



December 13, 2011

Thank you for attending the public information open house for Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Project CSBRG-0007-00(021), P.I. No. 0007021, the proposed replacement of the State Route (SR) 53 Bridge over the Chestatee River/Lake Lanier. In this handout package you will find a project description, location map, and comment card.

As you enter the room, you will notice displays of the proposed project. GDOT representatives, who can be identified by the nametags they are wearing, are available to discuss the project and answer your questions. Please take this opportunity to discuss the project with a GDOT representative. There will be no formal presentation.

A court reporter will be available for those persons who would like to make a verbal statement about the project. You may also complete a comment card and deposit it into the box provided here or send in written comments about the project until December 23, 2011. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator, Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308. Comments can also be made via the web at www.dot.ga.gov. Click on **Public Outreach** from the **Information Center** dropdown menu at the top right side of the page. All comments will be made a part of the project record. We hope you will take advantage of one of these opportunities to let the Department know your view of the proposal.

The displays and plans will be available for review for ten days after the public information open house at the GDOT District 1 Office located at 2505 Athens Highway SE, Gainesville, GA 30507. A copy of all comments received will be available for public review at this same location and at the Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental Services, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308, as soon as compilation is completed.

Again, thank you for attending this public information open house and for giving us your comments. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact the project manager, Otis Clark at (404) 631-1577 or Robert Dollar of the Office of Environmental Services at (404) 631-1920.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobby Hilliard".

Bobby Hilliard, P.E.
State Program Delivery Engineer

BH/pfc

Attachments:

Project Description
Project Location Map
Comment Card

GDOT Project CSBRG-0007-00(021), Forsyth & Hall Counties, P.I. 0007021

Replacement of the SR 53 Bridge (Bolling Bridge) over the Chestatee River/Lake Lanier

Project Description

The proposed project would replace the existing steel truss bridge (ID 117-0010-0) that carries SR 53 over the Chestatee River/Lake Lanier, located approximately 7.3 miles west of the city of Gainesville (**Figure 1**). This two-lane structure has been determined to be structurally deficient and is eligible for federal bridge replacement funding. The proposed project would include the bridge approaches and would begin at a point approximately 0.42 mile southwest of the Chestatee River and extend to a point approximately 0.41 mile northeast of the Chestatee River, for a total project length of approximately 0.83 mile. The proposed new bridge would consist of two 12-foot travel lanes with 8-foot shoulders, and the roadway approaches would be reconstructed to provide two 12-foot travel lanes and 10-foot shoulders (2-foot paved).

The centerline of the replacement structure would be located approximately 68 feet north of the centerline of the existing bridge. The footprint of the replacement structure is proposed on new location in order to maintain traffic during the construction phase, as there are no reasonable detours available to accommodate motorists traveling along SR 53 during the construction period. The replacement bridge would be approximately 850 feet long and 43.25 feet wide (total deck width). The typical section of the new structure would include two 12-foot travel lanes with 8-foot outside shoulders and no center median. The bridge approaches would be reconstructed to include 10-foot rural shoulders (2-foot paved) and no center median. The replacement bridge would have a minimum vertical clearance of 17 feet above the normal pool elevation of the lake and a maximum horizontal clearance of approximately 250 feet, measured from the either side of the central pier to each of the outside piers.

Existing Condition

The existing bridge (Bolling Bridge) was constructed in 1956 and is approximately 844 feet long and 30 feet wide (total deck width), with 1-foot outside shoulders and no center median. The existing vertical clearance of the Bolling Bridge is approximately 17 feet above the normal pool elevation of the lake (Elevation 1071 feet). The existing maximum horizontal clearance between bridge piers is approximately 285 feet, between the two center piers. At the bridge approaches, SR 53 is a two-lane rural highway with 10-foot travel lanes, approximately 8-foot outside shoulders (2-foot paved), and no center median. The functional classification of the roadway is Rural Principal Arterial.

The project area is characterized by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) land on each side of the crossing and by nearby parkland and residential development. The USACE parkland east of the Chestatee River crossing is located in Hall County and is known as Little Hall Park. The USACE-owned property west of the crossing in Forsyth County is classified as recreational land and is unofficially known as Bolling Hill Park. The Chestatee River/Lake Lanier is considered a navigable waterway by the USACE.

Replacement Justification

The Bolling Bridge is a fracture critical structure that has been struck by vehicles on numerous occasions due to the low clearance of the overhead steel trusses (15 feet above the bridge deck). The deck within the main spans is currently six inches thick and is exhibiting transverse and longitudinal cracking, as well as some minor concrete deterioration on the underside of the deck. Some of the floor beams and stringers have also experienced minor section loss. Swelling of the steel within some of the connection areas between the gusset plates and floor beams has also been observed. All of the sections of the substructure also exhibit minor cracking. Due to the lack of structural integrity of the existing bridge, replacement of this structure is recommended, and repair is infeasible (logistics and engineering).



Figure 1: Project Location Map
GDOT Project CSBRG-0007-00(021)
Forsyth/Hall Counties P.I. 0007021
Replacement of the SR 53 Bridge

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House Comment Card

Project CSBRG-0007-00(021), Forsyth & Hall Counties, P.I. No. 0007021

Replacement of the SR 53 Bridge over the Chestatee River/Lake Lanier

December 13, 2011

Please print responses.

Name _____

Address _____

Do you support the project? 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 the DOT personnel? Yes No

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

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

Mail To:

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