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GC starts demo and construction of new Beesley Road Bridge

Release Date: March 21, 2023

Construction for the new Beesley Road Bridge began Monday (March 20) with the closure of the current bridge in the south Barton Community just above the George/Jackson county line.

Demolition of the existing timber piling bridge and the driving of "test" pilings is expected to take several weeks. Once complete, construction of the new bridge is expected to take three months, weather permitting.

The new bridge will be all pre-cast concrete for the pilings and decking. The new bridge will be 3.5 feet wider with vastly improved bridge approaches and road shoulders compared to the old bridge over the Betsy Branch of Big Cedar Creek.

There will be no through traffic allowed during the replacement project. District 3 Supervisor Larry McDonald says drivers can detour using Dean Nursery Road and Emmerson Road during the construction process.

"District road crews have been preparing this area for weeks. This closure will unfortunately affect some residential drivers and cut-through traffic from Jackson County. But, once this improvement project is complete drivers will have a wider, higher, and safer bridge for years to come," McDonald said.

Heavy equipment is already being moved towards the construction site. The County is asking all drivers to use caution around this site. Pay special attention to traffic signs, road workers, and movement of heavy equipment.

Total estimated cost for the project is approximately \$900,000 with a vast majority of funding coming from the state's Emergency Bridge Replacement Act approved by the State Legislature.

The George County Board of Supervisors approved the construction for the bridge and approaches in Fall 2022. For construction updates on the Beesley Road Bridge improvement project, visit the County's website at www.georgecountyms.com.

For additional information, call District 3 Supervisor Larry McDonald at 601-947-7506.