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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Winganon Causeway project moving along**

Rogers County Board of County Commissioners approved construction plans and signing of the title sheet for the Winganon Causeway project Monday during its regular board meeting.

This causeway — largely located in District 2 and some in District 1 — has experienced several flooding events [and emergency repairs] over the past several years resulting in loss of subgrade, riprap, and settlement.

The flooding also gave rise to the causeway's asphalt surface to settle and crack.

The project will include reconstruction of approximately four miles of roadway on EW Road from U.S. Highway 169 to the causeway.

The project summary stated there will be some ground disturbance outside of the existing pavement, which is expected. The work further includes some shoulder widening, guardrail replacement, and widening on the causeway.

The causeway will remain open during construction, with a temporary offset alignment shoofly and/or phased construction will be implemented.

Engineer Brian Kellogg said, "The time has come," after spending the last six months getting environmental studies completed, which he remarked was successful.

Environmental studies show the impacts on individual species, their immediate habitats and general natural resources like water and air quality.

This is just part of the preparation that goes into constructing roads or bridges.

Environmental studies are part of the planning phase, which is followed by the design, bidding, construction and operation maintenance phases. Some of that includes the purchasing of right-of-way, but there will not be a need to buy any new right-of-way for this project.

“[I] felt like we got the best deal we could,” Kellogg said, wrapping up that part. He said he should be giving final plans to the BOCC soon.

BOCC Commissioner Chairman Steve Hendrix of District 2 asked if this meant the project could be tentatively let in April.

Kellogg confirmed it would be let then, but the dollar amount of the project could not yet be figured out since, “There’s no telling what it will cost by April.”

Details of cost will evolve once bids are received from a letting announcement around that time. A construction date will be later decided after a company has been selected.

