



**For Immediate Release:**

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*Atkinson, Ben Hill, Grady and Tift counties...*

## **Georgia DOT Introduces Design-Build Bridge Bundles**

*Innovative contracts expedite construction, minimize public inconvenience*

**TIFTON** – The Georgia Department of Transportation is using a new and innovative method to accelerate the replacement of 25 bridges throughout the state, four of them in southwest Georgia.

The replacement bridges are valued at more than \$39.6 million and were included in statewide construction contracts awarded earlier this month. The method, known as bridge bundles, used five design-build contracts that each packages four to six bridge replacements geographically. This allows the contractor to efficiently streamline delivery by combining design and construction activities for the bridges in their bundled contract. This concept is especially suitable in rural areas.

Southwest Georgia counties that will benefit from \$8 million in bridge replacement projects are:

- **Atkinson County** – Cogdell Road at Red Bluff Creek, 8.5 miles southeast of Pearson, \$1.7 million; bridge built in 1953.
- **Ben Hill County** – Perry House Road at Willacoochee Creek, 3.7 miles south of Fitzgerald, \$1.8 million; bridge built in 1962.
- **Grady County** – Old Thomasville Road at Barnetts Creek at the Thomas County line, \$3 million; bridge built in 1960.
- **Tift County** – Lower Brookfield Road at New River, five miles southeast of Tifton, \$1.5 million; bridge built in 1959.

The four local bridges were bundled with a bridge replacement project in Ware County, which is adjacent to Atkinson County. Southern Concrete Construction Co. Inc. of Albany is the contractor. An offsite detour will be allowed for up to 210 days per bridge and the contractor has up to 1,095 days to complete all bridges in the bundled contract. This allows the new bridges to open to traffic as quickly as possible.

Georgia DOT's first obligation with funds resulting from HB-170— Georgia's Transportation Funding Act of 2015 – is to maintain and improve existing infrastructure, which includes bridges. The TFA allows the Department to enhance the local transportation network through these projects.

“Design-build bridge bundles are an innovative and cost efficient way to repair and replace some of our aging local bridges,” Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell R. McMurry, P.E. said. “The process expedites

delivery, minimizes public inconvenience, maximizes industry participation and allows us to get the best overall product for the lowest price.”

*Every day Georgia DOT employees work on roadways in close proximity to travel lanes. Whether they're in maintenance, in construction or are HEROs, it's dangerous. Fifty-eight Georgia DOT personnel and many more motorists, passengers and contractors' workers have been killed in work zone crashes since 1973. When you drive in a work zone, obey the rules: Pay Attention - Slow Down - Watch for Workers. It can make the difference between life and death. Visit [www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/Workzone](http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/Workzone).*