



CIRCUIT ENGINEERING DISTRICT #5

Operational Audit

For the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Cindy Byrd, CPA

State Auditor & Inspector

CIRCUIT ENGINEERING DISTRICT #5 OPERATIONAL AUDIT FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021

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Cindy Byrd, CPA | State Auditor & Inspector

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January 26, 2023

TO THE BOARD OF THE CIRCUIT ENGINEERING DISTRICT #5

We present the audit report of the Circuit Engineering District #5 for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. The goal of the State Auditor and Inspector is to promote accountability and fiscal integrity in state and local government. Maintaining our independence as we provide this service to the taxpayers of Oklahoma is of utmost importance.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the assistance and cooperation extended to our office during our engagement.

This report is a public document pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Records Act (51 O.S. § 24A.1 et seq.) and shall be open to any person for inspection and copying.

Sincerely,

CINDY BYRD, CPA

OKLAHOMA STATE AUDITOR & INSPECTOR

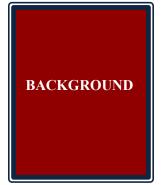
TABLE OF CONTENTS

OPERATIONAL AUDIT REPORT

Introductory Section (Unaudited)

District Information and Officials	ii
District Area	iii
Revenue by Source	iv
Status of Projects	
Disbursements by County	vi
Disbursements by Job Phase	vii
Disbursements by Project Type	viii
Disbursements by Budget Year	
Project Highlights	
Presentation of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balances of District Funds for the Period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021	1
Description of the District's Funds	2
Purpose, Scope, General Methodology and Internal Control Considerations	3
Objectives and Results of Operational Audit	5
Annendix: Statewide CIRB Fund Analysis for All Circuit Engineering Districts	7

INTRODUCTORY SECTION UNAUDITED INFORMATION ON PAGES ii - x PRESENTED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

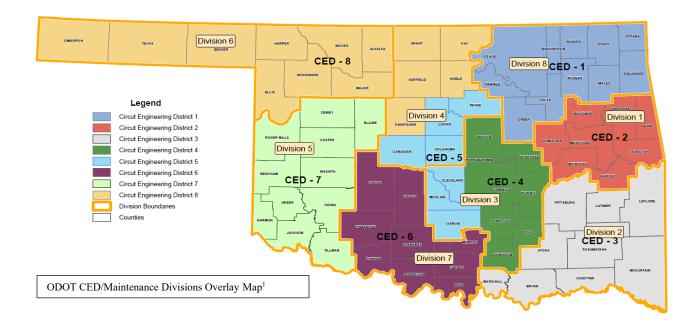


Pursuant to 69 O.S. § 687.1, counties may "create a circuit engineering district with any other county or counties" to allow county governments to "make the most efficient use of their powers [...] that will accord best with geographic, economic, population and other factors influencing the needs and development of county government." The District is considered a political subdivision of the state.

The circuit engineering district provides project-focused assistance for its member counties, a shared engineer between counties in an advisory capacity, engineering expertise that counties could not afford alone, help for small, rural counties, and help with a county five-year construction work plan.

Each participating county in the District has an appointed county commissioner or county representative to serve as members from the District's respective county seats. Each District then elects officers from the members as follows: President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer.

Darry Stacy
Wilson Lyles
Vice-President, McClain County
Vice-President, McClain County
Carrie Blumert
Secretary/Treasurer, Oklahoma County
Dave Anderson
Canadian County
Gary Ayers
Garvin County
Marven Goodman
Logan County
Zach Cavett
Payne County

