



**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

October 23, 2018

Thank you for attending the Public Information Open House for the proposed State Route (SR) 136 at Chestatee River Bridge Replacement, PI Number 0007170. 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. In this handout package, you will find a description of the project, a location map, and a comment card.

As you enter the room, please take a look at the project display. Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) 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 the GDOT 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 30 days of the close of the comment period. 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 **Tuesday, November 06, 2018** by using any of the following methods:

- Online at [www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Public/PublicOutreach](http://www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Public/PublicOutreach).
  1. From the menu, select the county in which the proposed project is located and click *Go*;
  2. Then select *SR 136 at Chestatee River Bridge*;
  3. Lastly, click *Comment* and follow the instructions to leave your comments.
- Mail in your comment card to Mr. Eric Duff, 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 website noted above. Hardcopies will also be available at the GDOT Area 1 Office located at 2594 Gillsville Highway, Gainesville, Georgia 30507. 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, Darrell Richardson, at 678-730-1448 or the environmental analyst, David Borchardt, at 404-631-1184 of the Office of Environmental Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Eric Duff' followed by a circled number '16'.

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation

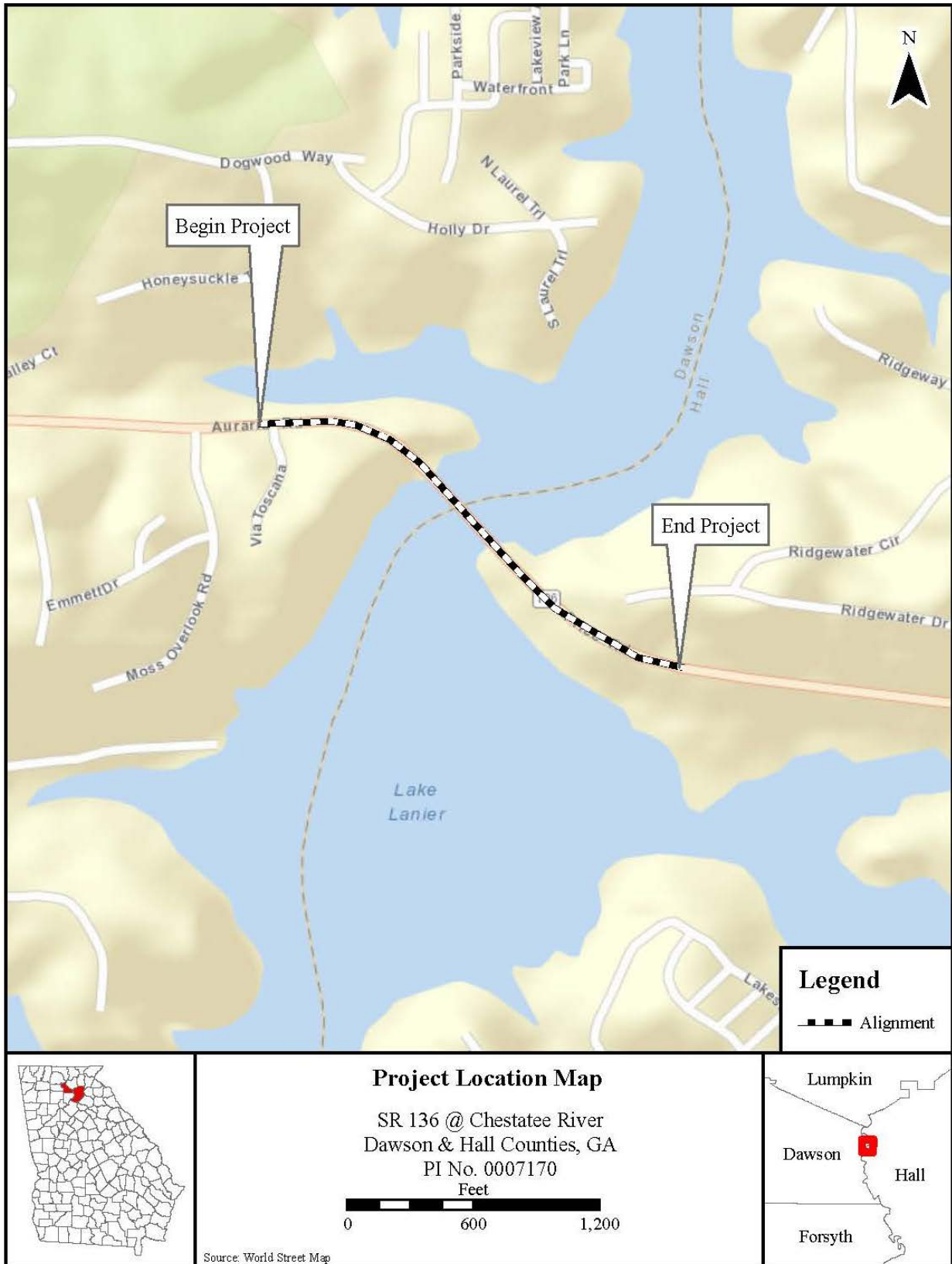
**Why We Are Here:** The bridge on State Route (SR) 136 over the Chestatee River was built in 1956. This bridge was designed using a design vehicle which is below current design standards. This bridge is classified as functionally obsolete due to the narrow deck width. The overall condition of this bridge would be classified as fair. The deck is in fair condition with severe cracking and spalls with exposed rebar. The superstructure is in fair condition with corrosion and section loss. The substructure is in fair condition with moderate cracking and spalls with exposed rebar. This bridge is classified as having an unknown foundation and therefore could be at risk for scour. Due to the age of the structure, the functionally obsolete classification, deterioration of the deck and substructure and section loss in the steel superstructure, along with the unknown foundation of the substructure, replacement of this 60-year-old bridge is recommended.

Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act of 1966 refers to the temporary and/or permanent use and/or constructive use of land from a significant publicly owned park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or any historic site for transportation purposes. Lake Lanier qualifies for protection as a Section 4(f) resource. The proposed project would require ROW and/or easement acquisition from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) property at Lake Lanier, and construction activities would take place within Lake Lanier. Dependent upon the feedback as a result of this Public Information Open House, the USACE will be asked to concur with a *de minimis* (minimal) impact finding for Lake Lanier to allow the project to proceed as planned. This Public Information Open House and the associated public comment period are considered the opportunity for public review and comment to fulfill the *de minimis* requirements.

The existing SR 136 bridge over the Chestatee River/Lake Lanier is a historic site considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and also qualifies for protection as a Section 4(f) resource. The proposed project would require demolition of the historic bridge. The GDOT intends to address the demolition of this historic resource in a Programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation.

**Project Description:** The proposed project would construct a replacement bridge for the existing structurally deficient bridge along SR 136 over the Chestatee River approximately 8.3 miles southeast of Dawsonville, Georgia at the Dawson/Hall County line. The project proposes to realign the bridge to the south of the existing bridge. The existing bridge is approximately 442 feet long and consists of two 11-foot travel lanes with no shoulders. The proposed bridge would be approximately 500 feet long with two 12-foot travel lanes and 8-foot shoulders. The design speed is 55 miles per hour (mph). The approximate project length is 0.4 mile. Existing right-of-way (ROW) is 160 to 240 feet. Proposed ROW would be approximately 160 to 325 feet.

**Project Location Map:**



### Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you support the project? (check your response)

- For**
- Against**
- Conditional**
- Uncommitted**

General Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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How did you hear about this Open House? (check)  **Newspaper**  **Signs**  **GDOT Website**  **Radio**

**Word of Mouth**  **Social Media**  **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:

\_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to:  
 Mr. Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator  
 Georgia Department of Transportation  
 600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Atlanta, Georgia 30308