



For Immediate Release:
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EXCAVATION RESUMES ON SR 51 AT LAKE HARTWELL SINKHOLE

Lake Hartwell, Ga. – Georgia DOT announces E.R. Snell Contractor is mobilizing at the SR 51 sinkhole to resume repair work. Utility companies are almost finished moving their infrastructure. The custom fabricated pipe, 180 feet long and 13 feet in diameter is fabricated and ready for delivery to the sinkhole area.

“The work area is tight because it is surrounded by Lake Hartwell. Getting the utilities relocated gives the contractor a little more room to work. Since there isn’t an area to store the huge pipe at the work zone, the new drainage pipe will be delivered in sections when the Contractor is ready to begin pipe installation. The work is on scheduled to open by August 24 as planned,” explained Bayne Smith, Georgia DOT District Engineer for Northeast Georgia.

The \$1,066,605 bid for repair includes creating a dry work area displacing Lake Hartwell water giving the crew a place to work. The damaged pipe must be excavated. A new custom steel pipe will be built and then installed. Crews can then begin to build up the dirt on top of the pipe to the grade of State Route 51. Finally paving and striping State Route 51.

A sinkhole opened up on State Route 51 at 10:45 a.m. on May 6. The sinkhole is on State Route 51, about 6 miles north of Hartwell in Hart County. Lake Hartwell is on both sides of the roadway. Local law enforcement notified Georgia DOT of the sinkhole. Once the asphalt was removed, Georgia DOT Engineers found a cavity 10 feet square at the top and 20 feet deep taking up almost the entire northbound lane.

The earth supporting the roadway was undermined from a pipe failure approximately 40 feet under State Route 51. The pipe that failed is approximately 180 feet long and 13 feet in diameter.

Detour route: Headed north on SR 51 turn left onto Boat Road then right on Parham Road and that leads back to SR 51. The route is reversed for southbound traffic

Georgia DOT urges travelers to call 511 for updated information about this or any other construction project on interstates and state routes. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information is available at www.511ga.org. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit www.dot.ga.gov or subscribe to our Press Release [RSS feed](#). You also may follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GDOTNE) (https://www.facebook.com/GDOTNE) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GDOTNE) (https://twitter.com/GDOTNE).

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