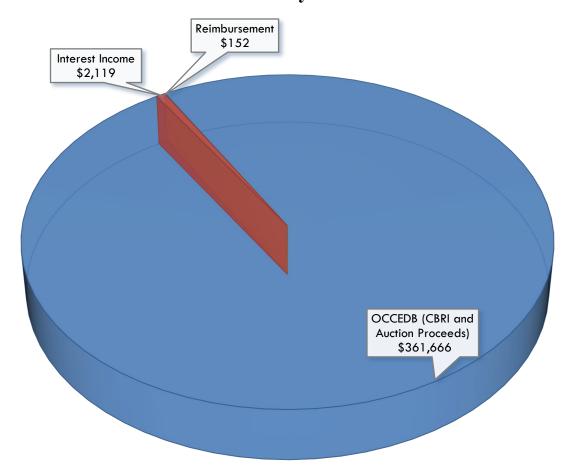


Circuit Engineering District #5 (the District) is comprised of a seven-county region, in the central part of the state including: Canadian, Cleveland, Garvin, Logan, McClain, Oklahoma, and Payne counties¹.

¹Map https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/odot/documents/cirb/pdfs/cirb-engr-dist.pdf

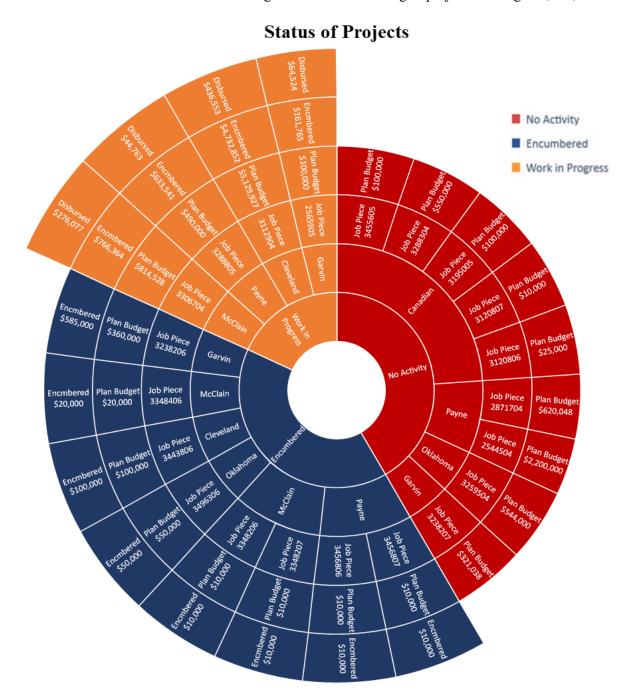
The District is funded by state and local revenues. The chart below summarizes the revenue sources.

Revenue by Source



During the period the District collected \$363,937 in total revenue.

Below represents the status of projects for District #5 for planned jobs in fiscal year 2021 in the 5 Year Construction Work Plan SFY-2021 through SFY-2025 consisting of projects totaling \$11,574,541.



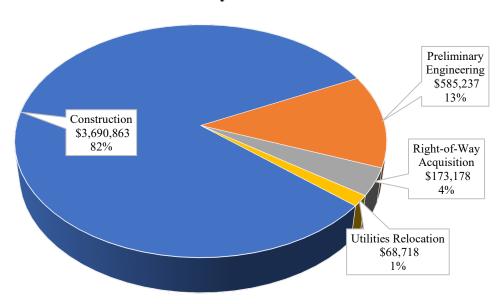
Source: Information provided from <u>5 Year Construction Work Plan SFY-2021 through SFY-2025</u> and Oklahoma Department of Transportation CIRB Project Information report.

Below represents the fiscal year 2021 made from the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges (CIRB) fund for projects in District #5 totaling \$4,517,996. This amount includes funds budgeted during fiscal years 2015 through 2021 listed by beneficiary County.

Disbursements by County \$1,200,000 \$1,000,000 Total Disbursed \$ \$800,000 \$600,000 \$400,000 \$200,000 \$-Canadian Cleveland McClain Oklahoma Garvin Logan Payne Disbursed \$723,263 \$627,452 \$331,845 \$620,784 \$769,979 \$473,331 \$971,342 # of Projects 4 5 3 2 7 5 6

Below represents fiscal year 2021 disbursements made from the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges (CIRB) fund for District #5 totaling \$4,517,996. This amount includes funds budgeted during fiscal years 2015 through 2021 listed by job phase.

