

Staff Report

Subject: Letter of Support for the Local Bridge Replacement Program (LOCBR) - Project of Stillwell Road over Ebenezer Creek (Project #0018234)

Author: Tim Callanan, County Manager

Department: County Manager

Meeting Date: November 5, 2024

Item Description: Consideration to approve the Letter of Support for the Local Bridge Replacement Program (LOCBR) Project of Stillwell Road over Ebenezer Creek (Project #0018234).

Summary Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the Letter of Support for the Local Bridge Replacement Program (LOCBR) Project of Stillwell Road over Ebenezer Creek (Project #0018234).

Executive Summary/Background: The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has identified the bridge on Stillwell Road over Ebenezer Creek as deficient and weight-restricted, making it a candidate for replacement under the Local Bridge Replacement Program (LOCBR). This bridge did not meet eligibility requirements for the Low Impact Bridge Program, placing it in the Tier I category for the LOCBR program. As a Tier I project, GDOT will fund preliminary engineering, utility coordination, and construction, while requiring a \$50,000 financial commitment from Effingham County for a portion of the right-of-way phase.

Effingham County's participation and financial support are necessary for the project to proceed. If approved, GDOT will acquire the right-of-way and manage the construction process, with minimal right-of-way impacts anticipated through practical bridge design. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will follow upon the County's confirmation of support, outlining responsibilities for both GDOT and Effingham County. Preliminary engineering is already underway, and GDOT has requested a response by December 16, 2024, to align the project funding timeline.

Alternatives for Commission to Consider

1. Approve the Letter of Support, authorizing participation in the Local Bridge Replacement Program (LOCBR) for the Stillwell Road over Ebenezer Creek project.
2. Do not approve the Letter of Support, declining participation and funding for the bridge replacement.
3. Provide further direction to staff as needed.

Recommended Alternative: Staff recommends alternative 1 – Approve the Letter of Support, authorizing participation in the Local Bridge Replacement Program (LOCBR) for the Stillwell Road over Ebenezer Creek project.

Other Alternatives: Do not approve &/or provide staff with direction.

Department Review: County Manager, County Attorney

Funding Source: N/A

Attachments: GDOT Support Letter Request and Sample Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)