

MINUTES

Oklahoma Turnpike Authority REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 7, 2025

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKLAHOMA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY, HELD JANUARY 7, 2025, AT THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ROOM, 200 NE 21ST STREET, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73105.

Notice of this Regular Meeting of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority having been given to the Oklahoma Secretary of State, and public notice and agenda having been posted in prominent public view at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and on the website of the principal office of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, www.pikepass.com, twenty-four (24) hours prior to this meeting, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, all in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman John Jones called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

II. **ROLL CALL:** Present: Mr. John D. Jones
Mr. Will L. Berry
Mr. Todd Cone
Mr. Gene Love
Mr. John Titsworth
Ms. Dana Weber

Absent: None

III. **RECOGNITIONS AND OTHER AWARDS**

Director Joe Echelle began the meeting by asking for a moment of silence for Department of Transportation worker, Jayden Jackson. Mr. Jackson was working on pothole patching when an accident occurred that took his life. Chairman Jones stated that the Board's thoughts and prayers were with his family.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** for the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2024

Chairman Jones called for approval of the minutes for the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2024. It was moved by Mr. Love and seconded by Ms. Weber that the minutes be approved as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Berry, Cone, Love, Titsworth, Weber, Jones

V. **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

FINANCE ITEM(S)

ITEM 1263 Consider, take action and vote for the approval or disapproval of a Resolution authorizing amendments to certain sections of the Trust Agreement to provide required reports, audits, budgets and other documents and notices by electronic mail; approving and authorizing a revision to the Twenty-First Supplemental Trust Agreement to include the amended Trust Agreement sections; and authorizing certain actions to be taken to effectuate the above. – Jordan Perdue

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Mr. Jordan Perdue presented this item to the Board as summarized above. He noted the current Trust Agreement required the documents to be sent via mail. This had become inconvenient since flash drives were no longer being used. He stated staff had reviewed and recommended this item for approval.

It was moved by Mr. Cone and seconded by Ms. Weber that the Authority approve this item as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Berry, Cone, Love, Titsworth, Weber, Jones

ITEM 1264 Consider, take action and vote for the approval or disapproval of a request that the Director of the Authority be authorized to negotiate and approve a one-year extension for the contract currently in place with CDM Smith covering the period February 1, 2025, to January 31, 2026. – Wendy Smith

Ms. Wendy Smith presented this item to the Board as summarized above. She stated staff had reviewed and recommended this item for approval.

It was moved by Mr. Cone and seconded by Ms. Weber that the Authority approve this item as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Berry, Cone, Love, Titsworth, Weber, Jones

ITEM 1265 Consider, take action and vote for the approval or disapproval of a request to authorize the Director to negotiate and execute a contract with Guidehouse, Inc. to assist with the project and change management, staff augmentation, system testing and user training for Oracle Enterprise Performance Management software for a not to exceed amount of \$3,800,000. – Micah Gardner

Ms. Micah Gardner presented this item to the Board as summarized above. She stated staff had reviewed and recommended this item for approval. Mr. Cone asked if the presented item was more than training. Ms. Gardner answered it included assistance with project management, staff augmentation, and end user training. Mr. Love asked how long OTA had been using Guidehouse and how much longer their services would be needed. Ms. Julie Porter answered that Guidehouse was needed through the post implementation process. They have helped maintain operations during the implementation. Ms. Weber commented that the support of Guidehouse was extremely valuable, and she felt comfortable with the approach OTA had taken. Also, it provided the ability to retain in-house knowledge.

It was moved by Mr. Cone and seconded by Ms. Weber that the Authority approve this item as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Berry, Cone, Love, Titsworth, Weber, Jones

ITEM 1266 Consider, take action and vote for the approval or disapproval of the Payment Register for the month of November 2024. – Micah Gardner

Ms. Bridget Patterson presented the payment register for the month of November 2024. She stated it had been provided to the Board for their review and staff recommended this item for approval.

It was moved by Mr. Cone and seconded by Ms. Weber that the Authority approve this item as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Berry, Cone, Love, Titsworth, Weber, Jones

ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION ITEM(S)

ITEM 1267 Consider, take action and vote for the approval or disapproval of the following Change Order(s)/Supplemental Agreements. – Jeff Garder

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Time</u>
1. C-MC-30, CO #3	Frontier Bridge, Inc.	\$308,295.77	0 Days

Mr. Jeff Garder presented this item to the Board as summarized above. He stated staff had reviewed and recommended this item for approval.

