



March 13, 2014

Thank you for attending the Detour Open House for CSBRG-0007-00(158), the proposed bridge replacement on SR 63 at the Middle Fork Broad River, PI Number 0007158. Our goal is two-fold: 1) to provide you with information on the proposed project and 2) to provide an opportunity for you to give us your comments on the proposed project, which includes traffic detour routes that would be used during construction. In this handout package, you will find a description of the project, a location map, a map of the proposed local and truck detours, and a comment card.

As you enter the room, please take a look at the project displays. Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) representatives, wearing nametags, are available to discuss the project and answer your questions. There will be no formal presentation.

We hope you will take the opportunity to tell Georgia DOT what you think. Listed below are several ways to comment on the project. Your comments are important to us and, should you provide comments by one of the methods noted below, we will respond to you in writing usually within the next 45 days. All comments will become part of the project's official record.

While you are attending the Open House, you can **provide your comments today** by filling out the comment card provided with this handout and dropping it in the comment box, or you may choose to provide your verbal comments to the court reporter who will transcribe your comments.

You can also **provide your comments by Sunday, March 23, 2014** by using either of the following methods:

- Online at www.dot.ga.gov.
 1. Click *Information Center* on the upper right side of the page;
 2. Click *Public Outreach* in the Quick links block;
 3. From the menu, select the county in which the proposed project is located and click *Go*;
 4. Then select *SR 63 at Middle Fork Broad River*;
 5. Lastly, click *Comment* and follow the instructions to leave your comments.
- Mail in your comment card to Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308

The project displays and plans will be available for review for ten days after this Open House at the *Information Center* at www.dot.ga.gov, described above. Hardcopies will also be available at the Georgia DOT Gainesville District Office, located at 2505 Athens Highway SE, Gainesville, 30507 and at the Carnesville Area Office located at 301 Conger Road, Carnesville, GA 30521. Following the ten-day public comment period, a copy of all comments received will be available by request at the Atlanta address listed above.

Again, thank you for attending this open house. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact the project manager Davida White at (404) 631-1717 or Cindy Treadway at (404) 631-1979 of the Office of Environmental Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn Bowman / m".

Glenn Bowman, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation

Georgia Department of Transportation | Detour Open House Handout

PI#: 0007158, County: Banks

Why We Are Here: SR 63 is a two lane facility that serves traffic between the city of Toccoa and I-85. This bridge (Structure ID 011-0039-0; SR 63 over Middle Fork Broad River) was built in 1962. The bridge consists of eight spans of reinforced concrete deck girders on concrete caps and pile bents. The overall condition of this bridge would be classified as satisfactory, but there are minor cracks on the beams and caps. Load limiting is a factor used by GDOT to evaluate a bridge's ability to support cars and trucks based on their weight. The bridge was designed using truck configurations that weigh less than the current legal state truck weights. Secondly, traffic on SR 63 carries a high number of trucks (11 percent in 2011). This bridge is currently posted 21 tons for double-axle trucks, 29 tons for triple-axle, and 37 tons for tractor trailers. No rehabilitation work performed on the deck would improve this bridge in so far as the posting of the structure is concerned. Therefore, replacement of the bridge is needed even though the bridge is not considered structurally deficient.

Project Description: The proposed Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Project CSBRG-0007-00(158), P.I. No. 0007158, located in Banks County. The proposed project corridor is approximately 9 miles north of Homer, south of Toccoa, and southeast of Cornelia. The project would consist of the replacement of the bridge on State Route (SR) 63 at the Middle Fork Broad River. The bridge deck needs to be elevated about five feet to help maintain the bridge deck above the water of potential floods. Adjustment of vertical curves along the bridge approaches will be needed to match the roadway to the raised bridge deck. As such, construction will extend the project limits from the bridge in both directions. The approach work limits begin 458 feet south of the existing bridge and 1,152 feet north of the existing bridge. The total approach work length is 1,914 feet. The proposed improvements include two 12-foot wide lanes (one lane in each direction) with 8-foot wide rural shoulders (2-foot paved). Due to the site constraints of the long roadbed across the Middle Fork Broad River floodplain and the proximity of adjacent water resources and a high tension power transmission structure, replacement on alignment is the only practicable alternative. Therefore, an off-site detour will be necessary during construction.

Local and Heavy Truck Detour Map:

PROPOSED LOCAL DETOUR DESCRIPTIONS

SR 63 west local detour (5.9 miles)

From SR 63 west on Wells Road to Boling Road;
Then north on Boling Road to Damascus Road;
East on Damascus Road to SR 184; and
Finally east on SR 184 to SR 63

SR 63 east local detour (5.04 miles)

From SR 63 east on Banks Academy Road to CR 88/Prospect/Plainview Road;
Then north on CR 88/Prospect/Plainview Road to SR 83; and
Finally west on SR 83 to SR 63

PROPOSED TRUCK DETOUR DESCRIPTIONS

The western proposed detour (22 miles)

Begins at the junction of SR 63 and SR 198 and proceeds west along SR 198 for 8.3 miles to US 441/SR15. Then, the proposed detour heads north along US 441/SR 15 for 2.8 miles to the junction of US 441/SR 15 and SR 105. The detour continues along SR 105 for 8.4 miles to the junction of SR 105 and SR 184. Finally, the detour heads south along SR 184 for 2.5 miles to terminate at the SR 184/SR 63 junction.

The eastern proposed truck detour (24 miles)

Begins at the junction of SR 63 and SR 198 and proceeds east along SR 198 for 7.8 miles to SR 59. This route continues east along SR 59 for 1.8 miles to the junction of SR 320 and SR 59. Then, the proposed truck detour heads north along SR 320 for 10.1 miles to the junction of SR 63 and SR 320. Finally, the proposed eastern truck detour heads south along SR 63 to terminate at the SR 184/SR 63 junction.

Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name _____

Address _____

Do you support the project and the detour as presented? (check your response)

- For**
 Against
 Conditional
 Uncommitted

General Comments _____

How did you hear about this Open House? (check)
 Radio
 Newspaper
 Signs
 Word of Mouth
 Other _____

Was the location of the Open House convenient for you to attend?
 Yes
 No

If no, please suggest a general location that is more convenient to your community.

Was the time of the meeting convenient for you to attend?
 Yes
 No

If no, please suggest a time frame that is more convenient for you.

Were your questions answered by GDOT personnel?
 Yes
 No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?
 Yes
 No

Please share your suggestions on improving the ways GDOT conducts Open Houses:

Mail to:
 Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator
 Georgia Department of Transportation
 600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor
 Atlanta, Georgia 30308