

Construction continues on the U.S. 64 entrance to Tribal Complex



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Phase One of the construction of a bridge over Black Bear Creek by Oklahoma Bridge Contractors from Edmond, Okla. will begin within the next few weeks. This segment will involve the creation of the bridge leading to Phase Two, pavement construction. This structure will eventually link the Administrative Complex and the Indian Health Services Center to U.S. 64 East.

This project had sparked discussion for more than decade due to a need for additional access to the Pawnee Nation Reservation that includes Indian Health Services, Pawnee Nation headquarters, Pawnee College and other tribal offices. Currently, the only routes to the Tribal lands utilize the green bridge located on East Harrison that turns into Agency road and Morris road that can be blocked due to railroad usage.

Brawley Engineering Inc. designed the new entry following specifications required by the Federal Highway Administration to ensure established federal standards. One area of focus included ensuring that the project allowed for proper water disbursement to avoid flooding.



“This project was not designed to compromise existing business revenue for Pawnee,” said Cecil Riding In, Pawnee Nation transportation director.

“However, based on the number of commuters that currently use the existing pathways, more than 2,700 cars daily, the Pawnee Nation felt that another option was necessary to ensure safe and unrestricted travel while serving the tribal reservation.”



Projection completion is targeted for September of 2012.

Very little inconvenience is expected regarding day-to-day operation although travel within the

work area is prohibited due to the use of heavy equipment for clearing and dirt work.

“We would like to thank the citizens of Pawnee for their support,” said Jim R. McCormick, project manager. “This development could also ease traffic burdens on existing venues of travel without having any known negative effects on business revenue.”

If you have any questions, please contact the transportation office at (918) 762-3655.

Photo credit: An aerial view of where the new bridge will be constructed (top). Pictures of the new entry for the bridge that will allow for increased travel venues (middle and bottom). Photos provided by Cecil Riding In, Transportation Manager, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma.

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