

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**OFFICE OF DESIGN POLICY & SUPPORT
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

FILE P.I. # 0007023 **OFFICE** Design Policy & Support
CSBRG-0007-00(023)
Banks County
GDOT District 1 - Gainesville **DATE** 11/2/2015
SR 59 @ Grove Creek
Bridge Replacement

FROM  Brent Story, State Design Policy Engineer

TO SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT APPROVED DETOUR REPORT

Attached is the approved Detour Report with Notice of Detour Approval for the above subject project.

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION:

Glenn Bowman, Director of Engineering
Joe Carpenter, Director of P3/Program Delivery
Genetha Rice-Singleton, Assistant Director of P3/Program Delivery
Albert Shelby, State Program Delivery Engineer
Bobby Hilliard, Program Control Administrator
Hiral Patel, State Environmental Administrator
Bill DuVall or Lyn Clements for State Bridge Engineer
Andrew Heath, State Traffic Engineer
Lisa Myers, State Project Review Engineer
Paul Tanner, State Transportation Data Administrator
Attn: Systems & Classification Branch
Andy Casey, State Roadway Design Engineer
Attn: Justin Lott, District Design Engineer
Brent Cook, District Engineer
Brandon Kirby, District Preconstruction Engineer
Kim Coley, District Planning & Programming Engineer
Tony Voyles, Area Engineer - D1, A3
Steven Heng, Project Manager
BOARD MEMBER - 9th Congressional District

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
DETOUR REPORT**

FILE CSBRG-0007-00(023), Banks County **OFFICE** PROGRAM DELIVERY
PI 0007023
SR 59 @ Grove Creek **DATE** 10/2/15
Bridge Replacement

FROM Albert Shelby, State Program Delivery Engineer 
TO Brent Story, P.E., State Design Policy Engineer
Attn: Dave Peters, P.E., State Conceptual Design Group Manager

SUBJECT Request for Detour Approval

Description and Project Proposal: The proposed project is to replace the bridge on SR 59 at Grove River in Banks County, 5 miles north of Commerce. The SR 59 roadway will consist of two 12 ft. travel lanes with 10 ft. shoulders (4ft. paved) and the new bridge will consist of two 12 ft. lanes and 8 ft. shoulders. The proposed length of the project is approximately 0.2 miles with the new bridge being approximately 281 ft. long and 40 ft. wide.

Concept Approval Date: December 11, 2013

Reason a Detour is Required:

Proposed Off-Site Detour – The proposed design is too close to the bridge on SR 59 over Grove River and detour traffic onto SR 15US 441 and SR 164, with a total detour length of 7.4 miles. This allows the demolition and rebuilding of the bridge without additional structures or roadway realignment. It also minimizes construction footprint, cost and has the shortest time of construction, with an anticipated 9 months of detour/construction. Estimated Cost: \$1.3 million

Alternate-Staged Bridge Construction – This option consists of constructing a new bridge adjacent to the existing bridge. One bridge lane would be constructed while traffic was maintained on the existing bridge then traffic would shift to the new bridge as a one lane, on site detour with a temporary traffic signal while the existing bridge was demolished and the remaining half of the new bridge was constructed. This option was not chosen because the construction time was significantly increased from the off-site detour. The on-site detour would be a single lane and the finished roadway would have a 13 ft. horizontal shift in alignment. Estimated Cost: \$2.2 million

Alternate-New Bridge Offset North – This option was to offset the bridge approximately 50 ft. north from the existing bridge and realign the roadway to it. This option was not chosen due to an increase in construction time, cost (earthwork), environmental footprint and right of way. An off-site detour would not be needed for this alternate. Estimated Cost: \$2.2 million

Alternate-New Bridge Offset South – This option was to offset the bridge approximately 50 ft. south from the existing bridge and realign the roadway to it. This option was not chosen due to an increase in construction time, cost (earthwork), environmental footprint and right of way. An off-site detour would not be needed for this alternate. Estimated Cost: \$2.1 million

Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Detour Route: A Public Detour Open House (PHOD) was held on December 5, 2015. Fourteen community members attended the meeting. Four comments were received with one showing conditional support for the project, two against the project, and one with unknown support. A letter was issued by the Department in response to public comments on March 21, 2014. It has been determined that the detour poses no public controversy

Public Detour Meeting Results:

The Public Detour Meeting was held December 5, 2013 at the Banks County Courthouse Annex, in Homer, GA. There were 14 people in attendance for the Public Detour Meeting and four comments were received. Of those comments, three were opposed and one was conditional. The main issue of concern was the ease of access by emergency vehicles to homes affected by the detour. Also, there was a comment requesting the load limit for the bridge to be reduced.

