U.S. Department of Homeland Security

United States Coast Guard



Commander United States Coast Guard Seventh District 909 SE 1st Avenue Miami, FL 33131 Staff Symbol: dpb Email: <u>Lisia.j.kowalczyk2@uscg.</u> <u>mil</u>

May 1, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE 06-24

All interested parties are herein notified that the Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, has received application materials dated 21 February 2024 from the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for approval of location and plans for the replacement of a bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States.

BRIDGE, WATERWAY AND LOCATION: I-95 Bridges over the Savannah River, River mile 28, on Interstate 95 at, between Jasper County, South Carolina and Effingham County, Georgia.

CHARACTER OF WORK: Proposed replacement includes widening I-95 towards the median from 4 lanes to 6 lanes, replacing the dual I-95 bridges over the Savannah River. The purpose of the proposed transportation project is to improve capacity, mobility, and operations along the 10-mile corridor of I-95 and to address operational deficiencies for interchanges and bridges within the project corridor. The existing bridges will be removed completely. Temporary work trestles will be used.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES:

The proposed replacement bridges will have clearances as described in the table below. The horizontal clearance is a decrease from current clearance over this section of the waterway at or near this mile.

	Existing	Proposed
Vertical	55 feet	58.7 feet
Horizontal	150 feet	100 feet

Datum: NAVD88

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The FHWA is the lead Federal agency for satisfying the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FHWA is acting on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard for all environmental control laws. A Categorical Exclusion dated 27 July 2023 and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued, pursuant to NEPA, as amended. The U.S. Coast Guard has determined that the proposed action will not have a significant impact for the purposes of NEPA.

A water quality certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, for this project was applied for from the South Carolina Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Division-Environmental Protection Division (GADNR-EPD). The project will impact 35.4 acres of wetland. Mitigation credits will be purchased to offset the impacts.

The bridge is located in the floodplain. The 100-year flood elevation is 44.23 feet, while elevation of the low member of the navigation span is 58.7 ft. Elevations are referenced to NAVD88 datum. Fill material placed below mean high water level is limited to the pilings for the construction of the bridge.

The decision as to whether to grant approval of the location and plans for the proposed action rests primarily upon the effect it has on navigation.

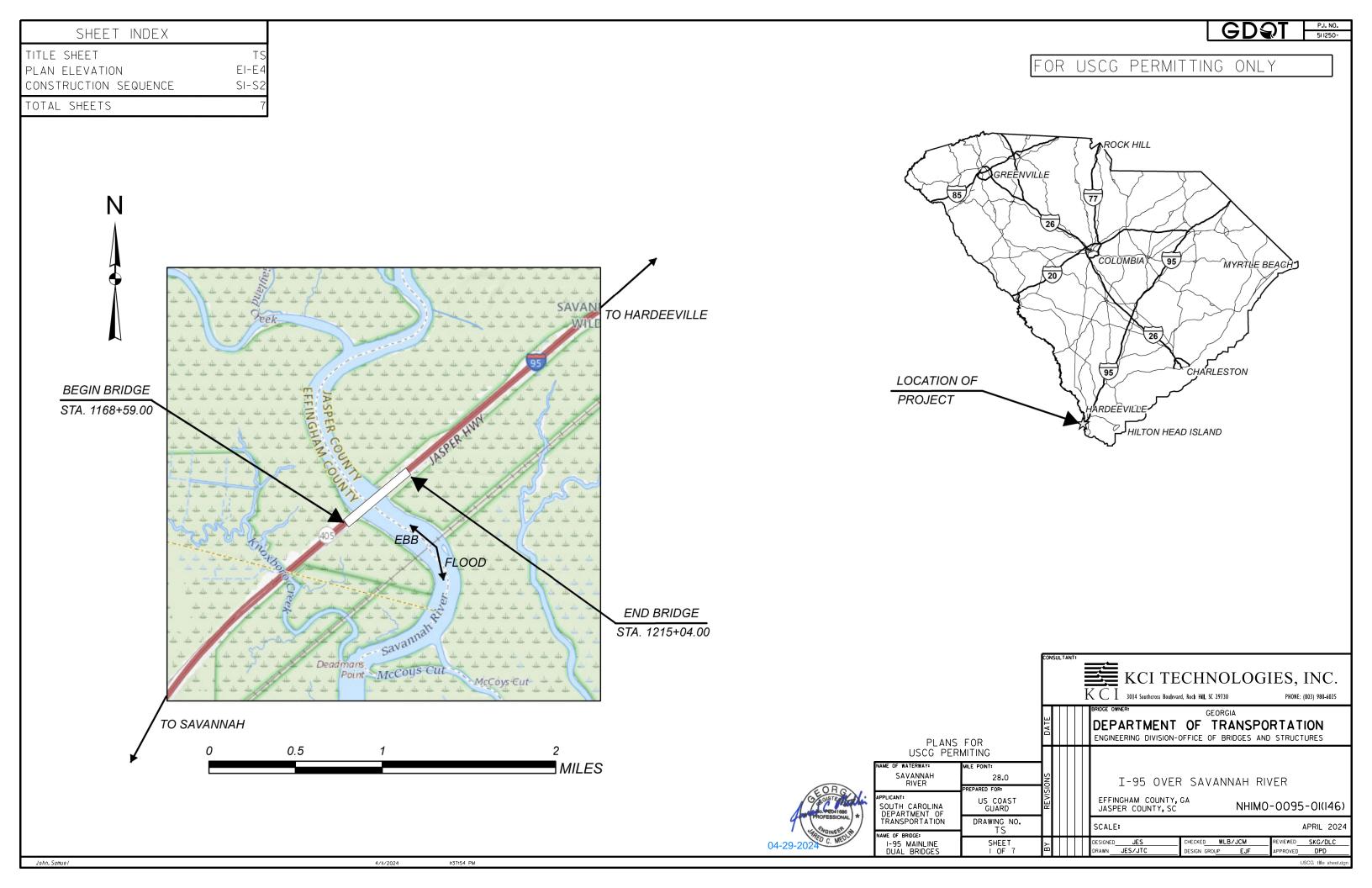
SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

