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## **OTA and ODOT statement on Attorney General Drummond's Opinion regarding the employment of Secretary of Transportation Tim Gatz**

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority and Oklahoma Department of Transportation acknowledge Attorney General Gentner Drummond's opinion on the prohibition against dual office holding and its effect on Tim Gatz's service as Secretary of Transportation and as executive director of OTA and ODOT. At issue is whether state statute allows one person to serve in all three executive roles.

While Gatz does not take a position on the legal analysis in the opinion, effective immediately, Gatz has resigned his position as the secretary of transportation and has been reappointed as executive director of ODOT. The opinion operates as an effective resignation of his role as the executive director of OTA.

The OTA Board must consider and take appropriate action to appoint a new director, while Gov. Kevin Stitt's office will handle the transition of the Secretary of Transportation role. The ODOT executive director position is appointed by the governor and requires state Senate confirmation.

ODOT and OTA will maintain day-to-day operations and continue to serve the public without interruption. The agencies have a long history of working together and the same goal of providing safe transportation infrastructure across Oklahoma. ODOT's and OTA's highway and turnpike systems connect seamlessly for the benefit of the traveling public, and the two agencies will continue to share agency resources when appropriate and as allowed by state statute.

The opinion confirms that all of Sec. Gatz's decisions and actions during his tenure in these roles were authorized and valid.

Gatz has served the state of Oklahoma for 34 years including as executive director of OTA since 2016 and executive director of ODOT and Secretary of Transportation since 2019.