

Our District 1 top priority, as is most citizens in eastern Comanche County, is to complete the Trail Road project as soon as possible. We hope to receive a letter from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) over the next few days which will state we can move forward with the project. We certainly appreciate Comanche Nation and the BIA for covering the majority of cost for this project, as they have done for several projects over the past few years. Without their help, this major project wouldn't have been possible.

Although the wait to receive funding and approval to complete Trail Road has taken much longer than expected, there are some good things which have come from waiting,

specifically, there were several portions of the road where the base needed repair and/or improvement. With the road setting for a lengthy period of time, it has allowed the base to better pack, and those areas which needed repair or improvement to be seen. I want to thank each of you for your patience as we complete this project.

In an effort to be proactive for the upcoming oil-and-chip season, we have started ripping roads which are in the worst condition and on our list to be oil-and-chipped this year. We began in the southern portions of the County and are working northward. By working in a continuous movement and not moving equipment back and forth, it allows us to be more productive and efficient. Some of the areas which have already been ripped include; SE 45th Street (south of Baseline Road), Baseline Road (from Hulen Road to FlowerMound Road), Devine Road (from New Hope Rd to the County Line) and FlowerMound Road (from Baseline Road to Tinney Road). We plan to begin ripping in the area east of Highway 65 & Woodlawn Road in the very near future.

By ripping all of the roads now, it will allow us to use more manpower and focus all our attention on the actual oil-and-chip when temperatures allow. We want to be ready to repave as much as possible when the time comes. We know this will be an inconvenience to some citizens as the roads will lay unpaved for a couple months, but its best to let the road settle and pack. This will also allow us to work much more quickly when oil-and-chip conditions exist. In addition, the road base will have plenty of time to set and pack, allowing us to repair any road base issues which may exist. Mother Nature is the best packer in the world!

We are also looking forward to completing some bridge and low-water crossing repairs in the

near future. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) has approved funding and awarded a bid for the reconstruction of a bridge near NE 150th Street and Watts Road. We are waiting ODOT to advise when they will host a “pre-work” meeting, at which time will be able to let our citizens know a work schedule for this project.

In conclusion, we recently held our first “plan-in-hand” meeting for the low-water crossing and bridge on Woodlawn Road, just east of Highway 65. Our plan is to straighten the roadway from the low-water crossing to the bridge, along with reconstructing the bridge. This is on schedule for 2013, we will keep you updated on this project.

You may email me at gail.turner@comanchecounty.us with any questions or comments.