



## Contract awarded for emergency Purcell/Lexington bridge repairs; work to begin immediately

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The clock starts ticking 5 p.m. Friday on a project to reopen the bridge between Purcell and Lexington. Members of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission met on Friday, Feb. 14 to award an emergency contract with strict deadlines to perform repairs on the US-77/SH-39 bridge that has been closed since Jan. 31 for safety reasons due to several cracks found in structural bridge beams. The project had a base estimate of \$5.5 million for the repair work plus the potential for several million dollars more in financial incentives paid for early completion. The contract was awarded to Manhattan Road & Bridge Co. of Tulsa, with a base bid of \$10.8 million.

It will take an estimated 45 days to reopen the bridge to car and pickup traffic; however, the contractor can earn hourly incentives for completing the work sooner or will be penalized for finishing late. Due to the potential incentives/disincentives, the total cost for the project will be determined when the work is completed.

“Repair work will start immediately and the incentives offered in the contract will ensure motorists and pedestrians once again can use this vital link between Purcell and Lexington as early as the end of next month,” Gov. Mary Fallin said. “I appreciate the hard work done by the Department of Transportation to get this contract awarded so promptly, and I appreciate the patience shown by the people of these two communities as we work as quickly as possible to fix their bridge.”

The contract for the repair project has an ambitious timetable for reopening the bridge connecting Purcell and Lexington.

- **The bridge must reopen to car and pickup traffic within 45 days**
- **It must be reopened to all traffic within 120 days**
- **All work must be completed within 150 days**

Incentives and disincentives included in the contract are some of the most aggressive in Oklahoma Department of Transportation history. The contractor stands to earn up to \$2,500 per hour for beating the deadline for reopening the bridge to car traffic and \$1,500 per hour for reopening it to all traffic. The contractor will be penalized in the same amounts for finishing late.

“The design and bidding process took only a few days instead of months,” ODOT Executive Director Mike Patterson said. “Thanks to Governor Fallin, every step has been taken to get this bridge project started quickly because every hour matters to the people of Purcell and Lexington.”

The expedited project will repair 264 locations on the bridge and double up on supports at the repaired areas to sustain legal loads traveling across the bridge. The project also includes extra treatments to areas of the bridge to prevent cracking in order to extend its life for 10 years until it can be replaced. After the bridge is reopened to traffic, the contractor will likely continue finishing work under the bridge, but will only be allowed to conduct lane closures, if necessary, at night.

A third-party inspection of the repair project will be conducted by Tetra Tech and commissioners also awarded contracts to two bridge firms, Burgess and Niple, Inc. and Infrastructure Engineers, Inc. to carry out continuous bridge inspections after the repair project is completed.

To assist the communities with transit needs while the bridge is closed, ODOT will continue to offer a free shuttle service between Purcell and Lexington. All information including the shuttle schedule can be found at [www.okldadot.state.ok.us](http://www.okldadot.state.ok.us).

--[www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us)--

**(Editors and News Directors: For more information call the ODOT Media & Public Relations Division at 405-521-6000.)**

**INFORMATION RELEASE**

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MEDIA & PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION  
200 N.E. 21ST ST. OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105-3204 PHONE 405-521-6000



Inspectors with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation get an up-close look at the truss beams on the Purcell/Lexington bridge over the South Canadian River on US-77/SH-39. The Oklahoma Transportation Commission held an emergency meeting on Friday, Feb. 14 to award a contract to repair and reopen the bridge to car traffic as early as the end of March.



Work will begin immediately on an Oklahoma Department of Transportation project to repair the US-77/SH-39 bridge between Purcell and Lexington. The Oklahoma Transportation Commission held an emergency meeting on Friday, Feb. 14 to award a contract for repairs that will allow the bridge to be reopened to traffic.