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SW Georgia Bridges Among 24 Statewide Award Contracts

Awards include off-system safety projects to aid local communities

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has announced contract awards for 24 projects totaling \$33.1 million. These include \$7.2 million for two bridge construction projects to be funded from \$100 million in bonds appropriated by the 2015 General Assembly. Since January, Georgia DOT has awarded 91 major construction contracts across the state valued at more than \$396 million.

Repeated shortfalls in the federal Highway Trust Fund account have contributed to transportation funding challenges in Georgia and other states for a number of years. The latest patch by Congress extends federal funding authority to October 29.

“Federal funding uncertainty has certainly made it a challenge to plan and deliver critical transportation infrastructure projects this year,” said GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry. “Normally GDOT would have used Georgia’s share of federal funds sooner. However, when the funds are not there, we cannot move ahead.”

Commissioner McMurry acknowledged the importance of Governor Deal’s and the General Assembly’s focus on replacing structurally deficient and obsolete bridges. Since July, a total of eight bridge bond projects costing \$22.7 million have been awarded to the lowest bidder. The remaining 17 bridges to be funded with bonds will be bid over the coming months.

The bridge bond projects awarded in September are located in Decatur and Grady counties in southwest Georgia—

- In Decatur County, .6 miles of construction of a bridge and approaches on State Road 97 over Big Slough is scheduled for completion by October 31, 2016 at a cost of \$4.5 million. The contractor is Southern Concrete Construction, Inc. of Albany, GA.
- In Grady County, .3 miles of construction of a bridge and approaches on SR 112 over Sapp Creek will also be completed by Southern Concrete Construction, Inc. at a cost of \$2.7 million. The completion date is May 31, 2016.

In August, four bridge bond projects were awarded - one in Barrow County in northeast Georgia; one in Lee County and two in Coffee County in southwest Georgia.

Among the 22 other contracts awarded in September are eight awards valued at \$3.9 million for 21 off-system safety projects. These awards enable local governments to address safety issues that they may otherwise have been unable to fund without using Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) funds.

A roundabout on State Route 18 at US 23/State Route 87 in Monroe County was also awarded. The \$3.2 million project is due for completion May 31, 2019. The September contract awards also include school zone safety improvements, traffic signal upgrades, drainage improvements and a predominance of signing and striping upgrades, and milling and resurfacing projects.

Information on schedules, lane closures and necessary detours will be made available in advance of construction activities.

PRESS RELEASE

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Details on all awarded projects can be found through the Award Announcement Downloads links:

<https://www.bidx.com/ga/letting?lettingid=15082101> (for September awards) and

<https://www.bidx.com/ga/letting?lettingid=15071701> (for August awards).

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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