The proposed detour was changed due to concerns that the District Traffic Operations office had following the PFPR meeting. District 1 coordinated with OES and no further public meetings were necessary due to the newly proposed detour route being comparable in distance and delay. However, the new route will be publicized in the L&D report as well as a media campaign prior to detour implementation.

The public officials in attendance included Danny Maxwell, Banks County Board of Commissioners; Randy Failyer, Finance Officer; Dan Gasaway, State Representative; Sammy Reece, Banks County Board of Commissioners and Charles Turk, Banks County Board of Commissioners.

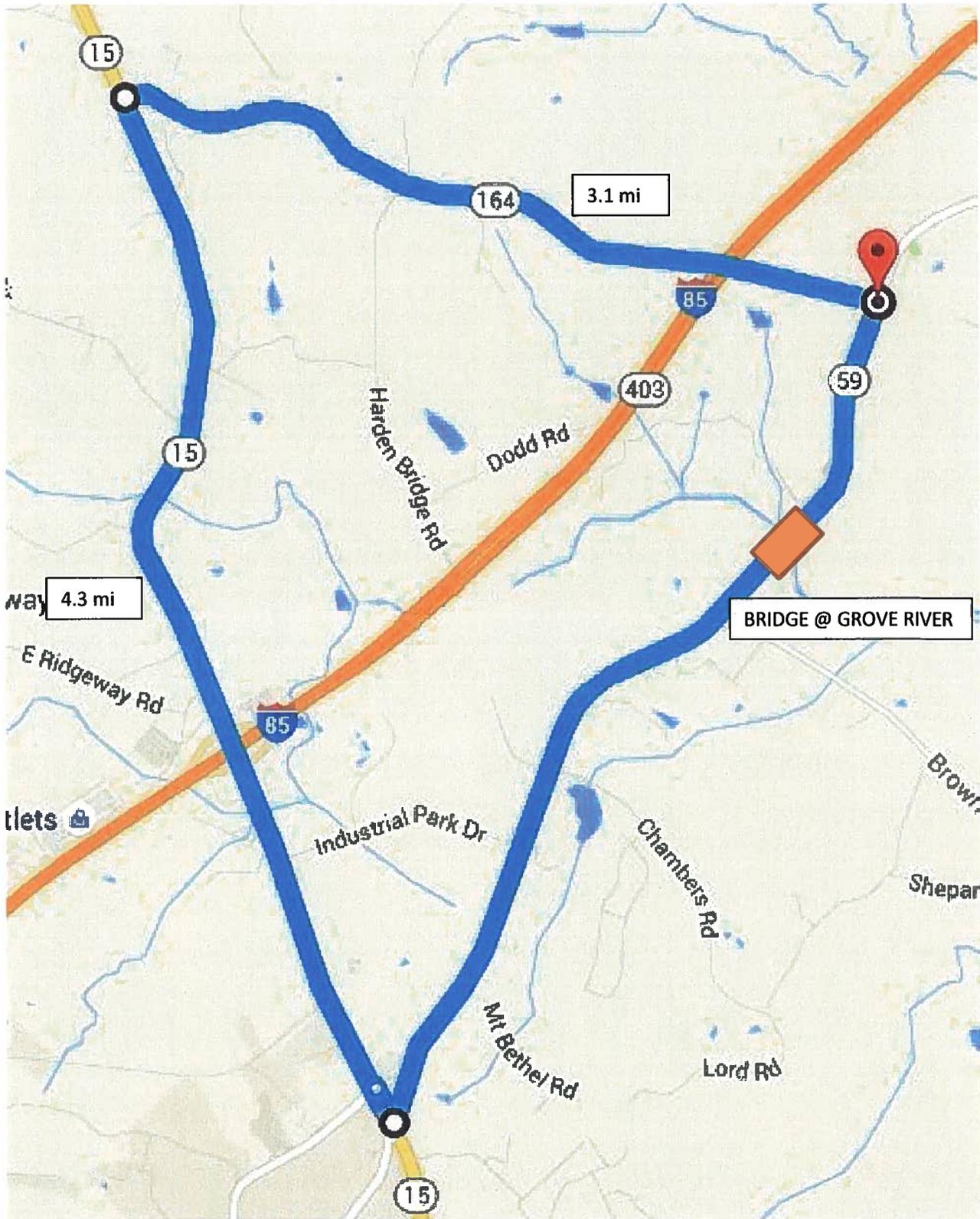
After the Public Detour Meeting, the project manager coordinated with Banks County Fire and EMS. They indicated the additional 2.6 miles would result in less than a five minute slower response time while the detour is in place, and in fact may be less since speeds along I-85 are typically faster than the state route. They gave their verbal support for the detour. Therefore, no changes were made as a result of the Public Detour Meeting.

