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Date: 12/31/2015 8:29:45 PM
Subject: FW: SCDOT New Year's Eve Road Report

From: Hutto, J. Allen
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 8:29:33 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Hutto, J. Allen
Cc: Hall, Christy; Nicholas, Wendy
Subject: SCDOT New Year's Eve Road Report

Happy New Year from SCDOT!

As rains begin to move out of South Carolina, SCDOT crews continue to assess conditions, close flooded roadways, and make repairs where water has subsided. Currently, thirty-six roads are closed in fifteen counties due to flooding or damage. Only one route, SC 560 in Laurens County, is a primary route. The counties that have been impacted are: Abbeville, Cherokee, Chesterfield, Darlington, Fairfield, Florence, Greenwood, Lancaster, Laurens, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, Spartanburg, Sumter, and Union. SCDOT Maintenance crews will begin repairs as soon as favorable weather and ground conditions allow. Closed roads will be inspected more thoroughly once the water recedes prior to reopening to traffic. On Wednesday, a washout cut off access to three homes on East Liberty Springs Road in the Cross Hill area of Laurens County. Today, SCDOT crews were able to re-open this road to local traffic by installing a temporary bridge loaned to SCDOT by a Newberry logging company. Equipment and materials have been prepositioned to all crews to begin permanent repairs as conditions allow.

Early this morning, a gate was raised on the Lake Murray dam, increasing water flow to the Saluda River Basin. SCDOT bridge inspectors were on scene over night to monitor water levels and bridge conditions. As of this afternoon, the dam gate was lowered and water levels have stabilized. SCDOT will continue to monitor roadway conditions and take the appropriate steps to close roadways as necessary to ensure the safety of the traveling public. SCDOT county crews will be on-call statewide to respond to possible road flooding and potential for fallen trees due to soil saturation and high wind gusts forecasted.

Interim Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall stated, "South Carolina continues to battle the flood waters and its many challenges. As waters subside, our dedicated crews will be on scene to monitor conditions, make repairs, and check barricades. I urge motorists to exercise extreme caution in their holiday travels, and always obey the posted barricades and signs. On behalf of our over 4,400 employees we wish you a safe and happy 2016."

A listing of road closures can be found here:

<http://www.scdot-transfer.org/SCDOTPhotos/RoadClosures12312015.pdf>

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