It was moved by Mr. Berry and seconded by Mr. Love that the Authority approve this item as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Berry, Cone, Love, Titsworth, Weber, Jones

ITEM 1268 Consider, take action and vote for the approval or disapproval to declare approximately 25.04 acres in Wagoner County on the Creek and Muskogee Turnpikes as surplus and to authorize the Director to obtain a survey, appraisal and sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the property, including use in a land swap. – Rhonda Powell

Ms. Rhonda Powell presented this item to the Board as summarized above. Ms. Powell noted the Creek Turnpike parcel was purchased in 1999 with two abutting landowners, and the Muskogee Turnpike parcel was purchased in the late 1960's abutted by one landowner. She stated staff had reviewed and recommended this item for approval.

It was moved by Mr. Berry and seconded by Mr. Love that the Authority approve this item as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Berry, Cone, Love, Titsworth, Weber, Jones

ITEM 1269 Consider, take action and vote for the approval or disapproval of the following Purchase Request(s) (accessing State Contract SW106) – Steve Allen

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Fund</u>
1. Premier Truck Group	\$963,784.35	GEN

Mr. Steve Allen presented this item to the Board as summarized above. He stated staff had reviewed and recommended this item for approval. Chairman Jones asked if he knew when the vehicles would be delivered. Mr. Allen stated he did not know of an exact date, but items were currently being received in a timely manner with no back log.

It was moved by Mr. Berry and seconded by Mr. Love that the Authority approve this item as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Berry, Cone, Love, Titsworth, Weber, Jones

ITEM 1270 Consider, take action and vote for the approval or disapproval of the following Purchase Requests (accessing State Contracts SW776 and AC0002) – Steve Allen

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Fund</u>
1. Action Safety Supply	Traffic Striping	NTE \$1,500,000.00	RM
2. CP Integrated Services	Concrete Panel Replacement	NTE \$2,000,000.00	RM

Mr. Steve Allen presented this item to the Board as summarized above. He stated staff had reviewed and recommended this item for approval.

It was moved by Mr. Berry and seconded by Mr. Love that the Authority approve this item as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Berry, Cone, Love, Titsworth, Weber, Jones

VII. REPORTS: *INFORMATION ONLY – NO BUSINESS WILL BE TRANSACTED*

Item #1. Highway Patrol Report

Major Garrett Vowell presented the OHP report for the month of November. Turnpike Troopers made 4,024 violator contacts and assisted 915 motorists. There were 208 motor vehicle collisions investigated with two fatalities reported on the Turner (1), and Cherokee (1) Turnpikes. Eight drug interdictions were reported on the Turner (3), Kilpatrick (1), and Will Rogers (4) Turnpikes. Major Vowell stated that the information for aircraft, motorcycle enforcement and toll enforcement was provided in the monthly report.

Item #2. Consulting Engineer Report

Mr. Jimmy Sparks presented the Consulting Engineer Report. Concerning the Trust requirements, Mr. Sparks discussed how Olsson’s annual report contained findings that the Turnpike System had been maintained in good repair and in working order and condition. Olsson’s recommendations were proper maintenance, repair, and operations of the System, insurance to be carried under provisions of the Trust Agreement, and the amount that should be in the Reserve Maintenance fund to be reinvested back into the System.

Mr. Sparks continued his report by highlighting that within the 2025 Annual Report inspection cycle, Olsson would inspect bridges on the H.E. Bailey, Indian Nation, Gilcrease, JKT, and Will Rogers Turnpikes. Additionally, inspectors would perform walk around inspections on the remainder of the System, including the Gilcrease Expressway and portions of bridges owned by ODOT. OTA currently owned over 900 bridges that were inspected annually. Additionally, Olsson would inspect the culverts on the Chickasaw, Cimarron, Creek, Indian Nation, Kickapoo, and Turner Turnpikes, as well as the pavements and toll facilities on the System. With the maintenance and reinvestment, the entire System continued to operate and perform at very high standards.

Mr. Sparks concluded by saying for the month of December, Olsson Engineers had checked 42 special overload trucks for travel on the System. There were no special inspections.

