

## District 3: Road and Bridge Report

Don Hawthorne, County Commissioner

What's normal weather in Oklahoma? This is the sixth spring since I have been in office and each spring has been different. Every week we have had heavy enough rains somewhere in the District that some road work is needed to bring them back into shape. This has put us behind in our mowing.

This also took time away from getting to the roads that are on our list to oil and chip and puts us behind on our planned projects. However, as reported earlier, last fall we have recycled McIntosh Road from State Highway 59 to Chibitty Road and north on Chibitty to the dead end.

Also, we have entered into a joint project with the Comanche Nation Transportation Department to oil and chip Madische Road from McIntosh Road to the dead end. They will pay for the materials and the tin horns.

We have a joint project with Comanche County District 1, and Comanche Nation to oil and chip Hurst Road from State Highway 36 four miles south. The first two miles are in District 1 and the second two miles are in our District. The Comanche Nation is paying for the materials and the two districts are sharing in getting the road ready and oiling and chipping it.

Other roads on our plans to resurface this year are Indianhoma Road from Woodlawn Road to the Baseline Road. We already have a mile of the three miles ready. If time and weather

permits we plan to resurface Holsey Acres Road from Cache Road to the Post Oak Creek bridge and Deyo Mission Road from Lee Blvd to Coombs Road.

We are still waiting on the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Anadarko to sign off on the Indian land that is needed for the additional right of way so the new bridge on Airport Road can be built. All the additional right of way needed on the east side has been purchased and fortunately all the utilities are on that side and have been moved. We were hoping to get the new bridge completed before the start of the school year because school busses have to be rerouted around the mile of Airport Rd. The BIA has held up this project for over a year.

The bridge to replace the low water crossing over Post Oak Creek on Bishop Road is progressing. The environmental study has been completed, and the bridge design plan has been developed and Pinnacle, the company we have hired to accrue the right of way, is in the process of finalizing the agreements with the landowners. The next step will be to move the utilities and then construction will be possible next year.

We are adding a new bridge to our 5-year plan for approval by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. This bridge is on Airport Road over Persimmon Creek and is located southwest of Faxon. The only catch is the Legislature keeps raiding the County Improvements for Roads and Bridges fund (CIRB) to balance the state's budget shortfall. Over the past four years the Legislature has taken over \$170 million from this fund and put a cap on it reducing the amount of money that can go into it.

The other two bridges on our 5-year plan are the truss bridge over West Cache Creek on Cache Road and the bridge on Rock Creek on Cache Road.

Billy Bigbow and Tyler Fletcher attended a road building and repair seminar in Chickasha sponsored by Ergon. The day long course covered the types and causes of road damage, how to fix them, and the types of oils and application on chip sealing roads.

Kenny Kinder, Road Foremen attended the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma (ACCO) safety meeting on April 6-7, 2017.

If you have questions or concerns, I can be contacted at [don.hawthorne@comanchecounty.us](mailto:don.hawthorne@comanchecounty.us) or you may phone the County Barn at 580-429-3217 or the Courthouse office at 580-353-3717.