

**The SR 25 at Savannah & Middle River Bridges Replacement Project**

PI Numbers: 0013741 & 0013742  
Chatham County, GA

Date: January 8, 2021

**Disclaimer:**

- Please be advised that this information is preliminary and is provided for information only. All final scope requirements will be included in the Request for Proposals (RFP).

**Project Information:**

- Provide design, permitting, utility coordination and/or utility relocation, construction and any other related services necessary to build the Project.
- A Design-Build Team will be responsible for design and construction of the Project. The work consists of the replacement of two bridges along SR 25, one over the Savannah River (James P. Houlihan Bridge) and one over the Middle River, in Chatham County, GA, approximately six miles north of Savannah. Traffic will be maintained on the existing bridges while the proposed bridges are constructed parallel to the existing bridges.
- The bridge replacement list is as follows:

ID Number	Roadway Name	Feature Crossed	Disposition
051-0054-0	SR 25 / N Coastal Highway	Savannah River	Replacement
051-0055-0	SR 25 / N Coastal Highway	Middle River	Replacement

- In response to the industry, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has developed a project ranking system to categorize DB projects representing varying levels of complexity and risk ranging from low to high. The category determines the Post-Let delivery requirements for that project. These submittal requirements are based on the information needed to communicate and document the DB Team's management and construction plan. The subject project will be a Category III project. The general submittal requirements for a Category III project can be found in the memo at <http://www.dot.ga.gov/PartnerSmart/Innovative/DesignBuild/DBProjectScalability.pdf>.

**Environmental:**

- The NEPA document is currently being prepared. Two Categorical Exclusions, one for each bridge, are anticipated to be completed by September 2021.
- GDOT is coordinating environmental activities with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), National Marine Fisheries Services (NOAA Fisheries), United States Fish and Wildlife, and Georgia Department of Natural Resources

(DNR). The final requirements for seasonal in-water work restrictions will be provided in the RFP.

**Permitting:**

- The Design-Build Team will prepare all applicable permit(s) to GDOT's satisfaction. GDOT will transmit permit(s) to the respective agency, and the Design-Build Team will be responsible for satisfactorily addressing all comments.
- GDOT is reviewing an approach to potentially acquire mitigation credits. The Design-Build Team may still be required to acquire mitigation credits in the name of GDOT, as required under the approved permit. Final mitigation strategy will be included in the RFP.
- All site erosion control BMPs, including obtaining any stream buffer variances, will be the responsibility of the Design-Build team.

**Geotechnical Scope of Work:**

- GDOT anticipates providing a Soil Survey as a Reference Information Document (RID) with the RFP.
- GDOT will provide readily available geotechnical information, e.g., additional boring information, which have been posted as RIDs on the GDOT Sharepoint Site .
- The Design-Build Team will be responsible for obtaining Bridge Foundation Investigations (BFI) and Wall Foundation Investigations (WFI) as necessary.

**Pavement Design:**

- An approved pavement design will be included in the Request for Proposals (RFP).

**Survey Scope of Work:**

- GDOT will make available a survey database as a RID.

**Critical Path Method:**

- GDOT anticipates using a Critical Path Method (CPM) schedule requirement for this project.

**Utility Scope of Work:**

- All Design-Build projects at GDOT are Public Interest Determination (PID).
- GDOT will provide SUE QL-D information.
- The Design-Build Team will be responsible for coordinating and/or relocating all affected utilities or obtaining no-conflict letters from all utility owners.
- GDOT will obtain executed Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) from each utility owner and will include in the RFP.

### **Traffic Control Scope of Work:**

- The Design-Build Team shall provide changeable message signs for use as needed and shall be required to place and maintain messages on all message boards, 24 hours a day, seven days a week as directed by the GDOT.

### **Right-of-Way Scope of Work:**

- ROW acquisition is ongoing. A date certain will be provided in the RFP.
- GDOT anticipates that no additional ROW acquisition will be required for the Design-Build Team to perform the work.

### **MS4 Permit:**

- The Design-Build Team will be responsible for determining MS4 feasibility and meeting any permit requirements.

### **Additional Questions:**

- What is the type of procurement process GDOT expects to follow?
  - The procurement will be Two-Phase (shortlist) Best Value. The Department values early replacement of the Savannah River crossing due to current weight restrictions on the existing bridge, public outreach to stakeholders, and minimizing environmental impacts.
- What does GDOT see as the biggest challenges?
  - Early delivery of the Savannah River crossing, which is critical to the trucking industry;
  - Ensuring continuous access and operation of the DNR boat ramp is maintained and uninterrupted throughout the Project construction phase;
  - Environmental in-water restrictions due to existing protected species;
  - Working within the ROW boundaries;
  - Public outreach to stakeholders such as GPA, the City of Port Wentworth, and South Carolina DOT (Jasper County)
- The approved Concept Report for the Savannah River crossing discusses options, is the preferred option what GDOT wants?
  - The Department prefers to replace the existing bridges with a proposed bridge parallel and to the North, or upstream, to the existing Savannah River and Middle River bridges while maintaining traffic.
- Who is handling what Environmental elements?
  - GDOT will provide two NEPA documents (CE), one for the Savannah River and one for the Middle River
  - GDOT is delineating the wetlands prior to the execution of the Contract
  - DB Team will minimize and purchase mitigation credits
  - DB Team will be responsible for the 404 permit
- Is GDOT working to minimize the in-water work restrictions?
  - Yes, the Department is coordinating with NOAA Fisheries through FHWA to minimize in-water restriction time

- Does GDOT have geotechnical information that can be shared sooner rather than later?
  - Yes, the Department has a current geo-technical boring report and borehole location plans, which have been posted as a RID on the GDOT Sharepoint Site.
- Does GDOT have as-built plans for the existing bridge structures or recent bridge inspection information?
  - Yes, GDOT has as-built information and recent inspection information for both bridges, which have been posted as RIDs on the GDOT Sharepoint Site.
- Who will be responsible for the Savannah River bridge maintenance during post-let?
  - GDOT will be responsible for maintenance of the Savannah River bridge structure (approach slab to approach slab) after NTP 1 until the existing bridge is removed from service.
- Does this project have any aesthetics-based criteria requirements?
  - No aesthetic requirements are anticipated.
- What are the clearance requirements for the proposed Savannah River bridge replacement?
  - The U.S. Coast Guard minimum clearance requirements are a 100-ft horizontal clearance and a 55-ft vertical clearance over the mean low tide.
- Does GDOT have the vessel history in the Savannah River and will there be impact design requirements?
  - GDOT has a log regarding vessel usage at this location on the Savannah River that has been posted as a RID on the GDOT Sharepoint Site. Impact design requirements will be included in the Request for Proposals (RFP).
- Does GDOT have a bathymetric survey of both river locations?
  - GDOT has a bathymetric survey of both bridge locations that will be posted as RIDs with the advertisement of the RFP.
- What information has GDOT posted to date?
  - GDOT has posted additional project information as RIDs to the GDOT Public Sharepoint Site. A 'README' file with a list of all provided RIDs can be found there for reference.
- Can you share the procurement schedule? When is the Industry Forum?

The PNA, which contains the current procurement schedule, has been posted to the Georgia Procurement Registry at the below location.

<https://ssl.doas.state.ga.us/gpr/eventDetails?eSourceNumber=2148401PNA-484-01082021DB&sourceSystemType=doas>