



INFORMATION RELEASE

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 6, 2010
PR# 10-049

RE: SH-66/Bird Creek bridge closing in Rogers County; emergency contract awarded

Due to concerns about the deteriorating conditions of the westbound SH-66 bridge over Bird Creek in Rogers County, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is taking steps to close this bridge, and shift all traffic onto the adjacent bridge. Crews continue to monitor this bridge daily for driver safety, and have determined a closure is needed to prevent further problems from developing.

An emergency contract to build a detour route was awarded by the Oklahoma Transportation Commission on Mon., December 6. Work is expected to begin on Wed., December 8, and take 20 days to complete. Once the detour is in place, all lanes of this bridge will be closed until further notice.

The \$733,000 contract, awarded to APAC-Central, Inc., will build detour lanes across the medians. Once finished, the cross-overs will allow two-way traffic on the eastbound bridge of SH-66; narrowing to one lane in each direction.

During the detour construction, ODOT will continue to closely monitor the westbound bridge. If it determines that the bridge is not safe for traffic at any time, all lanes will immediately be closed and an alternate temporary detour route will be announced.

Built in 1936, the bridge has been narrowed to one lane since June 2010 due to safety concerns about the load-bearing abilities of the structure. It is currently load posted for 18 tons. Since 2008, this bridge has logged more than 40 emergency repairs to holes in the bridge deck or to problems with the truss structure. It is scheduled for replacement in 2012, and an environmental study remains underway to determine the future plans for this bridge.

Oversize vehicles are urged to plan ahead before travelling in this corridor. Additionally, drivers should plan for short delays in this area. Further information concerning this bridge closure will be available in the Traffic Advisories section of www.okladot.state.ok.us.

(Editors and News Directors: For the safety of your crews and ours, please contact the ODOT Media and Public Relations office prior to any site visit.)

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Since 2008, more than 40 emergency repairs have been made to the westbound SH-66 bridge deck over Bird Creek in Rogers County. Due to concerns about the deteriorating conditions of this bridge, it will be closed to traffic in late December.



Looking underneath the westbound SH-66 bridge at Bird Creek in Rogers County, previous repairs to the deck and further deterioration are visible. Due to concerns about the load-bearing abilities of this structure, traffic is currently narrowed to one lane.