

## Second phase to improve 112th Street to start

Written by Tyrell Albin, Lawton Constitution  
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The second phase of a long-running project to improve Southwest 112th Street near the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. plant is set to begin Monday.

Western District Comanche County Commissioner Don Hawthorne said the first phase of the project is well underway. It involved work on 112th Street south to Lee Boulevard and four-tenths of a mile east on Lee Boulevard. Resurfacing will start soon on phase I and it should be complete by summer.

Phase II will involve widening and resurfacing about 2.4 miles of West 112th Street from the railroad tracks north to Cache Road.

Both phases of the 112th Street project are a joint operation of Lawton and Comanche County. Phase I was partially funded by a \$950,000 industrial access grant through the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, with the city and county splitting the rest of the costs.

The Oklahoma Transportation Commission is expected to approve similar funding for phase II at its March meeting.

County workers will be primarily responsible for phase II. Hawthorne said the workers will start grinding up asphalt Monday, which will take about a week, weather permitting. Then they will prepare the road base and improve the drainage. The county will then seek bids for the asphalt resurfacing.

Hawthorne said the commissioners hope to have a resurfacing contract by June. After that, the rest of the project will take about 90 days.

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Hawthorne said the grant was received because of Goodyear's expansion in recent years. The street has seen extensive damage over the years due to heavy traffic, including trucks hauling supplies and finished products to and from the Goodyear plant. Hawthorne said traffic on Southwest 112th Street averages about 1,200 vehicles a day.

The street will be closed to through traffic for the duration of the project. Hawthorne said the county will try to keep it open to local traffic as much as possible.

When the project is completed, Hawthorne said the road will be built to handle heavy truck traffic.

"It will be a wider road, a safer road," he said.