

SURFACE

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TRUST

RESTORING OKLAHOMA ROADS WITH TRUST

Surface is a publication of TRUST dedicated to bringing news about the financing of Oklahoma's transportation infrastructure to community, business and policy leaders around the state. This biannual publication has a central focus of:

- Federal and state funding
- Regulatory news from State Capitol and Congress
- TRUST events and news
- Innovative topics on transportation funding

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THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 53RD OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

TRANSPORTATION IS KEY PRIORITY

THE SECOND SESSION of the 53rd Oklahoma Legislature began February 6th as Governor Mary Fallin gave her State of the State address, an address which included a call-to-action for lawmakers to approve the Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan. The plan, originally announced last October, will reduce the number of structurally deficient bridges in Oklahoma to less than 1% by 2019 while expanding capacity on the state's two urban turnpikes, the Creek and Kilpatrick. As has been the case the past two years, the state budget is again at the forefront of discussion. While the FY-2013 budget outlook is much better than those in 2011 and 2012, legislators are still faced with protecting core government services, such as transportation, while continuing to identify government services and tax credits than can be reduced and/or eliminated.

There is much cause for optimism, however, with regards to Oklahoma's budgetary future. The growth of the oil and gas industry continues to provide gross production revenues at high levels although the mild winter and an overabundance of natural gas have temporarily reduced their economic impact. During this election year, one particular issue garnering much attention during the legislative session is the debate to reduce, and perhaps eliminate, the Oklahoma personal income tax. Governor Fallin and Republican legislators are in favor of a gradual reduction from the current 5.25% rate. Obviously, the flip side to reducing or eliminating the income tax is making up the lost revenue and this is a hotly debated topic at the state Capitol.

Over the past six years, state leaders and the Legislature have made transportation funding a key priority, and TRUST has played a major role in advocating how important it is for Oklahoma to have modern and safe high-



ways and bridges. With your continued support, TRUST will continue to advocate protection of ODOT's eight-year road and bridge construction plan and support the Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan. The same diligence that has grown TRUST into one of the most effective and unique advocacy organizations at the state Capitol since 2006 is required in 2012 as well.

In Washington, D.C., Congress continues to debate a long-term reauthorization of the surface transportation highway bill. Oklahoma senior Senator Jim Inhofe, the ranking minority member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and Fifth District Representative James Lankford, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, are working diligently to ensure Congress provides the President with a bill that eliminates the temporary reauthorizations of the past few years, while providing states less bureaucracy to ensure long-term funding to plan future projects. Both Senator Inhofe and Congressman Lankford provided TRUST members an update on the reauthorization debate during the TRUST Congressional Forums last fall and we appreciate their dedicated work to protect Oklahoma in Washington.

As our 2012 legislative agenda states on page two, TRUST is advocating for many of the same goals we outlined in 2011 at the state and federal level. The Legislature can change course at any moment, however TRUST is on site at the state Capitol every day to respond as necessary to ensure transportation is at the forefront of legislative discussion.

Thank you for your continued support and please remember our momentum and progress is a direct byproduct of your involvement. Simply stated, you are the reason for our success. ■

2012 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



The Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan is a game changer for Oklahoma and an initiative the members of TRUST very much support."

Kell Kelly, TRUST Co-Chairman

STATE

Protect ODOT 8-year construction work plan: Ensuring state funding remains at a level where no planned projects are cut from the current eight-year road and bridge construction work plan is our top priority.

Support Bridge and Turnpike Modernization Plan: In an effort to continue to improve state and county structurally deficient bridges, this plan, upon completion, will bring the number of currently known structurally deficient bridges to less than one percent.

Raise the cap on ROADS Fund: In continuing the legislature's commitment to enhancing long-term transportation investments, TRUST supports a continued increase to the ROADS fund cap in spending, which has no immediate fiscal impact. However, raising the cap does allow ODOT to expand project planning within their multi-year construction work plan.