Recommendations: Recommend that the detour route for the project be approved and that the attached Notice be approved for advertising.

CONCUR: Allen Bonner
GDOT Director of Engineering

APPROVE: Margaret B. Pickle 10-26-15
GDOT Chief Engineer Date

- Attachments:
- Map of Detour Route Studied
 - Detour Meeting Comment Cards and Transcript
 - Notice of Detour Approval



P.I.: 0007023

SR 59 @ Grove River Detour

Routes: SR 59, SR 15, SR 164

Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name Mrs. Martha Evans
Address 1702 Highway 59
Commerce, GA 30530

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

- For Against Conditional Uncommitted

General Comments We live three houses up from the bridge and every time we drive anywhere we have to drive over the bridge. I am 75 yrs. of age and my husband is 80 and we are both heart patients. We are very concerned about an emergency requiring hospitalization and the response time for an ambulance it could be

How did you hear about this Open House? (check) Radio Newspaper Signs Word of Mouth which were hard to reach
 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:

I understand the project, but do not approve of closing the bridge. Please keep one lane open because if one life is saved it would surely be worth more than your projected savings to close it.

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

Crucial. We are concerned about the time for a fire emergency vehicle to reach us as well. It would require them to go over 11) eleven miles further to reach us, which be the difference of saving our home.

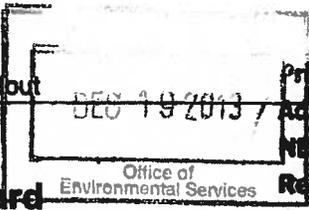
Please consider having at least one lane open during the time work will be done on the bridge. It could be life or death for us and many citizens living in our area.

Martha Evans

~~Martha Evans~~

(2)

Georgia Department of Transportation | Detour Open House Handout
PI#(s): 0007023, County: Banks



Primary P1 # 0007023
Add'l P1 #s:
NEPA analyst I. Hernandez
Recipient:
Copies: OH _____ Asst. OH _____
NEPA _____ A/N _____ Arch _____
ORIGINAL COPIES

Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name Anelia C. Chambers
Address 243 Carlan Rd
Commerce GA 30530
Off of Hwy 59 East of Grove River Bridge

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

- For Against Conditional Uncommitted

General Comments I did not get to attend the Open House, however, my husband did. So I was informed on the project. I would like to present a suggestion. The load limit on the bridge is high. I would like to see the load limit lowered and get the almost daily car carriers and fuel tankers to use a alternate route (I-85) until the bridge project is finished. We all know the bridge is old and not as strong. These large trucks carry a heavy load
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

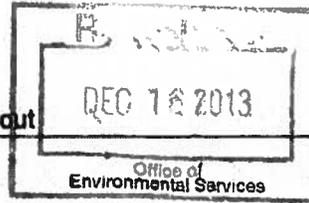
Please share your suggestions on improving the ways GDOT conducts Open Houses:

Thank You for holding the Open House and thank you for considering my suggestion.