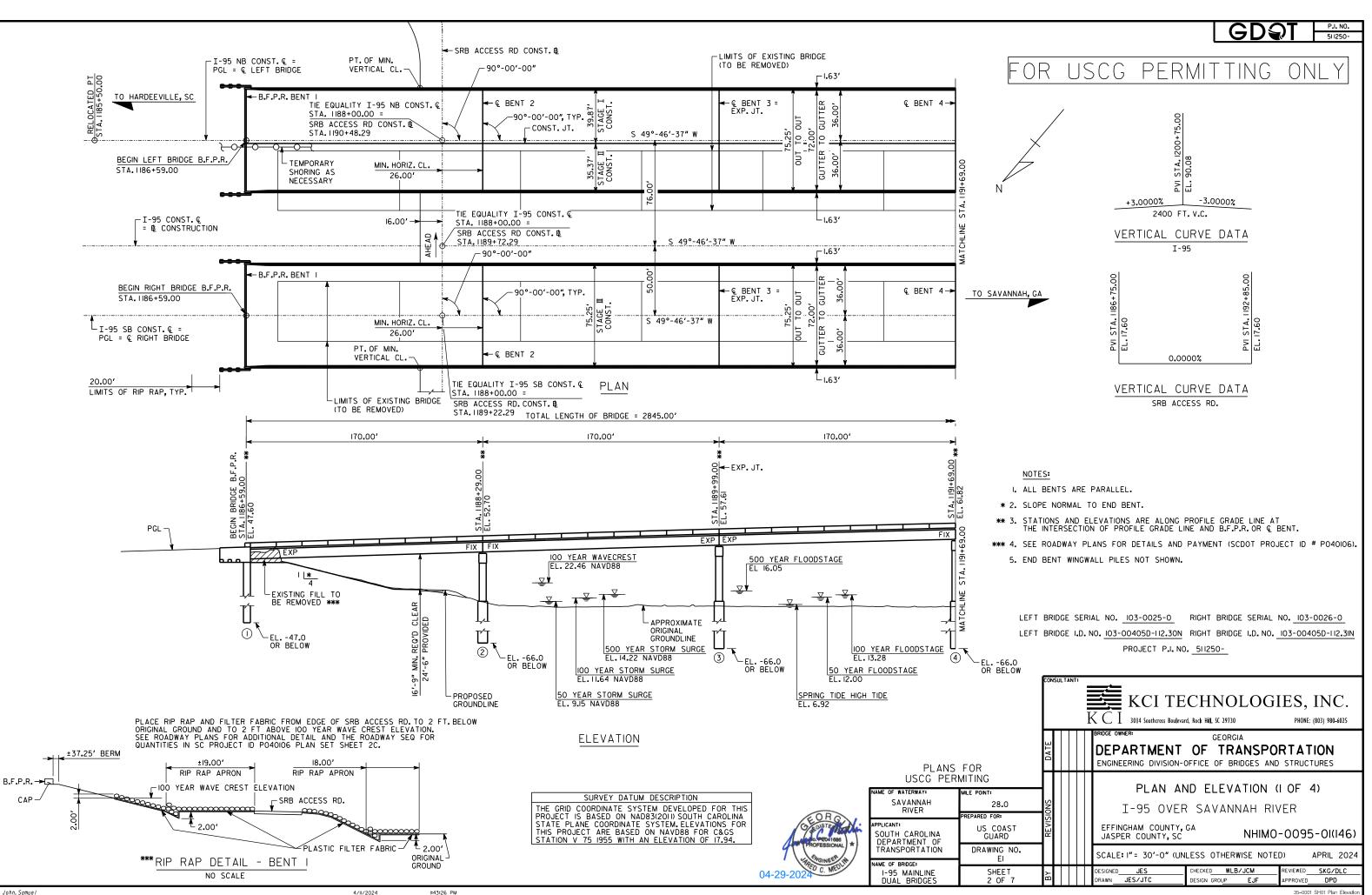
Mariners are requested to comment on the proposed navigation clearances, placement of a bridge protective system and other navigational safety issues, including need for clearance gauges and extent of nighttime navigation to determine the need for bridge lighting. Interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge project including its possible impacts to navigation.

