

ACCO County CROSSROADS

VOLUME 17
ISSUE 1

Editor: CJ Cook

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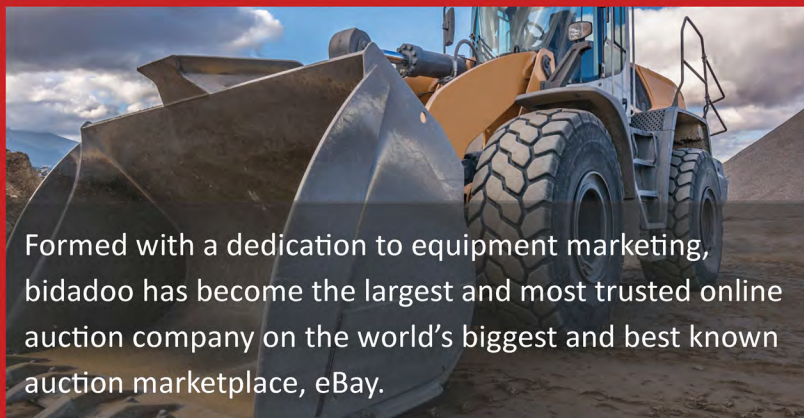
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Legislative Session Begins

Author: Chris Schroder, ACCO Executive Director

The 59th legislative session has begun, and Governor Stitt kicked off session with his annual state of the state address. The Governor is proposing a \$9.9 billion dollar budget this next fiscal year which is an increase from last year's budget.

The Governor outlined several initiatives for this coming session including removing the state sales tax on groceries and lowering the income tax rate to 3.99%. He also announced that he will continue to push for school vouchers as he did last session, along with several other education initiatives. All indications are that education will be a hot topic this session. Lastly, the governor announced his intention to start a legacy fund with one billion dollars of the state's savings. By investing these dollars, it could create a stable source of revenue for the future.

As far as legislation, there were almost 3,100 bills filed this year. ACCO is tracking well over 150 of these bills with more sure to be added to the list. The first deadline for bills to be heard in committee was March 2nd, so any bill not heard by that point will go dormant for the session. Things will slow down and get a little more manageable at this point.

The ACCO legislative committee spent a lot of time last month going through bills that affect county government. The committee continues to focus on bills that could enhance transportation funding. The committee also discussed a lot of policy bills that could affect county budgets and functions in both a positive and negative way. Some of these bills were heard in committee the last couple of weeks and the legislature will now move to hearing these bills on the floor in the coming weeks.

We held our first Wake-Up Wednesday breakfast on February 8th. This happened to be our annual joint breakfast with CODA in conjunction with their legislative conference. We had a huge turnout with over 150 people in attendance including over 30 legislators. Remember, we host this breakfast every Wednesday and would love to have more commissioners attend. If you plan to attend, please invite your legislators.

As always, remember to stay in touch with your legislators and let them know the value of county government. You can continue to follow our weekly legislative updates on the ACCO Facebook page.





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When it comes to infrastructure—I'm proud to tell you, Oklahoma gets it right! Oklahoma has made great strides in infrastructure for many reasons: leadership, long-term planning, and the use of qualification-based selection (QBS) in the civil engineering design process to name a few.

My association, American Council of Engineering Companies, is keenly interested QBS- a process where design consultants compete, rather than bid on projects and are selected based on their merit and experience. ACEC's Research Institute just conducted a joint study with the University of Chicago Boulder and the Georgia Institute of Technology, and the findings create obvious advantages for taxpayers and constituents.

- The QBS process saves Oklahoma taxpayers money. Per our association's study, studies procured via QBS experienced 3% less cost growth vs. the national average of 6%.
- QBS saves time. QBS projects experience less schedule growth compared to the national average 7% vs 10% on projects without QBS.
- QBS generates constituent satisfaction. 89% of QBS projects received high or very high satisfaction ratings from project owners.

Ultimately, we are in the business of producing better outcomes for Oklahomans. In terms of infrastructure, QBS is saving the taxpayer, increasing the speed of projects and producing happier constituents. Qualification based selection is a win for citizens, taxpayers and county officials .

To learn more about the QBS study, please visit: <https://program.acec.org/qbs-resources-portal>

Mike Thompson, a former Oklahoma House Transportation Chairman, currently serves as the President and CEO of the American Council of Engineering Companies of OKLAHOMA.

