



For Immediate Release:
Thursday, July 14, 2016

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Lee and Worth counties...

Improvements Under Way at SR 32 Flint River Boat Ramp

LEESBURG – The next time country star Luke Bryan gets a chance to fish under the state Route 32 Flint River bridge it will look a bit different than the spot mentioned in his clothing line commercial.

The boat ramp is closed temporarily, but will reopen before the end of the month with a longer ramp and a paved access road.

Georgia Department of Transportation contractor Southern Concrete Construction Co. Inc. of Albany closed the ramp July 11. The old cracked and worn ramp went out about two feet into the water when the river was at its average lowest level. The new ramp will go out four feet deep, Southern Concrete Vice President of Operations Ricky Willis said. The contractor is also installing more protection around the ramp edges to help prevent scouring from the current.

The way the public gets to the ramp is also improving from the old one-lane, unpaved trail. Southern Concrete has built a 12-foot wide road that goes under the bridge to the ramp. It will be paved once ramp construction is finished. The public will be able to access the new ramp during paving.

The improvements are part of a \$9.8 million project to replace the old Flint River and overflow branch bridges built in 1955. The new bridges are longer, wider and stronger and are located south of the old structures. Construction started in 2013 and the project is expected to be finished this fall.

Country music fans will recognize the old SR 32 bridge as a principal player in a commercial for Bryan's 32 Bridge clothing line. The logo features the bridge and Flint River and Lee County native Bryan in his commercial shared memories of fishing under the bridge located at the Lee/Worth County line.

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.