

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

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

**FILE** P.I. # 0007169 **OFFICE** Design Policy & Support  
CSBRG-0007-00(169)  
Dawson County  
GDOT District 1 - Gainesville **DATE** February 7, 2014  
SR 136 at Etowah River 5.7 miles east of  
Dawsonville - Bridge Replacement

**FROM**  for 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:**

Bobby Hilliard, Program Control Administrator  
Genetha Rice-Singleton, State Program Delivery Engineer  
Glenn Bowman, State Environmental Administrator  
Ben Rabun, State Bridge Engineer  
Andy Casey, State Roadway Design Engineer  
Attn: Justin Lott, District Design Engineer  
Kathy Zahul, State Traffic Engineer  
Phil Copeland, State Right-of-Way Administrator  
Lisa Myers, State Project Review Engineer  
Paul Tanner, Asst. State Transportation Data Administrator  
Attn: Systems & Classification Branch  
Bayne Smith, District Engineer  
Brent Cook, District Preconstruction Engineer  
Kim Coley, District Planning & Programming Engineer  
Matthew Needham, Area Engineer - D1, A1  
Davida White, Project Manager  
BOARD MEMBER - 9th Congressional District

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE OF GEORGIA  
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE  
DETOUR REPORT



FILE P.I. 0007169 OFFICE Program Delivery  
CSBRG-0007-00(169)  
Dawson County DATE January 10, 2014  
SR 136 at Etowah River 5.7 miles east of Dawsonville

FROM Genetha Rice-Singleton, State Program Delivery Engineer *Albert Shelby for*  
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 along SR 136 located at the Etowah River. The bridge and its approaches will be raised slightly (up to 2.5 ft.) to shift the low point off of the bridge. The project length will be 1,300 ft. with the bridge being 240 ft. long. The SR 136 roadway will consist of two 12 ft. travel lanes with 4 ft. paved shoulders. The bridge will consist of two 12 ft. travel lanes with 8 ft. paved shoulders.

