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BIG CABIN SIDE GATE OPENS MONDAY ON WILL ROGERS TURNPIKE

(BIG CABIN, Okla.) -- The Oklahoma Transportation Authority (OTA) will open the second of 11 renovated side gates at Big Cabin on Will Rogers Turnpike Monday by noon. The new side gates 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 service to our customers who access Will Rogers Turnpike through the Big Cabin gate,” said Holly Lowe, OTA Acting Director and Chief Financial Officer.

The access ramp from the turnpike will remain under construction for approximately 30 days, but a temporary ramp will provide motorists with access to the new gate, which features three toll collector booths and non-stop PIKEPASS lanes.

Electronic PIKEPASS readers prevent PIKEPASS customers from having to stop at the tollbooth. PIKEPASS users receive a discount off the cash toll price, as well as frequent-user discounts.

“The previous gate was nearly 45 years old,” Lowe added. “It was installed when the Will Rogers was completed in 1957.

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

PIKEPASS lanes will be located on the outside of the canopy structure. PIKEPASS devices may be ordered by calling 1-800-PIKEPAS, or accessing the web site at www.pikepass.com.

Remaining work includes removing detour lanes, demolishing the old tollbooth structure, paving the access road, and installing additional highway lighting.

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

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EDITOR’S NOTE: Turnpike officials will be on hand at the Big Cabin Toll Gate at 10:30 a.m. to answer media questions, though no formal ceremony will be held. The gates will be open to traffic by noon. Please contact Michelle Paul with questions at 405-425-3610, office, or 405-206-0005, mobile.