

## TRANSPORTATION

### STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT PLEASED WITH UNANIMOUS VOTE

■(GIT) Out of the approximately \$280 million in new money for Oklahoma, the Department of Transportation could receive \$27 million. HB2667 would re-appropriate funds from the Oklahoma Vehicle License and Registration Act to the General Revenue Fund and the State Transportation Fund. The measure passed unanimously in the House Tuesday. If it becomes law, the State Department of Transportation could construct a five-year statewide improvement plan.

The measure, authored by Rep. Fred Stanley, D-Madill, would take 3/10th's of 1 percent to 5.3 percent from the general fund. The funds would then be credited to the State Transportation Fund through the Treasurer's Office. State Secretary of Transportation, Neal McCaleb said that most of the funds will go toward the construction projects. "We could add a few people to maintenance, but we would be reluctant to add administrative positions," he said.

McCaleb explained that over the last five years, the department has lost funds. "This would restore lost federal funding." To compensate, he explained that the department had reduced its employees by 20 percent. However, contracts increased by 50 percent.

If the bill passes on the Senate floor and the governor signs it into law, the department will start receiving the money in 1997.

Monday, the Transportation Commission met and adopted a resolution including HB2667, plus several other measures.

FROM: MARTA MCCLOSKEY

DATE: 03/05/96

## TOURISM & RECREATION

### REGIONAL MANAGERS TO KEEP THEIR JOBS, DEPARTMENT CALLING FOR ELIMINATION OF CLERICAL POSITIONS

■(GIT) Representatives from the State Tourism and Recreation Department said they would not eliminate the State's Regional Offices, however, they will redirect the clerical functions of those offices. Members of the Senate Tourism and Recreation Committee heard the proposed plan from Executive Director of the Tourism and Recreation Department, Ed Cook.

Monday, Cook said the elimination of the ten clerical positions would give an added \$300,000 directly to maintenance. Maintenance for the state's 53 parks has an annual budget of approximately \$700,000.

Cook explained that the ten employees currently in clerical positions at the regional facilities would remain with the department. The positions will be eliminated through attrition. The four regional managers would remain at their posts in the four quadrants outlining the state, along with park superintendents.

Cook said that the department is in the process of modernizing equipment for those facilities and has completed necessary employee training for those systems.

In the last five years, Cook said the department has saved money by increasing fees and through the process of attrition. "The maintenance situation is critical. If we do not do something, we will not be able to maintain our parks," he said.

FROM: MARTA MCCLOSKEY

DATE: 03/04/96