans to construct two toll roads in Norman: one in the Lake Eucha district Watershed from Interstate 40 to Percell and another to run along Indian Hills Road to connect to I-40.

The authority's engineers and those on staff at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation have said growing population and heavy truck traffic mean that increasing the number of toll roads is imperative for public safety on highways and interstates.

The commission voted Monday, despite the fact that the Elmer J. Owens commission seat had not been permanently filled.

The seat, left open by U.S. Senator and late TSO Shotton, according to



Max Bryan / The Oklahoman

Debbie Shickler, of Norman, holds a protest sign ahead of an Oklahoma Transportation Commission meeting Monday at a state Department of Transportation meeting.

See **TURFPIKE** Page B2

THE NORMAN TRANSCRIPT

Visit www.normantranscript.com for breaking news

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

75 cents

Commission approves turnpikes



Photo: Reporter / The Transcript

Oklahoma Transportation Commission may soon approve a meeting, Monday, to vote on the state's proposed turnpike expansion in the Oklahoma Department of Transportation headquarters.

Lone dissenter sides with Cerrato

By Mandy Rogers-Wood
Reporter / The Transcript

The Oklahoma Transportation Commission voted to approve the state Turnpike Authority's plan to expand toll roads Monday, with one dissenter.

For one commissioner who dissented based on a civil engineer's analysis.

OTA plans to construct four toll roads in Norman and one in the Lake Wales, Okla. Waterbury three between 40 to 100 ft and another to run along Indian Hills Road to connect to 100.

The authority's engineers and those on staff at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation have said tolling roads would mean more money to improve the quality of toll roads in preparation for public safety on highways and tolling.

The transportation committee, despite the fact that the state's 11 toll roads are not yet open to the public, has not yet been approved.

The vote, held open by U.S. Senator candidate Tim Sheehy, occurred for

See TRANSCRIPT Page 2

Clemency hearings set for six death row inmates

By Derrick Jones
Reporter / The Transcript

OKLAHOMA ... The Oklahoma Board of Pardons and Parole Board announced Monday that it has scheduled clemency hearings for six death row inmates later this week.

The scheduling comes days after the U.S. District Court of Criminal Appeals set clemency dates for the six death row inmates as the first of a three-phase schedule lasting through 2023.

The board set dates for death row inmates James Caddagone, Richard

Claudio, Benjamin Lee, Richard Fairchild, John Thomas, and Scott

Stewart.

Oklahoma law requires clemency hearings for death row inmates to be scheduled 11 calendar days before the scheduled execution date.

The first clemency hearing will be held July 28 for Caddagone, who was set to be executed Aug. 25.

Caddagone was convicted and sentenced to death in the March 1997 killing of Alan Hale.

See TRANSCRIPT Page 2

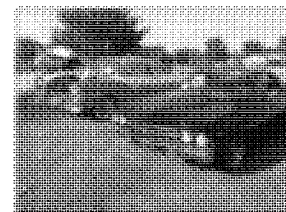


Photo: Reporter

Two classic cars are shown at a previous Car Club car show. The show will return July 23 to Andrews Hall.

Car club to host show benefiting Food & Shelter

By Jeff Elkins
Reporter / The Transcript

Norman residents can help a local nonprofit pay for new homes for the homeless by attending the car show.

The car show will take place Saturday morning, July 23 at Andrews Hall, 211 W. Grove St.

See TRANSCRIPT Page 2

enter their car, which is now during the show's registration period from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

During the show, 10 classic cars and two new cars will be on display for sale. The show will be presented for the first time. Norman residents and Norman residents can help a local nonprofit pay for new homes for the homeless by attending the car show.