ACEC OKLAHOMA is the state's leading advocacy group for Design Consulting Engineers with over 65 member firms representing over 2,500 employees. You can learn more about QBS or ACEC OKLAHOMA at ACECOK.ORG.





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Does Your County Have A Safety Committee?

Author: Dusty Birdsong, ACCO-SIG/ACCO SIF Administrator

A safety committee is a group of elected officials, safety directors and county employees appointed within your county that will meet on a regular basis to talk about your county's risk and loss control practices, review all liability and workman's compensation claim history and discuss opportunities for improvement.

County employees are critical to the success of your county's safety program and your safety committee should include members from each of your county departments including the sheriff, county deputies and county jail employees. These are the employees who can talk safety with other county employees and help your county promote your county's safety program and reduce vehicle accidents and workman's compensation claims which will decrease premiums.

Safety committees provide an opportunity for everyone to communicate and come to a consensus on safety issues facing your county on a daily basis. Your county safety committee will help your county recognize the effectiveness of partnerships within your county while collectively solving safety issues with one united voice.

It is vital to the ACCO-SIG and ACCO-SIF programs to have strong safety programs that are supported by dedicated safety committees and elected officials. If anyone should have any questions, please give me a call.

Office: 405.516.5318 Fax: 405.576.3149
Mobile: 405.802.9647 dustyb@okacco.com



A Plan of Action

Author: Joe Koerner, ACCO Director of Law Enforcement and Detention Training

I would like to begin by saying, “Thank you” to all the sheriffs, undersheriffs, detention facility administrators, and staff for the hospitality you have shown me over the past couple of months as I have dropped in to visit with you about the resources ACCO has to offer the law enforcement community. I would like to express my appreciation for all you do for the citizens of your respective counties. The information received from my visits will be invaluable to developing, delivering, and/or hosting training to address the needs you expressed during our conversations.

Detention officers in Oklahoma play a crucial role in maintaining safety and security within detention facilities. Oklahoma has a set of standards for detention officers. These standards can be found in Title 310 Chapter 670 Section 5-10 “City and County Detention Facility Standards”. Within the first year, it requires detention officers receive 24 hours of initial training in the following:

- 1) **Security procedures**
- 2) **Supervision of inmates**
- 3) **Report writing and documentation**
- 4) **Inmate rules and regulations**
- 5) **Grievance and disciplinary procedures**
- 6) **Rights and responsibilities of inmates**
- 7) **Emergency procedures**
- 8) **First aid and CPR**
- 9) **Requirements under 310:670**

After the first year, the requirements drop drastically. Four hours from the topics above; four hours selected by the detention center administrator and First Aid/CPR as required, which re-certification is required every two years. When one takes into consideration the liability in the profession, providing adequate and affordable training is critical.

The staff at ACCO began to research a way to provide training opportunities for county sheriff’s offices, county detention centers and county detention facility trusts. That research and recommendation from our re-insurer led to the development of the law enforcement and detention training division. It is my understanding, that all our surrounding states insurance pools have a similar position providing training to their county law enforcement professionals. I was hired in November of 2022 to be a resource for the county law enforcement professionals in Oklahoma.

In this role I hope to work with our county law enforcement professionals to:

- **Provide regular training on the use of force and de-escalation techniques to minimize physical confrontations with individuals.**
- **Discuss legal updates and court decisions that affect how deputies/detention officers understand their rights and responsibilities.**
- **Provide reality/scenario-based training to help deputies and detention officers understand ways to handle situations in a safe and lawful manner.**
- **Offer training on cultural competencies and diversity to help deputies/detention officers understand and interact effectively with a wide range of communities.**
- **Encourage deputies/detention officers to report incidents and provide feedback to improve processes and mitigate the potential for similar incidents from occurring in the future.**
- **Provide opportunities for law enforcement officers to become trainers for their department (host train-the-trainer courses).**

In conclusion, I would like to express how honored and humbled I am to be of service to the men and women that serve as county law enforcement professionals in Oklahoma. I am excited to partner with you in developing, delivering, and/or hosting training opportunities that will benefit your agency and your staff.

