



PROJECTS and PAYCHECKS

STATE EXAMPLES

On the Road to Recovery 2009

(As of December 31, 2009)

**Number of Recovery
Projects: 269**

**Total State
Expenditures:
\$234,208,057**

**State Web Site for
More Information:
[http://www.okladot.state.
ok.us/recovery/index.htm](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/recovery/index.htm)**

**AASHTO Recovery
Web Site:
recovery.transportation.org**

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*A one-year report on **state
transportation successes**
under the American Recovery
and Reinvestment Act*

February 2010



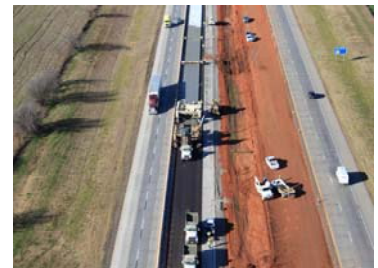
"The ARRA is helping to improve the safety of Oklahoma's highways while providing the opportunity to enhance ODOT's asset preservation program. The stimulus package has helped the department advance its eight-year construction work plan and allowed projects to move forward years before they were scheduled to be built."

—Gary Ridley, DOT Director

Interstate 40 Reconstruction Canadian County, Oklahoma

**Value: \$30 million Recovery Act project and tied to a regular
Federal-Aid project with a value of \$25 million**

I-40 in Canadian County is part of one of the only all-weather interstate components of the highway system that spans the nation, traversing the country from North Carolina to California. The improvements will benefit commerce significantly. This segment was mentioned in a *Parade Magazine* survey of commercial truckers as being one of the roughest roads on the interstate system.



An eight-mile section of Oklahoma's I-40 between Oklahoma City and El Reno is being improved.

How ARRA Affected the Jobs Picture in My State

Typically, individuals including construction managers, heavy equipment operators, truck drivers, welders, mechanics and general laborers are considered to be the primary employment pools for highway construction.

- John Avino worked for a road and bridge construction contractor in Orlando, Fla. for 12 years when he was laid off shortly after Thanksgiving 2008. Due to a decline in work, his company shut down its road construction division. John, who had 20 years of experience in environmental and



OKLAHOMA

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Interstate 40 Reconstruction Canadian County, Oklahoma *(continued)*

civil engineering, was off work for a few months when he responded to a newspaper ad, interviewed and was hired by TTK Construction in mid-April. John is currently a project manager on a project in Pauls Valley. John, who has a wife and five kids still in Florida, is currently struggling to sell their house so they can all move to Oklahoma. He said he was drawn to Oklahoma because of the better quality of life.

- After nine years as sales manager for the Dolese Bros. Co.'s aggregates division in Oklahoma City, Kermit Frank is in a position to have a "big picture" view of the day-to-day effects of the stimulus package. This past winter, managers consider reducing the amount of aggregates normally stockpiled. At the same time, the stimulus package appeared on the horizon. With that in mind, Dolese held to its normal winter pace, stockpiling materials for use in stimulus-related projects. Thus, instead of reducing staff and work hours, Dolese was able to retain all of its 1,100 employees, saving jobs and avoiding layoffs.
- Scott Thompson, a member of the field party (on the Survey Crew) for the Clinton Residency project, has proved to be a valuable asset who might not have been "discovered" without the recent stimulus funds program. Scott has held a variety of jobs in the past - everything from working in a furniture store to doing paint and body work at the Freightliner manufacturing company in Clinton, Okla. He had the unfortunate experience of being laid off from Freightliner, so applied for the ODOT job. He was hired April 1.

When Scott joined ODOT, he was asked to assist on the Survey Crew. Early on in his job at ODOT, Scott was asked to collect measurements covering about a 1-mile stretch of roadway to determine how much of the roadway contained shoulder narrower than 30 inches. To gather this data, crew members ordinarily would use a GPS, which requires using a rod and continually setting up a GPS. Although he had no survey experience, Scott created (on his own time) a "template" -- a contraption with wheels with a circumference of 30 inches, the needed measurement, that could be rolled along the shoulder from a standing position, making the measuring job much easier. With Scott's "invention," a job that what normally would have taken an entire day to do took only a couple of hours!

So the new hires aren't the only one benefitting from the stimulus package, the employers -- and taxpayers -- are often getting a good deal too!