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GEORGIA DOT AWARDS \$67.6 MILLION IN STATEWIDE PROJECT CONTRACTS

Includes awards for safety improvements on local roads

ATLANTA – Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has awarded 24 contracts for statewide projects totaling \$67.6 million. This includes \$3 million for safety projects on local roads and almost \$4.6 million for two bridge bond projects to be funded from \$100 million in bonds appropriated by the 2015 General Assembly.

This month, the largest transportation investment is a \$36.9 million connectivity and congestion relief project that includes the widening and reconstruction of 5.1 miles on Bethelview Road (CR 455) from Castleberry Road (CR 8) to State Route 20 in Forsyth County; plus construction of a bridge and approaches over Big Creek. The project will improve safety and capacity through widening, alignment modifications, and the addition of a raised median and turn lanes. The contractor is CMES, Inc. of Norcross, GA and the project's completion date is June 30, 2019. This project represents almost \$50 million of investment in Forsyth County which includes right-of way (ROW) acquisition and design costs. Since January, Georgia DOT has awarded 115 major construction contracts valued at more than \$464 million.

“While I’m glad we could move some critical projects ahead, I am concerned that we still do not have long-term federal funding,” said Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell McMurry. “Transportation projects need to be planned over a period of years which becomes very difficult when we do not have the much needed federal funding.”

In addition to a strong focus on maintaining and preserving transportation infrastructure, the Department also awarded operational improvement projects including traffic signal upgrades at various locations on Memorial Drive/SR 154 in Fulton County; and intersection improvements consisting of median reconstruction, installation of turn lanes and a traffic signal on U.S. 82/SR 520 at County Line Road (CR 459) in east central Georgia’s Dougherty County.

The announced awards also include contracts for off-system safety projects. These demonstrate the Department’s commitment to assist local governments in addressing traffic safety issues in their communities. Projects include installation of pavement markings on over 350 local streets, as well as road signage, restriping, and intersection pedestrian upgrades.

The awarded bridge bond contracts are for projects in:

- Charlton County in northeast Georgia; .6 miles of construction of two bridges and approaches on SR 252 over the Satilla River overflow is scheduled for completion February 28, 2017 at a cost of \$2.5 million. The contractor is Southern Concrete Construction Co., Inc. of Albany, GA.
- Rockdale County in southwest Georgia; .25 miles of construction of a bridge and approaches on SR 212 over Honey Creek is scheduled for completion December 31, 2016 at a cost of \$2.06 million. The contractor is McCarthy Improvement Company of Davenport, IA.

Since July, a total of 10 bridge bond projects valued at \$27.3 million have been awarded. The remaining 15 bridges to be funded with bonds will be bid out in the coming months.

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Details on all awarded projects can be found through the Award Announcement Downloads link: <https://www.bidx.com/ga/lettings>. Information on schedules, lane closures and necessary detours will be made available in advance of construction activities.

Georgia DOT advises drivers to expect the unexpected in work zones. Slow down; don't tailgate; obey road crew flaggers; pay attention to signs; stay alert; and minimize distractions.

Without long-term federal funding solutions for transportation, Georgia and other state DOTs must continue to deliver transportation programs based on a piece-meal approach. The latest patch by Congress to bolster the federal Highway Trust Fund - the 34th in six years - extends the federal government's authority to process transportation funding to states through October 29. Temporary fixes do not provide the certainty state DOTs need to efficiently and effectively plan, program and deliver major transportation projects. Georgia DOT urges Congress to pass a long-term federal aid transportation bill.

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