Disbursements by Job Phase



<u>Preliminary Engineering</u> – this job phase accounts for the design portion of the PDP (Project Development Process) that includes collection of survey, geotechnical, and other design data. Further, this phase includes the application of design standards to a proposed typical section/bridge location; hydraulic analysis for all drainage structures; and compilation into a plan set. Also, this phase can include environmental clearance requirements through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when utilizing federal funding and a checklist clearance when 100% state funded.

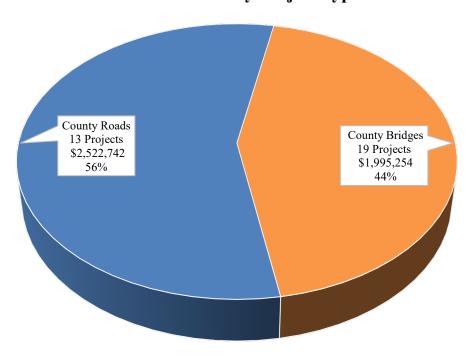
<u>Right-of-Way Acquisition</u> – this job phase consists of acquiring the needed property to relocate utilities and construct the project to current design standards based on the application of the design to the existing facility.

<u>Utility Relocation</u> – this job phase consists of moving existing utilities (electric, water, phone, gas lines, etc.) from being in conflict with the cut and fill of the earthwork and bridge structure so the construction site is free from conflict and hazards.

<u>Construction</u> – this job phase consists of building the project as proposed and designed. Further, this phase includes preparing project for letting which involves compiling all bid specifications, plans and estimates.

Below represents the amount of disbursements made from the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges (CIRB) fund for District #5 totaling \$4,517,996. This amount includes funds budgeted during fiscal years 2015 through 2021 listed by project type. Title 69 O.S. § 507(B) defines the purpose of the 5 Year Construction Work Plan as "construction or reconstruction of county roads or bridges on the county highway system that are of the highest priority as defined by the Transportation Commission."

Disbursements by Project Type



Below represents the fiscal year 2021 disbursements for County Roads and County Bridge projects for District #5 divided into their respective budget years.

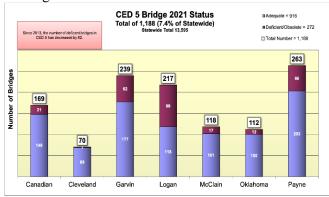
Fiscal Year 2021 Disbursements by Budget Year

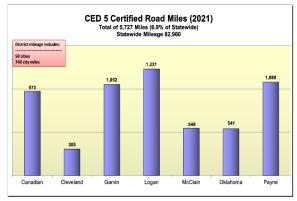
County	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total *
Canadian	-	6,061	336,369	-	105,781	275,052	\$ 723,263
Cleveland	ı	26,334	41,516	16,163	76,029	467,410	\$ 627,452
Garvin	-	-	4,400	262,921	-	64,524	\$ 331,845
Logan	1	-	1	1	-	620,784	\$ 620,784
McClain	1	-	2,889	59,956	310,638	396,496	\$ 769,979
Oklahoma	40,205	1	1	1	202,798	230,328	\$ 473,331
Payne	14,470	2,888	1	9,500	809,220	135,264	\$ 971,342
Total	\$ 54,675	\$ 35,283	\$ 385,174	\$ 348,540	\$ 1,504,466	\$ 2,189,858	\$ 4,517,996

^{*-}These totals are payments made during FY 2021 from the County Improvement for Roads and Bridges (CIRB) funds to vendors. The amounts are presented by the beneficiary County and the year in which the funds were encumbered.