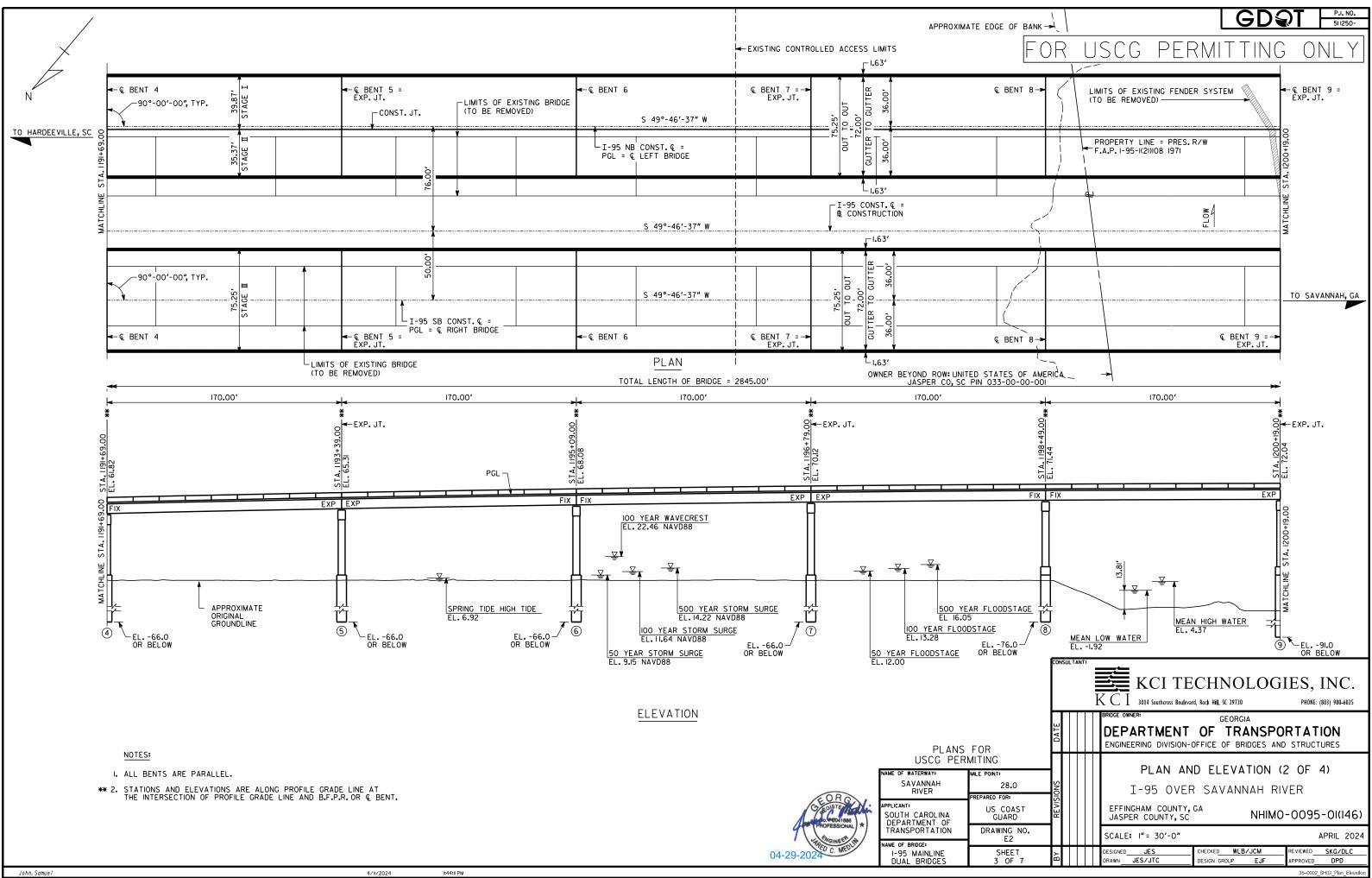
We will forward comments of an environmental nature such as those regarding wildlife refuges, public parks, historic sites, wetlands, floodplain issues, air, water quality, environmental justice, etc. to the FDOT. Comments will be received for the record at the address noted in the header or via email Lisia.j.kowalczyk2@uscg.mil through June 1, 2024.

