

## **MASON CREEK BRIDGE UPDATE**

I would like to give everyone in District 4 an update on the status of the Mason Creek Bridge, starting with a recap of all the events around the bridge.

- Funds were set aside in the 2002 SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) to repair structural problems with the Mason Creek Bridge.
- The repairs for the bridge were to be completed before 2012 according to the rules of the SPLOST.
- The bridge was completely destroyed by the catastrophic 2009 September floods.
- State funds then became available to completely replace the old structure, with specific design changes mandated with the acceptance of the state funds. In short, the bridge had to be raised four or five feet, and the curve had to be straightened to allow better sight clearance.
- Several right-of-ways had to be purchased to accomplish this requirement, for which SPLOST funds were used. Cost of right of ways was about \$78,000.
- Removal of the old bridge is now in process.
- Bids for construction of the new bridge should be let some time in the next couple of months.
- Construction time is estimated at one year.
- Estimated cost of constructing the new bridge is 1.8 million dollars.

Any deviation of these plans will be passed along to you as soon as I am advised of them. Please call me if you have any further questions.

***Ann Jones Guider***