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Oklahoma Civil Engineers Find State's Infrastructure In Need

New 2013 Report Card for Oklahoma's Infrastructure Offers Comprehensive Look at State's Deficiencies and Offers Solutions for Fixing Oklahoma's Infrastructure

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – Oklahoma's infrastructure is in need of immediate attention according to the *2013 Report Card for Oklahoma's Infrastructure*. The new report from the Oklahoma Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) was developed to inform political leaders as well as Oklahoma families and businesses of the overall performance of the state's infrastructure.

ASCE graded 8 categories of infrastructure in its Report Card: aviation (C+), bridges (D+), dams (D), levees (D-), rail (B), roads (D), transit (D+), and water/wastewater (D+).

"How we get to work, how we raise our families, and how we can build a more sustainable future all depend on infrastructure," said ASCE Oklahoma Section President Jeremy Stahle, P.E. of Garver. "Given that only one of the 8 areas grades above a 'C,' we hope this Report Card will serve as a wakeup call that we must do more. Maintaining and modernizing our infrastructure – our roads, bridges, and water systems – should be a top priority to meet the needs of Oklahoma families now and in the future."

President Obama's recent State of the Union put a large spotlight on infrastructure as an issue. The *2013 Report Card for Oklahoma's Infrastructure* serves to make that spotlight shine even brighter. The *Report Card* found that while Oklahoma has started to make some necessary investments, more needs to be done.

"We have seen great strides in Oklahoma's infrastructure recently," said Neal McCaleb, P.E., spokesman for Transportation Revenues Used Strictly for Transportation (TRUST). "If we hope to stop receiving such poor grades, we must continue to develop new funding mechanisms, educate Oklahomans on the economic impact of infrastructure investment, and continuously assess our needs as a state."

The report summarizes technical data and uses everyday language to breakdown the state's infrastructure conditions and future needs. The Oklahoma Section of ASCE also offers numerous solutions along with analysis in order to allow legislators and citizens to create change.

“A large number of public, private and nonprofit groups routinely collect data on the state’s infrastructure. This data is often spread out and coded for the specific use of a particular group. Rarely is the data gathered across multiple infrastructure areas and presented to the public in an easy-to-understand format,” states Report Card Co-Chair, Jason Peek, P.E., of the City of Stillwater. “The Oklahoma Section of ASCE has developed this fact-based assessment because its members believe the public has a right to know exactly what the condition is of our infrastructure. By assigning a letter grade to each infrastructure area, the public can gauge the relative strengths and weaknesses of each area and call on our leaders to make the appropriate decisions.”

ASCE first reported on the state of the nation’s infrastructure in 1995. The most current report card, published in 2009, gave the nation’s infrastructure a grade of “D.”. The Oklahoma Section of ASCE joins 37 other states that have developed a state-specific report card to complement the well-known national Report Card for America’s Infrastructure. The next version of the Report Card for America’s Infrastructure will be released in March 2013 and will be found at www.infrastructurereportcard.org.

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Founded in 1852, the American Society of Civil Engineers represents more than 140,000 civil engineers worldwide and is America's oldest national engineering society. For more information, visit www.asce.org.

Founded in 1920, the Oklahoma Section of ASCE has more than 850 members in two branches: Oklahoma City and Tulsa.