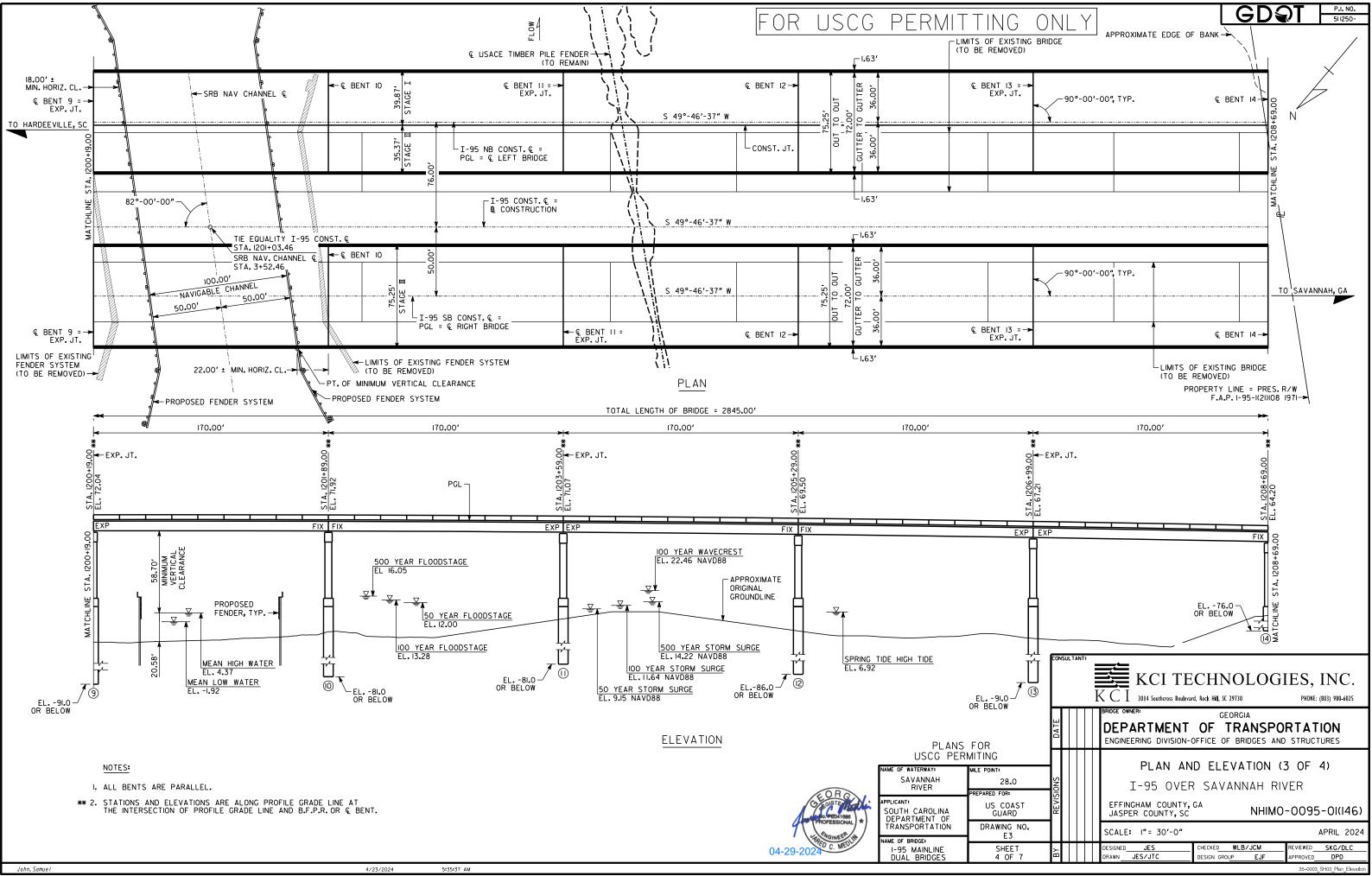
Map of location and plans attached.

