

**Second Phase of SH-74
Reconstruction Begins**
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Work is underway on a project to reconstruct and widen SH-74 (Portland Ave.) from just north of N.W. 206th St. (Covell Road) to half a mile north of N.W. 234th St. (Sorghum Mill Rd.) in north Oklahoma County. The project is second in the overall SH-74 corridor reconstruction and will replace three load posted bridges in the area, upgrade traffic signals and add safety features at N.W. 234th St. and N.W. 220th St. (Coffee Creek Rd). The overall reconstruction of the corridor began at the north end to address much needed bridge repairs in the area as part of the first projects.

The \$16.5 million project includes construction of the SH-74 bridge over Deer Creek as well as two bridges just south of N.W. 234th St. The project will also reconstruct SH-74 to five lanes and realign the roadway just east of the current location.

Construction of bridges on the new alignment is currently underway south of N.W. 234th St. Depending on weather conditions, motorists can expect various short-term lane closures in the area beginning Wednesday, December 26 and lasting approximately one week. Crews will resurface the existing highway in order to improve the roadway to better handle traffic while construction on the new alignment continues.

Construction on the new roadway and modifications to the intersection are expected to begin in January. Because the new road is being built adjacent to the current structure, lane closures are expected to be minimal and speed limits in the area will not be affected. The project was awarded to Dobson Brothers Construction of Lincoln, Nebraska earlier this year and is expected to last through November 2008.

In late 2006, crews completed the first project in the SH-74 corridor reconstruction which widened SH-74 between Waterloo Road and N.W. 234th St. and constructed a five lane bridge at Bloody Rush Creek, replacing what some officials considered one of the state's worst bridges.

When the entire SH-74 corridor reconstruction is complete, the road will be five lanes between Memorial Rd. and Waterloo Rd. at the Logan County line.