

# Traffic Advisory

\*\*\*\*\*

Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Media & Public Relations Division  
200 N.E. 21st Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
Phone:405-521-6000, Fax:405-521-2524

\*\*\*\*\*

THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT

<http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/newsmedia/traffic-advisory.htm>

---

Traffic Advisory

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

---

## WEEKLY UPDATE – Repairs remain ongoing

Cracks found two weeks ago near the gusset plates on lower cords of the US-77/SH-39 bridge between Purcell and Lexington are adding to repair work required before opening the bridge to traffic. Even with the additional work, all repairs are expected to be finished within the original deadline of June 14.

These recently discovered cracks were found during continuous inspections and are associated with the welded manganese alloy. These areas were being treated using an ultrasonic impact treatment to relax tension on the welds before cracks began to appear.

The new cracks are unexpected because the welds on these areas were much smaller and generated less heat compared to the other cracks caused by welding. It is further unusual that no cracking happened during the winter months on the new areas when the original cracks grew from 10 to 180 in a matter of weeks.

The additional repairs are similar to the repair brackets in the sense that they will add redundancy to those areas. Instead of using brackets, the repairs involve plates that will be bolted over the cracked and weakened areas. These plates will reinforce the bridge in case a crack goes through the entire beam.

Although there is additional work, the contractor has made great progress on the previous repairs and is expecting to have the bridge open by the original June 14 deadline. The additional repairs are expected to cost between \$1 million and \$1.5 million.

The department is also expediting steps to get the replacement bridge under construction within five years. A consultant has been hired to do the environmental impact study and design work. After those steps, right of way will have to be secured and utilities relocated before construction can begin.

---

**Follow @okdot on [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com/okdot) and Know B4 U Go!**

**ODOT strongly discourages texting or tweeting while driving.**

Statewide & extended construction closures, visit [www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us), Traffic Advisories