

**7/20/20**

## **LEWALLEN BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE**

*Lynn Murphy (Project Coordinator)*

**At month 23 of the 36 month project:**

Structures:

Abutment # 1:

Good progress has been made during the past four weeks. A visiting crew was assigned to this structure alone and they have installed the engineered walls and the compacted crushed stone backfill (see photos). Work will now begin on building forms for a concrete cap, which will be poured across the exposed tops of the steel beam pilings. This cap will bear the weight for the last nine steel girder beams.

Bridge Decking and Overhangs:

Galvanized steel deck pans have been installed across about 65% of the bridge. Crews are building overhangs, using temporary metal brackets that support wooden concrete forms (see photos). The overhangs will support a five-foot wide sidewalk on each side of the bridge, along with a parapet wall with railings. Epoxy coated steel rebar will extend from the main bridge deck onto the overhangs, then concrete will be poured to create a continuous slab.

Recent Inquiries:

Question # 1: What color will the new bridge be painted?

Answer: Unlike the old bridge, the new bridge will not have steel trusses exposed over the road surface, so no protective coating (paint) is required. The driving surface, the sidewalks, and the parapet walls will all have a concrete finish. To commemorate the old bridge color, there will be thirty-eight new decorative styled light fixtures and poles, painted green.

The steel girder support beams will be visible only from beneath the bridge. These steel surfaces are referred to as “weathered steel”, meaning that they are built to oxidize to a pre-determined depth, which will form a protective rust surface coating. This eliminates the need to initially paint them, as well as long-term maintenance requiring paint removal (sandblasting) and then new painting. The only paint protection required on the girder beams will be beneath any expansion joints, where rain water (and road salt) will flow onto the steel.

Question # 2: What will be the name of the new bridge?

Answer: TDOT construction plans show signs to be installed on the new bridge approaches, keeping the same name as the existing bridge: “Hon. William Everett Lewallen Memorial Bridge”, more commonly referred to simply as the “Lewallen Bridge”.

*Note: The TDOT Lewallen Bridge Replacement Project began on Monday September 17, 2018 and is scheduled for completion on August 31, 2021*