Please review the upcoming training opportunities on the ACCO website under the Resources tab, then LEO and Detention Training. This is not a listing of all the training being provided. Agencies may contact me directly to schedule training specific to their department, area, etc.

Stay Safe,

Joe Koerner
Director of Law Enforcement
and Detention Training



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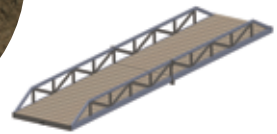
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(Fall 23 Room Block Opens 7/31/23 at 8:00 AM)

ACCO Fall Conference 2023, November 1st & 2nd , 2023

(Spring 24 Room Block Opens 11/6/2023 at 8:00 AM)

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(Summer 24 Room Block Opens 4/1/24 at 8:00 AM)

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(Fall 24 Room Block Opens 8/5/24 at 8:00 AM)

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(Spring 25 Room Block Opens 11/18/24 at 8:00 AM)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact

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The Daily Life of a County Commissioner Adair County, OK

Author: Melinda Anoatubby, OCCEDB Transportation Programs Administrator

Sam Chandler, Adair County Commissioner District #2 let me tag along and observe him and his crew for a day. Located in northeastern Oklahoma, Adair County is on the border of Arkansas. Sam dropped a pin so that I could find my way to Westville, OK-Highway 62, E. 695 Road where he and his crew were doing a one-mile asphalt overlay on a county road.

Upon arrival, an employee directing traffic showed me where to park. As I approached the area where Sam was working, he had a crew of approximately 7 employees doing a variety of tasks. Come to find out, Larry Woods, Adair County District #3 was there along with his crew to help Sam and his team with the overlay. First impression of two Commissioners working together is “wow”, team work makes the dreams work! I didn’t expect to see two districts teaming up and working as one. Sam and Larry work together as a team to get projects done and as a resource for one another and their districts.

Dump trucks carrying hot asphalt were lined up



waiting to dump the asphalt in the paver while Sam was on the asphalt paving machine operating it and giving the employees instruction. Working for the county requires physical labor in all environmental conditions. The employees were sweating as they shoveled, packed, and raked asphalt along the roadway.

Sam didn’t let me sit without delegating some duties that I had to learn on the fly. He put me on a roller and taught me how to roll a long stretch of road. I was mentally preparing myself to wreck this huge piece of machinery by rolling it off into the ditch, the steam from the machinery was creeping into the driver’s seat where I became sweaty and nervous thinking this machine was going to crash. I didn’t meet Sam’s expectations and his machinist went back over the overlay to correct my zig-zag lines. Lessons learned – patience and practice.

I asked Sam where did you learn to do overlays? He said he learned from a former commissioner. He practiced, perfected, and created a process that works best for his roads and district. Sam said he has learned many things over the years from other commissioners just by simply networking and teaming up with others. He has built a network of trusted individuals and resources that can get the job done when need be.

After an 8-hour day of laying asphalt, my clothes and hair smelt of asphalt and I was ready to go home. As I drove back to Norman, OK, I reflected on Sam’s responsibilities that he has just on this project. There is a constant safety concern for the commissioners and their employees. Safety was demonstrated with his crew while operating heavy machinery, communications with dump truck drivers, shoveling, raking, packing or any type of manual labor that was required. I observed some vehicles driving down the road, not yielding or stopping at the construction site. Larry and Sam both would waive the drivers down to get them to slow down.

This was just a glimpse of what a commissioner does on a daily basis. I would have to spend months to get the big picture of what Sam experiences on a daily basis. What was observed in the daily life of Sam Chandler is that he has a smooth process of asphalt



overlay and would be a good resource for anyone to learn from. Also, it's commendable for the teamwork that the Adair County districts displayed!

I couldn't complete the day without making a TikTok video!

https://www.tiktok.com/@kaymel_11/video/7159691949413338414?_r=1&t=8ZgGr6kmUmo

Great teamwork Adair County!

Solid Waste Program

Spring time is approaching and so is the end of the 2023 FY. Please have all signed PO's and receipts submitted no later than May 31, 2023 to melindaa@okacco.com.

Apply for the 2024 Solid Waste program by submitting your request to melindaa@okacco.com by May 31, 2023.





