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Subject: SCDOT I-526 Wando Bridge Update

Saturday, May 19, Update: Interstate 526 Bridge over the Wando River

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) on Saturday, May 19, 2018, continued around the clock emergency operations at the I-526 bridge over the Wando River.

24/7 repairs continue on the westbound I-526 bridge, which remains closed until June 11, after a cable broke on May 14, 2018. Governor Henry McMaster has formally requested Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall to develop a plan for reversals designed to relieve traffic congestion in Mount Pleasant. That plan has been developed by SCDOT in conjunction with its partners on the local, state and federal levels.

SCDOT crews continued on Saturday to prepare the eastbound I-526 for "two-way" traffic beginning at rush hour Monday morning, May 21. Transition to the two-way traffic is anticipated Sunday afternoon, May 20.

To assist motorists, travel times will be posted on SCDOT message boards. The SCDOT website, www.scdot.org has helpful information such as maps, traffic cameras and visualizations of the new traffic configuration showing the "two-way" traffic on the eastbound bridge.

SCDOT advises motorists to choose one of three detour routes is best suited for them. SCDOT advises motorists to plan ahead, use caution and drive safely in the work zone.

- * Two-way traffic speeds on the eastbound bridge will be reduced and posted at 45 miles per hour. This is the same "safe speed limit" used when traveling through work zones.
- * The Wando Bridge area is an actual work zone while repairs are on-going, so "Let 'em Work, Let 'em Live" for their safety and yours.
- * Plan your trips to allow for extra travel time. Additional traffic cameras have temporarily been added to the area to help drivers select the best routes.
- * SCDOT's 511 app can provide route information and views from the traffic cameras. www.511sc.org.
- * The usual rules of the road apply even more so during two-way traffic: Don't text while driving, and follow the speed limits.
- * SCDOT has provided more SHEP (Motorist Assistance Operators) in the detour areas.
- * State and local law enforcement agencies are providing more officers to handle traffic, including the manual operation of traffic signals at key intersections to adjust timing with the flow of traffic. More tow trucks have been positioned in the area of the bridge to help keep traffic moving in case of disabled vehicles.
- * Once again, plan your trips in advance and please be patient as SCDOT and all of our partners work to reopen the westbound bridge and return traffic back to normal.

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