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Subject: SCDOT News Release/Photos  
Attachments: SC 9 bridge repair below deck view.jpg  
SC 9 bridge repair deck view.jpg

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## **SC 9 Bridge to Reopen Today in Union County**

### **More Than 2 Weeks Ahead of Schedule**

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) plans to reopen the SC 9 Bridge over the Broad River in the Town of Lockhart at 4 p.m. today, Thursday, July 28, 2016, after repairs were completed more than 2 weeks ahead of schedule.

The bridge had been closed for repairs since July 18, with a scheduled reopening of Aug. 14, in time for the Aug. 15 start of area schools.

“We are very happy to announce the reopening of the SC 9 bridge more than 2 weeks ahead of schedule and thank the community for its patience during these necessary repairs,” said SCDOT Commissioner David E. "Gene" Branham, Sr., representing the 5th Congressional District.

Secretary of Transportation Christy A. Hall said it is vital to maintain the continuity of primary routes through rural communities in South Carolina – a key component of the state’s highway system.

“I would also like to thank our partner in this project, United Infrastructure Group, for their expedient work and partnership with our employees to restore this vital link to this community,” Hall said.

A 35-mile detour had been in place during the repair work, which will extend the life of the current structure and allow the bridge to remain in service until a new bridge can be constructed. A new contract will call for constructing four new bridges crossing the Broad River, Canal Road, S. 46 and Lockhart Drive (S. 31). The project is tentatively set to be put out for bids by the end of 2016. The new SC 9 bridge will be built next to the existing bridge. The existing bridge will remain open until the new structure is completed.

Photos show the new beams installed to strengthen the deck support and the concrete patches visible to crossing motorists. (Photos by SCDOT District 4).

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