

Road upgrades on track near future industrial park

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WALHALLA — Work begun about a year ago to replace a bridge and to widen S.C. Highway 59 near the proposed industrial park in Fair Play is heading toward the finish line on schedule.

Oconee County Council this week approved a \$400,000 disbursement, which is part of the \$600,000 the county is contributing to the state Department of Transportation (DOT) project budgeted for \$2.7 million.

County Administrator Dale Surrett said Thursday the \$400,000 payment would come from the designated reserve fund of the 1 mill earmarked for economic development.

“Our total involvement is \$600,000,” Surrett said.

Ryan Miller, DOT project manager for the improvements near the proposed Golden Corner Commerce Park in Fair Play, said work is on schedule to

be completed by May 31.

Miller said the Feltman Road Bridge was completed last fall, is open to traffic and is being used as a detour route while an old culvert over Cleveland Creek on Highway 59 is replaced with a bridge.

“That old culvert has been there since 1939 or 1940, and it started settling,” Miller said.

Miller said the scheduled improvements would also include adding turning lanes from both directions of Highway 59 into the future industrial park.

The DOT official added the project, when completed, should come close to budget.

“We should be around \$2.7 million once we’re finished,” Miller said.

The county spent \$2.3 million five years ago to purchase nearly 400 acres in Fair Play for an industrial park and the Feltman Road and Highway 59 improvements are crucial in efforts to market the property for future development.