See TRANSCRIPT Page 2

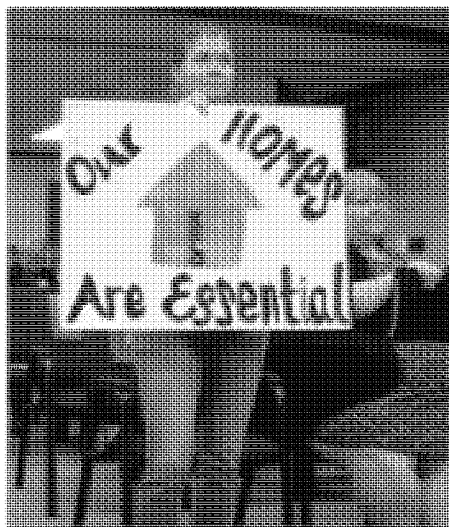


Photo: Reporter / The Transcript

Public housing, at Norman, holds a protest sign ahead of an Oklahoma Transportation Commission meeting, Monday, to vote on the state's proposed turnpike expansion.

Discrimination poses challenges for both tenants, homeowners

By Karen Lawrence
Reporter / The Transcript

FAIRHOUSING ... Many Oklahomans face challenges when leasing homes or entering into home agreements, and the situation doesn't seem to be improving anytime soon.

Home ownership of the population rose for housing trends in spring 2022, according to the Housing Trends, analyzed data from the U.S. Census Bureau. HUD's American Community Survey said.

experienced five-year real estate. This analysis suggests that the state's housing market is not as healthy as it once was.

For Oklahoma, Census data shows that of 807,103 people occupied homes, 1.36 percent were occupied by people of the color race. 796,808 were occupied by people of the color race. 100,112 were occupied by people of the color race.

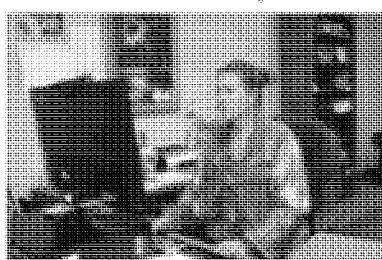
While Census said that it is difficult to see how white this data is, since there is relatively little research on the factors of race and color, he concluded that

housing issues for these groups are complex.

"The study shows that some groups are more likely to live in homes with higher home prices," said Lawrence. "The study also shows that some groups are more likely to live in homes with higher home prices, and that some groups are more likely to live in homes with higher home prices."

The Fair Housing Act gives people from the community where they are living or buying a home.

See TRANSCRIPT Page 2



Oklahoma Food & Shelter provides food and shelter to people in need. The organization is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Photo: The Oklahoma Daily Press

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TRANSCRIPT

INSIDE

Norman
Sports
News

WORD of the day

Example: The word 'word' is used to describe a single word or phrase.

INSIDE

Norman
Sports
News

Message

From: Jessica Brown [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=6CFDDD84EE914B919AE04071753AC8F2-JESSICA BRO]
Sent: 7/13/2022 8:23:42 PM
To: glove@[REDACTED]; Dana Weber [dweber@[REDACTED]]; jtitsworth7@[REDACTED]; John Jones [jjones@[REDACTED]]; toddcone@[REDACTED]; will.dcbass@[REDACTED]; elair [elair@[REDACTED]]; Carly Atchison [carly.atchison@gov.ok.gov]; Kate Vesper [kate.vesper@gov.ok.gov]
CC: Tim Gatz - Pikepass [tgatz@pikepass.com]; Joe Echelle [jechelle@pikepass.com]
Subject: 7/12 Earned Media & Social Listening report
Attachments: Deanna Atkinson - Joy Hofmeister hometown tour.png; Deanna Atkinson - Joy Hofmeister hometown tour cont. .png; Dave Moore - Mayor Heikkila.png; Debbie Cox - Emailing Gov. Stitt.png; Casey Hirschfeld - Bond Buyer article.png; Casey Hirschfeld - Bond Buyer article cont.png; Casey Hirschfeld - Bond Buyer article comments.png; Deanna Atkinson - Journal Record article.png; Deanna Atkinson - Journal Record article cont. .png; Deanna Atkinson - Journal Record article comments.png; Tanner Naeher - Family affected by turnpike.png