Motor vehicle fees redirected to transportation: A core principle of TRUST is all transportation-derived revenues should be used strictly for transportation. While the budget climate makes this a challenging year to advance returning the remaining 30% of motor vehicle fees from general government spending to transportation, TRUST will continue to promote this concept as a matter of sound public policy.

Renovations of Port of Entry – Weigh Stations: TRUST supports methods to expedite the critical needs for ports of entry completion in order to protect road and bridge quality from overweight freight traveling across the state, which will also result in increased revenues from fines and fees resulting from increased monitoring of overweight commercial traffic. TRUST also supports returning the transportation user fee of the one cent fuel user fee from the L.U.S.T fund to transportation needs to service the bond debt. This allows for no revenue impact or increased taxes while utilizing transportation fees to support transportation needs.



House Appropriations and Budget Chairman Rep. Earl Sears (R-Bartlesville) addresses guests at TRUST Transportation Day at the Capitol.

Support vehicle tag late fees funding transportation: In 2010, as part of the FY 2011 budget agreement, the late fee for delinquent tag renewals, which was increased in 2009 from 25-cents-per-day to \$1 per day, was redirected to general revenue fund for the second year via HB 2359 (Title 47). The bill called for those fees to be returned to transportation in 2011. TRUST supports the current intent of the law.

FEDERAL

Support timely reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs: TRUST supports efforts to permanently and adequately fund the Highway Trust Fund, and efforts to permanently reverse Oklahoma's status as a donor state by ensuring Oklahoma receives the full share of its federal motor fuel fees.

Support Indian Reservation Roads Program: Each year tribal transportation partnerships across the state contribute more than \$50 million annually to road and bridge construction. TRUST supports the current apportionment formula of IRR federal funds and supports expansion of the IRR program and tribal partnerships.

STANISLAWSKI, SHANNON LEAD TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEES

Two of the most dedicated legislators at the state Capitol are also two very good friends of transportation and TRUST. Senator Gary Stanislawski (R-Tulsa) and Representative T.W. Shannon (R-Lawton), chairmen of the Senate and House Transportation Committees respectively, are responsible for reviewing all transportation-related legislation, including the 2012 TRUST legislative agenda. TRUST interviewed both regarding the state of transportation in Oklahoma.

TRUST: *As chairman of the Senate and House Transportation Committees what are your goals for improving Oklahoma's transportation infrastructure this session?*

STANISLAWSKI:

1. Ensure that the Legislature fully funds the eight-year plan.
2. Expedite the funding and construction of the Port of Entry Weigh Stations.
3. Dedicate additional funding from the motor vehicle tax to the Critical Bridge Repair Fund.

SHANNON: HB 2248, which increases the annual apportionment to the Rebuilding Oklahoma Access and Driver Safety (ROADS) Fund and HB 2249, which increases revenue to the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges Fund, are both top priorities this session of mine and the House Transportation Committee.

TRUST: *Since 2006, the Legislature has made dramatic improvement in funding transportation. What do you attribute this to?*

STANISLAWSKI: When the House changed hands, along with the creation of TRUST, momentum was established to dedicate funding for roads and bridges. In addition, shielding ODOT from political whims and developing an eight-year plan aided in the prioritization of transportation.

SHANNON: I attribute the dramatic improvement in funding transportation over the past five years to the Republican majority in the Legislature establishing transportation as a core government service and one that must be funded accordingly.

TRUST: *How important is it for Oklahoma, economically, to have a modern, safe transportation infrastructure system and what can the Senate and House do to ensure Oklahoma achieves this distinction?*

STANISLAWSKI: It is extremely important to businesses and families to have safe roads and bridges. With Oklahoma being at the crossroads of America we can actually increase our opportunity for businesses to move here if we demonstrate that we can move their cargo through various modes of transportation. From our roads, railways, airways and ports Oklahoma can shine in our ability to aid business.

