



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

SURFACE

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MULLIN CAPTURES SENATE SEAT; STITT WINS SECOND TERM

WITH A FULL SLATE OF STATE-WIDE AND LEGISLATIVE RACES UP FOR ELECTION, IT WAS A BUSY 2022 GENERAL ELECTION FOR OKLAHOMA VOTERS.

Due to long-time U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe's pending January retirement, both of Oklahoma's U.S. Senate seats were up for election; a rare circumstance since incumbents serve staggered six-year terms. In the special election to serve the remaining four years of Inhofe's current term, Second District Republican U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin defeated former Fifth District Democrat U.S. Rep. Kendra Horn. Mullin can seek a full term in 2026. In the other Senate race, incumbent Republican James Lankford defeated Democrat Madison Horn (no relation to Kendra Horn) to earn a second full term and earn the title of Oklahoma's senior Senator. In the race to succeed Mullin in the U.S. House of Representatives, former GOP state Senator Josh Brecheen easily captured the seat. Each of Oklahoma's four incumbent GOP House members (First District Rep. Kevin Hern, Third District Rep. Frank Lucas, Fourth District Rep. Tom Cole, Fifth District Rep. Stephanie Bice) were reelected by large margins.



Senator-elect
Markwayne Mullin



Governor Kevin Stitt

The most hotly contested election was for Oklahoma's chief executive officer as incumbent Republican Governor Kevin Stitt captured a second and final term over term-limited Democrat State Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister. Oklahoma's new Attorney General is Republican Gentner Drummond while Republican Ryan Walters, Stitt's cabinet Secretary of Education, will succeed Hofmeister. Two other new statewide Republican office holders are former state Rep. Todd Russ who was elected State Treasurer succeeding GOP Treasurer Randy McDaniel and former

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2023 Oklahoma Legislative Preview

WITH THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION DEFINED BY A RECORD STATE BUDGET AND TWO EXTRAORDINARY (SPECIAL) SESSIONS, the first regular session of the 59th Oklahoma Legislature will convene February 6 with numerous new members filling the halls of the Oklahoma State Capitol. With election season complete and lawmakers sworn in, attention now turns to bill filing, committee assignments and the setting of agendas by each Senate and House caucus. Governor Stitt is scheduled to give his fifth State of the State address before a joint legislative session February 6. As always, the state budget will be a focal point of the Governor's address along with tax relief, economic development, education, healthcare reform and continued investment in state savings accounts. Initial FY-24 budget figures will be released in December by the Oklahoma State Equalization Board. The OSEB meets again in February to certify final revenue available to be appropriated during the session for the fiscal year running July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

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As has been the case since 2006, TRUST will be at the Capitol each day during session advocating for continued investment in Oklahoma's bridge and highway infrastructure on both the state and county levels. Due to the commitment of previous legislatures and governors Oklahoma has made tremendous progress in modernizing and improving the safety of its surface transportation infrastructure system but there is always more to accomplish. Transportation advocates will be needed once again this session to maintain our momentum while educating new legislators on



Senate President Pro
Tempore Greg Treat



Speaker of the House
Charles McCall

the importance of a first-class, modern surface transportation infrastructure system. The statutory annual allocations provided to the ROADS and CIRB funds must be protected. We must support ODOT's long-range plans for shoulder, surface and safety improvements and we must continue to support the advancement of the Driving Forward (turnpike) plan.

As the new year draws near, please plan to attend and support our annual Transportation Day at the Capitol along with our Senate and House Transportation Committee Dinners. Each of these events had tremendous turnout in 2022 and we hope for the same next year. TRUST has established itself as one of the premier coalitions at the state Capitol. We are respected by the executive branch and legislative members of both parties. Our collective message is simple; transportation revenues must be used strictly for transportation purposes. Let's make sure our message continues to resonate at 23rd and Lincoln. ■

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state Senator Kim David who was elected to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission succeeding term-limited GOP Commissioner Dana Murphy. Each of Oklahoma's other Republican secondary incumbents either drew no primary or general election opponent (State Auditor Cindy Byrd, Insurance Commissioner Glen Mulready) or were reelected by comfortable margins (Lt. Governor Matt Pinnell, Labor Commissioner Leslie Osborn).

In the Oklahoma Legislature, Republicans maintained supermajority status in

both chambers. In the Senate, the majority is 40-8 with new GOP senators Ally Seifried (SD 2), Tom Woods (SD 4), Todd Gollihare (SD 12), Jerry Alvord (SD 14), Jack Stewart (SD 18), Kristen Thompson (SD 22), Grant Green (SD 28), and Dana Prieto (SD 34). Prieto defeated incumbent Democrat Senator J.J. Dossett. Greg Treat (SD 47) will serve a final term as Senate President Pro Tempore. Across the rotunda, the majority is 81-20 heading into the 2023 legislative session. New GOP representatives are: John Kane (HD 11), Neil Hays (HD 13), Cody Maynard (HD 21),

Chris Banning (HD 24), Collin Duel (HD 31), John George (HD 36), Josh Cantrell (HD 49), Nick Archer (HD 55), Clay Staires (HD 66) and Mark Tedford (HD 69). New Democrat representatives are: Jared Deck (HD 44), Annie Menz (HD 45), Suzanne Schreiber (HD 70), Amanda Swope (HD 71), Ellyn Hefner (HD 87) and Arturo Alonso (HD 89). Charles McCall (HD 22) ran unopposed and will serve another term as Speaker of the House. ■



The SH-16 bridge over the Verdigris River in Wagoner County is just one of dozens of scheduled rehabilitation projects under ODOT's Fiscal Year 2023-2030 Eight-Year Construction Work Plan

EIGHT-YEAR PLAN HITS 20TH MILESTONE

Twenty years after the adoption of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's first Eight-Year Construction Work Plan, the Oklahoma Transportation Commission has approved its newest update. The Federal FY 2023-2030 Eight-Year Construction Work Plan contains \$8.4 billion worth of critically needed transportation improvement projects designed to improve the safety and reliability of Oklahoma's highway network. For the first time in the plan's 20 years, each plan year averages more than \$1 billion in projects programmed across the state.

