



16591/GA 1203
July 7, 2015

PUBLIC NOTICE (05-15)

All interested parties are notified that an application has been received from the Federal Highway Administration by the Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, for approval of location and plans for construction of a fixed highway bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The south channel of the Savannah River, mile 0.9, near Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia.

CHARACTER OF WORK: Replacing the existing fixed highway bridge with a 2-lane bridge to be constructed immediately adjacent to the existing structure. The existing bridge will be removed upon completion of the new bridge. Vehicular traffic will be maintained during construction.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

Existing: Horizontal: 97 feet between piers, normal to the axis of the channel

 Vertical: 10.52 feet above Mean High Water, 17.44 feet above Mean Low Water.

Proposed: The clearances will remain the same.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: The Federal Highway Administration, the lead federal agency, reviewed the environmental assessment prepared by the National Park Service. Although the project will have adverse impacts to the cultural landscape, species of special concern, wetlands, wildlife, and wildlife habitat, measures will be taken to mitigate adverse impacts. Construction of the bridge will require in-water work which will disrupt aquatic species, and permanently fill adjacent tidal marsh wetlands. Wetland mitigation will restore tidal marsh in the area to restore impacted wetland functions. The bridge is located in the floodplain. The base flood elevation is between 17 and 18 feet, while the low chord member of the bridge is 13.60 feet. Elevations are based on Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Flood Insurance Rate Map dated May 19, 1987. No parklands or wildlife refuges will be adversely affected by the project. As preservation of the existing bridge would be unreasonably expensive, Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Level II documentation of the bridge will be completed.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Mariners are requested to comment on the proposed clearances and other navigational safety issues including need for clearance gauges and the extent of nighttime navigation past the bridge site.

Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project including its possible impact on minority and/or low income population, if any, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support of or opposition to the proposed work. Comments will be received for the record at the office of the Commander (dpb), Seventh Coast Guard District, 909 SE 1st Avenue, Suite 432, Miami, FL 33131-3028, for a 30-day period from the date of this public notice. Project manager for this application is Mr. Gwin Tate, who can be reached at (305) 415-6747, or by mail at the above address. These comments received will be made part of the case record.

Map of location and plans attached.

This is a web-searchable copy and is not the official, signed version; however, other than the signature being omitted, it is a duplicate of the official version.

