



For Immediate Release:
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NOT QUITE READY – BRIDGE OPENING DELAYED

Gratis, Ga. –Georgia DOT announces a delay in opening of the new westbound Bridge for State Route 10/US 78 over the Apalachee River at the Walton and Oconee Line until April 9. Equipment problems slowed the final work needed to open the bridge.

“We won’t open the bridge until it is ready for use. The new SR 10 westbound bridge isn’t quite ready today. The contractor has to finish installing guardrail and complete the paving then the striping. Please use extra caution driving through the area as crews work to prepare for the traffic shift. Paving is underway. A lane closure in place weekdays as work concludes. Once traffic is using the new bridge, the asphalt leading to the historic bridge will be removed and vertical concrete barriers or balusters will be installed to ensure no traffic uses the 1938 bridge,” exclaimed Georgia DOT District Engineer, Bayne Smith.

This 0.69 mile long project was awarded C.W. Contracting, Inc. of Marietta for \$2.6 million with a completion date of May 31, 2014. The project built a new two lane bridge for the westbound lanes of SR 10/US 78 over the Apalachee River. The bridge structure for the east bound lanes will also be rehabilitated. The original, historic 1938 bridge structure that is currently used for westbound traffic will remain in place but not open for vehicular traffic after the new westbound bridge is opened to traffic. Vertical concrete barriers or balusters will prevent traffic from using the historic bridge.

Each year, families and college students flock to the coast between March and May to enjoy the warmth of the Georgia Springtime at the many beaches. Spring Break is upon us. Please drive alertly and cautiously and be aware that many out-of-state spring break motorists will be among us on our roadways.

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. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit www.dot.ga.gov or subscribe to our Press Release [RSS feed](#). You also may follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GDOTNE) (<https://www.facebook.com/GDOTNE>) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GDOTNE) (<https://twitter.com/GDOTNE>).

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