SHANNON: The most important initiative the House and Senate can do to ensure Oklahoma has a first-rate, modern transportation infrastructure system is to protect funding for ODOT's eight-year construction plan. The plan is working across the state and it is critically important that it continue to do so.

TRUST: *Governor Fallin has outlined an ambitious plan to dramatically reduce the number of deficient bridges in Oklahoma over the next seven years while expanding capacity on Oklahoma's two urban turnpikes. How important is it for the Legislature to embrace this initiative this session and what could it mean to Oklahoma's future?*

STANISLAWSKI: I believe it is very important the Legislature embrace the bridge initiative this session. We have too many bridges that need improvement. Yet, with the Governor's vision, and funding from the Legislature, a number of deficient bridges can be dramatically reduced in just a few years. This is essential to protect our families from potential disasters that other states have experienced recently.

SHANNON: A properly funded transportation system is the only sector of state government where public safety intersects with economic development. That is what this plan is all about and is a proposal the Legislature should look very closely at.



Sen. Gary Stanislawski



Rep. T.W. Shannon

TRUST: *On the federal level, how important is it for Congress to pass a long-term reauthorization of the surface transportation highway bill and what does it mean to keeping Oklahoma's eight year construction plan moving forward?*

STANISLAWSKI: It is critical that Congress fulfill its obligation to the states to reauthorize a long-term surface transportation highway bill. Our infrastructure is too important to be relegated to short-term thinking. Improvement of our infrastructure is not something that can be done using one or two year budgeting plans. In order to meet the demands of the future we must have a Congress that shares our long-term goals.

SHANNON: It is vitally important as small states like Oklahoma must heavily rely on federal highway funding. My hope is that Congress will agree to a long-term extension of federal highway funding before summer arrives.

TRUST: *Away from the legislation and politics of the state Capitol, what inspires both of you and what activities do you like to engage in?*

STANISLAWSKI: I own Regent Financial Services, Inc. and I am a Certified Financial Planner. My passion is to help people achieve their dreams and obtain a secure retirement income. I also enjoy playing golf when I get a chance. I have been married for over 30 years and have two grown children. It is always nice when the entire family can get together for a BBQ or other family activities.

SHANNON: I take pride in my faith and conservative values and hope both lead to prosperity for my children.



Enjoying the TRUST Transportation Innovation Banquet are Gib Gibson (left) and TRUST board member Lew Meibergen.



Governor Mary Fallin and TRUST president Neal McCaleb visit prior to dinner.



◀ A crowd of over 225 enjoyed the reception at the Oklahoma History Center.

▼ TRUST co-chairman Kell Kelly was a fantastic Master of Ceremonies.



TRUST members gather for a photo with Senator Inhofe at the TRUST Congressional Forum.



Former Governor George Nigh accepts the annual TRUST Guardian of Transportation Award from TRUST president Neal McCaleb.

Why Join TRUST?

Be a part of the voice for transportation advocacy that works with legislators to implement solutions. Without your support of and membership to TRUST, we risk losing the valuable momentum we have gained over the past five years. At the state Capitol, we must have a constant and growing voice for transportation and we hope you will join us in this vital cause.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Transportation Revenues Used Strictly for Transportation Coalition is an advocacy group dedicated to restoring Oklahoma's transportation infrastructure. We are committed to creating a culture within Oklahoma government that values and adequately funds transportation as a top priority.

Principles of TRUST

- Using all state transportation-related taxes and fees strictly for transportation
- Protecting and growing dedicated funds for Oklahoma's transportation system
- Educating policy makers and the public on the importance of investing in roads and bridges
- Supporting leaders who are committed to transportation as a priority of state government
- Using high-quality, lasting materials in building and maintaining roads and bridges
- Advocating efficiency and accountability within the Oklahoma Legislature and Department of Transportation

TRUST ON THE WEB RestoreTrust.org



Oklahoma Transportation News

Our online news page is updated daily with local and national transportation headlines. To receive articles as they are posted, select the orange RSS feed button located on the news page of the website.



