



PHOTOS BY CALEB GILBERT | THE JOURNAL

**A sign warns of road work ahead on Oconee Creek Road last month. About 4.29 miles of the road has been included in this year's South Carolina Department of Transportation paving program, along with more than a dozen miles on several other Oconee County roads.**

## \$11M in DOT paving projects planned for Oconee

**BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR**  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — More than 18 miles of Oconee County roads are set to be paved this year thanks to a South Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) program, according to agency records.

In May, DOT Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall signed off on the 2022-23 pavement improvement program that will see nearly 1,200 miles of roadway paved across the Palmetto State.

Money for the work comes from the state's gas tax trust fund, which has paid for more than \$2 billion in road and bridge work across South Carolina since 2017. That year, the General Assembly passed legislation to increase the state gas tax by 12 cents, phasing the increase in at 2 cents per year for six years. Coupled with other federal and state funds, the revenues pay for projects done throughout South Carolina.



**The South Carolina Department of Transportation plans to pave more than 18 miles of Oconee County roads this year, in addition to nearly 24 miles of roads in Pickens County.**

DOT spokesman Robert Kudelka told The Journal in September the projects will go to contract "over the next several months, so the final contract values are not known

yet." He estimated Oconee would receive \$11 million for road work.

Seven Oconee projects will be

SEE PAVING, PAGE A2

# PAVING: More than 20 miles set

## FROM PAGE A1

worked on this year, with the only primary road being S.C. Highway 11 — which will see a total of 7.76 miles of work.

Nearly 1.4 miles of road

on Burnt Tanyard Road will be paved, as will a little more than a mile on West Cherry Road. About 3.54 miles of Return Church Road will also be rebuilt. Approximately 4.29 miles of Oconee

Creek Road have also been included in this year's program.

## PICKENS COUNTY WORK

Kudelka had not responded to The Journal by press time about how

# for work in Pickens County

much money was dedicated to Pickens County roads, but there will be a substantial amount of work done.

Nearly 24 miles of roads will be repaved, including a more than 6-mile stretch on S.C. Highway 133 (Six Mile Highway). More than

7 miles of S.C. Highway 186 (Earls Bridge Road) will be repaved as well.

[rmorningstar@upstatetoday.com](mailto:rmorningstar@upstatetoday.com) | (864) 973-6685