



## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

For Immediate Release  
Wednesday, August 10, 2011

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# LAND CLEARING WORK SET TO BEGIN THIS WEEK ON POTATO CREEK BRIDGE

THOMASTON, GA – The Georgia Department of Transportation announces that the project to replace Potato Creek Bridge and widen existing lanes on US 19/SR 3 will begin Thursday, August 11. Motorists in the area will see the contractor begin moving dirt so that utilities can be relocated off the bridge; allowing construction to begin.

The project proposes to replace the existing substandard bridge at Potato Creek and US 19. It is being built in conjunction with the US 19/SR 3 widening project. Traffic will be maintained on the bridge at all times. The existing bridge will be cut and the outsides of the new bridge will be built. Traffic will then be shifted to the outside lanes of the bridge and the middle portion will be replaced.

The project to widen US 19/SR3 proposes to widen the existing 4 lanes from 9 feet wide to 12 feet wide. It will also replace the flush median with a raised median to help control access. Work begins near Potato Creek and extends to the intersection of US 19 and County Road. The signal at US 19 and County Road will be upgraded and a new signal will be installed along US 19 at the entrance to Home Depot. County Road is a major east/west connector for the City of Thomaston and Upson County. US 19 is the most heavily traveled route in the area and is the only major 4-lane route.

CW Matthews was the low bidder at \$10,163,484.09. Both projects are estimated to be completed by January 31, 2016.

Each day, hundreds of Georgia Department of Transportation employees and contractors work on dozens of highway, bridge and intersection improvements throughout the state. Their work often brings them and heavy machinery in close proximity to travel lanes. Fifty-seven Georgia DOT personnel and many more motorists, passengers and contractors' workers have been killed in highway work zone accidents since 1973. Please help us prevent these tragedies by slowing down; being especially attentive and cautious as you pass through construction work zones; and always driving responsibly. Safer Driving; Safer Work Zones; For Everyone.

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