**Concept Approval Date:** July 7, 2011

*Revised Concept Approval Date: January 18, 2012*  
*KLP*

**Reason a Detour is Required:**

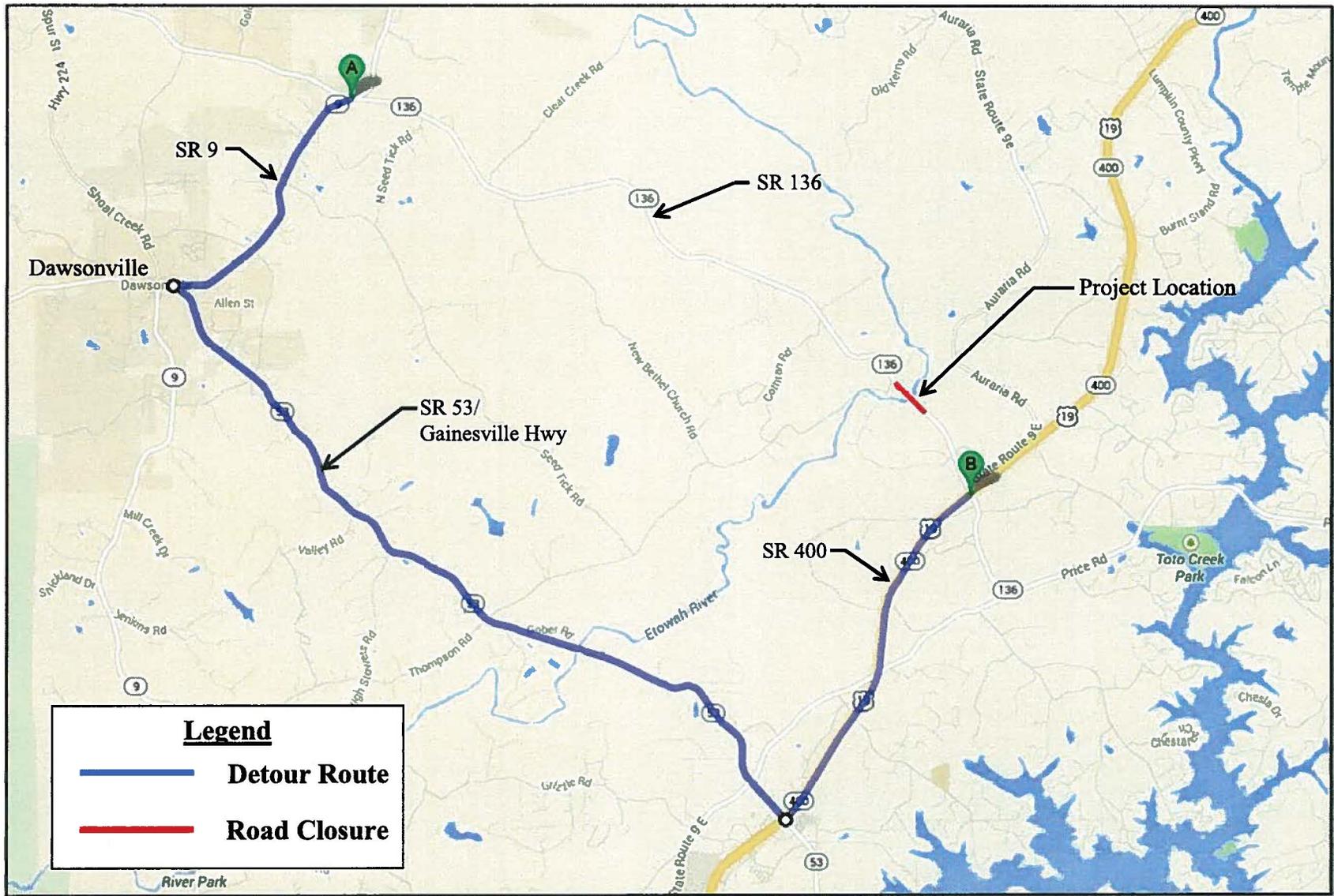
Proposed Off-site Detour – The proposed design is to close the bridge and detour traffic utilizing SR 9, SR 53/Gainesville Hwy, and SR 400. This would allow the demolition and rebuilding of the bridge without needing additional structures or roadway realignments to those structures. This minimizes the construction footprint and cost while providing the fastest construction schedule of approximately 9 months. Estimated Cost: \$1.1 million

Alternative - Staged Bridge Construction – This option was to rebuild the new bridge mostly in place by building one lane of the new bridge immediately adjacent to the existing bridge. That one lane would then be the on-site detour controlled with temporary traffic signals while the existing bridge was demolished and the remaining portions of the new bridge were constructed. The cons of this option are that the construction time is doubled from the off-site detour option, the on-site detour would be a single lane, and the finished roadway would have a 13 ft horizontal shift in its alignment to facilitate the on-site detour and the finished travel lane alignments. Estimated Cost: \$1.3 million

Alternative - Temporary Detour Bridge – This option was to construct a temporary detour bridge for an on-site detour while the existing bridge is replaced with the proposed bridge. This option would have minimal impact on traffic access through the site but at a cost of extended construction duration, significantly larger construction footprint for the roadway realignment, and significantly increased cost. Estimated Cost: \$3.3 million

Alternative - Permanent Roadway Realignment to New Bridge – This option was to construct a new bridge and realign the roadway to it. Even with the cost and time savings of only building one bridge this





Total detour length is 11.5 miles

**Project Detour Map**  
**CSBRG-007-00(169)**  
**PI 0007169, Dawson County**



**DISPOSITION OF COMMENTS:**

The following represents a breakdown of a review of comments by the offices to which they pertain. The project manager will review all responses.