Follow TRUST on Twitter and Facebook

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Grassroots Action Center

Our online grassroots action center allows you to instantly connect with your state and federal elected officials. Registering is quick, simple and your contact information is always kept confidential. By registering you will also be notified when your advocacy is needed at the Legislature or in Congress.

Events Online

TRUST also provides the opportunity to review all upcoming events and register and pay for them online. In addition to TRUST events, we post meetings for other transportation and member organizations. To review the latest transportation happenings in Oklahoma, visit the events page of RestoreTrust.org. To have your organization's activities posted contact Helra Han at helrahan@gmail.com.

Update Your Member Profile Online

In our ongoing effort to conserve costs, TRUST is continually updating our mailing lists and contact database. If you wish to continue to receive TRUST mailings, emails and newsletters, or wish to add additional contacts within your organization, please visit RestoreTrust.org, click on the contribute page and select "update membership profile."

2012 EVENT & MEMBER PROGRAMS

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their 2012 TRUST membership. For members who have not renewed or prospective new members, our 2012 tiered membership levels offer multiple packages, branding opportunities and reduced admission to TRUST events. Members also have the flexibility to opt out of a membership

package and sponsor or purchase admittance to individual events. New or renewed memberships can be registered online at www.restoreTrust.org by clicking on the contribute page or by calling TRUST membership director Helra Han at 405.802.8184 or by email - helrahan@gmail.com

March 6, 2012: Transportation Day at the Capitol

Our annual Transportation Day at the Capitol was March 6th and began with lunch for TRUST members, transportation officials and legislators followed by remarks from Senate and House leaders. Over 60 TRUST members then spread out over the Capitol for office visits with individual legislators. Transportation Day is always an important day where transportation interests join together to create a strong show of support for transportation funding and to advocate our legislative agenda. By all accounts the 2012 version accomplished our goals and we thank everyone for their attendance.

Senate/House Transportation Committee Dinners

TRUST will host a House Transportation Committee Dinner April 23rd and a Senate Transportation Committee Dinner April 30th. These events begin with a reception

for TRUST members and transportation industry advocates to interact with transportation committee members. Both events will include a seated dinner with remarks from a top state transportation official and updates from legislative leaders on budget negotiations and transportation-related legislation. Additional information will be forthcoming soon.

Senate/House Transportation Committee Dinner Sponsorship - \$1,250 each event

Includes corporate logo on all promotional materials, mailings, logo placement at event and admission for two (2) to the reception/dinner. For TRUST members who join at the TRUSTee or Road Champion levels, sponsorship and admission to both dinners is included. For TRUST members who join at the Advocate or Friend level, admission for one (1) to both events is included. Additional admissions are \$100.

Summer/Fall: Congressional District Briefing Forums

In non-election years TRUST hosts Congressional District Forums in the summer and fall. These forums are designed for TRUST members to interact with our congressional delegation and key transportation staff as well as providing a localized forum for state transportation officials and legislators to hear from our delegation regarding transportation issues in Washington, D.C.

Congressional District Briefing Forum Sponsorship - \$1,000

Includes corporate logo on all promotional materials, mailings, logo placement at forum and admission for two (2). For TRUST members who join at the TRUSTee, Road Champion, Advocate or Friend levels, sponsorship and admission is included. Additional admissions are \$50.



Senate President Pro Tempore Brian Bingman and Governor Fallin pause for a photo during the TRUST Transportation Innovation Banquet.



TRUST members and legislators enjoy lunch during TRUST Transportation Day at the Capitol.

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RESTORING OKLAHOMA ROADS WITH TRUST

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Please Plan to Attend our TRUST

House Transportation Committee Dinner – APRIL 23RD

Senate Transportation Committee Dinner – APRIL 30TH

Both events begin at 6:00 p.m. at Deep Fork Grill in Oklahoma City

RSVP: helrahan@gmail.com or www.restoreTRUST.org