



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

## ***City of South Fulton Government***

### **Department of Communications**

#### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

Gary Leftwich, Director of Communications and External Affairs

470-825-1950 (cell) - [gary.leftwich@cityofsouthfultonga.gov](mailto:gary.leftwich@cityofsouthfultonga.gov)

5440 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, SW Atlanta, GA 30336

[www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov](http://www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov)

<https://twitter.com/COSFGA>

### **South Fulton Approves Additional Steps for Cascade Road Bridge Replacement**

(CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GA – January 12, 2021) – City of South Fulton officials today approved a change order in a bridge replacement on Cascade Road after learning soil at the site will not provide adequate support for the new bridge.

Officials say contractor AM Construction was excavating the site at Branch of Utoy Creek when it determined the soil could not support footings for the new structure. Together, the contractor and geotechnical, structural, hydraulics and civil engineers for the project developed a solution to safely excavate 18 to 20 feet of soil to reach the layer of rock beneath the bridge. The plan also includes the installation of sheet pile shoring and bracing, along with the use of compacted stone, to provide the required bearing capacity for the bridge footings.

Built in 1951, the former bridge had been a focus of concern since the 1990s, when the area remained in the jurisdiction of Fulton County. Shortly after the City of South Fulton was incorporated in 2017, officials formulated plans for its replacement.

In December 2019, the city received a \$1.2 million grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation to help fund the project. Setbacks in acquiring the necessary rights of way and work with utilities to relocate power and water lines caused delays. With today's decision, AM Construction now has 60 days to complete construction. Plans call for the bridge to open in March.

"This bridge has needed replacing for decades," said Mayor William "Bill" Edwards. "It is one of the many neglected infrastructure assets we inherited from Fulton County."

"We put the project at the top of the list when our Public Works department was created," Edwards added. "Unfortunately, unforeseen factors have set us back. But, we remain committed to ensuring a safe and long-lasting solution as well as to keeping residents informed about our progress. We appreciate everyone's understanding and apologize for any inconvenience."

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