

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Crews race to complete turnpike before 2021

By Ryan Horton
Managing Editor

The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is continuing to move forward with construction of the Northeast Oklahoma County turnpike loop, and officials say residents can expect to see major progress in coming months.

During the final months of 2018 construction became visible as crews race to build the new turnpike through the Harrah area of eastern Oklahoma County, and officials expect that pace to only increase moving into 2019.

Dirt work can be seen throughout

the rural area west of Harrah, and damage to local roads is becoming clear as large crews and heavy equipment work daily.

OTA reports they will work with the county to repair roads as needed when the turnpike is complete.

The "Northeast Loop" is to connect I-40 and I-44 near Luther Road with a 21-mile stretch of toll road through eastern Oklahoma County.

Officials say the project that was announced in October 2015 and initially planned to be completed by

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Construction area warnings begin east of downtown Harrah. Progress is happening rapidly where the new turnpike will cross NE 23rd Street near Luther Road. PHOTO BY RYAN HORTON

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TURNPIKE SPEED ZONES

City, county and state police remind residents that speed limits are posted in Turnpike construction areas and will remain in effect until the construction is complete. And, fines are doubled when speeding or careless driving takes place when construction workers are present. From Harrah driving West on the south side NE 23, the speed limit is 45 mph to Luther Road, then 40 mph to halfway to Peebly where it goes back to 45 until Peebly Road is reached and normal speed limits are in effect.