

Work begins on the old U.S. 301 bridge in Santee for bike/pedestrian traffic

By Pete Poore

Work is beginning this fall to improve the old U.S. 301 pedestrian bridge crossing Lake Marion in Santee. The structure was closed in 2017 out of concern over the safety of the bridge.

The project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2023. At that time, the bridge will be reopened for pedestrians, bicyclists and hikers. Motorized vehicles will be prohibited. The project is made possible by a \$1.6 million appropriation from the General Assembly.

The improvements will include:

- Removal of chain link fence, dirt mounds and other barriers restricting access
- Removal of vegetation and brush immediately adjacent to or on the bridge
- Repair or replacement of damaged steel railings and

painting of the railings

- Repair of breaks in the concrete joints to reduce tripping hazards

- Installation of signs, markings and bollards that will provide directions and restrict access by motorized vehicles.

Buddy Jennings of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation said the reopening of the U.S. 301 bridge in Santee will make an important connection. “The bridge is a link in the Palmetto Trail between the Town of Awendaw in Charleston County and downtown Columbia.

The Palmetto Trail is a 500-mile long recreational hiking and biking passage through the state. The trail extends between the mountains in Oconee County and the Intracoastal Waterway in Charleston County.

When the bridge is opened to the public, only pedestrian and non-motorized traffic will be allowed.



CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

The old U.S. 301 bridge over Lake Marion was closed to vehicular traffic years ago and was used as a pedestrian/bike path and fishing pier for years. Due to safety concerns, it was closed to pedestrian traffic in 2017. The bridge is now being repaired and will reopen to pedestrian traffic next year.

Enterprise Road bridge crossing Carolina Bays Parkway reopens month ahead of schedule

By Bob Kudelka

The Enterprise Road bridge crossing Carolina Bays Parkway (S.C. 31) in Horry County reopened in May 2022, a month ahead of schedule after emergency repairs were completed.

The Enterprise Road bridge was damaged on Dec. 14, 2021, when struck by an oversized load hauled by a tractor trailer. Due to the extent of damage, an extensive design of a repair method had to be developed and followed by bids from potential repair contractors.

This project was originally scheduled to be completed at the end of June; however, due to the hard work of all individuals involved this project was able to be completed and reopened to traffic a month ahead of schedule.

“This is a great example of teamwork, communication and meeting challenges to complete a job ahead of schedule,” said District 5 District Engineering Administrator **Kyle Berry**. “We are pleased to reopen Enterprise Road, an important artery for the local community. Thank you to everyone for a job well done.”



PHOTO BY DISTRICT 5

After an oversized load hit the Enterprise Road Bridge crossing the Carolina Bays Parkway, an extensive repair plan had to be developed and followed by contractors. The repairs were completed a month ahead of schedule.