

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1860

By: Standridge

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to turnpikes; amending 69 O.S. 2021, Section 1705, as amended by Section 572, Chapter 486, O.S.L. 2025 (69 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 1705), which relates to the powers and duties of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority; clarifying legislative intent; limiting certain powers of the Authority; updating statutory language; updating statutory references; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 69 O.S. 2021, Section 1705, as amended by Section 572, Chapter 486, O.S.L. 2025 (69 O.S. Supp. 2025, Section 1705), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1705. The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is hereby authorized and empowered:

- (a) To adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and conduct of its business.
- (b) To adopt an official seal and alter the same at pleasure.
- (c) To maintain an office at such place or places within the state as it may designate.

1 (d) To sue and be sued in contract, reverse condemnation,
2 equity, mandamus, and similar actions in its own name, plead and be
3 impleaded; provided, that any and all actions at law or in equity
4 against the Authority shall be brought in the county in which the
5 principal office of the Authority shall be located, or in the county
6 of the residence of the plaintiff, or the county where the cause of
7 action arose. All privileges granted to the Authority and duties
8 enjoined upon the Authority by the provisions of Sections 1701
9 through ~~1734~~ 1736 of this title may be enforced in a court of
10 competent jurisdiction in an action in mandamus.

11 (e) To construct, maintain, repair, and operate turnpike
12 projects ~~and highways~~, with their access and connecting roads, at
13 such locations and on such routes as ~~it shall determine~~ determined
14 to be feasible and economically sound; provided, that until
15 specifically authorized by the Legislature, the Authority shall be
16 authorized to construct and operate toll turnpikes only at the
17 following locations and routes:

18 (1) The Turner Turnpike between Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

19 (2) The Southwestern (H.E. Bailey) Turnpike between Oklahoma
20 City and Wichita Falls, Texas.

21 (3) The Northeastern (Will Rogers) Turnpike between Tulsa and
22 Joplin, Missouri.
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1 (4) The Eastern (Indian Nation) Turnpike between Tulsa and
2 Paris, Texas, including all or any part thereof between McAlester
3 and the Red River south of Hugo.

4 (5) The Cimarron Turnpike between Tulsa and Interstate Highway
5 35 north of Perry, including a connection to Stillwater.

6 (6) The Muskogee Turnpike between Broken Arrow and Interstate
7 Highway 40 west of Webbers Falls.

8 (7) All or any part of an extension of the Muskogee Turnpike,
9 beginning at a point on Interstate Highway 40 near the present south
10 terminus of the Muskogee Turnpike, and extending in a southeasterly
11 direction on an alignment near Stigler, Poteau, and Heavener to the
12 vicinity of the Arkansas ~~State Line~~ state line to furnish access to
13 Hot Springs, Texarkana, Shreveport, and New Orleans.

14 (8) A tollgate on the Turner Turnpike in the vicinity of
15 Luther, Oklahoma, and in the vicinity of the intersection of State
16 Highway 33 and Turner Turnpike in Creek County, Oklahoma, or in the
17 vicinity of the intersection of State Highway 33 and Turner Turnpike
18 or U.S. Highway 66 in Creek County, Oklahoma, from any monies
19 available to the Authority.

20 (9) Add on the Will Rogers Turnpike a northbound automatic
21 tollgate onto State Highway 28 and a southbound on-ramp from State
22 Highway 28.

23 (10) A turnpike or any part or parts thereof beginning in the
24 vicinity of Duncan extending east to the vicinity of the City of
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1 Davis, and extending in a northeasterly direction, by way of the
2 vicinity of the City of Ada, to a connection in the vicinity of
3 Henryetta or in the vicinity of the intersection of State Highway 48
4 and Interstate 40; and a turnpike or any part or parts thereof from
5 the vicinity of Snyder extending north to the vicinity of Woodward.