OSU Extension Funded with Local, State and Federal Support

MEDIA CONTACT: Gail Ellis | Agricultural Communications Services | 405-744-9152 | gail.ellis@okstate.edu

STILLWATER, Okla. – Oklahoma State University Extension is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all residents of the state through research-based programs, initiatives and resources that focus on agriculture; natural and environmental resources; 4-H/youth development; and family and consumer issues.

OSU Extension is funded through a combination of federal, state and local government sources. More than 85% is allocated for personnel expenses. Cooperative efforts for OSU Extension extend beyond funding to include needs assessments and priority alignment to provide local solutions.

“The Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma appreciates our relationship with OSU Extension and the services they provide,” said Chris Schroder, ACCO executive director. “OSU Extension agents are local people solving local problems with information that is valuable to all Oklahomans.”

As one of two state agencies within the university’s Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, OSU Extension receives support from the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture via the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. That money is considered capacity funding to help maintain OSU Extension personnel at state, area or district, and county levels. However, federal capacity funding levels have been flat for decades, and they are a shrinking portion of the OSU Extension budget. Additionally, some Extension personnel and projects are funded by competitive grants or contracts, typically led by faculty on campus. This short video illustrates how these entities all work together with county officials to serve Oklahomans.

State support for OSU Extension includes:

- Appropriations the state legislature makes to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.
- In some fiscal years, funding for special projects is appropriated through other state agencies.

County support for OSU Extension includes:

- Extension office space. The Board of County Commissioners, at its own expense, agrees to provide adequate office space and utilities for OSU Extension personnel.
- The Board of County Commissioners also agrees to provide adequate financial support to OSU Extension, including maintenance and operations funds, as required by the Oklahoma Statutes in the amounts and for the purposes set forth in the budget. These funds are disbursed upon claims submitted by the county Extension director and approved by county commissioners.
- Allocations made by county commissioners may be derived from ad valorem taxes, local sales or use tax revenue. Thirty-two counties have a dedicated sales tax with varying levels of financial support for OSU Extension.

In a typical year, federal government support tops out at 18%. More than half of the OSU Extension budget comes from state appropriations. Similar to federal funding, in a typical year, county support for OSU Extension totals no more than 18%.

“OSU Extension highly values the funding support from each of our partners. This mutual support is fundamental to our existence and our ability to serve all Oklahomans,” said Damona Doye, OSU Extension associate vice president. “It is through collaboration and cooperation that we are able to help individuals, families, communities and businesses solve problems and make informed decisions about challenges they face.”

OSU Extension uses research-based information to help all Oklahomans solve local issues and concerns, promote leadership and manage resources wisely throughout the state's 77 counties. Most information is available at little to no cost.

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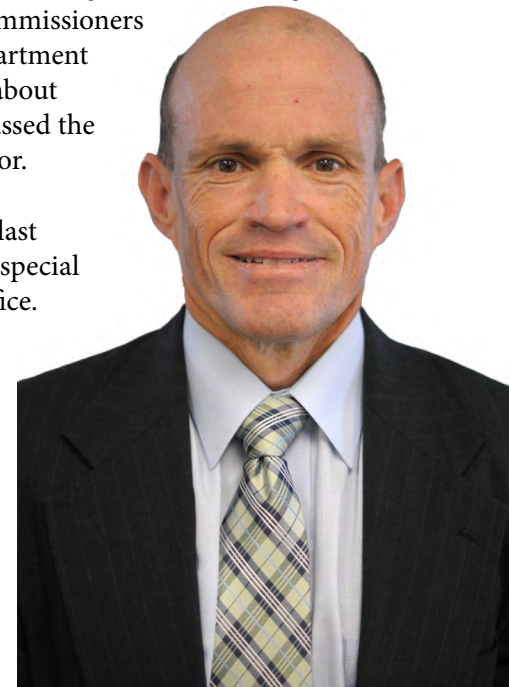
New Commissioner Training

Author: Randy Robinson, OCCEDB Executive Director

In December, ACCO conducted its biennial event, new County Officer Training. For 2 ½ days the newly elected County Commissioners covered topics such as; sources of funding, employment issues, safety & loss control, ACCO's insurance plans, financial responsibilities, open meeting/records laws, purchasing, training programs, drug & alcohol testing, and state & emergency management programs. During the afternoon of the first day, the Commissioners loaded on to buses and toured, visiting with staff, State/Federal Surplus, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and the State Capitol. At the Capitol the State Auditors' office spoke about their duties and what services they provide. Bill Case, ACCO's Legislative Liaison, discussed the legislative process and the importance of building a relationship with your State Legislator.