<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE</b>	<b>COMMENT #</b>	<b>NATURE OF COMMENT</b>
Design	2	The detour is long for residents of this area.
	5	There is a safety concern whether emergency services will have access to residents and if response times will increase.

<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE</b>	<b>COMMENT #</b>	<b>NATURE OF COMMENT</b>
Right-of-Way		None

<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE</b>	<b>COMMENT #</b>	<b>NATURE OF COMMENT</b>
Traffic Operations	6	The bridge will be closed nine months for construction. Is there data to show the busiest traffic months on SR 136 and will construction be avoided during these months?

<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE</b>	<b>COMMENT #</b>	<b>NATURE OF COMMENT</b>
Planning	4	The respondent against the proposed detour had concerns that access to Etowah River for boaters might be impeded during the construction phase. Will parking at Etowah River be impacted during construction?
	4	During the planning phase was consideration given to widening the bridge on the southwest, adding new piers next to existing piers, utilizing as much of the bridge as possible allowing one lane of the bridge to remain open during construction.

Summary of Comments  
 CSBRG-0007-00(169), PI No. 0007169, Dawson County  
 December 3, 2013  
 Page 3

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	COMMENT #	NATURE OF COMMENT
Environmental Services		None

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	COMMENT #	NATURE OF COMMENT
Environmental Services	All Letters	<p>Thank you for your comments concerning the proposed project referenced above. We appreciate your attendance and all of the input that was received as a result of the Detour PIOH. Every comment will be made part of the official record of the project.</p> <p>The attendees of the detour open house and those persons sending in comments afterwards raised the following questions and concerns. The GDOT has prepared one response to all comments so that everyone can be aware of the concerns raised and the responses given. Please find the comments, concerns, and questions listed below along with their response.</p>

Please review the comments and email responses to Cindy Treadway (ctreadway@dot.ga.gov) by December 14, 2013.

Attached is a complete transcript of the comments received during the comment period and a copy of the public detour open house handout.

If you have any questions about the comments, please either email or call Cindy Treadway at (404) 631-1979.

GB/ct

Attachments

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- David White, w/attachments
- District 1 Attn: Colin Houppermans, w/attachments
- Cynthia VanDyke, w/attachments
- Kathy Zahul, P.E., w/attachments
- Howard (Phil) Copeland (Attn: Troy Byers), w/attachments

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Detour Open House Comment Card

CSBRG-0007-00(169), Dawson County, P.I. No. 0007169

November 14, 2013

Please print responses.

Name Tommy and Candee Matera

Address 527 Cothran Road  
Dawsonville, GA 30534

Do you support the proposed detour?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Was the location of the meeting 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 detour after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way GDOT conducts public meetings.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Detour Open House Comment Card

CSBRG-0007-00(169), Dawson County, P.I. No. 0007169

November 14, 2013

Please print responses.

Name Henriette, Patricia W.

Address 140 Burr's Crossing Drive

Dawsonville, GA 30534

Do you support the proposed detour?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments I know it is necessary for safety - But as someone  
who commutes to LVE for my job - (Rt 9 @ the exit 9  
136 @ Thomas Bridge Road) it will add 20-22 miles a day  
5-6 days a week = 100-120 miles a week - Plus @ least 20-30  
minutes a day each way because RT 53 is already busy between  
7-9 AM & 4:30-6 pm the extra traffic will be really  
a slow down in travel time -

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Was the location of the meeting convenient for you to attend?  Yes  No  
It would have been if I had know or could have found Main Street  
**If no, please suggest a general location that is more convenient to your community.**  
There are NO signs for it - you might do better to add -  
by the Ford Town Center a sign at the far end from City Ha

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 detour after attending this meeting?  Yes  No  
but I still do not like it -

Please share your suggestions on improving the way GDOT conducts public meetings.

If I am near to the area how might I find out about local  
routes that might be shorter? -

Mail To:  
Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
600 West Peachtree Street NW - 16<sup>th</sup> Floor

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Detour Open House Comment Card

CSBRG-0007-00(169), Dawson County, P.I. No. 0007169

November 14, 2013

Please print responses.

