

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Liberty County has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding through the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) as a sub-recipient.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990, FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Applicant: Liberty County

Project Title: DR-4400 Islands Highway Box Culvert Improvements

Location of Proposed Work:

Name of Structure: Islands Highway

Address of Structure: (Near) Islands Highway, Hinesville, Georgia 31313

A map showing the location of the property is available by contacting (*Robert Dodd at 912-368-2201 or Robert.dodd@libertycountyga.com*)

Latitude/Longitude: **31.7354662, -81.3161503**

Date of Construction: 1960 (Verify Date)

Special Flood Hazard Area Zone: This project is for the improvement of the Islands Highway Box Culvert located in Flood Zone AE. Confirmation of location in an SFHA was made by reference to the latest Flood Insurance Rate Map, Panel 13179C0380E. The proposed work conforms to all applicable State of Georgia and local floodplain regulations.

Proposed Work and Purpose: The project will include the replacement of an existing 40-foot long, reinforced concrete culvert that has been damaged from past storm events with a 70-foot long, reinforced concrete culvert. The proposed culvert will have similar interior dimension of the existing culvert. The culvert will be a double barrel 10'x10' concrete box culvert with wing walls to accommodate for growth that may occur during the life cycle of the culvert. The construction limits will include the immediate area around the existing culvert that is required for the demolition and replacement of the concrete culvert. Grading of the site and related activities will be performed

with minimal disturbance. Erosion and sedimentation control measures will be utilized to protect downstream and offsite facilities.

Project Alternatives:

Alternative #1 (no action alternative): If no action is taken, the box culvert failure potential will remain unchanged resulting in loss of access to residential property for about 1,000 people at a 25-year frequency storm.

Alternative #2: The box culvert could be replaced with a concrete bridge. Construction of the concrete bridge will require the construction of a by-pass roadway or an alternate route to provide access during the construction of the bridge. The cost of the bridge and access ways will exceed the cost of the box culvert.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to Liberty County. All comments are due within 30 days of this notice. Liberty County will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed.

Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

Robert Dodd
Robert.dodd@libertycountyga.com
912-369-2201

POSTED ON: (*Pending FEMA approval for draft language*)

End of Notice