

JENKS — Development of a proposed outlet mall in Jenks cleared a zoning hurdle

Thursday. The Jenks Planning Commission unanimously approved changing a tract zoned for agriculture to Riverfront Tourist Commercial to accommodate Simon Premium Outlets, a global retail giant with designs on locating in the suburb. "It's a great regional location," said John P. Dionis, Premium Outlets senior director for development. The tract rezoned Thursday comprises 51 acres and provides for 401,000 square feet of leaseable area. Dionis said construction on Tulsa Premium Outlets, to be located on the south side of the Creek Turnpike just west of the Arkansas River, could start around next summer and take 12 to 15 months. "It's very gratifying to reach these final stages of the process, and with the approval of the city of Jenks Planning Commission, the project goes before the City Council for review and consideration at its meeting on Dec. 21," City Manager Mike Tinker said in a statement. "I can't think of a better way to end a very successful year of development for the city of Jenks. We're fortunate to work alongside the team of professionals assembled by Simon Premium Outlets to help bring this project from plans on paper to a building site." In September, Simon announced it was taking its proposal to the Jenks River District, rejecting an original plan to locate in Tulsa near the Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness Area, where it faced strong opposition from people who feared that the development would encroach on their outdoor activities and the natural setting. The first phase of the development is planned to encompass 325,000 square feet with 80 to 90 retail options, Simon has said previously. In October, ground was broken on an \$18 million roads project in Jenks that will upgrade safety, improve motorists' convenience and facilitate access to the proposed mall. The Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is partnering with the city on the project. "The addition of Simon Premium Outlets is transformational for the city of Jenks and joins Riverwalk, Oklahoma Aquarium, Margaritaville at River Spirit Resort and Casino, and Tulsa's Gathering Place as yet another top-tier destination for citizens and visitors along the Arkansas River," Tinker said.

Two other outlet mall proposals have been announced in the Tulsa metro area: one by Horizon Group Properties in east Tulsa at 129th East Avenue and Interstate 44, and another by Woodmont Outlets alongside the Cherokee Nation's Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa in Catoosa. Last month, the Tulsa Metropolitan Area Planning Commission approved a plan to create a special taxing district for the Horizon proposal. The taxing district still would have to gain approval from the Tulsa City Council. Rhett Morgan 918-581-8395 rhett.morgan@tulsaworld.com

Get local news delivered to your inbox! Subscribe to our Daily Headlines newsletter. Sign up! * I understand and agree that registration on or use of this site constitutes agreement to its user agreement and privacy policy.