

Bridge project to close part



GREG OLIVER | THE JOURNAL

The S.C. 133 bridge replacement project, slated to begin sometime next year, is now expected to include the closure of a small section of Elm Street.

BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — The S.C. 133 bridge replacement project is expected to begin sometime next year, and it will close a small section of Elm Street.

“They’re trying to get some value engineering to change the way the project is constructed and one of the areas is grading on the track on Elm Street that goes on the bridge east of Ace Hardware,” City Administrator Rick Cotton

told Clemson City Council this week. “The problem is that when the grading work is done, it will create an unsafe situation on Elm Street.”

As a result, Cotton said Thrift Development, which is in charge of the project, has asked to close that one block section. The street would remain closed until the project is completed.

But Cotton added the road closure would have minimal impact on nearby residences.

“The Elm Street closure

THE JOURNAL **A3**

of Elm Street

would only impact the roadway section between Clemson Street and Boggs Street and only two households are directly impacted,” he said.

Marty McKee, vice-president of Thrift Development Corporation, said Norfolk Southern requested a train walk so that the conductor could step off and look underneath the train if a stoppage was required.

“That pretty much encroaches Elm Street,” McKee said.

While individuals will

continue to have access to their driveways, McKee added, “No through traffic would be allowed.”

The value-engineering proposal — involving the slight relocation of the existing railroad track in order to make room for an additional railroad track — remains under review by the South Carolina Department of Transportation and Norfolk Southern. A decision could come as soon as next month.

greg@dailyjm.com | (864) 973-6687