In total, 73 County Commissioners had not gone through this training course since the last training event held two years ago. Some were already in office as a commissioner due to special elections or appointments. Some are past commissioners running again for their old office. Most new Commissioners were elected in 2022 and had not been in county government before.

Circuit Engineering Districts have scheduled additional training in January and February. Some of their topics they covered are plan reading, safety bridge inspection reports, CIRB project process, etc.







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ACCO SPRING CONFERENCE 2023

Wednesday April 5th, 2023

6:30am	Exhibit Hall Early Set Up	OK "F- J"
7:30am	Registration Opens	East Lobby
7:30am	Exhibit Hall Opens	OK "F-J"
9:00am	ODOT CAB Meeting	Sooner A & B
9:30am	County Engineers Meeting	Boomer A & B
10:00am	ACCO Ladies	PDR-1

10:00am	Educational Session	Oklahoma "E"
---------	---------------------	--------------

The Many Hats of County Commissioners

*Oklahoma State Auditor
Cindy Byrd*

11:30am	Visit With Your Vendors Lunch on Your Own
---------	--

1:30pm	<u>General Session</u>	Oklahoma "E"
--------	-------------------------------	--------------

Welcome
*ACCO President
Commissioner Jim Rogers, Sequoyah Co.*

Invocation

National Anthem
Commissioner Bill Baker, Carter Co.

Congressman Tom Cole

*Oklahoma Attorney General
Gentner Drummond*

*Oklahoma State Auditor
Cindy Byrd*

*Kimberly Hall
NACo*

*Kim Johnson
OSU LTAP*

*Chris Schroder
ACCO Executive Director*

After General
Session

District Meetings

District #1	Oklahoma "E"
District #2	Oklahoma "A"
District #3	University "A"
District #4	University "B"
District #5	Oklahoma "C"
District #6	Northpark
District #7	Noble
District #8	Oklahoma "B"

Wednesday April 5th, 2023

4:00pm	Registration Closes	
5:30pm	Exhibit Hall Closes	
5:45pm	Evening Meal	N. Conference Hallway
7:30pm	Clancy Davis Band	OK "A,B,C"

Thursday April 6th, 2023

7:30am	Registration Opens	East Lobby
--------	--------------------	------------

7:30am	Exhibit Hall Opens	OK "F-J"
--------	--------------------	----------

7:30am	Visit with your Vendors	OK "F-J"
--------	-------------------------	----------

8:30am	ACCO Board Meeting	University "A"
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8:30am	ACCO SIG/SIF Board Meeting	University "A"
--------	----------------------------	----------------

10:00am	Educational Session	OK "A, B, C"
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Do's and Don'ts Under the Open Meeting Act

*Joey Senat, Ph.D.
OSU, Associate Professor*

11:30am	OCCEDB Board Meeting	University "A"
---------	----------------------	----------------

11:30am	Lunch on Your Own
---------	-------------------

2:00pm	Educational Session	OK "A, B, C"
--------	---------------------	--------------

Duties of Non-Elected County Officials and Boards

Notie Lansford, OSU CTP

Brad Raven, OSU CTP

2:00pm	Exhibit Hall Closes/Teardown
--------	------------------------------

3:00pm	Registration Closes
--------	---------------------

4:30pm	Bunny Money Bingo & Buffet	OK "E"
--------	----------------------------	--------

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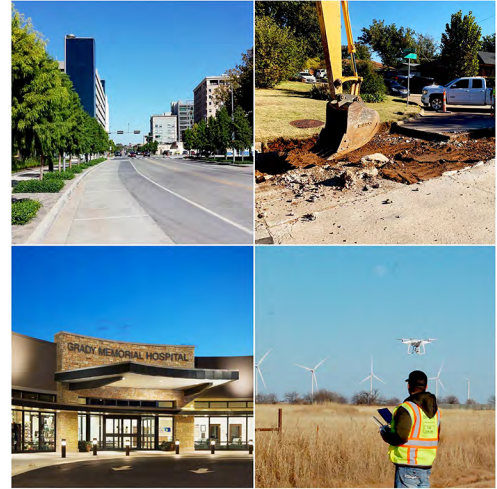
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Circuit Engineering District Auction

Author: Randy Robinson, OCCEDB Executive Director

This auction will be held at the Elk City Convention Center, and is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, March 10th & 11th. The equipment brochure can be found here, <https://www.mgrahamauctioneers.com/>.

