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August 30, 2016

Blondy Jhune Bridges Construction Update #3

The process is slow at the beginning of most construction projects, and the Blondy Jhune Bridge project is no exception. The contractor has been in contact with five steel-truss bridge manufacturers, but none have been able to deliver competitive cost numbers below the current concrete design. We are moving forward with no modifications to the plans as were bid on earlier this summer. The plan set can be found on the city website:

http://www.lucastexas.us/pdf/rfp_bids/BlondyJhuneBridgesBidSetPlans06021600216.pdf

Many of the bridge elements are fabricated on site during the construction of the bridge. One element that is pre-fabricated off-site and trucked into the project is the bridge beams. No one has the beam sitting on the shelf ready to buy. The beams must be fabricated. The contractor is negotiating with a few beam fabricators. The lead time for the beams is between six weeks and six months. The contractor is planning to have the beams delivered in October or November.

This is one reason why the schedule is so difficult to nail down to the day or hour when the next step will happen. There are multiple variables colliding all the time. Items such as weather, sub-contractors, supply lines, federal and state permitting, workforce availability, etc. each impact the long- and short-term scheduling.

We have not progressed far enough into the project schedule to set up the property owner meetings yet. These eight meetings will take place sometime during the next six weeks. These meetings are to discuss with each property owner on each corner of the bridges how the construction activities will impact their driveways, trees and landscaping, property access, etc.

If you or your neighbors are not one of these eight and would like to meet and discuss the project, please contact me directly to set up a meeting with you or your group at city hall, your home, or homeowners' association meeting.

The contractor's activities on-site this week are for the implementation of the SWPPP (stormwater pollution prevention plan) apparatus. The SWPPP must be in place before any construction starts. The contractor is following the requirements of the federal and state law. This is a minor activity and will not require any lane closures. The next step will be placing the changeable message signs (CMS) next week. These signs will let the travelling public know about the pending bridge closures. The contractor is planning to close both bridges during the week of September 19, 2016. The demo of the bridges will start that same week. This schedule is dependent on the delivery date of the beams.

September Schedule

Week of August 29 -- SWPPP

Week of September 5 -- Setup CMS

Week of September 19 -- Close Bridges

September 21 -- Start Bridge Demolition

October or November -- Beam Delivery

Don't forget to photograph your property to document the pre-construction condition. Please let your neighbors know about this email update. Have them send me a request if they want to be added to the list to receive these construction emails.

Sincerely,

Stanton Foerster, PE
Public Works Director/City Engineer