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

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Georgia Department of Transportation | Detour Open House Handout
PI#(s): 0007023, County: Banks



Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name George W. Evans
Address 1702 GA Hwy 59
Commerce, GA

Primary PI# 0007023
Add'l PI Nos. _____
NEPA Analyst: F. Hernandez
Recipient: _____
Copies: GH _____ Arch. OH _____
NEPA _____ A/N _____ Arch _____
ORIGINAL TO GDOT FILES

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

- For Against Conditional Uncommitted

General Comments I AM A HEAVY PATIENT WITH QUADRUPLE
bypasses (4) AND AM DEPENDENT ON THE EMT SERVICE FOR FAST
RESPONSE TO MEDICAL AND FIRE SERVICES. YOUR PHASE
WHEELCAPS THE RESPONSE EFFICIENCY OF THE EMERGENCY
SYSTEMS IN THE COUNTY. JUST THE HOUSE + PROPERTY VALUES
VALUES ON OUR 1/4 MILE STRIP FROM THE BRIDGE TO TOWN

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:

GAVIS STONE EXCEEDS THE EXTRA COST OF PROVIDING
ONE WAY TRAFFIC CONTROL ON THE BRIDGE
(OVER)

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

over

① You placed the signs too close to bridge where nobody could stop and read the notice. I personally pulled over to see the sign.

You need to advertise this project in the local paper for adequate notice. Your placement of signs poses a safety hazard.

This area and all of Braves is comprised of highly populated areas with aged people. Your proposal impacts ^{deprivations on} the safety and property structures of poor residences and people.

Your proposal is definitely NOT in the best interests of Bank Co. and its people

JWC
Joyce W. Evans.

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Public Outreach

Comments

review

add

update

delete

CommentReview

Comments Pending Responses for Project ID: 0007023

Open House Date: 12/05/2013

First Name: Edward **Last Name:** Wise

E-Mail: edwise@windstream.net

Address: 1748 Georgia highway 59

City: Commerce **State:** GA **Zip:** 30530

Category: Planning

Comment: Dear Mr. Bowman: My wife and I are 83 years old. We live 3.1 miles north of US 441, a short distance from the Grove River Bridge. Problems are: 1. Ambulance, fire and police response time will increase by at least 15 minutes. We have required all these services in the past. 2. Our mail is delivered to the Commerce Post Office. Trips to the post office will be considerably longer and more time consuming. 3. Time required to shop for essentials, food etc., will be increased. Thank you, Edward M. Wise, Banks County, Georgia

▶ return

▶ edit

▶ respond now

▶ forward

- comments
- summaries
- projects
- open house
- e-mail
- categories
- reports
- users
- documents
- help
- cheat sheet

NOTICE OF DETOUR APPROVAL
CSBRG-0007-00(023), BANKS COUNTY
P. I. 0007023

Notice is hereby given that the Georgia Department of Transportation has approved the use of and the routing of a detour for this project.

The date of detour approval is: November 2, 2015

The proposed project is to close and replace the bridge on SR 59 at Grove River in Banks County, 5 miles north of Commerce. The SR 59 roadway will consist of two 12 ft. travel lanes with 10 ft. shoulders (4ft. paved) and the new bridge will consist of two 12 ft. lanes and 8 ft. shoulders. The proposed length of the project is approximately 0.2 miles with the new bridge being approximately 281 ft. long and 40 ft. wide.

A detour would be in place for an anticipated construction time of 9 months, from the intersection of SR 59 at US 441/SR 15 to the intersection of SR 59 at SR 164. The detour route itself would continue north on US 441/SR 15, from its intersection with SR 59, 4.3 miles to SR 164. From there it will head northeast 3.1 miles to SR 59. The detour is 7.4 miles from the intersection of SR 59 and US 441/SR 15 to the intersection of SR 59 and SR 164 and takes approximately 10 minutes to travel. Other routes may appear shorter and probably will be utilized by the local public. This detour will be the signed route because the shorter routes are not on the state route system.

Drawings or maps or plats of the proposed project, as approved, are on file and are available for public inspection at the Georgia Department of Transportation:

Steven Heng
Project Manager
Office of Program Delivery
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street N.W. , 25th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30308
Office: (404) 631-1161
Cell: (404) 640-1746
KhHeng@dot.ga.gov

Justin Lott, P.E.
District Design Engineer
GDOT- District 1 Design
2505 Athens Highway, SE
Gainesville, GA 30507
Office: 770-531-5745
E-mail: jlott@dot.ga.gov