

Portion of Swamp Road in Ware County to be closed for 180 days

Swamp Road at Gum Swamp Creek Bridge south of Waycross will close to through traffic starting Monday, July 13, for approximately 180 days. This closure is part of a bridge replacement project that will affect local travel for residents in Ware County.

Georgia DOT's contractor, Underground Excavating, Inc., of Patterson, Georgia, will prepare and maintain the

detour around the closure. The signed detour route will utilize Gilmore Drive, Gilmore Street, Gibbs Lane, Gibbs Street, 8 Mile Post Road, Lottie Tatum Road, and Ed Tatum Road. Clear signage will guide motorists, and access to residences in the area up to the work zone will be maintained. For the safety of the public, unauthorized personnel and motorized vehicles are not permitted in the

construction zone.

This \$2.1 million project will replace the current weight restricted bridge working within existing right of way. If the weather cooperates, the project is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2027.

The majority of bridges in Georgia are locally owned. Georgia DOT's Low Impact Bridge Program and Local Bridge Replacement Program

helps local governments replace deficient bridges. For more information on those programs, go to <http://www.dot.ga.gov/IS/BridgePrograms>.

Advisory: Motorists are advised to expect delays, exercise caution, and reduce their speed while traveling through work zones. Before head-

ing out, get real-time information on work status and traffic conditions. Call 511, visit 511ga.org, or download the Georgia 511 app.

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“ All you need to say is simply
‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond
this comes from the evil one. ”
-(Matthew 5:37 NIV)

Don't Be a Pushover

There are times in our lives when we have to say “no” to requests made of us, and we may feel guilty about it, wishing that we could grant the request. I often find myself asking what the Christian response should be to these requests, or, in other words, what would Jesus do? It is tempting to think that we should say “yes” to every request made of us, especially if we are “people-pleasers,” but then we are putting others above ourselves and may be slighting ourselves in the process. When a child asks a parent for money for entertainment purposes which the parent needs to pay the household bills, it would be misguided to grant that request. You don't have to play the martyr in these cases. Call to mind all the times that Jesus said “no” or confronted others: he flatly refused to answer Pilate's questions and finally gave an answer that was certainly a challenge to Pilate (Mark 15 and John 18:28-40); he overturned the tables of the money-changers and drove them out of the temple (Matthew 21:12-13); and when Satan tempted Jesus after his fast in the desert, Jesus answered each temptation clearly and rebuked Satan, finally telling Satan to go away. (Matthew 4:1-11). And that is how we sometimes must act, perhaps explaining why we can't grant the request, and if they persist, sometimes we just have to say, “Go away!” Great religious leaders are never pushovers; they are strong men and women who know how and when to say No!

—Christopher Simon

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