Southwest Georgia...
Parallel US 280 Lake Blackshear Bridge Construction Contract Awarded

TIFTON – A second U.S. 280 bridge will be built across Lake Blackshear, one of several construction contracts awarded by the Georgia Department of Transportation this month that will benefit southwest counties.

Other local projects of interest will resurface approximately 75 miles of roads and replace two off-system aging bridges, one that closed last year due to its poor condition.

The Lake Blackshear bridge will be built to the south of the existing bridge. The project was awarded to Scott Bridge Co. Inc. of Opelika, Ala. and has a completion date of May 2019. This is a Transportation Investment Act (TIA) funded project. It is expected to mitigate congestion, facilitate the flow of freight and connect the Cordele Intermodal Center to cities west, which could spur economic development, according to the TIA project page.

Though the construction cost is $19.2 million, the total cost of the project including preliminary engineering, construction and right of way acquisition is approximately $30 million. Georgia DOT’s west central district will supervise construction. The project is on the line between Crisp County in the southwest district and Sumter County in the west central district.

In the southwest district, roads in eight counties will receive much-needed maintenance, resulting in a smoother and safer ride for motorists, with Georgia DOT’s award of $16 million in resurfacing projects. All have a scheduled completion date of January 2018. They are:

**Ben Hill County**, 8.2 miles on state Route 11 from north of Bush Avenue to north of Bowen Road, $1.7 million, Reeves Construction Co. of Macon.

**Ben Hill, Coffee and Irwin counties**, 25 miles on SR 206 from Broxton Highway to north of SR 32 and from SR 107/Jacksonville Highway to Broxton Highway, $5.4 million, East Coast Asphalt LLC of Douglas.

**Berrien, Lanier and Lowndes counties**, 5.7 miles on SR 125 from north of Hightower Road to U.S. 129/SR 37, $1.1 million, The Scruggs Co. of Hahira.

**Brooks County**, 28.4 miles on SR 76 from the Florida state line to the Cook County line, $6.6 million, Reames and Son Construction Co. Inc. of Valdosta.

**Miller County**, 7.3 miles on SR 310 from the Decatur County line to U.S. 27/SR 1, $1.2 million, Oxford Construction Co. of Albany.

The bridges that will be replaced are:
Stage Coach Road over Little Creek in **Mitchell County**. The existing bridge was built in 1963. Georgia DOT notified the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners in September 2016 that the bridge needed to be closed immediately because its condition had deteriorated to the point it was no longer safe. Construction will be done by Southern Concrete Construction Co. Inc. of Albany at a cost of $1.39 million. The completion date is February 2018.

Eleven Bridges Road over Carter Creek in **Randolph County**. The existing bridge was built in 1965. This contract was also awarded to Southern Concrete for a bid of $2 million. The completion date is April 2018.

_Construction work zones are hazardous for workers and for the public. In fact, most victims in work zones crashes are drivers or passengers. In work zones – Pay Attention – Slow Down – Watch for Workers. Work zone safety is in your hands. Visit www.dot.ga.gov. Follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) and Twitter (http://twitter.com/gadepoftrans)._