Social Listening

Note: Screenshots of all posts are attached to this email

- Deanna Atkinson promoted the Joy Hofmeister hometown campaign again and encouraged the opposition to attend.
- Dave Moore found what Mp Boland Elroy was talking about regarding the new Norman Mayor's stands with the turnpikes.
 - In a KOCO news report, the reporter said the words "hopes to find more solutions to help residents live with the proposed turnpike," but Mayor Heikkila never said those words. In fact, the newscast shows Amy Cerato meeting with the Mayor while she's showing him her transportation dissertation.
- Debbie Cox encouraged the opposition to write to the Governor every day.
- Casey Hirschfeld posted an article from The Bond Buyer about the Oklahoma Turnpike bonds. Hirschfeld suspects that OTA is getting desperate for money.
- Deanna Atkinson reshared yesterday's Journal Record article, which garnered lots of engagement.
- Stop the toll OK's website is accumulating the stories of the families who are affected by the turnpike. So far, there are six articles and five videos of families sharing their stories.
 - Tanner Naeher recently shared his.

Earned Media

7/12 The Ponca City Now, New Turnpike Routes Approved <https://bit.ly/3ixTcEP>

7/12 The OU Daily, Oklahoma Transportation Commission approves ACCESS Oklahoma turnpike routes <https://bit.ly/3aAMm4M>

7/12 The Oklahoman, Oklahoma turnpike expansion plan approved by transportation panel despite concerns <https://bit.ly/3P6Klqx>

7/12 The Bond Buyer, Financing team set, approval sought for Oklahoma Turnpike bonds <https://bit.ly/3nXM2ix>

7/12 The Claremore Daily Progress, Transportation commission approves turnpike plans <https://bit.ly/3cbfkds>

7/12 KFOR News 4 at 4:06 a.m., OTA approves new turnpike plans & met with opposition <https://bit.ly/3z4lnHf>

Viewership: 3,502

Ad Value: \$1,044.48

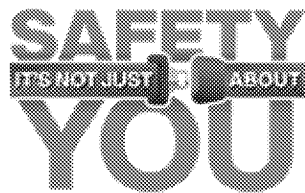
Thank you,
Jessica

Jessica Brown, M.J. | Director

Strategic Communications Division | Oklahoma Transportation Cabinet

Main: 405-521-6000

Oklahoma.gov | oklahoma.gov/odot

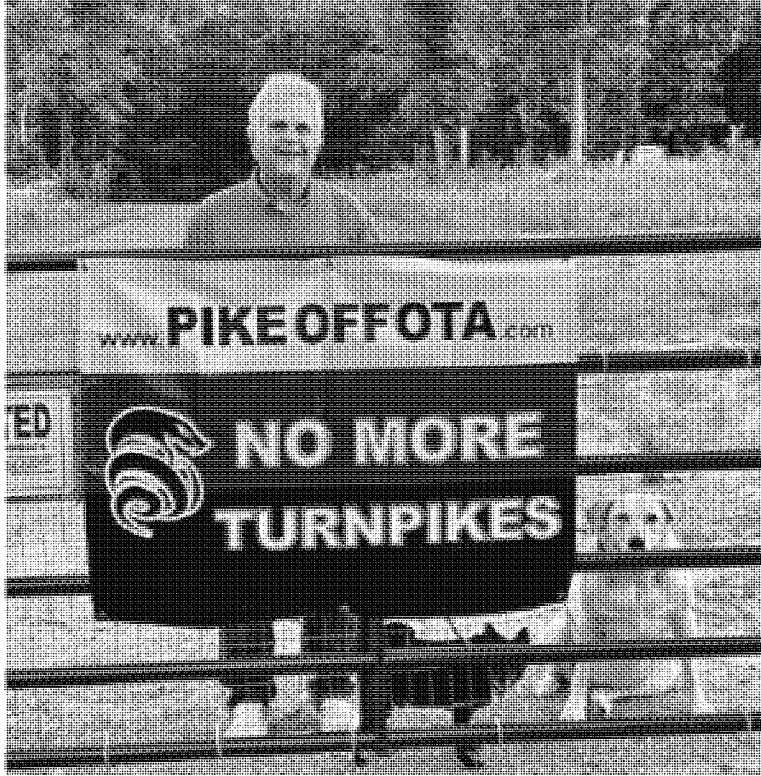




Deanna Atkinson shared a post.