Name Carolyn J. Glover Gooch

Address 2942 Etowah River Rd  
Dawsonville, Ga. 30534

Do you support the proposed detour?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Was the location of the meeting 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 detour after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way GDOT conducts public meetings.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Detour Open House Comment Card

CSBRG-0007-00(169), Dawson County, P.I. No. 0007169

November 14, 2013

Please print responses.

Name ROGER E. NOTT

Address P.O. Box 2324 rogernott@att.net

Gainesville, GA 30503-2324 678-316-4935

I am Board member of the Ga. Canoeing Ass'n, Inc.

Do you support the proposed detour?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments Detour is burdensome. I wonder if it would not be feasible to  
widen the bridge on the SW, downriver side adding new piers next to existing  
ones so as to use as much of present bridge as possible and allow one lane to  
stay open during construction. This might increase the project cost but lower the local community cost  
My main concern is that the river access for boaters not be interfere  
with during the construction phase and that the access not be reduced and  
hopefully be improved after the construction is completed. One way to improve access  
is to have the gravel road to the river's edge passable and open after construction

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

Other Gainesville Times

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

When I finally found it.

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

mostly

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

Please share your suggestions on improving the way GDOT conducts public meetings.

the boater access at 136 to the Etowah is on the river right (NW) side under  
the bridge and from there to the parking area on the north corner of the bridge.

Mail To: (over)  
Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
600 West Peachtree Street NW - 16<sup>th</sup> Floor

(if continued)

Of concern also is that the river access parking be improved or at least not be degraded as a result of bridge improvement. Our club's representatives would like to have input as to the protection of river access at this very popular public use site. Frequent river trips both eastward and westward originate from the Hwy 136 bridge, and the amount of river <sup>at this site</sup> use is increasing each year. This access greatly enhances the quality of life in Dawson County and also brings many visitors and customers to this area.

Also there needs to be a place that river users can park while the construction is underway, esp. if the current parking area, near the northwest corner of the bridge, is otherwise unavailable.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE  
PROPOSED BRIDGE REPLACEMENT SR 136 AT ETOWAH RIVER 5.7  
MILES EAST OF DAWSONVILLE  
CSBRG-0007-00(169)  
P.I. NUMBER 0007169

DAWSON COUNTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
30 MAIN STREET  
DAWSONVILLE, GEORGIA  
NOVEMBER 14, 2013

1 Carolyn Goodwin  
2 2946 Etowah River Road  
3 Dawsonville, Georgia 30534

4

5 We've already got the Etowah River Road is already shut  
6 down. We don't have an exit out of 53 that way and then,  
7 they close the bridge we won't have a way to get to 400  
8 that way. We'll only have 136 east to get out to any  
9 emergencies or fire trucks. The fire department is  
10 across 400 it's just sort of uneasy to us. You know, I'm  
11 an older person and something happens, you know, it's  
12 like how are they going to get to us. The road is  
13 blocked off. We had a storm and they closed Etowah River  
14 Road down and that's our only, we have only one way to  
15 get in and out.

16

17

6

18 Lanier Swafford  
19 2916 Highway 136 West  
20 Dawsonville, Georgia 30534

21

22 The bridge is going to be closed nine months for  
23 construction. Is there data to show the three busiest  
24 months of the year on 136 so construction can try to  
25 avoid those?

## C E R T I F I C A T E

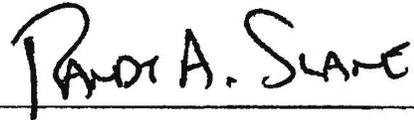
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G E O R G I A:  
H A L L C O U N T Y

I hereby certify that the foregoing comments were reported as stated in the caption and the comments thereto were reduced to the written page under my direction; that the foregoing Pages 1 through 2 represent a true, complete and correct transcript of the comments given.