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A quick update from ODOT Local Government Division:

Author: Shelly Williams, ODOT Local Government Division Engineer

CIRB rebalance is underway. Beginning balances will be provided to the CED Managers at the upcoming CED Managers meeting, February 22nd. New federal funding requirements, specifically Buy America certifications, are causing delays in project delivery as well as increased costs to meet the certification of certain construction materials. ODOT is in the process of developing a decision matrix to determine which projects should be 100% state funded and which projects would benefit most with federal funds.

In the past, CED's have put federal funds on all projects since ODOT will pay for the NEPA studies if they are federally funded. This practice has two effects that should be considered. It slows the NEPA process by the large number of projects that have to be cleared (limited resources). While a county may save the cost of NEPA studies, the cost to construct is increased due to the Buy America requirements. All things to consider as we work to create the 2024 CIRB 5 Year Plan.

Bridge Formula Program is moving forward with two programs that will benefit the off-system, including cities and counties. As part of the IIJA-BIL law, \$53 million was allocated to the state of Oklahoma to address bridges. The law required ODOT to make \$8.3 million available for off-system bridges. This program is 100% federally funded and does not require a local match, and also allows for maintenance and preservation of existing structures, not just reconstruction. With this unique opportunity, and recognizing with intentionality, we have the opportunity to reduce the number of SD bridges in Oklahoma, Secretary Gatz agreed to make \$28 million available for this effort, over the next 5 years.

Funds will be directed in two areas with the intent of reducing the number of Structurally Deficient bridges on the off-system. There are over 1700 SD bridges on the city and county system, over 1000 of those bridges are related to scour, and 600 are SD strictly due to scour.

We are introducing a Scour Mitigation plan to first address the 600 scour bridges. We will take advantage of economy of scale by bundling like work types and based on geographical location. We will also implement procurement type projects when applicable to reduce design costs. Evaluation and prioritization is underway, and commissioners can expect representatives from the department to be conducting site visits to assist with the prioritization.

SD City Bridge Program will direct funds to city owned bridges that are in need of heavy rehabilitation or replacement. There are over 195 bridges in this category. In an effort to serve as many Oklahomans as possible, some of the prioritization criteria will include ADT, load posting, school bus routes, and ability to match with local funds. Local matching funds and rehabilitation over replacement will help address as many bridges as possible with this funding.

The first bridges to be considered for this program are those in cities with populations less than 5K population. ODOT anticipates presenting these bridges for Transportation Commission approval in April.

The County Equipment Revolving Fund is now being administered by Jessica Kratchmer from Local Government Division. She can be reached at jkratchmer@odot.org. The budget this year was just over \$7 million, and anticipates the purchase of 33 pieces of equipment for 18 counties. A complete update will be provided at the next County Advisory Board meeting.

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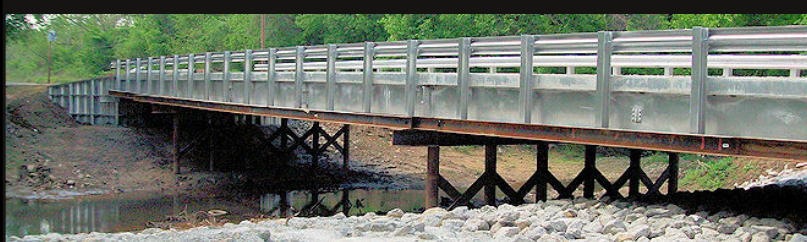
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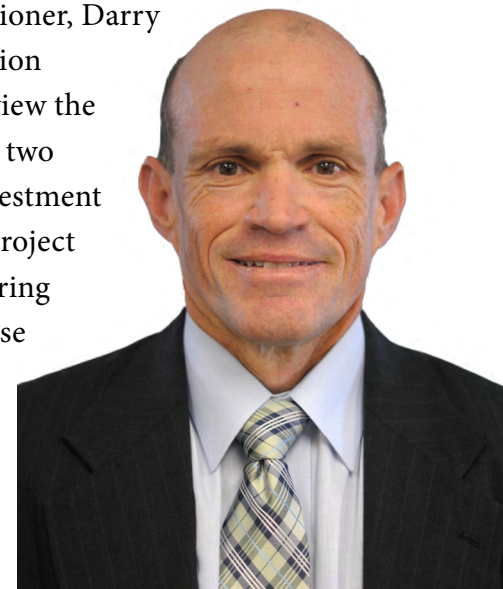
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Federal Highway Bill, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, IIJA

