

# SURFACE

A PROGRESS REPORT ON OKLAHOMA TRANSPORTATION • WWW.RESTORETRUST.ORG

## TRUST

TRANSPORTATION REVENUES USED STRICTLY FOR TRANSPORTATION

*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 FIRST SESSION OF THE 54TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

## TRANSPORTATION REMAINS CORE PRIORITY

**AFTER A NOVEMBER** general election bringing modest change to the state House and Senate, the first session of the 54th Oklahoma Legislature began February 4th as Governor Mary Fallin gave her third State of the State address, a speech which once again included the governor's support for establishing transportation funding as a core priority of state government by protecting the state's eight-year highway and bridge construction plan and continued funding of the Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan. The plan, originally proposed in October, 2011 and approved by the legislature in 2012, will reduce the number of structurally-deficient bridges in Oklahoma to less than 1% by 2019 while expanding capacity on the Creek and Kilpatrick urban turnpikes. While the FY-2014 budget is not faced with a deficit heading into the legislative session, and with the governor calling for a quarter of one percent reduction in the state income tax, lawmakers must still face the challenge of protecting core government services, such as transportation, education, human services and public safety, while continuing to enact reforms that streamline government and provide better and more efficient service to taxpayers.

Despite natural gas revenues continuing to slide over the past three years due to oversupply, low prices and mild winters, Oklahoma's diversified economy remains strong when compared to other states. With one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, the immediate future looks bright, especially when factoring in a burgeoning oil and natural gas liquids sector - one of the main reasons lawmakers entered the 2013 legislative session with a modest surplus rather than the deficits of the past several years. Beyond the four core priorities and



forementioned income tax reduction, key issues expected to garner attention at the state Capitol this session include workers' compensation reform, education and renovations to the nearly 100-year old Capitol building.

After several years of temporary funding reauthorizations, the United States Congress passed a two-year funding reauthorization of surface transportation programs last summer. Oklahoma Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Tulsa), a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, and Fifth District Representative James Lankford (R-Oklahoma City), a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, both worked tirelessly to ensure the bill's passage. The bill allows ODOT's eight-year highway and bridge construction plan to continue through mid-2014. It is imperative that Congress ultimately devises a long-term funding reauthorization plan for surface transportation programs that reduces bureaucracy to states while ensuring long-term funding to plan future projects. TRUST will continue to work **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** ■ ■ ➔

# 2013 OKLAHOMA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

with Senator Inhofe and freshman Second District Representative Markwayne Mullin, a member of the House T&I Committee, to ensure Oklahoma receives its fair share of federal highway dollars. TRUST thanks Congressman Lankford for his outstanding two years of service on the T&I Committee, and wishes him the best as he departs to assume the chairmanship of the House Policy Committee.

As our 2013 legislative agenda states, TRUST will continue to advance many of the same goals we outlined over the past three years, both at the state and federal level. The legislative session can take many twists and turns, however TRUST is positioned at the state Capitol each and every day to act accordingly to ensure transportation is always at the forefront of the debate.

Over the past seven years, state leaders and the legislature have made tremendous progress to establish transportation as a core governmental priority, and TRUST has played an impactful role in advocating the need for Oklahoma to have the most modern and safe highway and bridge infrastructure system possible. With your continued support, TRUST will continue to emphasize protection of ODOT's eight-year highway and bridge construction plan, and the Bridge Improvement and Turnpike Modernization Plan. Thank you for your support and please remember our momentum and progress is a direct byproduct of your involvement. ■



**TRUST has made tremendous progress since its inception in 2005 and I am confident Governor Fallin and legislators of both parties will continue to support transportation as a top priority in 2013."**

*TRUST co-chairman and former Governor Frank Keating*

## STATE

**Protect ODOT eight-year highway and bridge construction plan.** The top TRUST priority is to ensure funding remains at a level where no planned projects are cut from the current eight-year highway and bridge construction plan, and support of long-term transportation investments with continued increases to the ROADS fund.

**Support Bridge Improvement & Turnpike Modernization Plan.** In an effort to continue to improve state and county structurally-deficient bridges, TRUST supports adequate annual state appropriations to complete the Bridge Improvement & Turnpike Modernization Plan to bring the number of currently known structurally-deficient bridges to less than one percent.

**Motor vehicle fees redirected to transportation.** A core principle of TRUST is all transportation-derived revenues should be used strictly for transportation. TRUST supports returning the remaining allocation of motor vehicle fees from general government to transportation and we encourage the appropriate allocation of motor vehicle fees to state highways, country roads and municipal streets taking into consideration previous motor vehicle fees and general fund allocations. TRUST will continue to support this concept as a matter of sound public policy.

