



NEWS

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Dunbar Creek Bridge Improvements

GLYNN COUNTY, Ga.- Improvements to the Dunbar Creek Bridge on the Sea Island Causeway are nearing completion. These recent upgrades are a part of Glynn County Public Works Department's proactive approach in correcting areas of concern on bridges that Glynn County maintains.

The need was identified, in part, by a study conducted by the Georgia Department of Transportation every two years to address future structural concerns on public bridges. The results of the study are used to prioritize County maintenance projects.

Some of the issues found by the study are common problems. The foundations of bridges over years can develop cracks from the regular strain of use and the elements. In order to stop water from getting into these cracks and rusting the metal infrastructure, a new concrete barrier is poured around the outside of the column. This ensures a water resistant seal, further protecting the stability of the bridge.

Other needs can be revealed by unique events, such as Hurricane Irma. The bridge was closed, as a precaution, in September of 2017 due to erosion problems at each end. Supports that were once covered by soil which added to the stability of the bridge, had been exposed. To combat this, Glynn County Public Works has poured a longer support structure at each end of the bridge and replaced the large rocks that were washed away. This will help to keep the soil in place in future weather events.

Dave Austin, Glynn County Public Works Director is planning on more projects like this one in the near future. "Getting out in front of these potential problems really limits the number of bridge closures in Glynn County. While we can't always predict what problems severe weather will deal to us, we can plan

these small maintenance projects to prevent replacing major infrastructure in the future.”

Construction on the Dunbar Creek Bridge has been evaluated by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to ensure that impacts on waterways and wildlife are minimal. A final walk through will take place within the next month to finalize the project.