"Oklahoma's highway and bridge network serves as the backbone of the state's economy, moving people to work and goods to market while connecting Oklahoma with the nation and the world," said Secretary of Transportation and ODOT Executive Director Tim Gatz. "Simultaneously, many of these investments will ease commutes and travel for residents and allow them to spend more quality time with their families."

Investments in Oklahoma's transportation system have made significant impacts to the quality and level of service of the state's highway infrastructure in the past 20 years. In 2004, Oklahoma had 1,168 structurally deficient bridges on the highway system, making the state among the worst nationally for bridge conditions. Oklahoma was ranked No. 5 in 2021 thanks to strategic planning with the Construction Work Plan and continued commitments from legislators, governors and ODOT officials in the past two decades.

Also updated is the ODOT Asset Preservation Plan for 2023-2026, which includes 330 projects valuing nearly \$502 million worth of maintenance and preservation work to extend the life of the state's highway infrastructure. Coinciding with the plan's 20th anniversary, a new, user-friendly website is available on the ODOT homepage at www.odot.org, and allows users to easily locate projects and related information of interest to them. Projects can be sorted by ODOT field district, by Construction Work Plan projects, Asset Preservation Plan Projects or by plan year.

The 2023-2030 plan addresses 340 bridges currently at risk of becoming structurally deficient and targets 659 highway bridges for reconstruction or major rehabilitation. Altogether, the plan contains about 1,745 projects valued at more than \$8.4 billion.

Notable projects added or advanced in the 2023-2030 Eight-Year Construction Work Plan include:

- In the Oklahoma City metro area, improvements to the I-35 and I-240 interchange.
- In the Tulsa metro area, widening US-169 from Memorial Dr. north 2.5 miles and interchange improvements on US-75 at 96th St. N., 106th St. N. and 126th St. N.
- In Eastern Oklahoma, rehabilitation of the SH-16 bridge over the Verdigris River (McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System) in Wagoner County and an I-40 pavement improvement project in Sequoyah County.
- In Southeastern Oklahoma, resurfacing of US-69/75 between Durant and Caney in Bryan and Atoka counties and replacement of the SH-31 Blue Creek bridge in Pittsburg County.
- In Southwestern Oklahoma, planning for and widening I-35 to six lanes from the Red River to mm 15 in Love County and widening SH-4 to four lanes between I-44/H.E. Bailey Turnpike and SH-37, including a new interchange at Fox Ln., in Grady County.
- In Western Oklahoma, resurfacing, adding shoulders and bridge rehab on SH-55 between Sentinel and Rocky in Washita County.
- In Northwest Oklahoma and the Panhandle, adding shoulders to SH-8 between Cleo Springs and US-64E in Major and Alfalfa counties and adding shoulders to SH-136 between US-412 and E 70 Rd. in Texas County.
- In North Central Oklahoma, adding shoulders to SH-51 between I-35 and Stillwater in Payne County and adding shoulders and resurfacing US-177 between Blackwell and Braman in Kay County. In Northeastern Oklahoma, resurfacing US-60 between Fairland and Neosho River in Ottawa County and multiple interchange improvements along US-412 to upgrade it to interstate standards.
- Prior to the adoption of the first Eight-Year Construction Work Plan, the department operated on a five-year plan, but it was not fiscally constrained. The first eight-year plan was an attempt to create a fiscally responsible strategy to address the state's most pressing needs with available funding. At the time, all construction funding was 100% federal funds. Thanks to continued investments by the Legislature and governors in the past 20 years, funding for the eight-year plan is now about evenly split between state and federal dollars. ■

Why Join TRUST?

Be part of the voice for transportation advocacy that works with members of the state legislature to implement solutions. Without your membership to TRUST, we risk losing the valuable momentum we have gained over the past 16 years. At the state Capitol, we must have a constant and growing voice for transportation, and urge you to 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 adequately funds transportation as a core priority.

Principles of TRUST

- Use all state transportation-related taxes and fees strictly for transportation
- Protect and grow dedicated funds for Oklahoma's transportation system
- Educate policy makers and the public on the importance of investing in highways and bridges
- Support leaders who are committed to transportation as a core priority of state government
- Use high-quality, lasting materials in building and maintaining highways and bridges
- Advocate efficiency and accountability within the state legislature and Oklahoma Department of Transportation

TRUST ONLINE

restoreTRUST.org

OKLAHOMA TRANSPORTATION NEWS



Our online news page is updated daily with local and national legislative and transportation articles. In addition, to receive our weekly Oklahoma Transportation News email newsletter, please contact TRUST membership director Helra Han at helrahan@gmail.com

EVENTS ONLINE

Our updated TRUST website - restoreTRUST.org - allows members to register for our annual events and renew their membership with just a few clicks. Please take advantage of this convenient method to stay engaged with TRUST. For questions on events or membership, please contact TRUST membership director Helra Han at 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 restoreTRUST.org, click on the contribute page and select "update membership profile."

TRUST STAFF

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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 2022. Any dues paid used for lobbying efforts are not tax deductible.



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Please Plan to Attend our Upcoming TRUST

- Transportation Day at the Capitol
- Senate & House Transportation Committee Dinners

Details Coming Soon!