6 (11) A turnpike or any part or parts thereof beginning at a
7 point in the vicinity of Ponca City, or at a point on the Kansas-
8 Oklahoma state boundary line east of the Arkansas River and west of
9 the point where ~~Oklahoma~~ State Highway ~~No. 18~~ intersects ~~said~~ such
10 state boundary line, and extending in a southeasterly direction to a
11 connection with the Tulsa Urban Expressway System in the general
12 area of the Port of Catoosa.

13 (12) All or any part of an Oklahoma City toll expressway system
14 connecting the residential, industrial, and State Capitol Complex in
15 the north part of Oklahoma City with the residential, industrial,
16 and Will Rogers World Airport Complex in the south and southwest
17 parts of Oklahoma City.

18 (13) A turnpike (The Industrial Parkway) or any part or parts
19 thereof beginning at a point on the Oklahoma-Kansas state boundary
20 line between the point where U.S. Highway 66 intersects the boundary
21 line and the northeast corner of Oklahoma and ending by means of a
22 connection or connections with Shreveport, Louisiana, and Houston,
23 Texas, in southeastern Oklahoma and at no point to exceed thirty
24 (30) miles west of the Missouri or Arkansas border.

1 (14) A turnpike or any part or parts thereof beginning in the
2 vicinity of Velma or ~~County Line~~ Countyline to a point intersecting
3 with Interstate 35 in the area south of Davis.

4 (15) A turnpike or any part or parts thereof beginning in the
5 vicinity of Watonga and extending south ~~and/or~~ or east to the
6 vicinity of north ~~and/or~~ or west Oklahoma City.

7 (16) A tollgate on the Will Rogers Turnpike near the
8 intersection of State Highway 137 and the Will Rogers Turnpike,
9 located south of Quapaw.

10 (17) A tollgate on the Muskogee Turnpike in the vicinity of
11 Porter, Oklahoma, a tollgate on the Will Rogers Turnpike in the
12 vicinity of Adair, Oklahoma, a tollgate on the Turner Turnpike in
13 the vicinity of Luther, Oklahoma, and a tollgate on the H.E. Bailey
14 Turnpike at Elgin, Oklahoma, from any monies available to the
15 Authority.

16 (18) A tollgate on the Turner Turnpike in the vicinity of
17 Wellston, Oklahoma, from any monies available to the Authority.

18 (19) A tollgate on the Muskogee Turnpike in the vicinity of
19 Brushy Mountain, Oklahoma, and in the vicinity of Elm Grove,
20 Oklahoma, from any monies available to the Authority.

21 (20) All or any part of an Oklahoma City Outer Loop expressway
22 system beginning in the vicinity of ~~I-35~~ Interstate 35 and the
23 Turner Turnpike and extending west into Canadian County and then
24 south to ~~I-40~~ Interstate 40; and then south and east to ~~I-35~~

1 Interstate 35 in the vicinity of Moore and Norman; and then
2 extending east and north to ~~I-40~~ Interstate 40 east of Tinker Field;
3 and then extending north to the Turner Turnpike to complete the
4 Outer Loop.

5 (21) All or any part of the Tulsa south bypass expressway
6 system beginning in the vicinity of the Turner Turnpike near Sapulpa
7 and extending south and east to U.S. Highway 75 in the vicinity of
8 96th Street to 121st Street; and then east across the Arkansas River
9 to a connection with the Mingo Valley Expressway; and then south
10 ~~and/or~~ or east to a point on the Tulsa-Wagoner ~~County Line~~ county
11 line near 131st Street south in the ~~city~~ City of Broken Arrow.

12 (22) A new turnpike or any part thereof from near the west gate
13 of the Will Rogers Turnpike south to the west end of south Tulsa
14 Turnpike at the Tulsa-Wagoner ~~County Line~~ county line.

15 (23) A new turnpike or any parts thereof from the vicinity of
16 the connection between State Highway 33 and U.S. Highway 69 easterly
17 to the Arkansas ~~State Line~~ state line.