I further certify that I am not in the regular employ of counsel for any of said parties, nor am I in anyway financially interested in the result of said case.

This, the 19th day of November, 2013.



Randy A. Slane, CCR-B-2281

**NOTICE OF DETOUR APPROVAL**  
**CSBRG-0007-00(169), DAWSON COUNTY**  
**P. I. 0007169**

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: February 7, 2014

The proposed project is to replace the bridge along SR 136 located at the Etowah River. The bridge and its approaches will be raised slightly (up to 2.5 ft.) to shift the low point off of the bridge. The project length will be 1,690 ft. with the bridge being 240 ft. long. The SR 136 roadway will consist of two 12 ft. travel lanes with 4 ft. paved shoulders. The bridge will consist of two 12 ft. travel lanes with 8 ft. paved shoulders.

A detour would be in place from the intersection of SR 136 at SR 9 to the intersection of SR 136 at SR 400. The detour route would continue on to SR 9 at SR 53/Gainesville Hwy to SR 53/Gainesville Hwy at SR 400 to SR 400 at SR 136. If departing on SR 9 from SR 136 proceeding southwest 2.1 miles to SR 53/Gainesville Hwy proceeding southeast 6.5 miles to SR 400 proceeding northeast 2.9 miles, this would conclude the detour route. The detour is 11.5 miles and takes approximately 16 minutes to travel. Other routes may appear shorter and probably will be utilized by the local public. However, 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:

Davida K. White, E.I.T.  
Project Manager  
Office of Program Delivery  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
600 West Peachtree Street, 25th Floor  
Cubicle 2529  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
Office: 404-631-1717  
E-mail: [dwhite@dot.ga.gov](mailto:dwhite@dot.ga.gov)

Justin Lott, P.E.  
District Design Engineer  
GDOT- District 1 Design  
2505 Athens Highway, SE  
Gainesville, GA 30507  
Office: 770-718-5005  
E-mail: [jlott@dot.ga.gov](mailto:jlott@dot.ga.gov)

## Phillips, Kim

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**From:** Murdoch, Michael  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 3:53 PM  
**To:** Phillips, Kim; Treadway, Cindy; White, Davida  
**Cc:** Peters, Dave  
**Subject:** RE: Detour question PI# 0007169

Kim,

If no right-of-way, easement, or construction activities are being proposed on the detour route, OES verifies that use of the detour route has no potential to adversely affect environmental resources.

Mike

Michael H. Murdoch  
NEPA Consultant Manager  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
Office of Environmental Services  
One Georgia Center, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
600 West Peachtree Street, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308

Office: (404) 631-1178  
Fax: (404) 631-1916  
E-mai: [mmurdoch@dot.ga.gov](mailto:mmurdoch@dot.ga.gov)

The Environmental Procedures Manual may be accessed by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.dot.ga.gov/doingbusiness/PoliciesManuals/roads/Pages/EnvironmentalProceduresManual.aspx>

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**From:** Phillips, Kim  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2014 3:00 PM  
**To:** Treadway, Cindy; Murdoch, Michael; White, Davida  
**Cc:** Peters, Dave  
**Subject:** RE: Detour question PI# 0007169

There is currently a statement in the detour request which states: "The Office of Environmental Services verifies that the proposed route has been evaluated, cleared and approved."

This may not be accurate and it appears Environmental Services has not made this statement. If so, there should be an email or other support document to collaborate this.

The PDP detour template states the following:

**"Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Detour Route: *Statement from the Office of Environmental Services verifying that the proposed detour route has been evaluated and cleared and/or appropriate approvals have been obtained.*"**

*Is there an accurate statement Environmental Services can make regarding detour? Could it state something like: no additional work is being proposed along the proposed detour route and no additional right-of-way or easements will be required; therefore, there should be no environmental impacts to the detour route. Or would something else be better?*