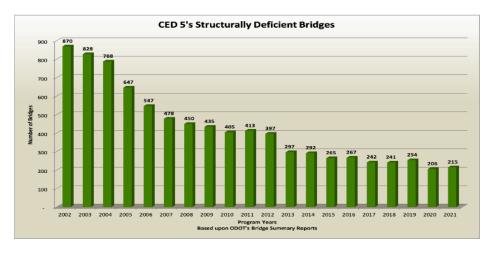
Circuit Engineering District #5 (CED#5) was established in June of 1999 as a cooperative to provide efficiencies through counties working together. HB1176 (County Improvements for Roads and Bridges Fund (CIRB) was passed in 2006. In 2006 CED#5 established their first CIRB 5-year transportation plan. CED#5 acts as a political sub-division of the State managed by the counties it represents which are the following: Payne, Logan (left CED June 2021), Oklahoma, Canadian, Cleveland, McClain, and Garvin.

These plans were comprised of projects from each of the 7 counties in Central Oklahoma, with a primary focus on replacing large bridges and roadways that the counties could not afford to construct with previous funding sources.





The CIRB program has been very successful in the past 15 years, completing a number of bridge projects and roadway projects in CED#5. As shown, CED#5 has reduced our structurally deficient bridges over the last 15 years.



CED#5 has also incorporated 127 crosstown recycled beams from ODOT highways into newly constructed county bridges in seven counties. CED#5 has also borrowed and paid back over \$8.75 million in Emergency Transportation Revolving fund monies. This has enabled the counties to construct, replace or reconstruct 35 projects across all 7 counties, mostly emergency projects following flood, ice storms, or other natural disasters.

Source: Information provided by Circuit Engineering District #5 (presented for informational purposes).

CIRCUIT ENGINEERING DISTRICT #5 PRESENTATION OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND FUND BALANCES OF DISTRICT FUNDS FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021

Presentation of District #5 Funds for the Period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

	Ger	General Fund	
Beginning Cash Balance, July 1	\$	572,238	
Revenues:			
Oklahoma CED Board		361,666	
Interest Income		2,119	
Reimbursement		152	
Total Revenues		363,937	
Expenditures:			
Distribution Funds		239,999	
Program Funds		105,000	
Outside Services		2,488	
Supplies		26	
Travel		1,843	
Total Expenditures		349,356	
Ending Cash Balance, June 30	\$	586,819	

Source: District's Financial Report (presented for informational purposes).

Description of the District's Funds

The District uses funds to report on revenues, expenditures, and fund balances. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

Following are descriptions of the District's funds within the Presentation of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balances of District Funds:

<u>Circuit Engineering District #5 General Fund</u> – the General Fund is the primary operating fund of the District and is used to account for all activities.

PURPOSE, SCOPE, GENERAL METHODOLOGY, AND INTERNAL CONTROL CONSIDERATIONS This audit was conducted in response to 69 O.S. § 687.1, which requires the State Auditor and Inspector's Office to audit the books and accounts of the circuit engineering district.

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

In planning and conducting our audit, we focused on the major financial related areas of operations based on assessment of materiality and risk for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Our audit procedures included inquiries of appropriate personnel, inspections of documents and records, and observations of the District's operations. We utilized sampling of transactions to achieve our objectives. To ensure the samples were representative of the population and provided sufficient, appropriate evidence, the random sample methodology was used. We identified specific attributes for testing each of the samples. Further details regarding our methodology are included under each objective.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, errors or fraud may occur and not be detected. Also, projections of any evaluation of internal control to future periods are subject to the risk that conditions may change or compliance with policies and procedures may deteriorate.

Internal Control Considerations

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) emphasizes the importance of internal controls at all levels of government entities. Their *Standards for Internal Control*² outline the five overarching components of internal control: the control environment, risk assessment, information and communication, monitoring, and detailed control activities. Each of these components includes a subset of principles that are expected to be operating at government entities.

The Standards for Internal Control² underscore that an internal control system is effective only when the five components of internal control are effectively designed, implemented, and operating together in an integrated manner. As required by Government Auditing Standards³, we have

CIRCUIT ENGINEERING DISTRICT #5 PURPOSE, SCOPE, GENERAL METHODOLOGY AND INTERNAL CONTROL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021

identified the aspects of internal control components and underlying principles significant to each audit objective in this engagement.

