

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
4 HOUSE BILL NO. 1939

By: Sterling

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7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

8 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority;  
9 amending 69 O.S. 2021, Section 1705, which relates to  
powers and duties of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority;  
10 modifying locations of construction and operation of  
certain turnpikes; requiring submission of certain  
report; requiring certain collaboration; requiring  
11 certain authorizations terminate after five years  
under certain conditions; removing certain  
requirement for automatic tollgates; removing certain  
bond requirement; requiring compensation for certain  
damaged property; requiring Authority adopt certain  
rules and adhere to existing laws; requiring the  
holding of certain meetings; requiring certain  
meeting compliance; detailing certain notice and  
public engagement requirements; authorizing  
additional public meetings if needed; amending 69  
12 O.S. 2021, Section 1718, which relates to the  
judicial determination of validity of bonds; and  
13 providing an effective date.  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

21 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 69 O.S. 2021, Section 1705, is  
22 amended to read as follows:  
23  
24 Section 1705. The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is hereby  
authorized and empowered:

1           (a) To adopt bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and  
2 conduct of its business.

3           (b) To adopt an official seal and alter the same at pleasure.

4           (c) To maintain an office at such place or places within the  
5 state as it may designate.

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

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

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

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

3           (3) The Northeastern (Will Rogers) Turnpike between Tulsa and  
4 Joplin, Missouri.

5           (4) The Eastern (Indian Nation) Turnpike between ~~Tulsa~~  
6 Henryetta and Paris, Texas, including all or any part thereof  
7 between ~~McAlester~~ and the Red River south of Hugo.

8           (5) The Cimarron Turnpike between Tulsa and Interstate Highway  
9 35 north of Perry, including a connection to Stillwater.

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

12          (7) All or any part of an extension of the Muskogee Turnpike,  
13 beginning at a point on Interstate Highway 40 near the present south  
14 terminus of the Muskogee Turnpike, and extending in a southeasterly  
15 direction on an alignment near Stigler, Peteau and Heavener to the  
16 vicinity of the Arkansas State Line to furnish access to Hot  
17 Springs, Texarkana, Shreveport and New Orleans.

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

1           (9) Add on the Will Rogers Turnpike a northbound automatic  
2 tollgate onto State Highway 28 and a southbound on ramp from State  
3 Highway 28.

4           (10) A turnpike (Chickasaw Turnpike) or any part or parts  
5 thereof beginning in the vicinity of Duncan extending east to the  
6 vicinity of the City of Davis, and extending in a northeasterly  
7 direction, by way of to the vicinity of the City of Ada, to a  
8 connection in the vicinity of Henryetta or in the vicinity of the  
9 intersection of State Highway 48 and Interstate 40; and a turnpike  
10 or any part or parts thereof from the vicinity of Snyder extending  
11 north to the vicinity of Woodward.

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

19           (12) All or any part of an Oklahoma City toll expressway system  
20 connecting the residential, industrial and State Capitol Complex in  
21 the north part of Oklahoma City with the residential, industrial and  
22 Will Rogers World Airport Complex in the south and southwest parts  
23 of Oklahoma City.

1           (13) A turnpike (The Industrial Parkway) or any part or parts  
2 thereof beginning at a point on the Oklahoma-Kansas state boundary  
3 line between the point where U.S. Highway 66 intersects the boundary  
4 line and the northeast corner of Oklahoma and ending by means of a  
5 connection or connections with Shreveport, Louisiana, and Houston,  
6 Texas, in southeastern Oklahoma and at no point to exceed thirty  
7 miles west of the Missouri or Arkansas border.

8           (14) A turnpike or any part or parts thereof beginning in the  
9 vicinity of Velma or County Line to a point intersecting with  
10 Interstate 35 in the area south of Davis.

11           (15) A turnpike or any part or parts thereof beginning in the  
12 vicinity of Watonga and extending south and/or east to the vicinity  
13 of north and/or west Oklahoma City.

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

17           (17) A tollgate on the Muskogee Turnpike in the vicinity of  
18 Porter, Oklahoma, a tollgate on the Will Rogers Turnpike in the  
19 vicinity of Adair, Oklahoma, a tollgate on the Turner Turnpike in  
20 the vicinity of Luther, Oklahoma, and a tollgate on the H.E. Bailey  
21 Turnpike at Elgin, Oklahoma, from any monies available to the  
22 Authority.

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

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

4           (20) (8) All or any part of an Oklahoma City Outer Loop  
5 expressway system beginning in the vicinity of I-35 and the Turner  
6 Turnpike and extending west into Canadian County and then south to  
7 I-40; and then south and east to I-35 in the vicinity of Moore and  
8 Norman; and then extending east and north to I-40 east of Tinker  
9 Field; and then extending north to the Turner Turnpike to complete  
10 the Outer Loop.

