

Sara Road nearly complete, 89th estimated to begin in May

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The City of Mustang has grown much in recent years, and with that growth comes necessary capital projects, such as the improvement of roadways.

In the September City Manager's report, Assistant City Manager Justin Battles breaks down a couple of ongoing roadway projects, including Sara Road, which is fully open this month for the first time in well over a year.

This project was included in the Sales Tax Extension approved by voters on August 23, 2016.

All lanes of the road have been opened, but there are still some boxes that need to be checked before the project can be called complete.

"Sara is not completed," Battles said Friday. "We have not done the final walk through. The contractor has several punch list items they have to complete. Currently, the walk through is scheduled for the end of the month, so the road has

not yet officially been turned over to Mustang. Obviously, we feel like it's a good project. It was well-needed, and overall, we're happy with the project. This was a unique project, because the administrator of the project was OTA (Oklahoma Turnpike Authority). They led the project. The contractor worked and was paid by the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, so it was a little unique and, logistically, it was not only the Mustang mile, but the three additional miles. Realistically, it took them just under two years so far. In terms of the Mustang Mile, we felt like they moved fairly quickly. Obviously, because it didn't just include the mile in Mustang, there were a lot of logistics that were involved where they may have moved to a farther portion and had to come back, but overall, we're definitely happy with the project. Time-wise, it could have been shorter, sure, absolutely, but that's kind of the reality we live in, in today's market. I give credit to them. In that sub-

mittal plan, I had to submit a traffic control plan to the OTA when they submitted their documents. I think, working through that, they did a good job notating what that would look like, and it was difficult with the volumes of traffic we have coming through there." Another item Battles detailed in his report this month was the expansion of the section of Southwest 89th Street that runs from Highway 4 to Mustang Road. Battles said, "The intersection of 89th and State Highway 4 will be the first area that we do, and because the west side of the intersection will have to be shut down for a couple of months, we did not want to do that during school, because it is an access to Mustang Public School. We're looking at having everything ready to go around May of next year for that project, so once school shuts down, we'll be looking at construction really kicking off about that time. We're talking late spring, early summer 2024."



The expansion of the section of Southwest 89th Street that runs from Highway 4 to Mustang Road is estimated to begin in May. PHOTO BY JAYSON KNIGHT

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"... We're always looking for different amenities that could really add, especially to like an existing park like

that where there's already the tennis courts there, there's a playground, little league teams use that park for T-ball practice and maybe football practice and things. So, it's really going to hopefully draw more people to the park

that's already coming to the park, and giving those that are already at the park more opportunities to do while they're there."

Conner mentioned only three parks will have a trail aspect to it, making Meadows

Park's project one of a few accessible trails in the Mustang community.

Meadows Park is located behind the Mustang Masonic Lodge near S Meadow Lane. The surrounding community will have an easy accessibility

to the .81-mile trail.

Mustang City Council members originally voted with unanimous consent to award the bid for the project in June, with a finalized contract having been addressed in July with Red River Homes.

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September 14, Bailey said, "We have ten total parks, because we added one. We also have the Town Center, the Rec Center, the Active Adult Center, the sports facility, the dog park, the

rodeo grounds is run by a different organization, but we help to maintain it. I'm particularly proud of our staff for continuing to do their jobs well serving the citizens of Mustang and the other people who use our facilities. I'm so proud of them for continuing on with such a large scale of work that we do."

Director Bailey is currently in the process of writing grants in an attempt to further improve upon the city facilities.

"There's always stuff like that. I don't want to put that out there, because we don't know if it will happen, but we've always got plans to improve throughout. One of the coolest things

going on now is Meadow Park has a walking track that is being installed now. Once it's done, we'll do a grand opening of it. It's about nine-tenths of a mile. It's just another outdoor area for our community to go and exercise and walk, and enjoy being outside. Sometimes maintaining it takes up all your budget, but

we're always looking for ways to help our youth sports, our pools, our seniors. I get a lot of ideas bounced off of me, and we always look to see if we can make some of those things happen."

For more information contact the Mustang Parks and Recreation Department at (405) 376-3411.