Bridges to be replaced in Pickens, Oconee counties

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Three bridges in Pickens County and one bridge in Oconee County will be the first of about 90 bridges to be replaced statewide using a one-time allocation by the state Legislature.

The first contracts to build the state bridges using Act 98 funding were awarded in the past week by the state Department of Transportation commission.

Construction is expected to begin in coming weeks, according to the transportation department.

The bridges are:

» Bridge on Table Rock Road (S.C. 288) over a tributary to Oolenoy River in Pickens County.

» Bridge on Carrick Creek Road (S-25) over a tributary to Oolenoy River in Pickens County.

» Bridge on Terrapin Crossing (S-158) over a tributary to Praters Creek in Pickens County.

» Bridge on Bountyland Road (S-135) over a tributary to Richland Creek in Oconee County.

Christy Hall, the Department of Transportation's deputy secretary for engineering, said in a press release that the timber pile bridges will be replaced with precast concrete bridges. Construction schedules haven't been determined.

The total cost for all four bridges is estimated to be $1.58 million, according to transportation department spokesman Pete Poore. He said the figure includes state and federal money, with Act 98 money being used as a match.

Hall said that as of June 1, Department of Transportation engineers have determined the agency had 1,616 substandard bridges, 407 load-restricted bridges and 12 closed bridges. The department maintains 8,420 bridges.

This isn't the first time Upstate counties have benefited from Act 98.

In January, the transportation commission approved contracts costing more than $2 million to resurface roads in Greenville and Pickens counties using Act 98 funding collected from the state vehicle sales tax. They were the first group of projects to be funded by Act 98, officials said.

Act 98 was signed into law June 24, 2013, by Gov. Nikki Haley. The act provides additional revenue for the state agency to replace bridges, resurface roads not eligible for federal funding and fund a series of interstate projects through the South Carolina Transportation

See BRIDGES, Page 5A