11          (21) (9) All or any part of the Tulsa south bypass expressway  
12 system (Creek Turnpike) beginning in the vicinity of the Turner  
13 Turnpike near Sapulpa and extending south and east to U.S. 75 in the  
14 vicinity of 96th Street to 121st Street; and then east across the  
15 Arkansas River to a connection with the Mingo Valley Expressway; and  
16 then south and/or east to a point on the Tulsa-Wagoner County Line  
17 near 131st street south in the city of Broken Arrow.

18          (22) (10) A new turnpike (Creek Turnpike) or any part thereof  
19 from near the west gate of the Will Rogers Turnpike south to the  
20 west end of south Tulsa Turnpike at the Tulsa-Wagoner County Line.

21          (23) (11) A new turnpike (Cherokee Turnpike) or any parts  
22 thereof from the vicinity of the connection between State Highway 33  
23 and U.S. 69 easterly to the Arkansas State Line.

1           (24) A four lane extension of the Muskogee Turnpike from  
2 Interstate Highway 40 west of Webbers Falls to the Peteau vicinity.

3           (25) A new turnpike or any part or parts thereof beginning at a  
4 point in the vicinity of northwest Tulsa, and extending in a  
5 northwesterly direction, by means of a connection or connections  
6 with the cities of Pawhuska and Newkirk, to a point intersecting in  
7 the vicinity of US Highway No. 77 and the Kansas State Line.

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

13           (27) A new turnpike beginning at a point directly west of the  
14 Arkansas line and four-laning Highway 70 from that point to the  
15 farthest western reach of Highway 70 creating a southern route  
16 through Oklahoma.

17           (28) (12) A new turnpike and bridge or any parts thereof from a  
18 point in the vicinity of the city of Mustang southerly across the  
19 South Canadian River to the H.E. Bailey Turnpike in the vicinity of  
20 the city of Tuttle; and then easterly across the South Canadian  
21 River to a point in the vicinity of the city of Norman.

22           (29) A new turnpike or any parts thereof beginning at a point  
23 in the vicinity of the city of Altus and extending in a

1      northwesterly direction to a point in the vicinity of the city of  
2      Sayre.

3      (30) A new turnpike or any parts thereof beginning at a point  
4      in the vicinity of the city of Enid and extending in a westerly  
5      direction to a point in the vicinity of the city of Woodward.

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

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

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

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

22     (35) (13) A new turnpike (Gilcrease Turnpike) or any parts  
23     thereof beginning at Interstate 44 at or near its intersection with  
24     49th West Avenue, past State Highway 64/412, turning northeasterly,

1 crossing 41st West Avenue, and continuing eastward to the L.L.  
2 Tisdale Expressway in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

3 Prior to the completion of the design of a new route of an  
4 authorized turnpike project, the Authority shall submit to the  
5 Governor and the Legislature, the independent approval of the  
6 Oklahoma Transportation Commission as set forth in Section 1701 of  
7 this title. The Authority shall collaborate with elected officials  
8 of cities and counties where the new route will be located.

9 Legislative authorization for any new turnpike project location  
10 enacted after November 1, 2025, shall terminate on the fifth  
11 anniversary of its enactment unless the Authority has, in an open  
12 and public meeting held in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting  
13 Act, approved a contract to commence project design.

14 All access roads, interchanges, or lead roads connecting such  
15 turnpikes with existing highways must be built by funds furnished by  
16 the Authority.

17 The minimum and maximum wages for the construction of the roads,  
18 highways and projects provided for in Sections 1701 through 1734 of  
19 this title shall be in accordance with the schedules of wages used  
20 or adopted by the Commission in construction of state highways.

21 The Authority is hereby authorized to enter into contracts or  
22 agreements with agencies and instrumentalities of other states or  
23 the national government for construction, maintenance and operation  
24 of interstate turnpikes or highways.

1       The Authority is hereby required to construct and install  
2 automatic tollgates on the Will Rogers Turnpike at State Highway No.  
3 28 near Adair.

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

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

15           Any common carrier having authority at the time of opening any  
16 turnpike project to operate upon a highway approximately paralleling  
17 the turnpike project shall be granted without further showing  
18 authority to operate over the turnpike project to all municipalities  
19 which such carrier is serving at the time the turnpike project is  
20 opened to traffic. But nothing herein shall be construed as  
21 granting any new operation rights to any common carriers.

