

US 26 Bridge Creek Bridge Replacement Open House
Mitchell Community Center
Questions & Answers
January 25, 2009

Questions from the community:

Question: Why does the ODOT bridge need to be replaced? What's wrong with it?

Answer: The ODOT bridge has deck and other structural deficiencies: the bridge deck is worn and coming apart (delaminated); there are cracks in the superstructure beams; and there are no guardrails on the ends of the bridge. The last inspection for this bridge was done in November 2008 and it currently has a sufficiency rating of 50.5 (out of a possible score of 100).

Question: How old is the ODOT bridge?

Answer: The ODOT bridge was built in 1953 when the highway was moved to the north side of Bridge Creek.

Question: Will the load restrictions on the county bridge be lifted when the repair work is completed?

Answer: Yes, the bridge will be able to handle legal loads when the repair work is finished.

Question: Will there be just one contract to repair the county bridge and replace the ODOT bridge?

Answer: Yes, all the work will be done under one contract.

Question: Will the county bridge need to be closed?

Answer: Yes, the county bridge will be periodically closed during the time it is being repaired. It will take two to three months to repair the county bridge.

Question: Will there always be one bridge open during repair and construction of the bridges?

Answer: Yes, there will always be at least one of the bridges at either end of Mitchell open at all times.

Question: What is being done to repair the county bridge? How long will it last?

Answer: The county bridge will be structurally strengthened by using steel dowels and FRP (Fiber Reinforced Polymer) Wrap. These bridge repair techniques have been commonly used over the last 10 years to repair and strengthen older highway bridges. This type of repair is designed to last a minimum of 20 years on bridges with a heavy traffic load. We expect the repairs to last significantly longer for this bridge because of the low volume of traffic. The repair can also be patched, if necessary, in the future.

Question: Are there specific times when the repair of the county bridge must occur? In other words, do you have to have certain weather conditions in order to apply the wrap?

Answer: The repairs on the county bridge need to be done when the bridge is dry and air temperatures moderate. Late spring, summer and the fall are all times of the year the work could be done.

Question: Once the bridge is wrapped with the strengthening material, how do you monitor the cracks that are now covered? Will you have to use x-ray?

Answer: No, x-ray inspection will not be needed. The wrapping is only on the bottom of the girders and does not conceal anything that needs to be monitored.

Question: Will it cost the county more to inspect the bridge because of the wrap?

Answer: The county does not pay for inspection of their bridges. The statewide bridge inspection program is mandated by the federal government and is paid for by gas tax dollars that come to the state specifically for monitoring bridges.

With the wrap, the monitoring will take a few more minutes but is not significantly more expensive.

Question: What is going to happen to the water line that is currently on the ODOT bridge?

Answer: The water line will need to be temporarily moved during construction of the new bridge. Once the new bridge is finished, the current thought is to reconnect the water line to the down stream side of the bridge so that it is better protected from high water events. The water line will remain in service during construction. The water will only be shut off for short periods of time (hours) to make any necessary temporary connections.

Question: Is there going to be a drainage area put on the east side of the ODOT bridge?

Answer: There will be a drainage area constructed on the east side of the bridge, on the north side of Main Street. This will capture all the water from the approach to the bridge to the west as well as the bridge itself. This drainage area is for water quality purposes, capturing the storm water runoff so that sediments and pollutants can filter out of the water before it enters the creek.

Question: Once the drainage area is constructed, will there still be room to turn around in front of the Post Office?

Answer: The drainage area will take up some of the area currently used for parking and a turnaround but most vehicles should be able to turn around fairly easily.