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Monday, July 14, 2025

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#### **BROKEN ARROW: CREEK TURNPIKE**

## \$72M project to smooth 'roller coaster' highway



MIKE SIMONS, TULSA WORLD

Motorists drive on the SH-364/Creek Turnpike bridges over Haikey Creek on Friday. The bridges will undergo a rehabilitation project beginning in October.

### Roadwork will fix bouncy ride on bridges over Haikey Creek, OTA says

Tulsa World

A \$72 million construction contract to fix the bumpy journey for drivers on the SH-364/Creek Turnpike bridges over Haikey Creek in Broken Arrow will begin in October.

The rehabilitation will address complaints regarding comfort, not safety, after at least a decade of drivers describing the bridges as "bouncy" or like a roller coaster.

"Every two years they (bridges) are getting inspected to see if they are structurally sound, (or) if there's any safety concerns, and this specific bridge does not have any of that," Jessica Lyle, an Oklahoma Turnpike Authority spokeswoman, told the Tulsa World. "We are merely just addressing the smoothness and rideability of that section of the bridges going over

Haikey Creek."

In 2015, an OTA spokesman told KTUL of any type of road or bridge." that the unevenness was not a safety concern but likely caused because beams didn't settle as expected after the concrete deck was poured.

According to Lyle, the bridges are still safe at their halfway point in a 50-year life cycle, which is typically when bridges undergo maintenance to extend their usage, ideally to 75 years.

Increased traffic has also contributed to the need for the repairs starting this fall, Lyle said. An average of 33,000 vehicles through summer 2027, according to an per day drive that span on Creek Turnpike, which makes maintenance a necessity.

"We are seeing just the traffic increase daily," she said. "And so with any project or any road or bridge, the more traffic you have on it, especially if it's heavy truck

traffic, it is going to dip into the lifespan

The eastbound and westbound turnpike bridges over Haikey Creek will see replacements of the concrete deck, parapets and concrete beams, a news release states, while their substructure will also undergo repair.

During construction, traffic will remain open but will be narrowed to one lane in each direction and shifted onto one bridge while work occurs on the other bridge.

Construction is expected to continue OTA news release.

ACCESS Oklahoma is a 15-year plan to develop new turnpikes and expand highways across the state. The \$72 million

Please see TURNPIKE, Page A4

### Judge blocks 'crisis' home

**CURTIS KILLMAN** Tulsa World

A move by the state Department of Human Services to develop so-called "crisis homes" in residential areas has wound up in court, with a judge refusing to dissolve a temporary restraining order he issued earlier that blocked establishment of one of the homes.

Wagoner County District Judge Doug Kirkley last week denied the request from a DHS contractor to end the restraining order following a hearing.

Attorney Mark Zannotti called the ruling "a win for small people" and said it's up to the DHS contractor, Benchmark Human Services, to determine what happens next.

Please see JUDGE, Page A4

### **Search for** flood victims put on hold in Texas

**GABRIELA AOUN Associated Press** 

KERRVILLE, Texas - More heavy rains Sunday in Texas paused a weeklong search for victims of catastrophic flooding along the Guadalupe River and led to high-water rescues elsewhere as officials warned that the downpours could again cause waterways to surge.

Please see **SEARCH**, Page A3



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### Inside

Asking Eric	Α9	(
Classifieds	В7	N
Comics	Α8	(

Nation&World Α5

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