Utility work begins for bridge project

BY GREG OLIVER
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CLEMSON — Work on one phase of the S.C. 133 bridge replacement project formally began Wednesday.

Contractors working for the city began relocating water and sewer lines in order to make way for the replacement span. The relocation will result in intermittent lane closures on S.C. 133/College Avenue for approximately 60 days.

"While the road will always remain open in both directions, motorists can expect delays at the U.S. 123/S.C. 133 intersection and are advised to seek alternate routes," said City Engineer Kent Guthrie.

The bridge replacement project will consist of removing the existing railroad bridge and installing a temporary bridge for trains as well as an additional track for future light rail. Two lanes will be added to S.C. 133.

The $8 million project will be funded with $4. million in federal stimulus money and $4.5 million from the city.

The project was awarded to Thrift Development of Seneca in May.

"If approved, the new bridge would have a three-span configuration and a completely different substructure," Perry said. "The contractor hopes this change could save time and money, as well as reduce noise to properties near the construction site."

Perry was unable to say when actual construction of the bridge would get underway.

Meanwhile, Mayor Larry Abernathy expressed concerns about signage for nearby Calhoun Corners restaurant.

"I think this is very critical because their business is very important to this town — not just because of business, but because of history," said Abernathy. "It's important to me that we keep the promise we made to that business over there."

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