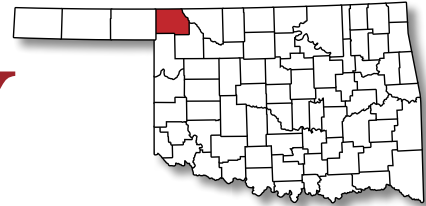
Author: Randy Robinson, OCCEDB Executive Director

The ACCO Transportation Committee chaired by Cleveland County Commissioner, Darryl Stacy, is concluding their work with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and their consultant firm, Garver. The Committee has requested Garver to review the current CIRB 5-year plan looking at project candidates that may qualify under two grants offered under IIJA, the Rural Surface Transportation and the Bridge Investment Program grants. Once the Committee conducts its review on February 16th, project recommendations will be made to the Oklahoma Cooperative Circuit Engineering Districts Board, OCCEDB, to act on. Project selection will be based upon those projects that have the best chance of success competing on the national level with other projects for FY 2023 funding. If a grant is approved, increased federal funding participation will reduce the amount of CIRB funds required, saving these funds for other projects. OCCEDB and ODOT are sharing the grant applications' costs on these CIRB projects.



HARPER COUNTY

Author: Barbara Manelski, ACCO



Harper County was created in 1907 and was named for Oscar Green Harper, who was a local resident, school teacher, and served as clerk of the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention. The county itself came from the northwest section of Woodward County. It is now surrounded on the north by Clark and Comanche Counties in Kansas, Woodward and Woods Counties on the east, Beaver County on the west, and Woodward and Ellis Counties to the south. The area was once a part of the Cherokee Outlet reserved for use by the Cherokee Nation by treaties in 1828 and 1835. The U.S. government opened the outlet for settlement by non-Indians in 1893.

Two rivers flow through the landscape of rocky, red canyons in the east and high plains and rolling hills in the west: the Cimarron and the Beaver (North Canadian). Dolby Springs Park, complete with a golf course and an artesian well, lies ten miles northwest of Buffalo, the county seat. The county produces wheat, cattle, petroleum, natural gas, and gypsum. Early-day residents

supplemented their farming and ranching livelihoods by selling dry bison bones. Sinclair Prairie Oil Company drilled the county's discovery well in 1930. Presently, education, oil and gas, and government services employ the majority of workers.

Along the Beaver River, located in northwestern Harper County, the Cooper Bison Kill Site represents one of the most significant archaeological sites in North America, providing invaluable information about Folsom culture and ancient bison. Also, the oldest painted object discovered in North America, a more than ten-thousand-year-old bison skull painted with a zigzag pattern, was uncovered there. Before statehood, Indians, mainly Cheyenne and Arapaho, and bison herds freely roamed the terrain. Spanish explorer Francisco Vázquez de Coronado may have trekked through the area in 1541 hoping to find gold. As pioneers crossed the region, several trails developed. The Fort Dodge to Camp Supply military trail, first followed in 1868 by the U.S. Army's Seventh Cavalry,

was used to move men and supplies to establish Camp Supply. The Western Trail (also known as the Dodge City Trail) was first used for cattle drives between South Texas and Fort Robinson, Nebraska, in 1874.

In the early days, residents built a considerable trade in salt gathered from the Great Salt Plain. In 1895 the Ditch Valley Cooperative dug irrigation ditches to use river water to irrigate its members' fields. The Wichita Falls and Northwestern Railway, a Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway (MK&T) subsidiary, was constructed through Dunlap, May, Laverne, and Rosston in 1912. In addition, county citizens built their own line, the Buffalo and Northwestern Railroad (B&NW), to connect Buffalo with Waynoka in 1919-20. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway acquired the B&NW in 1920, and the MK&T line was abandoned in 1970.