18 (24) A four-lane extension of the Muskogee Turnpike from
19 Interstate ~~Highway~~ 40 west of Webbers Falls to the Poteau vicinity.

20 (25) A new turnpike or any part or parts thereof beginning at a
21 point in the vicinity of northwest Tulsa, and extending in a
22 northwesterly direction, by means of a connection or connections
23 with the cities of Pawhuska and Newkirk, to a point intersecting in
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1 the vicinity of U.S. Highway ~~No.~~ 77 and the Kansas ~~State Line~~ state
2 line.

3 (26) A full access interchange on the Indian Nation Turnpike
4 south of Interstate 40, in the vicinity of Henryetta, Oklahoma, and
5 in the vicinity of the proposed theme park, museum, or an industrial
6 facility which qualifies for the Oklahoma Quality Jobs Program Act,
7 from any monies available to the Authority.

8 (27) A new turnpike beginning at a point directly west of the
9 Arkansas line and four-laning U.S. Highway 70 from that point to the
10 farthest western reach within the bounds of Oklahoma of U.S. Highway
11 70 creating a southern route through Oklahoma.

12 (28) A new turnpike and bridge or any parts thereof from a
13 point in the vicinity of the ~~city~~ City of Mustang southerly across
14 the South Canadian River to the H.E. Bailey Turnpike in the vicinity
15 of the ~~city~~ City of Tuttle; and then easterly across the South
16 Canadian River to a point in the vicinity of the ~~city~~ City of
17 Norman.

18 (29) A new turnpike or any parts thereof beginning at a point
19 in the vicinity of the ~~city~~ City of Altus and extending in a
20 northwesterly direction to a point in the vicinity of the ~~city~~ City
21 of Sayre.

22 (30) A new turnpike or any parts thereof beginning at a point
23 in the vicinity of the ~~city~~ City of Enid and extending in a westerly
24 direction to a point in the vicinity of the ~~city~~ City of Woodward.

1 (31) An on- and off-ramp or any parts thereof at Fletcher,
2 Oklahoma, in the vicinity of the Interstate 44 and State Highway 277
3 intersection. Any existing on- or off-ramp or any parts thereof in
4 the vicinity of Fletcher, Oklahoma, shall not be removed and shall
5 be maintained pursuant to Section 1701 et seq. of this title.

6 (32) A new bridge crossing the Arkansas River between South
7 Delaware Avenue and Memorial Drive in Tulsa County. This project
8 shall commence upon a determination by the Oklahoma ~~Transportation~~
9 Turnpike Authority that such bridge shall be self-sufficient at some
10 point over a thirty-year time period from the toll charges
11 associated with the bridge project.

12 (33) An exit ramp or any parts thereof from the eastbound lane
13 of the Turner Turnpike at 96th Street in Tulsa.

14 (34) An on- and off-ramp or any parts thereof on the Cimarron
15 Turnpike in the vicinity of the northside of the Glencoe, Oklahoma,
16 municipal limits.

17 (35) A new turnpike or any parts thereof beginning at
18 Interstate 44 at or near its intersection with 49th West Avenue,
19 past ~~State~~ U.S. Highway 64/412, turning northeasterly, crossing 41st
20 West Avenue, and continuing eastward to the L.L. Tisdale Expressway
21 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

22 It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Legislature that
23 the Legislature, through duly enacted legislation, and not the
24 Authority, shall have the sole discretion to authorize and determine

1 the location and overall route of a toll turnpike in this state.
2 Courts shall not give deference to any interpretation of this
3 section by the Authority and shall instead construe this section
4 independently according to its plain and ordinary meaning.

5 The language set forth in any turnpike route authorization in
6 this subsection, or elsewhere in this section, is to be construed
7 according to its plain meaning as mandatory, and not discretionary,
8 for the Authority. All directional and other limitations and
9 descriptions contained in any toll turnpike location or route
10 authorization are mandatory limits on the Authority's powers and not
11 discretionary guidelines. The Authority shall abide by the plain
12 and ordinary language of such limits and shall not have the
13 discretion or power to build turnpikes in places, directions, or
14 locations other than those expressly and specifically authorized
15 herein. Any rule of construction contained in this section or
16 elsewhere shall not be employed in variance or conflict with the
17 intent of the Legislature as expressed herein.

