

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



Phase One of the construction of a bridge over Black Bear Creek by Oklahoma Bridge Contractors from Edmond, Okla. is now under way. 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.”

Any concerns regarding the construction should be directed to the transportation office at (918) 762-3655.

Photo Captions: Updated construction on the bridge that will allow for increased travel venues.

Photo Credit: Cecil Riding In, Transportation Manager, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma.

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