



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

JAMES H. TROGDON, III  
SECRETARY

Castle Bridge Project FAQ  
Feb. 5, 2018

The N.C. Department of Transportation will be closing the Castle Bridge on Malcolm Boulevard/Connelly Springs Road over Rhodhiss Lake this summer to make significant repairs to the 57-year-old bridge. The work includes replacing old supporting beams and the deteriorating concrete deck so the bridge may be used for decades ahead. Work will begin this summer — once a gas pipeline is moved — and should take 14-18 months.

- *Why is this project taking place:* The recent biannual inspection revealed that the steel beams have deteriorated to the point where they are beyond repair and must be replaced. But the foundation is in sound condition. As a result, the weight limit posting for commercial trucks was reduced to a maximum weight of 19 tons. Any more reductions would take the bridge out of use for most commercial vehicles.
- *What is the best course of action:* Replace the deteriorated steel beams and concrete deck while utilizing the existing foundation. Using the existing solid foundation is the most effective use of time and money to get the bridge open quickly and have it in good shape for decades to come.
- *Was a new bridge considered:* Yes. The steel beams and concrete deck cannot remain in service for the amount of time needed to obtain permits, develop plans, and construct a new bridge at an estimated cost of \$16 million.
- *When will the bridge close:* Piedmont Natural Gas is working to relocate an existing gas line attached to the bridge by placing it under Lake Rhodhiss. They are doing excellent work. Construction will begin once the gas line is relocated — more than likely this summer.
- *How will emergency services be different:* NCDOT is currently working with Emergency Services in Burke and Caldwell County to coordinate their services during the bridge closure. More information will follow in another Public Meeting in May or June closer to the bridge closure.
- *How long is the bridge expected to be closed:* It will be closed 14-18 months.
- *What is the cost of the project:* The anticipated cost is approximately \$5 million
- *When was the bridge built:* 1961. It is 57 years old.
- *How many vehicles use the bridge:* Approximately 9,000 vehicles per day.
- *What is the detour route:* Malcolm Blvd to U.S. 70 to U.S. 321 to Connelly Springs Rd
- *Will the Castle Bridge Landing remain open:* Yes
- *Up Next:* NCDOT will hold a public meeting with more details in May or June.

*Mailing Address:*  
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION THIRTEEN  
POST OFFICE BOX 3279  
ASHEVILLE, NC 28802-3279

*Telephone:* (828) 251-6171  
*Fax:* (828) 251-6394  
*Customer Service:* 1-877-368-4968

*Website:* [www.ncdot.gov](http://www.ncdot.gov)

*Location:*  
55 ORANGE STREET  
ASHEVILLE, NC 28801-2340