18 All access roads, interchanges, or lead roads connecting such
19 turnpikes with existing highways must be built by funds furnished by
20 the Authority.

21 The minimum and maximum wages for the construction of the roads,
22 highways and projects provided for in Sections 1701 through ~~1734~~
23 1736 of this title shall be in accordance with the schedules of
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1 wages used or adopted by the Commission in construction of state
2 highways.

3 The Authority is hereby authorized to enter into contracts or
4 agreements with agencies and instrumentalities of other states or
5 the national government for construction, maintenance, and operation
6 of interstate turnpikes or highways.

7 The Authority is hereby required to construct and install
8 automatic tollgates on the Will Rogers Turnpike at State Highway No.
9 28 near Adair.

10 (f) To issue turnpike revenue bonds of the Authority, payable
11 solely from revenues, including the revenues accruing to the trust
12 fund created by Sections 1701 through ~~1734~~ 1736 of this title, for
13 the purpose of paying all or any part of the cost of any one or more
14 turnpike projects. Provided that any bonds issued for the
15 construction of the proposed turnpike referred to in subparagraphs
16 (10), (20), (21), and (22) of paragraph (e) of this section shall be
17 issued as one issue for all four of the proposed turnpikes and shall
18 be financed, constructed, and operated under one bond indenture.

19 (g) To fix and revise from time to time tolls for the use of
20 any turnpike projects.

21 Any common carrier having authority at the time of opening any
22 turnpike project to operate upon a highway approximately paralleling
23 the turnpike project shall be granted without further showing
24 authority to operate over the turnpike project to all municipalities

1 which such carrier is serving at the time the turnpike project is
2 opened to traffic. But nothing herein shall be construed as
3 granting any new operation rights to any common carriers.

4 (h) To acquire, hold, and dispose of real and personal property
5 in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties.

6 (i) To acquire in the name of the Authority by purchase or
7 otherwise on such terms and conditions and in such manner as it may
8 deem proper, or by exercise of the right of condemnation in manner
9 hereinafter provided, such public or private lands, including public
10 parks, playgrounds, or reservations, or parts thereof or rights
11 therein, rights-of-way, property, rights, easements, and interests,
12 as it may deem necessary for carrying out the provisions of Sections
13 1701 through ~~1734~~ 1736 of this title; provided, that all public
14 property damaged in carrying out the powers granted by Sections 1701
15 through ~~1734~~ 1736 of this title shall be restored or repaired and
16 placed in its original condition as nearly as practicable.

17 (j) To designate, except as is provided for herein, the
18 location, and establish, limit, and control such points of ingress
19 to and egress from each turnpike project as may be necessary or
20 desirable in the judgment of the Authority to ~~insure~~ ensure the
21 proper operation and maintenance of such project, and to prohibit
22 entrance to such project from any point or points not so designated.
23 The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed as an
24 independent or additional source of authority to construct a toll

1 turnpike at any location or route other than those expressly
2 authorized by the Legislature in subsection (e) of this section.

3 (k) To make and enter into all contracts and agreements
4 necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the
5 execution of its powers, and to employ consulting engineers,
6 attorneys, accountants, construction and financial experts,
7 superintendents, managers, and such other employees and agents as
8 may be necessary in its judgment, and to fix their compensation;
9 provided, that all such expenses shall be payable solely from the
10 proceeds of turnpike revenue bonds issued under the provisions of
11 Sections 1701 through ~~1734~~ 1736 of this title or from revenues;
12 provided, further, no attorney employed by the Authority, nor any
13 member of any law firm of which the attorney may be connected, shall
14 ever be paid any fee or compensation for any special or
15 extraordinary services.

