

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Media Release

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SR 53 BRIDGE DOWN TO ONE LANE JULY 30 TO AUGUST 13

DAWSONVILLE, Ga. – Georgia DOT announces the of State Route 53/Jasper Highway bridge over the Amicalola Creek west of Tinsley Chapel Road will be reduced to one lane from July 30 through August 13 for reconstruction.

A temporary traffic signal will be operational beginning July 30 to direct traffic across the bridge. Signs are now posted notifying the community of the upcoming work.

“One work begins; the temporary signal will operate almost as a person flagging traffic around the clock until the work is completed. Only one direction of traffic can cross the bridge at a time. When the signal is green, that direction of traffic can cross the bridge, opposing traffic will be held stopped by the signal’s red ball. Just do what the signal directs you to do,” explained Georgia DOT District Engineer, Bayne Smith.

The existing concrete driving surface or bridge deck will be removed by hydro-blasting then a new concrete driving surface will be poured. The contractor will work around the clock on the project in one lane at a time. As one lane is finished, traffic will be shifted to use that lane while work occurs in the other lane. The contract mandates the bridge must have both lanes reopened for use 14 days after one lane is closed. The work will conclude by August 13 at the latest.

“We can keep the bridge open to traffic by having the traffic signal direct traffic across the bridge. The capacity of State Route 53 Highway will be reduced to one lane at the bridge so there will be delays in the area. Please slow down in the area and use additional caution as the work occurs. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We will conclude the work and open both lanes of the bridge as quickly as possible,” concluded Smith.

This bridge is one of three included in a \$1.9 contract awarded to Comanche Construction of Marietta. The State Route 11 Bridge over the Middle Oconee River in Jackson County and SR 246 Bridge over the Little Tennessee River in Rabun County are also a part of this contract. The contract completion date for all three bridges is of September 30, 2012.

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 information on the Department of Transportation, visit (www.dot.ga.gov); you also may follow Georgia DOT on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) (<http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT>) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/gadepoftrans) (<http://twitter.com/gadepoftrans>).

On Tuesday, July 31, voters will decide if 12 designated districts across Georgia will be authorized to collect a one-cent sales tax for the next 10 years to be devoted exclusively to local and regional transportation projects. Funds collected in the Northwest Georgia Region could only be spent in that same region and only to move forward projects chosen by local elected officials. More than 1,600 such local projects throughout the state, including 105 in Northwest Georgia, have been selected by city and county leaders. For further information on the important Transportation Referendum, please visit: www.dot.ga.gov/transportationreferendum.