

Project Fact Sheet



Study Overview

US 80 is the only transportation corridor that connects Tybee Island to the Savannah mainland. The two bridges each have two lanes with no shoulders. However, the highway has four lanes on the Savannah side of Bull River and also has four lanes on the Tybee side of Lazaretto Creek; thus the bridges can act as traffic bottle necks. When accidents occur on the bridges, traffic is usually blocked in both directions, due to the absence of shoulders. The lack of shoulders also prohibits use of the bridges by bicyclists and pedestrians, although scenic qualities of the area and proximity to tourist destinations generate bicycle and pedestrian demand. The roadway between the two bridges has “low spots” that flood under certain conditions. Traffic incidents and flooding can shut down US 80, isolating Tybee Island from the mainland. Given the above, the study of this portion of the corridor will address bridge replacement/modification of the Bull River and Lazaretto Creek bridges to include shoulders, flood prone areas along the causeway and bicycle and pedestrian access.

A four-lane concept that includes reconstruction/rehabilitation of the two bridges and causeway has been developed by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). The GDOT concept currently is not federally funded in the MPO’s long range plan that looks out to 2035.



Study Objectives

The purpose of this study is to identify potential interim solutions that will improve bridge and roadway conditions in the short term while allowing the potential to integrate with GDOT's widening concept in the future.

The study is to determine the feasibility of:

- Replacing or modifying the existing bridges to accommodate wider lanes and shoulder,
- Constructing bicycle and pedestrian facilities that link to Tybee Island and McQueen's Island Trail,
- Providing additional capacity at specific locations to provide congestion or incident relief,
- Improving conditions of flood prone areas.

Project Schedule

The US 80 Bridges Replacement study will take approximately 12 months and will include the following major tasks.

- Data Collection and Evaluation of Previous Studies
- Determination and Evaluation of Alternatives
- Identification and Evaluation of Potential Funding Options
- Environmental Screening
- Definition and Selection of a Preferred Alternative
- Concept Development of the Preferred Alternative
- On-going and Proactive Public Participation Process

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