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

24

1                   (i) To acquire in the name of the Authority by purchase or  
2 otherwise on such terms and conditions and in such manner as it may  
3 deem proper, or by exercise of the right of condemnation in manner  
4 hereinafter provided, such public or private lands, including public  
5 parks, playgrounds, or reservations, or parts thereof or rights  
6 therein, rights-of-way, property, rights, easements, and interests,  
7 as it may deem necessary for carrying out the provisions of Sections  
8 1701 through 1734 of this title; provided, that all public or  
9 private property damaged in carrying out the powers granted by  
10 Sections 1701 through 1734 of this title shall be restored or  
11 repaired and placed in its original condition as nearly as  
12 practicable, and the owner thereof shall be compensated in  
13 accordance with Sections 1706, 1707, and 1708 of this title.

14                   (j) To designate, except as is provided for herein, the  
15 location, and establish, limit and control such points of ingress to  
16 and egress from each turnpike project as may be necessary or  
17 desirable in the judgment of the Authority to insure the proper  
18 operation and maintenance of such project, and to prohibit entrance  
19 to such project from any point or points not so designated.

20                   (k) To make and enter into all contracts and agreements  
21 necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and the  
22 execution of its powers, and to employ consulting engineers,  
23 attorneys, accountants, construction and financial experts,  
24 superintendents, managers, and such other employees and agents as

1 may be necessary in its judgment, and to fix their compensation;  
2 provided, that all such expenses shall be payable solely from the  
3 proceeds of turnpike revenue bonds issued under the provisions of  
4 Sections 1701 through 1734 of this title or from revenues; provided,  
5 further, no attorney employed by the Authority, nor any member of  
6 any law firm of which the attorney may be connected, shall ever be  
7 paid any fee or compensation for any special or extraordinary  
8 services.

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

18 (m) To adopt such rules, and to do any and all things necessary  
19 to comply with rules, regulations, or requirements of the Bureau of  
20 Public Roads, Multistate Economic Development Regional Commission,  
21 as defined in Sections 1151 through 1153, inclusive, of Title 74 of  
22 the Oklahoma Statutes, Ozarka Region Commission or any other federal  
23 agency administering any law enacted by the Congress of the United  
24 States to aid or encourage the construction of highways.

1                         (n) To do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the  
2 powers expressly granted in Sections 1701 through 1734 of this  
3 title. The design standards for all paving shall comply with the  
4 design standards of the American Association of State Highway and  
5 Transportation Officials as modified by the Oklahoma Department of  
6 Transportation. All contracts for construction work on turnpike  
7 projects shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder, or bidders,  
8 after notice by publication in a newspaper published in the county  
9 where the work is to be done in two consecutive weekly issues of the  
10 newspaper. In all cases where more than eight (8) miles of  
11 construction is let at the same time and is not an advertisement for  
12 a surface-treatment-only project, such advertisement shall provide  
13 for bids on sections of the turnpike not to exceed eight (8) miles.  
14 If the project advertised is a surface-treatment-only project of  
15 more than twenty (20) miles of road, the advertisement shall provide  
16 for bids on sections of the road no longer than twenty (20) miles,  
17 as well as bids on the project as a whole. Subject to the following  
18 restrictions and limitations, the Authority shall, when contracting  
19 for construction work, divide such work into paving projects, bridge  
20 projects, including underpasses and overpasses, and earthmoving or  
21 miscellaneous projects, according to the type of work to be done.  
22 Each project shall be let under a separate contract or contracts and  
23 no contract or project shall include more than one of such types of  
24 construction work. Each contract for construction work shall

1 contain a provision that ninety percent (90%) of all labor employed  
2 on the project shall be residents of Oklahoma. However, contracts  
3 for bridges may include earthwork and structures for the approaches  
4 thereto.

5 (o) To adopt such rules, and to do any and all things necessary  
6 to comply with all applicable federal and state laws and permits,  
7 related to the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of  
8 turnpike projects authorized herein.

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

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

18 Violation of this provision shall constitute a felony punishable  
19 by incarceration in the State Penitentiary for a term not to exceed  
20 five (5) years or a fine of not less than Five Hundred Dollars  
21 (\$500.00) and not more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or  
22 both such imprisonment and fine.

23 (p) (q) In the event of a national emergency, the Authority,  
24 subject to any vested rights or claims, may enter into contracts

1 with the federal government or any authorized agency thereof to  
2 allow the federal government or agency thereof to use such turnpikes  
3 partly or exclusively during the existence of such emergency,  
4 provided, that the federal government agrees in such contract to  
5 pay, during the term of such contract, an amount sufficient, when  
6 added to any tolls collected, to meet all operating and maintenance  
7 expenses, interest payments, and the minimum sinking fund and  
8 reserve requirements of the trust agreement for the turnpike covered  
9 by the contract.