Item #3. Trustee Report

Ms. Rachel Singleton stated as the Bond Trustee to the Authority, all monthly debt service transfers were made for the semi-annual payments due to the Bondholders, as required by the Trust Agreement. The semi-annual interest and annual principal payments were made on January 2, 2025, to the Bondholders, as a requirement to the Trust Agreement. To the Trustee's knowledge, all other requirements set forth in the Trust Agreement had been satisfied.

Item #4. Operating Results and Financial Condition

Ms. Smith reminded the Board Members that they should have received their Operations Report for November prepared by the Comptroller Division. OTA continued to be in a strong financial position and in compliance with its Trust Indenture as the Trustee reported earlier in the meeting. Net toll revenues for November 2024 on the Oklahoma Turnpike System reported at \$34.8 million, an increase of 11.0% as compared to November of 2023. Total transactions grew by 2.1% as compared to last year with heavy truck traffic continuing to remain strong over that same period. Additionally, year to date toll revenues continue to outpace year to date through November 2023 by 7.5%.

Ms. Smith continued, stating that the OTA continued to maintain a conservative approach to spending. Collectively for the year, division managers held revenue fund operating expenses to 19.7% under the 2024 operating and maintenance budget. The OTA continued to steadily achieve and exceed its Trust-required senior and total debt service ratios. As the OTA has historically done, it will continue to make monitoring of the System's traffic and revenue a top priority and respond accordingly to changes in both traffic counts and composition of such traffic.

The Gilcrease transactions continue to climb. The Gilcrease Turnpike had been open for slightly more than two years. New turnpikes have a ramp up period that can take five years to level out. The Gilcrease Turnpike is no exception. Daily transactions for the Gilcrease Turnpike have increased over 25% compared to last November, going from an average of 21,536 per day in November 2023 to 26,826 per day in November 2024. The Gilcrease is a commuter turnpike with weekday average daily traffic reaching just over 29,000 per day as compared to weekend average daily traffic reaching just over 20,000 per day. The public continues to discover this route as an alternative to the construction along I-244 in Tulsa.

Item #5. Director Report

Director Echelle began his report by showing a Year in Review video for the Board and audience. The video highlighted some of the milestones and accomplishments that OTA achieved in 2024. He emphasized two major events. First, the tornado that hit Sulphur on April 27, 2024. OTA assisted in the debris clean up from May 1st through May 8th, with 13 operators and 430 loads of debris hauled off. Second, the eclipse that occurred in April of 2024. This event brought additional traffic into Southeast Oklahoma on the Indian Nation Turnpike. This allowed OTA to partner with vendors to ensure there were plenty of supplies available, such as fuel.

Director Echelle continued his report by saying the OTA planned to go into the bond market later in the month. Bonds were sold in late 2023, and much of that money had been utilized. Mr. Echelle anticipated the remainder of the \$500 million bond issuance would be spent in the coming months. OTA expected to receive credit ratings from S&P, Fitch, and Moody's. This would allow OTA to post their official statement and enter the bond market. He stated there was also a marketing tour planned at the end of the month. Additionally, he highlighted that Oklahomans had the opportunity to purchase bonds as well.

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Director Echelle continued by inviting Ms. Ladan Nelson to the podium to give an update on ACCESS Oklahoma with a six month look back and a six month look ahead on the program.

Ms. Ladan Nelson began her update by stating OTA had numerous items that were done the previous year with some starting in 2023. Design efforts were able to restart in August. By the end of 2024, there were 25 design task orders that had been provided by designers. That included 30% - 60% design plan submittals. They had also done 25 design plan reviews for those 30% - 60% plans. OTA has a great team that has been conducting QA/QC through each various milestone for each project. With those 60% plans, which equals the 100% plans for our right of way teams, our right of way teams have been reviewing them and making comments. From there OTA begins to acquire property and move utilities. That includes everything that is on our System and for the new alignments that we have. Todd Gore and his right of way team have been working vigilantly with all the utility coordinators and with the property owners.

Ms. Nelson continued by discussing stakeholder engagement. There have been over 30 stakeholder engagement meetings throughout 2024, which included various municipalities and cities such as the City of Bristow, City of Oklahoma City, and Lincoln County. OTA typically brought them in at the 30% plan review. It was vital to let the city partners be a part of the plans. With every milestone submittal that was approved, the stakeholders were brought back in to show them all the updates.

