



## OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

200 N. E. 21st Street

Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3204

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### Crosstown bridge remains safe

In the wake of the recent tragedy in Minneapolis, questions have arisen about the overall integrity and quality of the bridges in Oklahoma, particularly Oklahoma City's I-40 Crosstown bridge.

Though deteriorating, the bridge remains safe and will be closed should it ever be deemed unsafe for the traveling public.

Regular and emergency maintenance continues on the existing bridge in order to extend its life expectancy. The most fracture critical members are inspected every six months, while the remainder of the bridge is inspected annually or every other year. The federal government requires inspections be conducted every two years.

In its most recent full inspection, conducted in September 2006, the bridge's deck and substructure were both rated as "fair."

In the early 1990s, the pillars holding up the bridge were reinforced from a four-foot diameter to a six-foot width. Other good news includes the fact that the bridge is not impacted by moisture issues such as scouring of the piers.

Completed in late 1964 and designed to handle 76,000 vehicles a day, the existing I-40 Crosstown currently handles nearly 120,000 vehicles a day. Maintenance of the bridge currently costs \$1 million annually. The bridge is 8,839 feet long and six lanes wide.

Bridges are generally designed to last 50 years or more. Traffic that is heavier than planned does not immediately compromise the bridge, but will reduce its life expectancy.

The new 10-lane expressway is designed to carry 174,000 vehicles per day is expected to be opened in 2012 at a cost of \$557 million and is divided into numerous projects.