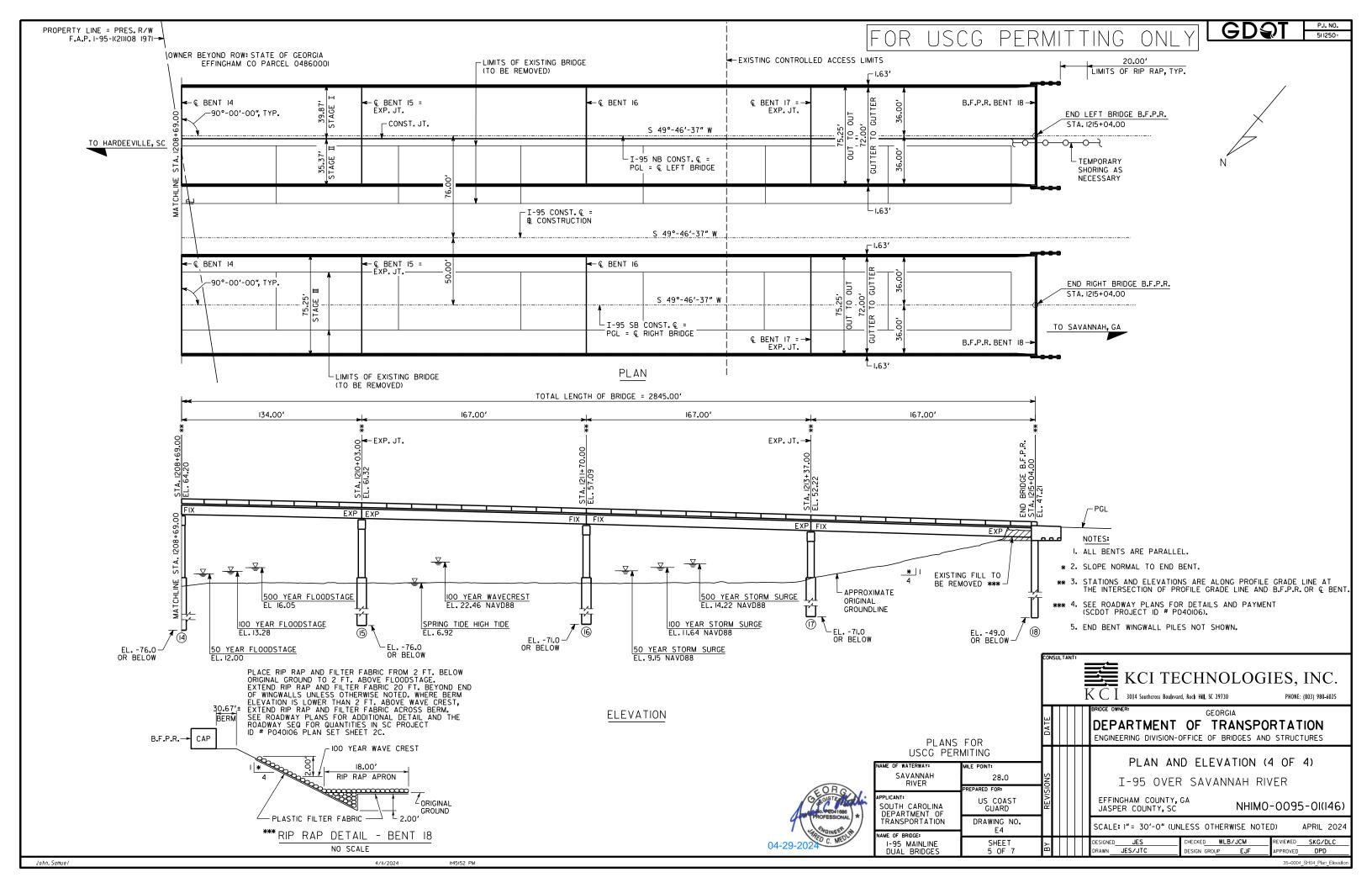
Lisia Kowalczyk Bridge Administrator By direction of the Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District