Any internal control deficiencies are documented in the findings included under each objective in this report. Because our audit was limited to the internal control components and underlying principles deemed significant to our audit objectives, it may not have disclosed all internal control deficiencies that may have existed at the time of the audit.

² Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government, or the "Green Book," sets standards and the overall framework for an effective internal control system in federal agencies and is treated as best practices for other levels of government. Last update 2014, accessible online at https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-704G

³ Government Auditing Standards, or the "Yellow Book," also promulgated by the GAO, guides our performance and operational audits. Last version 2018, accessible online at https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-18-568G.

Objective 1: To determine the District's revenues, expenditures, and fund balances are accurately presented on the District's financial reports for the period.

Conclusion: With respect to the items reconciled and reviewed; the District's revenues, expenditures, and fund balances were accurately presented on the District's financial reports for the period.

Objective 1 Methodology: To accomplish objective 1, we performed the following:

- Documented our understanding of the process for preparing the District's monthly financial reports. Evaluated the process and identified significant internal controls related to the preparation of the District's monthly financial reports.
- Compared the process to governmental internal control standards outlined in the GAO *Standards* for *Internal Control*.
- Confirmed \$363,785 in monies (99.96% of total monies) received from the Oklahoma Cooperative Circuit Engineering Districts Board (OCCEDB) and determined these monies were entered into the accounting system in the proper amount.
- Prepared a general ledger schedule of cash and investments at June 30 to ensure the schedule reconciled to the District's monthly financial reports.
- Confirmed all cash and investment balances at June 30th.
- Re-performed the June 30th bank reconciliation and confirmed reconciling items.
- Reviewed bank balances of all accounts at June 30th on the District's general ledger to ensure that investments were adequately secured as required by 62 O.S. § 517.4.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No findings were noted as a result of the procedures performed.

Objective 2: To determine whether the District's expenditures (including payroll) are supported by adequate documentation and for the allowable operations of the District.

Conclusion: With respect to the items tested, the District's expenditures (including payroll) were for the allowable operations of the District.

Objective 2 Methodology: To accomplish objective 2, we performed the following:

- Documented our understanding of the expenditure process (including payroll). Evaluated those processes and identified significant internal controls related to expenditures.
- Compared those processes to governmental internal control standards outlined in the GAO *Standards for Internal Control*.

CIRCUIT ENGINEERING DISTRICT #5 OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONAL AUDIT FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021

• Reviewed a random sample of six (6) expenditures totaling \$45,198 representing 14.09% of expenditures in the population tested.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No findings were noted as a result of the procedures performed.

Objective 3: To determine whether the District established a process to evaluate proposed changes to the District's 5 Year Construction Work Plan to ensure compliance with 69 O.S. § 507(B) and Administrative Code 730:10-23-5 and 730:10-23-7.

Conclusion: With respect to the items reviewed, the District complied with 69 O.S. § 507(B) and Administrative Code 730:10-23-5 and 730:10-23-7, which required the District to establish a process to evaluate proposed changes to projects when using County Improvements for Roads and Bridges funds.

Objective 3 Methodology: To accomplish objective 3, we performed the following:

- Documented our understanding of the process for evaluating proposed changes to projects prior to modifying the District's 5 Year Construction Work Plan.
- Verified documentation for projects added to the plan to ensure changes conform to the intent of the program and the project evaluation criteria prior to modifying the District's 5 Year Construction Work Plan.
- Verified documentation for removed projects to ensure changes conform to the intent of the program and the project evaluation criteria prior to modifying the District's 5 Year Construction Work Plan.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No findings were noted as a result of the procedures performed.

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The analysis of the CIRB fund presented in the charts below, represents activities for all eight (8) Circuit Engineering Districts.