Ms. Nelson gave an update on the current construction projects beginning with the Bristow project on the Turner Turnpike, which was a \$98 million project that was 40% complete. OTA was widening that project from mile marker 197 – 203. Currently, traffic was switched over to the outside on the east two miles and was progressively moving towards the west. Also, there was a new interchange opened at Heyburn. The Heyburn ramps were opened on December 19, 2024. That allowed the opening of three of the four ramps with the westbound ramp set to open in the summer of 2025. This was a vital project since it provided the traveling public and emergency response an alternate route. Ms. Nelson discussed the conveyor belt system, which included a conveyor bridge that was on the Turner Turnpike that spanned over the westbound movement and was set to be erected by the end of January 2025. It would allow over 83,000 cubic yards of concrete. The number of trucks that haul concrete is alarming because they must try to catch up to the speed of other traffic. This was a major safety concern and this innovation that was provided by the contractor would help eliminate any crashes within the work zone. Next, she discussed the Wellston project on I-44 Turner Turnpike at SH 66. This is a joint venture with the Department of Transportation as there is a plan to install a new iconic structure at SH 66. Additionally, OTA had a joint venture with the Arts Council for 'Art in Public Places' where local Oklahoma artists will be putting their artwork on the 66 bridge as part of the Route 66 Centennial celebration.

Ms. Nelson continued her update with the John Kilpatrick Turnpike. A project had been let the previous year, and it was awarded to C3 Construction for \$15 million for the widening of the John Kilpatrick Turnpike to six lanes from I-35 to Eastern. That project was set to begin on January 13, 2025. Additionally, a new project would begin on the Indian Nation Turnpike. There will be a new interchange added at Indianola making it a full diamond interchange, which will benefit Indianola because they could travel to and from the Indian Nation Turnpike instead of having to go around to other access points. That project is set to have an August 2025 letting. The next project will be on the Muskogee Turnpike with a full reconstruction of the pavement from mile marker 12 – 19 near Coweta. This project was awarded in December 2024 and was set to begin in March 2025. It will be narrowed down to one lane during construction and should take a year to complete. The last project she discussed was on the Creek Turnpike for the Haikey Creek bridge. This project was set to have a June 2025 letting. It had a superstructure, which would result in a deck replacement. The plan was to replace the concrete beams but leave the steel beams in place.

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Director Echelle continued his report by sharing the OTA's support of the distracted driving awareness campaign that was coming up later in the month. OHP has a two-week public awareness campaign against distracted driving. In 2015, Trooper Nick Dees was tragically killed by a distracted driver while investigating a crash scene on I-40 near Shawnee. On November 1, 2015, a law went into effect making it unlawful for any person to operate a vehicle in Oklahoma while texting and driving. Mr. Echelle wanted to remember Trooper Dees, his family, and all others who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.

Director Echelle concluded his report by discussing the upcoming winter weather. He stated that the OTA was prepared and ready to respond with 190 maintenance workers who were ready to help. Maintenance crews had 80,000 tons of salt and 15,000 tons of sand on hand. Also, there were 100 plow trucks that were capable and operable to work the storms. For safety reasons, Mr. Echelle reminded the public to stay home, if possible, slow down, and not to pass any snowplows. Also, to download the app 'Drive Oklahoma' or go to www.okroads.org for the most accurate road conditions.

Mr. Cone commented he was excited about the work currently being done with ACCESS Oklahoma and the future projects ahead. Director Echelle stated he was glad to see the work being done and the safety improvements it would bring.

Chairman Jones asked for update on the status of the tribal compact negotiations with the State of Oklahoma as it related to OTA. Director Echelle answered by stating the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations both had a tribal licensing compact through Service Oklahoma or the Oklahoma DMV, so that gave OTA access to look at their tribal license plates. There was a bill introduced last year to get access to the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (OLETS), but the bill failed and was to be reintroduced in the next Legislative Session. Over the past two years, OTA had been visiting with the various tribes routinely. Since 2024, OTA had made direct agreements with the Miami Tribe and the Sac and Fox Nation to share data. The Governor's office had entered negotiations with the Cherokee Nation with an addendum for the OTA to receive their data. The OTA will continue to work with the other tribes to reach an agreement.

VIII. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Jones called for adjournment to the next Regular Meeting of February 4, 2025. It was moved by Ms. Weber and seconded by Mr. Love that the meeting adjourn.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Berry, Cone, Love, Titsworth, Weber, Jones

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.

ATTEST:

Todd A. Cone
Secretary/Treasurer

John D. Jones
Chairman