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Berkeley County Wando Bridge Closure Update for May 16

MONCK'S CORNER, S.C. - (Wednesday, May 16, 2018)- Berkeley County continues to work with regional and state officials to provide support and spread information about the continued closure of the westbound portion of the Wando Bridge.

"Because the bridge connects Charleston and Berkeley County, coordination is critical," said Berkeley County Supervisor Bill Peagler.

The coordination effort is being managed by our Emergency Preparedness Department (EPD), including the Berkeley Government administration and Berkeley County Sheriff's Office.

South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) had national level experts begin the assessment of the bridge this morning, and will announce findings and plans at the 4:30 p.m. press conference.

While the bridge remains closed, law enforcement agencies in the area are working to observe and adjust traffic patterns to best alleviate congestion.

Berkeley County EMS can still get off Daniel Island via I-526, so Berkeley County has not experienced any delays in EMS response times due to the closure. Berkeley County 911 has communicated with consolidated dispatch and has set up a separate channel for this incident.

No other agencies have reported significant issues beyond heavier traffic.

The bridge closure poses significant traffic impacts on Berkeley County residents on Daniel Island and on the Cainhoy peninsula. Motorists are using Highway 17 North to Clements Ferry as a detour; therefore, Clements Ferry is experiencing an increased amount of traffic.

Clements Ferry Road phase 1 improvement project is underway, and motorists using this artery as a detour are asked to be patient and avoid peak rush-hour times.

The Berkeley County Economic Development Department is in the process of reaching out to large employers on Daniel Island and along the Clements Ferry corridor to find out any issues they are experiencing and provide a central contact should a need arise.

“The bridge closure causes major traffic issues for Berkeley County residents, and County leaders are focused on mitigating the impacts of the closure,” said Berkeley County Supervisor Bill Peagler. “Emergency response services have not been disrupted. We are hopeful this will continue and we will keep our citizens updated as new information comes out.”

- Prepared by the Berkeley County Public Information Office -