10 ~~(q)~~ (r) All meetings of the Authority shall be open public  
11 meetings, and all records shall be public records, except when  
12 considering personnel or litigation.

13 (s) The Authority's approval of any contract to undertake the  
14 design of a new route of an authorized turnpike project shall take  
15 place in an open and public meeting held in compliance with the  
16 Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. Thereafter, the Authority shall comply  
17 with the following notice and public engagement requirements:

18 (1) Within ninety (90) days, submit a report to the Governor,  
19 the Legislature and to the elected officials of cities and counties  
20 where any new route will be located, inclusive of conceptual project  
21 maps and preliminary project details, and publish the report on the  
22 Authority's official website.

23 (2) Within one hundred twenty (120) days, schedule and hold a  
24 formal public meeting to provide a description of the new route,

1 | preliminary project details including approximate location, scope of  
2 | work, and design elements.

3 | (i) Notice of the public meeting shall be given electronically  
4 | by posting on the Authority's official website and by publication in  
5 | a newspaper of general circulation and published in the county where  
6 | the new route, or the major part of it, is to be located, such  
7 | notice by publication to be published in two consecutive weekly  
8 | issues of the newspaper, with the first publication thereof to be at  
9 | least thirty (30) days prior to the public meeting date. In  
10 | addition, the Authority shall use its best efforts to provide notice  
11 | to all known property owners within one (1) mile on each side of the  
12 | new route, considering the number and types of property interests of  
13 | such owners, by methods including, but not limited to, first class  
14 | mail and targeted advertisements which shall include the utilization  
15 | of certified mail to give notice to affected property owners.

16 | (ii) The public meeting shall be held at a location convenient  
17 | and as near to the new route as practicable.

18 | (iii) At the public meeting, any person may submit oral or  
19 | written statements and data about the new route. Reasonable limits  
20 | may be set upon the time allowed for oral statements.

21 | (iv) The Authority shall collect public comment through an  
22 | online portal with links to the portal shared at the public meeting  
23 | and on the Authority's official website.

1       3. Within thirty (30) days of the public meeting, the Authority  
2 shall provide a report to the Governor and Legislature summarizing  
3 the oral and written statements and data received, including any  
4 reports of economic impacts, support or opposition to a route made  
5 by cities and counties where any new route will be located.

6       If the location of a new route changes based on the results of  
7 the public meeting and engagement requirements set forth in this  
8 paragraph, the Authority shall report such changes to the Governor,  
9 the Legislature and to the elected officials of cities and counties  
10 where the new route will be located. Additional public meetings,  
11 conducted in accordance with this paragraph, may be scheduled at the  
12 Authority's discretion.

13       SECTION 2.       AMENDATORY       69 O.S. 2021, Section 1718, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15       Section 1718.   The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is authorized in  
16 its discretion to file an application with the Supreme Court of  
17 Oklahoma for the approval of any bonds to be issued hereunder, and  
18 exclusive original jurisdiction is hereby conferred upon the Supreme  
19 Court to hear and determine each such application. It shall be the  
20 duty of the Court to give such applications precedence over the  
21 other business of the Court and to consider and pass upon the  
22 applications and any protests which may be filed thereto as speedily  
23 as possible. Notice of the hearing on each application shall be  
24 given by a notice published in a newspaper of general circulation in

1 | the state that on a day named the Authority will ask the Court to  
2 | hear its application and approve the bonds. Such notice shall  
3 | inform all persons interested that they may file protests against  
4 | the issuance of the bonds and be present at the hearing and contest  
5 | the legality thereof. Such notice shall be published one time not  
6 | less than ten (10) days prior to the date named for the hearing and  
7 | the hearing may be adjourned from time to time in the discretion of  
8 | the Court. If the Court shall be satisfied that the bonds have been  
9 | properly authorized in accordance with this article and that when  
10 | issued, they will constitute valid obligations in accordance with  
11 | their terms, the Court shall render its written opinion approving  
12 | the bonds and shall fix the time within which a petition for  
13 | rehearing may be filed. The decision of the Court shall be a  
14 | judicial determination of the validity of the bonds, shall be  
15 | conclusive as to the Authority, its officers and agents, and  
16 | thereafter the bonds so approved and the revenues pledged to their  
17 | payment shall be incontestable in any court in the State of  
18 | Oklahoma.

19 | SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.  
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21 | 60-1-13275           AO           03/06/25  
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24 |