12h · 🌐

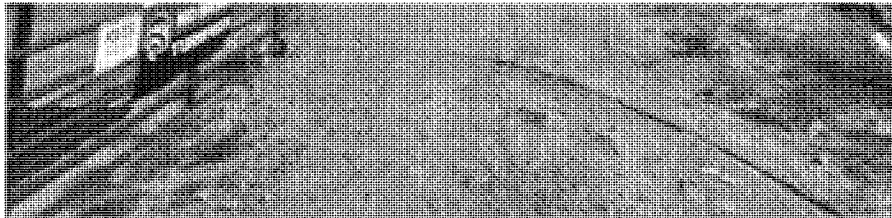
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Atkinson Farm

13h · 🌐

Saturday, July 16th, Joy Hofmeister will be meeting with Norman residents in their homes along the proposed turnpike's path. That evening, you're invited to visit with Joy at our farm in Newalla (19440 SE 104th. 74857). Randy Carter will provide a PikeOffOTA update



PIKE OFF OTA

Atkinson Farm

13h · 🌐

Saturday, July 16th, Joy Hofmeister will be meeting with Norman residents in their homes along the proposed turnpike's path. That evening, you're invited to visit with Joy at our farm in Newalla (19440 SE 104th, 74857). Randy Carter will provide a PikeOffOTA update followed by Joy speaking at 7pm. You're welcome to walk our ~2 miles of nature trails while enjoying a shaved ice treat from Mr. Tony's. If OTA has their way, our trails in the Cross Timbers forest as well as our extensive animal habitat will be destroyed. Here's some photos of what you can expect. #choosejoy #pikeoffota #nomoreturnpikes KFOR-TV KWTU - NEWS 9 KOCO 5 News KOKH FOX 25 News, Oklahoma #hometowntour #crosstimbers #EcoRegion29 #ounightly

👍❤️🌐 127

16 Comments 23 Shares

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💬 Comment

➦ Share

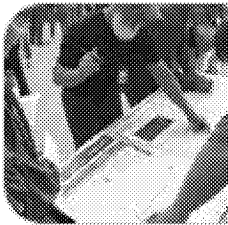


Dave Moore Author

OK, thanks to **Josh Hutchinson** for the video that actually has those words. But, those words didn't come from the Mayor's mouth, they came from the mouth of Alyse Jones, the Channel 5 reporter. Her interpretation and attempted summary of what he was saying. He DOES say something about fairy dust and magic wands, but it's cut off; can't really understand that part.

Interesting the video shows him standing in a coffee shop and talking to Amy Cerato and some other folks, and holding a document in his hand that reads "Critical Transportation Engineering...A detailed dissertation," written by Amy. Watch it for yourself. Seems inconclusive, at best...

<https://www.koco.com/.../oklahoma-norman-mayor.../40533689>



KOCO.COM

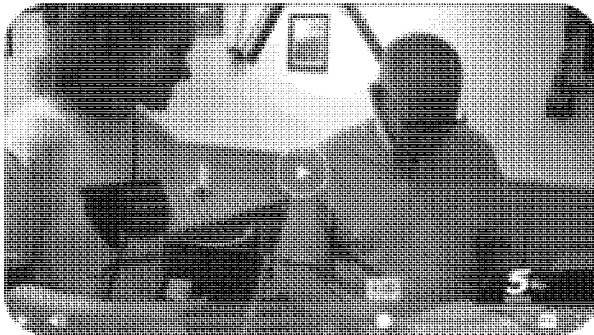
New Norman mayor steps into first official day in office