**Renovations of Port of Entries – Weigh Stations.** TRUST supports methods to complete construction of nine ports of entries or weigh stations in order to protect highway and bridge quality from overweight freight traveling across the state. Doing so will result in increased revenues from fines and fees due to increased monitoring of overweight commercial traffic. TRUST also supports returning the one-cent transportation user fee from the Petroleum Storage Tank Indemnity 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.

**Innovative funding for transportation.** TRUST supports innovative and alternative transportation funding that is revenue adequate for the intended purpose and user equitable as part of a comprehensive approach to increase overall transportation funding.

## 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 Oklahoma contribute more than \$50 million annually to highway and bridge construction. TRUST supports the current apportionment formula of IRR federal funds and expansion of the IRR program and tribal partnerships.



*House Transportation Committee Chairman Rep. Charlie Joyner and House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Mike Sanders pause for a photo at the TRUST Freshmen Road Scholar orientation.*



# SHANNON BECOMES SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, GENERAL ELECTION PROVIDES LITTLE CHANGE

With only one statewide elected office (Corporation Commission) joining the presidential race on the November 2012 general election ballot, much of Oklahoma's attention centered on whether there would be a significant change in the makeup of the 54th Oklahoma legislature. After the votes had been counted, Oklahoma's red state status increased as voters opposed President Obama's re-election campaign, made Oklahoma's congressional delegation entirely Republican and increased GOP majorities in both chambers at the state Capitol.

For the third consecutive presidential election, all 77 Oklahoma counties favored the Republican nominee. Voters in the traditionally Democrat Second Congressional District elected Republican Representative Markwayne Mullin of Westville to replace former Democrat Representative Dan Boren who chose not to seek re-election.

In the state House of Representatives, the former chairman of the House Transportation Committee, T.W. Shannon of Lawton, was elected Speaker of the House by his peers and now leads the entire 101-member body where Republicans hold a 72-29 majority. Succeeding Speaker Shannon as chairman of the House Transportation Committee is Representative Charlie Joyner of Midwest City. Representative Mike Sanders of Kingfisher begins his first term as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government and Transportation.

House Transportation Committee members include: John Bennett (vice-chairman), Josh Cockroft, Larry Glenn, Katie Henke, Steve Kouplen, James Lockhart, Charles McCall, Jerry McPeak, Jason Murphey, Terry O'Donnell, Eric Proctor, Marty Quinn, Todd Russ, Earl Sears and Mike Turner.



*T.W. Shannon, Speaker of the House*

In the state Senate, President Pro Tempore Brian Bingman of Sapulpa was re-elected by his fellow senators to serve another two-year term overseeing a caucus controlled 36-12 by the GOP. Senator Gary Stanislawski of Tulsa will again serve as chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee and Senator Bryce Marlatt of Woodward returns as chairman of the Appropriations Committee on General Government and Transportation.

Senate Transportation Committee members include: Kyle Loveless (vice-chairman), Don Barrington, Randy Bass, Cliff Branan, Corey Brooks, Al McAffrey, Dan Newberry, Susan Paddack, Wayne Shaw, Ralph Shortey and Rob Standridge.



*Brian Bingman, Senate President Pro Tempore*

On January 23rd, TRUST along with the Association of Oklahoma General Contractors (AOGC) and the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma (ACCO), co-sponsored a "Freshmen Roads Scholar" transportation orientation for newly elected house and senate members. The orientation began at ODOT with a state transportation issues' briefing by Secretary of Transportation Gary Ridley and ODOT senior staff. The group then attended a luncheon held at the new AOGC headquarters, and the orientation concluded with a briefing on county transportation matters at ACCO headquarters. Thank you to our co-sponsors and everyone who attended. ■





◀ Pausing for a photo at the I-44 Tulsa Progress Report event are Tulsa County Commissioner John Smaligo, Tulsa County Commission Chief Deputy Mark Liotta and TRUST president Neal McCaleb.



Discussing the I-44 Tulsa widening project while standing on the former Lewis Avenue bridge are Secretary of Transportation Gary Ridley, TRUST board member and Tulsa Regional Chamber president of government relations Chris Benge and U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe.



Secretary of Transportation Gary Ridley, House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Mike Sanders and ODOT Division 5 Engineer Brent Almquist were among attendees at the TRUST Freshmen Road Scholar orientation.



Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Gary Stanislawski and TRUST executive director Jami Longacre attended the I-44 Tulsa Progress Report event.

