



The members of Transportation Revenues Used Strictly for Transportation (TRUST) renew their full support of ACCESS Oklahoma which is enhancing Oklahoma's surface transportation infrastructure through expansion and upgrades to the statewide toll network operated by the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA).

The ACCESS program has addressed traffic needs within projects already completed since it was announced in 2022. Two of those projects are the interchange at Flint Road on the Will Rogers Turnpike (I-44) and the interchange access at SH-66 on the Turner Turnpike (I-44) near Kellyville. TRUST renews its support for projects in the Cleveland County area while commending Cleveland County commissioners for facilitating the addition of frontage roads and access points on the East-West Connector in north Norman. The South Extension Turnpike is one of the final pieces of the ACCESS program and a necessary facility that will in alleviating traffic congestion on I-35 and provide additional access to the Norman area, one of Oklahoma's fastest growing communities and home to The University of Oklahoma's main campus.

ACCESS projects are much needed but cannot be constructed by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) due to declining revenue sources and high volume of maintenance needs within their existing system. Turnpikes are constructed without financial burden to taxpayers and provide access to many smaller communities, often generating accompanying economic development projects. The OTA is highly-rated financially nationwide and its fiscal responsibility protects taxpayers from the additional burden of tax-supported highways.

As Oklahoma's population continues to increase, especially in urban areas, transportation leaders must look forward in developing a surface transportation network that moves Oklahomans safely and efficiently throughout the state but also visitors and commercial traffic. Oklahoma's toll network, including ACCESS Oklahoma, compliments ODOT's work in a manner that provides Oklahomans a choice in which highways they choose to travel. ACCESS projects will advance Oklahoma's overall highway network to accommodate increased vehicular traffic that is occurring now and will continue well into the future.