Like Reply Share 4d Edited



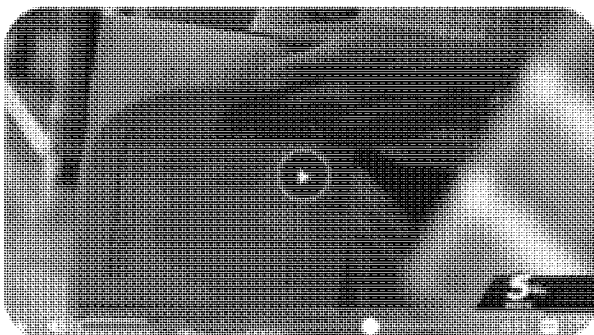
Dave Moore Author



Like Reply Share 4d



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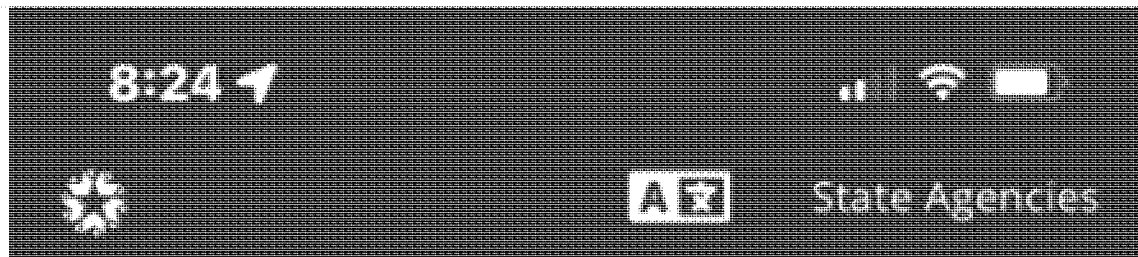
Like Reply Share 4d



Debbie Cox

15h · 🌐


Tell him what you think, I plan to every day !



OKLAHOMA

Governor J. Kevin Stitt



Flag Status : Full Staff 

Leave a Comment or Opinion

* First Name

MI

* Last Name



So this just came out today in Bond Buyer. Not sure what it means.

My spidey sense says OTA is getting more desperate for money but I could be wrong. If you remember, the June 9th emergency meeting involved a declaration that they would get [Dr. Evil voice] "ONE BILLION DOLLARS" for Access Oklahoma turnpike projects. Now they are down to \$450 million for new projects and are refinancing another \$50 million in existing debt. Can't make payments?

Note the July 28th meeting date for the Council on Bond Oversight.

Financing team set, approval sought for Oklahoma Turnpike bonds

By Karen Pierog

July 12, 2022, 3:18 p.m. EDT

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority has assembled a financing team and is seeking approval from a state oversight council later this month for bonds to begin funding an expansion project that is the target of two lawsuits.

OTA has asked the Oklahoma Council of Bond Oversight to consider up to \$450 million of bonds for new capital projects and \$50 million of refunding bonds at its July 28 meeting, according to Alexandra Edwards, the state's deputy treasurer for debt management.

If approved, OTA would then head to the Oklahoma Supreme Court to request validation of initial debt for the \$5 billion, 15-year ACCESS (Advancing and Connecting Communities and Economies Safely Statewide) Oklahoma project.

In June, OTA's board approved a financing roadmap that authorized the issuance of about \$950 million of revenue bonds; launched a request for proposals for a financing team; and directed the agency to seek approval of the bonds from the oversight council and the high court.

If the debt gets all needed approvals, Wendy Smith, OTA's finance and revenue director, said the agency would sell late this year or in early 2023 about \$450 million of new bonds and \$50 million of refunding bonds to take out 2020 notes.

After launching an RFP in mid-June for the initial bond sale, the OTA selected Wells Fargo as senior manager and Stifel, Nicolaus & Company; Morgan Stanley; BOK Financial; and Raymond James as co-managers, according to Smith.

Hilltop Securities was tapped as financial advisor, Hawkins Delafield & Wood as bond counsel, and Kutak Rock as disclosure counsel.

Meanwhile, OTA has asked the Cleveland County Circuit Court to dismiss lawsuits filed in May by property owners and others opposed to the project, which plaintiffs claim will destroy or damage thousands of homes and properties.

One lawsuit claims OTA lacks legislative approval to build or finance through bond issues the

Southern Extension Turnpike, Outer-Loop: East-West Connector, and Outer-Loop Tri-City Connector.

In its motion to dismiss, OTA said "it is beyond dispute that the Oklahoma Supreme Court has exclusive original jurisdiction to resolve the discrete challenges made by the plaintiffs in this case to OTA's authority to construct a turnpike project."

The motion also said the lawsuit should have been filed in Oklahoma County, where OTA is headquartered.


