

Cyrus Avery Route 66 Memorial Bridge

Cyrus Avery Memorial Route 66 Bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and abuts ODOT property. Therefore, use of federal funds to rehabilitate the bridge will require SHPO participation. In 2009, \$650,000 in local resources was expended to stabilize the deck and piers, replace missing concrete rails, install thematic lighting and secure the approaches with ornamental wrought iron.

Budgetary cost estimate in 2006 dollars for:

- River Parks trail connection extension under Cyrus Avery Route 66 Memorial Bridge and Southwest Boulevard bridge; (preliminary concept complete): no cost estimates
- Cyrus Avery Route 66 Memorial Bridge full rehabilitation: \$15,000,000

The bridge consists of two separate structures joined by a common deck. The two bridges are comprised of 18 spandrels. The upstream bridge was constructed in 1916; the downstream bridge was constructed in 1932. An extensive professional engineering analysis of both structures was completed in 2006.

Constraints to in the bridges' viability include:

- Water from the Arkansas River was used to mix concrete for construction; elements in the water could be problematic to the long term cohesion
- Salt used on decking during inclement weather increased severe deterioration resulting in holes through the surface and under-decking
- Decking and rails were constructed as a unit; to replace the deck entails removing the rails
- Some scouring has occurred on the piers. However, it is believed this occurred primarily before the Keystone Dam was constructed.

Heritage tourism is on the rise, particularly in Oklahoma which has one of the most diverse ecosystems in the country. Tulsa as a heritage region is increasing its stature. Miami, Claremore, Catoosa, Stroud and Arcadia all have prominent Route 66 attractions. Route 66 is now a statewide Oklahoma Scenic Byway. In addition, eastern Oklahoma boasts of six other Scenic Byways: Osage National Heritage Trail; Talimena Drive; Wichita Mountains; Cherokee Hills; Mountain Gateway and Mountain Pass.

Tulsa resources allocated to commemorate and revitalize historic Route 66 already exceed \$21,000,000

Tulsa River Parks Authority manages more than 50 miles of trails along the banks of the Arkansas River. Amenities for biking, jogging, low impact recreation accent the trail and plans were announced in the spring of 2009 to add a thematic restaurant. Future plans include commercial and residential development of the river's west bank.