16 (l) To receive and accept from any federal agency grants for or
17 in aid of the construction of any turnpike project, provided, the
18 acceptance of such grants will not reduce the amount of federal aid
19 for the construction, repair, or maintenance of farm-to-market roads
20 and other highways and bridges in this state; and to receive and
21 accept aid or contributions from any source of either money,
22 property, labor, or other things of value, to be held, used, and
23 applied only for the purposes for which such grants and
24 contributions may be made.

1 (m) To adopt such rules, and to do any and all things necessary
2 to comply with rules, regulations, or requirements of the ~~Bureau of~~
3 ~~Public Roads, Multistate Economic Development Regional Commission,~~
4 ~~as defined in Sections 1151 through 1153, inclusive, of Title 74 of~~
5 ~~the Oklahoma Statutes, Ozarka Region Commission~~ Federal Highway
6 Administration or any other federal agency administering any law
7 enacted by the Congress of the United States to aid or encourage the
8 construction of highways.

9 (n) To do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the
10 powers expressly granted in Sections 1701 through ~~1734~~ 1736 of this
11 title. The design standards for all paving shall comply with the
12 design standards of the American Association of State Highway and
13 Transportation Officials as modified by the ~~Oklahoma~~ Department of
14 Transportation. All contracts for construction work on turnpike
15 projects shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder, or bidders,
16 after notice by publication in a newspaper published in the county
17 where the work is to be done in two consecutive weekly issues of the
18 newspaper. In all cases where more than eight (8) miles of
19 construction is let at the same time and is not an advertisement for
20 a surface-treatment-only project, such advertisement shall provide
21 for bids on sections of the turnpike not to exceed eight (8) miles.
22 If the project advertised is a surface-treatment-only project of
23 more than twenty (20) miles of road, the advertisement shall provide
24 for bids on sections of the road no longer than twenty (20) miles,

1 as well as bids on the project as a whole. Subject to the following
2 restrictions and limitations, the Authority shall, when contracting
3 for construction work, divide such work into paving projects, bridge
4 projects, including underpasses and overpasses, and earthmoving or
5 miscellaneous projects, according to the type of work to be done.

6 Each project shall be let under a separate contract or contracts and
7 no contract or project shall include more than one of such types of
8 construction work. Each contract for construction work shall
9 contain a provision that ninety percent (90%) of all labor employed
10 on the project shall be residents of Oklahoma. However, contracts
11 for bridges may include earthwork and structures for the approaches
12 thereto.

13 (o) It shall be unlawful for any member, officer or employee of
14 the Authority to transact with the Authority, either directly or
15 indirectly, any business for profit of such member, officer, or
16 employee; and any person, firm, or corporation knowingly
17 participating therein shall be equally liable for violation of this
18 provision.

19 The term "business for profit" shall include, but not be limited
20 to, the acceptance or payment of any fee, commission, gift, or
21 consideration to such member, officer, or employee.

22 Violation of this provision shall constitute a Class D1 felony
23 offense punishable by incarceration as provided for in subsections B
24 through F of Section 20N of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or a

1 fine ~~of~~ not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and not more
2 than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or both such imprisonment
3 and fine.

4 (p) In the event of a national emergency, the Authority,
5 subject to any vested rights or claims, may enter into contracts
6 with the federal government or any authorized agency thereof to
7 allow the federal government or agency thereof to use such turnpikes
8 partly or exclusively during the existence of such emergency,
9 provided, that the federal government agrees in such contract to
10 pay, during the term of such contract, an amount sufficient, when
11 added to any tolls collected, to meet all operating and maintenance
12 expenses, interest payments, and the minimum sinking fund and
13 reserve requirements of the trust agreement for the turnpike covered
14 by the contract.

15 (q) All meetings of the Authority shall be open public
16 meetings, and all records shall be public records, except when
17 considering personnel or litigation.

18 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
19 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
20 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
21 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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