OTA said claims in a second lawsuit, also filed in Cleveland County Court, that it "willingly violated" the Open Meeting Act to accelerate construction and advance financing for the Kickapoo Turnpike extension, were legally insufficient.

Gov. Kevin Stitt officially unveiled ACCESS Oklahoma in February, calling it "a bold investment in our future that provides needed corridor connections and expansions while making travel easier and leading to more economic development across the state."

  21 13 Comments 6 Shares


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 Write a public comment...    

 **Elaine Dowling**
I'm looking forward to reading the full terms of the bond issue. I expect it will be earmarked for widening the Turner and mybe another widening or maintenance project. There are a number of reasons I wi be surprised if these are intended for new turnpike development, but I've been surprised before.
Like Reply Share 9h

 **Keith Brewster**
I'm worried they're going to get just enough money to build half the east-west connector and the net result will be dumping traffic from I-44 onto I-35 while forcing those of us in NW Norman to either pay to get onto I-35 or deal with traffic congestion on Tecumseh Rd or SW19th in Moore.
Like Reply Share 12h  2

 **Corson Hirschfeld Legacy** Author
Keith Brewster ugh.

Like Reply Share 12h 

 Write a public reply...    



Janet Little Bradford

So do the lawsuits need to be filed in Oklahoma county as well?

Like Reply Share 13h



Tom Garrett

Oh but it's not political. Stitt and republican party are saints for okies. Vote them in again. SARCASM

Like Reply Share 2h



Shawntina Lawson

I say get a petition started to abolish the OTA and take that to the supreme court.

Like Reply Share 13h



Joyce Thomas

Shawntina Lawson

Statewide petition!



Like Reply Share 12h



Shawntina Lawson

Joyce Thomas Yes.



Like Reply Share 12h



Janette Ward

Shawntina Lawson I'll sign. Who is on the Supreme Court?

Like Reply Share 10h



Shawntina Lawson

Janette Ward I don't have a clue. It was just a thought. I don't even know how to get a petition started or filed but maybe someone could pick up on the ideal. I'm not in any of the proposed areas but I still think it's wrong.

Like Reply Share 10h



Warren Kiper

Shawntina Lawson the cost \$\$\$ is exorbitant, the physical legwork is a major hurdle.

Most petitions have the financial backing of companies that will benefit, for instance the legalization of pot, and then the fact of far reaching citizen support.

Also most petitions are actually carried by paid canvassing groups, which is \$\$\$

Like Reply Share 1h



Deanna Atkinson shared a link.

23h · 🌐

...

State House, Senate to scrutinize Oklahoma Turnpike Authority

By: Janice Francis-Smith The Journal Record July 11, 2022

Lawmakers who faced tough questions from constituents last session over proposed new turnpikes are taking a closer look at the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority over the next few months. Both the Oklahoma House of Representatives and Senate have approved interim studies focused on the OTA.

The interim studies were approved just days before transportation officials approved new turnpike routes before a crowd of protesters at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation meeting on Monday.

Both lawmakers and their constituents are asking who and what can halt the OTA's plans, as the agency has continued to press forward with its turnpike expansion project despite protests, a lawsuit and a hold on funding for the project.

In the House, state Rep. Danny Sterling, R-Tecumseh, is heading up an interim study reviewing the current procedures and design of the OTA.

The study will examine "the current process of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, including, acquisition of property in the proposed paths of the turnpikes, the criteria used in determining the projected future routes, financial procedures, selection process of the OTA Board Members, etc."

State Sen. Rob Standridge, R-Norman, had gotten an earful from constituents last legislative session over the proposed turnpike extension. A group calling itself Pike Off OTA contends the proposed route for the South Extension would displace hundreds of homes and businesses, disrupt environmentally sensitive areas and create yet another toll road taxpayers have to pay an additional fee to use.

Ordinarily, road improvements would be handled by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation using traditional funding methods, including state appropriations and federal transportation dollars. But Tim Gatz, who as secretary of transportation heads both ODOT and OTA, claimed ODOT is struggling financially to maintain current roads, while OTA is able to use nontraditional funding methods to get construction projects completed.

