



Oklahoma Transportation Authority

3500 Martin Luther King Avenue

P.O. Box 11357

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73136-0357

405-425-3600

Contact: E. Michelle Paul, APR

OTA Director of Public Relations

405-425-3610

BREAKING NEWS: The PIKEPASS lanes will be open to traffic today Friday, April 19, 2002 at 3 p.m.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

JANUARY 31, 2001

BRISTOW SIDE GATE OPENS THURSDAY ON TURNER TURNPIKE

(BRISTOW, Okla.) -- The Oklahoma Transportation Authority (OTA) will open the first of 11 renovated side gates at Bristow on the Turner Turnpike Thursday afternoon. The new side gates will feature free-flowing PIKEPASS lanes, updated toll collector booths, aesthetically pleasing canopies that provide a “welcome gate” to the community, and faster, more efficient service.

“We are very pleased to provide better and faster service to our customers who access Turner Turnpike through the Bristow gate,” said Holly Lowe, OTA Acting Director and Chief Financial Officer.

The PIKEPASS lanes at Bristow are still under construction and will not open to traffic until all construction work in the area has been completed. In the meantime, PIKEPASS users must also pass through cash toll lanes. Electronic PIKEPASS readers are positioned in cash lanes so PIKEPASS customers will not have to stop at the tollbooth, unless they encounter a cash customer in the middle of a transaction.

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“The previous gate was nearly 50 years old,” Lowe added. “ It was installed when the Turner Turnpike was completed in 1953.

“ We feel certain that our PIKEPASS customers are ready and waiting for the PIKEPASS lanes to open at the Bristow Gate. When that occurs they will experience non-stop travel.”

The PIKEPASS lanes will be located on the outside of the canopy structure. This area has been used as the detour route during construction of the new facility.

Remaining work includes removing detour lanes, paving PIKEPASS lanes, removing the temporary tollbooth and installing additional highway lighting.

Work will be completed in the area and all lanes will be fully opened this spring.

Work has already begun on a new side gate at the Big Cabin exit on Will Rogers Turnpike. Gates at Chandler and Miami have been planned and construction should begin this summer. The fifth and sixth gates are in the final stages of design work and will be located at Kellyville and Claremore. Locations of other gates in the project will be announced soon.

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