

## Owasso works on economic development corridor

by Kirby Lee Davis

Published: February 20th, 2012



Highway 169 passes under the 96th Street North bridge in Owasso. The city of Owasso is developing an economic development corridor for U.S. Highway 169 to promote renewed high-quality development and enhance property values. (Photo by Rip Stell)

TULSA – The city of Owasso is developing an economic development corridor for U.S. Highway 169, its major north-south thoroughfare.

Rising traffic along that route has already helped Tulsa's northern suburb add several million square feet of new retail space along the last decade. With the highway being widened to support still more vehicles, the city wants development standards in place to promote renewed high-quality development and enhance property values.

"We wanted an additional layer of protection of that north 169 corridor," said City Planner Bronce Stephenson. "The good thing is, most of our developments in Owasso have set the bar and set the example. It's our hope for how the rest of that area will develop."

The Owasso Community Development staff has developed possible language for a north 169 overlay district from E. 86th through E. 126th streets. This district outline has been tweaked five to six times in its passage through the city's economic development authority, Stephenson said.

Besides posting that at the city website, [cityofowasso.com](http://cityofowasso.com), the staff established a special Facebook page to spur a public dialogue in advance of public meetings scheduled for March 5, 12 and 20.

"We're trying to get as much interest as we can to get everybody talking," Stephenson said.

The overlay district would outline basic architectural standards, development requirements and some restricted uses.

"We want to make sure that if somebody's making a multimillion-dollar investment, we want to make sure what goes in next door is also representative of how Owasso's growing," Stephenson said.

After March's planned public meetings, he said the proposed district still must go through the planning commission and the Owasso City Council for final action.

"Probably sometime in April we will bring the actual ordinance through," he said in a telephone interview.