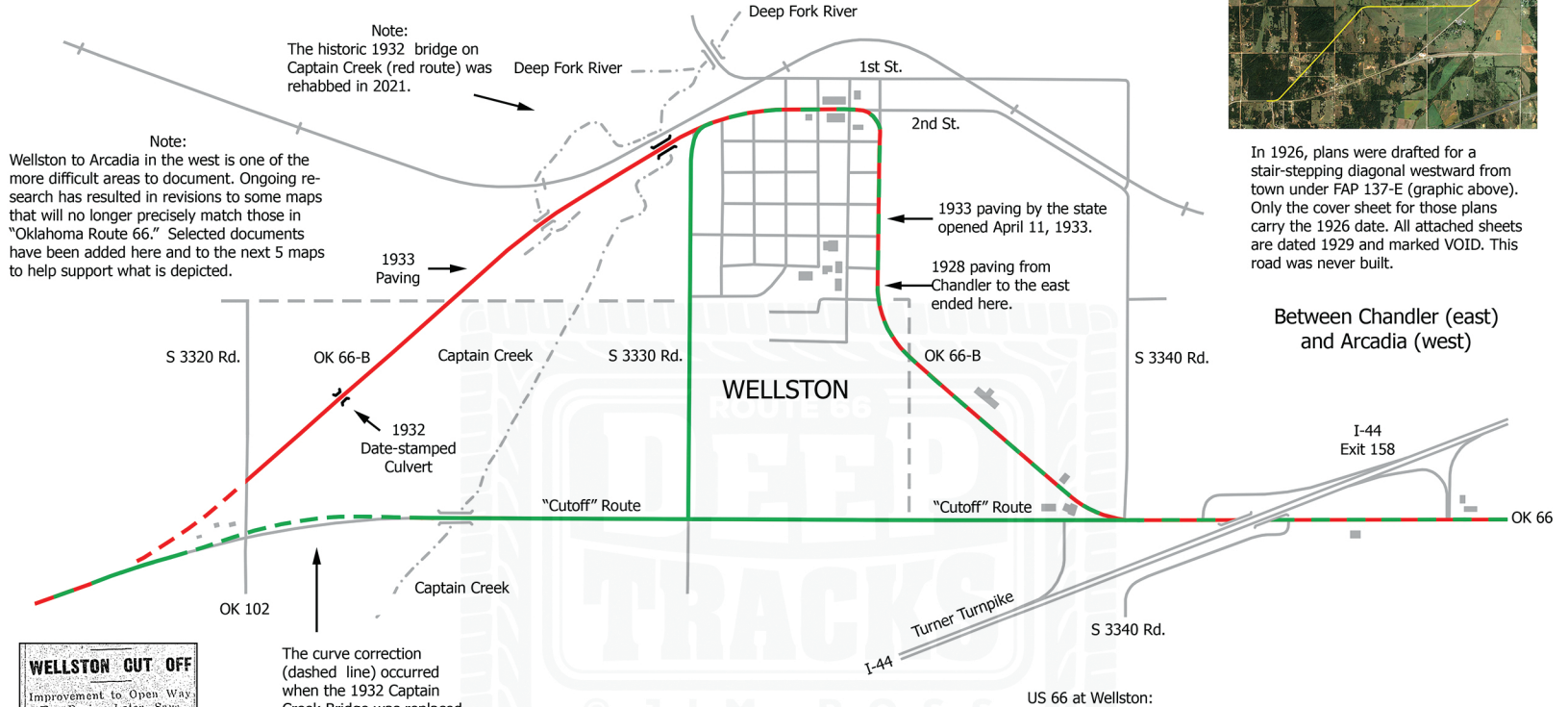
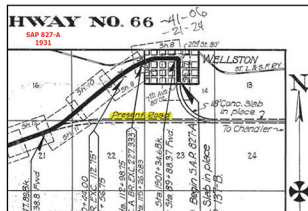


In 1926, plans were drafted for a stair-stepping diagonal westward from town under FAP 137-E (graphic above). Only the cover sheet for those plans carry the 1926 date. All attached sheets are dated 1929 and marked VOID. This road was never built.



WELLSTON GUT OFF
 Improvement to Open Way For Paving Later, Says State Commission.
 Three gaps on state highways between important points, two between Tulsa and Oklahoma City, will be closed by contracts for grading, drainage and bridges to be let by the highway commission shortly.
 The commission announced the projects chosen for improvement Thursday, and the members said the contracts would be let within 30 days.
 One of the projects is on U. S. highway No. 66 in Lincoln county and will cut Wellston off the highway. The project calls for grading and drainage of five miles.
 June 7, 1929

The curve correction (dashed line) occurred when the 1932 Captain Creek Bridge was replaced in 2001.



1931 plans for the state-built road through Wellston show the "cutoff" alignment as the "Present Road."

Plans drafted in 1926 for FAP 137-B brought paving from Chandler in 1928 that curved toward downtown but ended at the east city limit (arrow above). Continuance of that 1928 paving was delayed by a dispute between the state and the Bureau of Public Roads, who favored bypassing Wellston with a "cutoff" on the east/west section line. A 1919 map shows an unimproved road and a bridge on Captain Creek already existing there. The feds ultimately prevailed by holding funds hostage, and in 1931 the state drafted plans for SAP 827-A for the loop through Wellston, which would be paved in 1933 solely at state expense (bonds issued in 1927 had guaranteed that alignment). Those 1931 plans were approved in 1932, drains and bridges were built that year, and it was paved in 1933 as OK 66.

Prior to the arrival of the 1928 paving project and until late 1930, US 66 likely entered and left Wellston using the curved road and S 3330 Rd., though the evidence is lean. Existing section line roads (dashed gray line) could have been used to enter and exit Wellston before the existence of the green/red diagonal (but no farther west than S 3320 Rd.). There is no evidence that a road already existed on the red route westward from downtown Wellston before the 1932-1933 state project, though it is possible. Drainage and graveling of the "cutoff" began in 1929 (top news clip, far left), but the one-mile eastern half remained dirt until November 1930. It is not known when the cutoff was first signed US 66, but the evidence suggests that it occurred in 1930 after the state agreed to the cutoff mandate and the cutoff was fully gravelled and considered an "all-weather" road. Based on available evidence, the cutoff and the downtown alignments appear most likely to have carried US 66 traffic prior to 1930, and both are color coded green on the map.

The paved loop through town (green/red and red) opened to traffic on April 11, 1933. Paving of the cutoff was completed in December of that year under FAP 37-E (bottom news clip, far left). The order in which the two roads were paved was by agreement.

The route through downtown Wellston carried all traffic during the eight months the cutoff route was closed for paving in 1933. The loop through town was thereafter signed OK 66. In 1985, when US 66 was deactivated in Oklahoma, the cutoff route changed from US 66 to OK 66 and the loop through Wellston became OK 66-B.

The Daily Oklahoman
 Wed., April 12, 1933
WELLSTON, April 11—(Special)—The people of this Lincoln county town are in a mood to celebrate—the famous Wellston gap in highway 66 has been paved and was kept open to traffic Tuesday.
 The all-weather road, which has kept cars in the mud for six years, and which has been kicked around in state highway department controversies and court litigations for at least three long, now is a concrete ribbon.
 And the paved road bends through Wellston with all highway signs directing traffic through the town. The signs were put up and all barriers removed Tuesday.