Transportation officials contend that the proposed extension is necessary to alleviate increasing traffic along Interstate 35, which cannot be widened any further. Planning for the proposed route has been underway for decades, but only now have OTA officials begun the studies and land acquisition required to move the project forward.

At the start of the legislative session in February, OTA and Gov. Kevin Stitt announced a new \$5 billion, 15-year, long-range plan for OTA. The South Extension is included in upcoming

At the start of the legislative session in February, OTA and Gov. Kevin Stitt announced a new \$5 billion, 15-year, long-range plan for OTA. The South Extension is included in upcoming projects for the ACCESS Oklahoma program.

Members of Pike Off Oklahoma filed a lawsuit contesting the new turnpike plan, and the Oklahoma Council of Bond Oversight voted to prohibit the OTA from using a \$200 million line of credit for work on any of the three new turnpikes in dispute, which include the South Extension, the East West Connector, and the Tri-City Connector.

When its funding mechanism for the project was set aside by the Council on Bond Oversight, however, the OTA responded by redirecting its general revenues to continue with land acquisition for the project.

Residents and lawmakers alike began questioning if there is any way legally to stop the OTA from moving ahead with the project. State Sen. Mary Boren, D-Norman, requested an audit of the OTA to see how the agency was able to redirect funding in order to move ahead with the project in dispute.

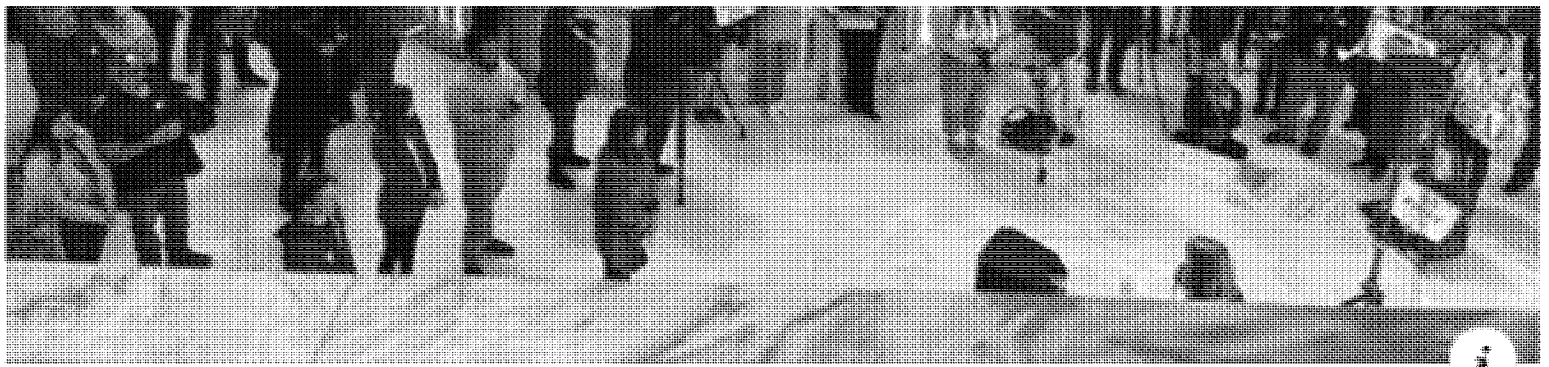
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State House, Senate to scrutinize Oklahoma Turnpike Authority | The Journal Record

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Brenda Gayle Barozinski

Legislature needs to shut down the OTA. If the representative or senator don't then they need to resign or recall election on them. Republican or democrat

Like Reply Share 17h



David Posey

THANK YOU!!! Finally some reasonable people are stepping up in Oklahoma government.

Like Reply Share 21h



Elaine Dowling

Yet another win for this group. Every little bit counts, and these studies have the potential to make huge changes.

Like Reply Share 22h



Ray Fuchs

Elaine Dowling as someone has previously said Once you get a lawsuit going or a committed legislative 'study' investigative process going the 'Discovery Phase' can take you into the secret nefarious proceedings that could 'hang' the OTA. That's the stuff that can get the publics interest or possible 'turn their stomach' in disgust.

Like Reply Share 13h



Write a public comment...