Harper County Community Hospital, the county's only hospital, was started in 1937 by Dr. Earl F. Camp, and the first newspaper, the Brule Post, began publishing in June 1905 with William Forester as editor.

The county's brush with fame came in September 1934, when Charles A. Lindbergh, his wife Anne Morrow Lindbergh, and their plane made an emergency landing on the Homer Aitken farm situated between the communities of Fern and Selman. News of the famous couple traveled fast and drew many visitors until a replacement part for the plane arrived, and the Lindberghs took to the skies again. Other notable people from the county include 1936 Olympic heavyweight wrestler Roy Dunn, 1967 Miss America Jayne Jayroe, and songwriter Jimmy Webb ("MacArthur Park," "Up, Up, and Away," and "By the Time I Get to Phoenix").



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Working in Cold Conditions

Author: Dale Frech, ACCO Safety Director

It seems like after having a warm day here and there winter should be about over. Now we are having moisture and wind chills in the single digits predicted in the next few weeks. With our abrupt changes in weather, we need to continue preparing our employees for winter's bite. Everyone should understand the basics of working or being stranded in colder weather. Two of the consequences of exposure to the cold is hypothermia and frost bite.

Hypothermia occurs with a gradual or sudden drop of body temperature. Symptoms include shivering, feeling cold followed by pain in the extremities. Numbness, stiffness, drowsiness, poor coordination, slow or irregular heartbeat or breathing and slurred speech are all signs of moderate hypothermia. Basic decisions start being affected with moderate hypothermia creating other safety issues. Unconsciousness and very shallow breathing resembling death are signs of severe hypothermia and if not dealt with can result in death. First aid treatment for hypothermia requires moving the victim to a warm shelter, removing any wet clothing and wrapping in a warm covering. Warming the neck, chest, abdomen and groin areas are most effective for raising the core body temperature. If the victim is conscious and alert, giving warm, sweet liquids can also help. If the symptoms indicate moderate to severe hypothermia, seek medical attention.

Frost bite is another hazard of cold temperatures. Body extremities such as fingers, toes, nose, cheeks, and ears are most often affected. The skin may appear white or gray and be hard to the touch. Other symptoms may include cold feeling, tingling and pain. Blisters and loss of movement can occur. Frost bite is the actual freezing of the skin tissue. Permanent tissue damage, loss of movement and even amputation can result. First aid for frost bite includes warming up the area gradually usually with body heat. Do not rub the area as it may cause further tissue damage. You can use warm water to warm the area if not too severe but never use water over 110°. The victim will likely not be able to distinguish if the water is too hot so this method should be used with caution. The best treatment is to get medical attention as soon as possible and have the emergency responders provide the necessary first aid.

Several factors can contribute to an individual's susceptibility to exposure to the cold. Medical issues such as diabetes or a heart condition, use of alcohol, smoking, poor physical condition and prior frostbite can prevent an individual from withstanding the cold as well as others. Wet clothing, hands or feet will prevent workers from keeping their body temperatures up as well. Encouraging employees to dress in layers helps ward off the cold. Layers can also be removed as activity increases body heat or the outside temperature warms up. This helps keep employees from becoming wet due to perspiration. Wicking materials such as cotton, wool, or silk should make up the inner layers. An outer layer of wind-resistant and waterproof material will also help. Much of your body heat is dissipated through your head so a stocking hat or hood should be worn. Dry gloves or mittens are also important in keeping hands warm. Training employees to dress properly, watch out for each other, and requiring warm up breaks are the best measures to prevent employees from falling victim to cold conditions.

Falls are also a major concern during winter months. If freezing moisture is an issue, maintaining traction is critical to avoiding slips and falls during inclement weather. Google "slip on ice grips for shoes" for a wide variety of slip on or strap on options to help maintain traction on ice/snow. Steel cleats are very effective on ice/snow but

can create its own hazard if walking on dry concrete or tile. Some manufactures offer composite or hard plastic cleats to help. County employees suffer several serious injuries each year because of falls on ice and snow and slip on grips could help eliminate much of that pain and suffering. As many of us realize, as we age, we don't bounce like we used to.

Lets all remember to work hard but work safe.



Dale Frech

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