# Why Join TRUST?

Be part of the voice for transportation advocacy that works with legislators to implement solutions. Without your membership to TRUST, we risk losing the valuable momentum we have gained over the past seven 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

TRUST, *Transportation Revenues Used Strictly for Transportation*, 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 core 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 highways and bridges
- Supporting leaders who are committed to transportation as a core priority of state government
- Using high-quality, lasting materials in building and maintaining highways and bridges
- Advocating efficiency and accountability within the Oklahoma legislature and Oklahoma 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

You can follow TRUST on Twitter under the username "RestoreTRUST" and Facebook. If you have not "liked" TRUST on Facebook please do so today.



### Events Online

TRUST also provides the opportunity to review all upcoming events and pre-register online. In addition to TRUST events, meetings for other transportation and member organizations are posted. To review the latest transportation happenings in Oklahoma, visit the events page at [www.restoreTRUST.org](http://www.restoreTRUST.org). To have your organizations' activities posted contact TRUST membership director Helra Han at [helrahan@gmail.com](mailto:helrahan@gmail.com).

### Update Your Member Profile Online

In an ongoing effort to conserve operating funds, TRUST continually updates its 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 [www.restoreTRUST.org](http://www.restoreTRUST.org), click on the contribute page and select "update membership profile."



# 2013 EVENT & MEMBER PROGRAMS

*Thank you to all TRUST members who have renewed their 2013 TRUST membership. For members who have not renewed or prospective new members, our 2013 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](http://www.restoreTrust.org) by clicking on the contribute page or by contacting TRUST membership director Helra Han at [helrahan@gmail.com](mailto:helrahan@gmail.com).*

## March 13, 2013: Transportation Day at the Capitol

Our annual Transportation Day at the Capitol is March 13th beginning with lunch in the second floor rotunda for TRUST members, transportation officials and legislators followed by remarks from legislative leaders. TRUST members and guests will then converse the Capitol for office visits with individual legislators. Transportation Day is always an important opportunity where transportation advocates join together to create a strong show of support for transportation funding and to emphasize our legislative agenda. Please plan to attend Transportation Day 2013 by registering today at [www.restoreTRUST.org](http://www.restoreTRUST.org).

## Transportation Day at the Capitol sponsorship - \$1,000

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

## April 1, 2013: Transportation Innovation Banquet

The annual TRUST Transportation Innovation Banquet will be held April 1st at the Jim Thorpe Museum in Oklahoma City. Over 225 TRUST members, legislators, state and county elected officials, state and county transportation officials and transportation advocates will be in attendance to hear the keynote address provided by Oklahoma Fifth District Representative James Lankford, former member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and current

chairman of the House Policy Committee. Congressman Lankford will be joined by special guest, Second District Representative Markwayne Mullin. The third annual TRUST Guardian of Transportation award will also be presented. You do not want to miss this outstanding opportunity to hear from and visit with Oklahoma's political and transportation leaders. Please register today at [www.restoreTRUST.org](http://www.restoreTRUST.org) or by contacting TRUST membership director Helra Han at [helrahan@gmail.com](mailto:helrahan@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you at this much anticipated annual event.

## Transportation Innovation Banquet Sponsorship - \$2,500

Includes admission to reception, premium dinner seating for eight (8), logo on promotional and mailing materials and logo placement at event. For TRUST members at the TRUSTee level, sponsorship and admission for eight (8) is included. Additional admissions are \$175.

## Transportation Innovation Banquet Table Host - \$1,250

Includes admission to reception and dinner for eight (8) and logo placement at event. For TRUST members at the Road Champion level, table host package is included. For TRUST members at the Friend or Basic levels, admission for one (1) is included. Additional admissions are \$175.

## House/Senate Transportation Committee Dinners

TRUST will host its annual House and Senate Transportation Committee Dinners in April and May. The 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 state transportation officials and updates from legislative leaders on budget negotiations and transportation-related legislation. Invitations and additional information will be forthcoming soon.

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

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

## Summer/Fall: Congressional District Forums

TRUST hosts Congressional District Forums in the summer and fall. The 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 the Oklahoma delegation regarding transportation issues in Washington, D.C.

## Congressional District Forums Sponsorship - \$1,000

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

# Sponsors of Surface



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Dues paid to TRUST, a project of Oklahomans for Safe Bridges and Roads, Inc. are not deductible as charitable contributions. However, 40% of dues paid may be claimed as business expense for federal income tax purposes for fiscal year 2013. Any dues paid used for lobbying efforts are not tax deductible



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## Please Plan to Attend our TRUST

Transportation Day at the Capitol - March 13th

Transportation Innovation Banquet - April 1st

**RSVP:** [helrahan@gmail.com](mailto:helrahan@gmail.com) or [www.restoreTRUST.org](http://www.restoreTRUST.org)