



## **ODOT response to CIRB fund allegations/audit request**

**May 2018**

- ODOT is appalled by these allegations of mismanagement of funds when the counties know that the Legislature has diverted \$230 million from the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges (CIRB) fund since 2015.
- All CIRB funds are accounted for. The \$230 million removed from the program was done so by the Legislature to help balance the state's budget during tough budget years.
- The CIRB program was created by House Bill 1176 in 2006.
- The law directs the funds to be equally distributed among the eight Oklahoma Transportation Commission districts, not individual counties, and administered by ODOT through the Transportation Commission approved five-year CIRB plan.
- The CIRB fund receives \$120 million annually in state motor vehicle collection revenue, which is combined with federal, local and tribal monies to fund the five-year CIRB Plan. The plan is rebalanced annually with all parties giving input.
- Counties are responsible for preconstruction (design, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation) before a construction project can go to bid. ODOT lets the projects once they are ready for construction.
- ODOT's role includes responsibility for coordinating funding with County Commissioners, overseeing use of the funds and ensuring the projects are built to state and federal standards.
- The four diversions of monies from the CIRB fund to other areas of state government are found in the following pieces of legislation:
  - \$50 million diverted by HB 2242 in FY 2016
  - \$50 million diverted by SB 1616 in FY 2017
  - \$50 million diverted by SB 860 in FY 2018
  - \$80 million diverted by HB 1019 (due to the CIRB cut not included in the governor's line item veto) in FY 2018
- Due to these diversions, ODOT will delay new projects from being awarded until the fund replenishes.