

Change Orders on Bridge Projects

■ *Won't Cost Taxpayers*

By Monte Miller
Missourian Staff Writer

One county bridge project cost goes up, another comes down, but the two do not offset.

On Tuesday, the Franklin County Commission approved change orders to bridge replacement projects on Shawnee Ford Road and Fiddle Creek Road, both in rural parts of the county.

County Highway Administrator Jim Grutsch said both projects are complete and the county will be reimbursed for any additions coming from the change orders by the Missouri Department of Transportation.

"Both roadways are open," Grutsch said. "The Shawnee Ford project required the pillars to be deeper than originally planned and a little more fencing was required. That's what caused the increase and MoDOT has signed off on the projects."

Shawnee Ford

The contract for the Shawnee Ford Road project was approved more than a year ago, and is one of the most expensive county bridge replacement projects in recent years.

In Feb. 2019, KCI Construction Company, Inc., based in St. Louis, was awarded the contract of the \$1,481,000 replacement of the bridge over the Bourbeuse River about 11 miles northwest of Sullivan.

The bridge replacement is being funded by federal money as was approved in 2015 by the East-West Gate-

way Council of Governments.

At that time, the federal money totaled \$1.1 million, with Franklin County contributing \$272,000 for the project.

The change order approved Tuesday will increase the cost of the project by \$14,112.

The order states it has been determined that multiple bid items were both overrun in some cases and underrun.

The change order would increase the total cost of the project to \$1,495,112.

The contract with KCI Construction includes constructing a new three span bridge consisting of two 90-foot sections and one 120-foot section.

The work and materials include placing fill, grading, demolition of the existing structure, prestressed concrete girder bridge, reinforced box culvert extension and associated roadway work together with any incidental work needed on the project.

Fiddle Creek

Franklin County has caught a break on a project plagued by delays and unforeseen costs, for more than two years.

The ongoing replacement of the Fiddle Creek Road bridge outside of Labadie was awarded to Arnold based Kozeny-Wagner, Inc. in June 2019.

The Kozeny-Wagner bid for the one-span, 86-foot-long prestressed concrete girder bridge over Fiddle Creek was \$566,853.

The project is estimated to cost just over \$750,000 with the coun-



Young Readers Value Creativity

Young readers were eager to help guest author Peter H. Reynolds illustrate the value of creativity to the audience at the 20th Family Reading Night, held Friday, March 6, at Washington Middle School. The *New York Times* bestselling author/illustrator and ambassador of creativity shared his newest book "Be You!" with families at the annual community event organized by *The Missourian* in partnership with the Washington School District and the Washington Optimist Club. Missourian Photo.

ty receiving \$600,800 in federal funds and a local match of \$150,200.

On Tuesday, the county received a bit of a reprieve when the commission approved a change order reducing the overall cost of the project.

The commission order states it has been determined that multiple bid items were both overrun in some cases and underrun.

The change order would decrease the project cost by \$3,453. for a new total cost of \$562,151.65.

In 2018, property owners on Fiddle Creek Road required the county to purchase property easements before work could begin.

According to county documents, \$4,250 was paid to landowners for 0.06 of an acre of right of way and 0.16 of an acre of temporary construction easement.

Still Time to Register For Children's Relay

By Kristen Dragotto
Missourian Staff Writer

The registration deadline for the Jordan Scheer Memorial Children's Relay For Life at Washington High School has been extended to Monday, March 16.

The relay will take place Friday, April 24, at the WHS track.

Children in third-through sixth-grade from area schools are invited to participate in the event. This year's theme is Camp Out for a Cure.

Relay chairs Abbie Dewart and Josie Obermark hope by extending the deadline it will increase the number

of participants for this year's event.

Dewart explained that on March 2 there were only 320 children registered and in the last week 61 additional people signed up, making a total of 381 participants registered to date.

In 2019, the children's relay had 500 participants. Both Dewart and Obermark explained that the decrease in participants this year could be due to registration being strictly online.

"In years past, participants could sign up for the event online and by packets sent home with the kids," Obermark said. "This year we opted out of doing paper

registration."

Both Obermark and Dewart stated that there are no plans to add a paper registration.

Obermark did note that she is pleased with the number of area schools participating this year.

"This year (the relay) has participants from 13 area schools," Obermark said.

Registration

Participants who have registered after March 2 and register within the next week will not receive a shirt or lanyard, according to Obermark.

To register, visit sites.google.com/site/whschil-drenrelay/registration.

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