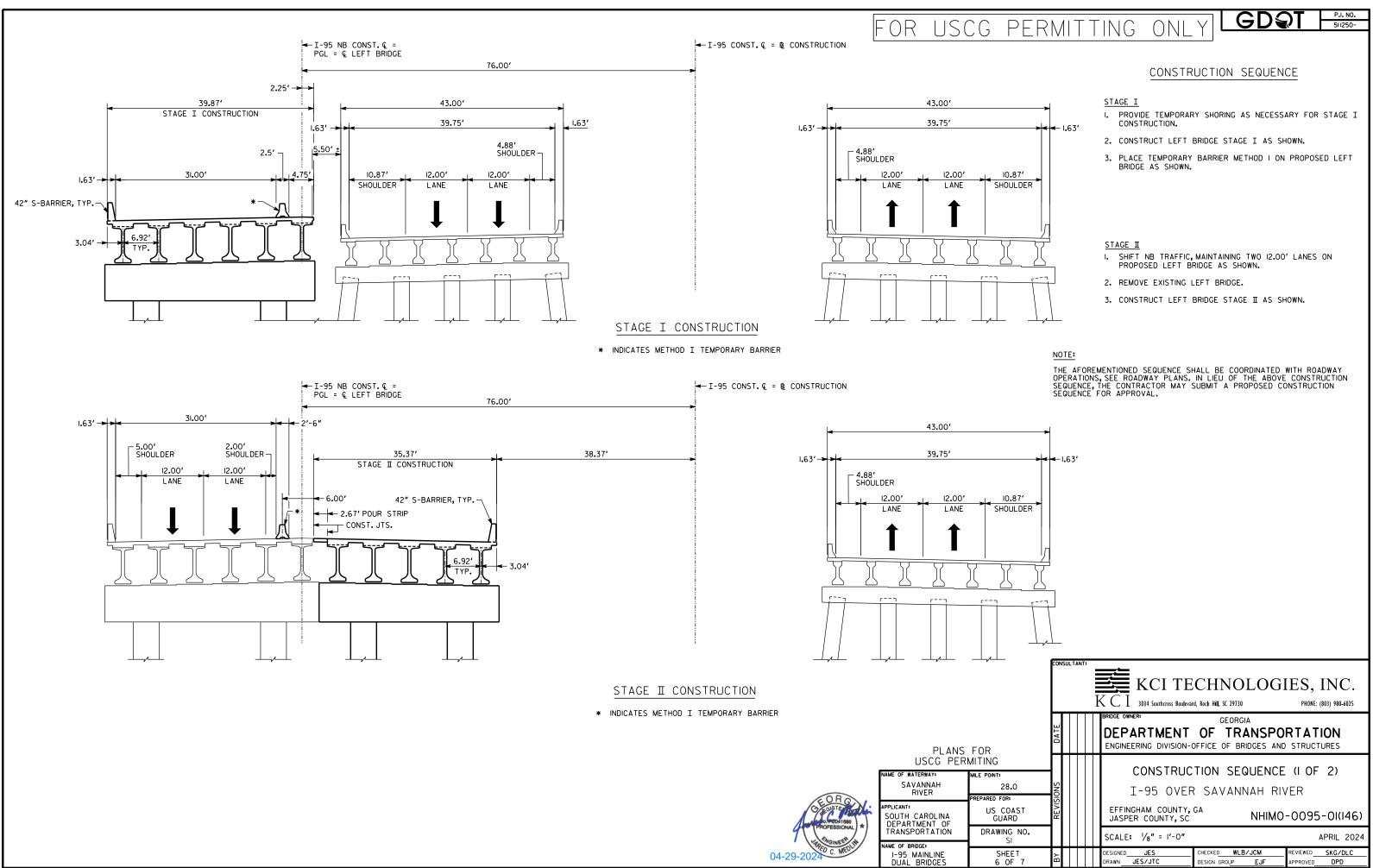












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