



South Carolina
Department of Transportation

Chris J. Gaskins, P.E., P.G.
Director of Alternative Delivery
803-737-1473 | 803-737-5053 Fax

MEMORANDUM

To: Justin P. Powell, Secretary of Transportation

From: Chris J. Gaskins, P.E., P.G., Director of Alternative Delivery *JM*

RE: Emergency Contractor Selection
S-2-105 over I-20 Emergency Bridge Replacement (Asset ID: 5198)
Aiken County
Project ID P044879

Date: June 17, 2025

On the morning of Saturday, June 14, 2025, the S-2-105 (Old Vacluse Road) bridge over I-20 in Aiken County collapsed following significant structural damage caused by a vehicular incident on I-20. As a result, both directions of the interstate were fully closed and traffic was rerouted. Emergency response teams, including medical personnel, first responders, and SCDOT crews, worked around the clock to safely demolish the collapsed structure and restore interstate traffic. Full interstate operations resumed by the afternoon of Sunday, June 15, 2025. Due to the impact on regional mobility, the bridge replacement project is being expedited to minimize disruption caused by extended detours and to accommodate moderate daily traffic volumes.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has concurred with proceeding with the replacement of this structure via emergency procurement procedures. Given the extent of the damage and the complexity of the work required, the bridge replacement exceeds the capabilities of SCDOT's in-house maintenance forces. It has been determined that pursuing an expedited emergency design-build procurement is in the best interest of the State to ensure the safety and well-being of the traveling public. It is recommended that SCDOT request technical and cost proposals from the contractors listed below to perform the identified bridge replacement.

- United Infrastructure Group, Inc.
- Reeves Construction Company
- Crowder Construction Company

These contractors have the available resources to deliver the required work under this emergency procurement. In addition, the selected contractors are prequalified prime contractors.

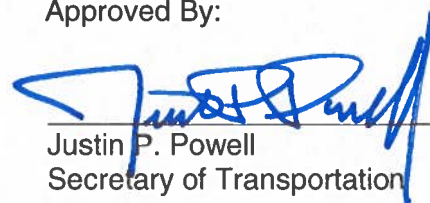
Please indicate your concurrence to these recommendations below.

Recommended for Approval:

Rob Perry


Rob Perry, P.E.
Deputy Secretary for Engineering

Approved By:

Justin P. Powell


Justin P. Powell
Secretary of Transportation



MRB
Attachments

ec: Karl McCottry, Deputy Secretary for Finance & Administration
Andrew Leaphart, P.E., Chief Engineer for Operations
John Boylston, P.E., Chief Engineer for Project Delivery
Robbie Isgett, P.E., Chief Engineer for Alternative Delivery and Construction
Chris Lacy, P.E., Director of Bridge Management
Jeff Terry, P.E., Director of Maintenance
Brian Heape, P.E., District Seven Engineering Administrator
Jermaine Hannon, FHWA Division Administrator
Blake Gerken, FHWA SC Division Bridge Engineer



South Carolina
Department of Transportation

Rob E. Perry, P.E.
Deputy Secretary for Engineering
803-737-7900 | 803-737-5053 Fax

MEMORANDUM

TO: Justin P. Powell, Secretary of Transportation

FROM: Rob E. Perry, P.E., Deputy Secretary for Engineering

RE: Request for Emergency Contracting Services for Closed Bridge Asset 5198
S-2-105 Crossing I-20 in Aiken County

DATE: June 16, 2025

Following an Emergency Event on June 14, 2025, the State Bridge Management Office (BMO) closed the S-2-105 (Vaucluse Road) bridge crossing I-20 in Aiken County. This bridge site is currently closed to traffic and it is recommended that the procurement of services be expedited.

The scope of work is beyond the capabilities of the Department's bridge maintenance forces, so it is requested that authorization be granted to proceed with an emergency procurement for construction services in accordance with Section 57-5-1620 of the South Carolina Code of Laws and Engineering Directive 35.

It is also recommended that a design-build contract be utilized for construction of this bridge. An emergency procurement as outlined in the SCDOT Design-Build Procurement Manual, providing a single RFP phase, is recommended. This approach will provide the most expeditious solution with the least disruption to vehicular traffic and inconvenience to the general public while insuring an acceptable level of competition to ensure the best value. Please indicate below as to your concurrence to these recommendations.

Recommended for Approval:

Rob E. Perry, P.E.
Deputy Secretary for Engineering

Approved By:

Justin P. Powell,
Secretary of Transportation

REP/crl
File: BMO

ec: Robert Isgett, P.E., Chief Engineer for Alternative Delivery and Construction
Chris Gaskins, P.E., Director of Alternative Delivery
Chris Lacy, P.E. Director of Bridge Management
Emily Woods, P.E., Assistant State Bridge Management Engineer
Brian Heape, P.E. District 7 Engineering Administrator
Adam Bishop, P.E. District 7 Bridge Engineer





South Carolina
Department of Transportation

Justin P. Powell.
Secretary of Transportation
803-737-0874 | 803-737-2038 Fax

MEMORANDUM

TO: SCDOT Senior Staff
FROM: Justin P. Powell, Secretary of Transportation
DATE: June 14, 2025
RE: Emergency Event Declaration

With the powers vested in me as the Secretary of Transportation, **I am declaring an Emergency Event associated with the bridge damage on the Old Vaucluse Road Bridge over I-20, effective immediately for the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT).**

This declaration authorizes the activation and deployment of employees to handle situations as directed by management in response and recovery operations associated with this event, including, but not limited to the following:

- Providing of meals for activated employees in accordance with Fiscal Procedure Memorandum 62
- Exemption of comp time rule for employees with exempt status
- Stand-by/activation of emergency contracts for demolition, repair, and replacement
- Activation of assistance crews and lodging as necessary
- Exception for accommodations over the GSA rate





U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

South Carolina Division
Strom Thurmond Federal Building
1835 Assembly Street, Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

June 17, 2025

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-SC

Rob Perry, Deputy Secretary for Engineering
South Carolina Department of Transportation
955 Park Street
Columbia, South Carolina, 29202-0191

Subject: Emergency Procurement Requests regarding S-105 (Old Vacluse Road) Bridge over I-20 in Aiken County

Dear Deputy Secretary Perry:

As a follow up to verbal conversations with my staff and in response to your email request to David Cook dated June 14, 2025, the emergency procurements in response to damages to the S-105 (Old Vacluse Road) bridge over I-20 in Aiken County, resulting from a tanker truck collision and subsequent fire on June 14, 2025, are approved.

These procurements include:

1. An emergency sole source procurement for the demolition and removal of the damaged bridge and an emergency sole source procurement for the repair of damaged pavement on I-20 resulting from this incident. These procurements were justified by the location of resources and ability to provide an immediate response.
2. A site specific, three bid emergency design-build procurement to replace the S-105 bridge is acceptable, provided that previously established and approved procedures and processes are followed.

We look forward to supporting SCDOT through this recovery process. Should you have any questions regarding the progress determination, please contact David Cook at (803) 765-5460.

Sincerely yours,

AARON MICHAEL
DAWSON

Digitally signed by AARON
MICHAEL DAWSON
Date: 2025.06.17 12:05:56
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Aaron Dawson
Deputy Division Administrator

State of South Carolina

Executive Department

FILED

JUN 17 2025

Mark Hammond
SECRETARY OF STATE



Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.

2025-22

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2025, a fuel tanker collided with and significantly damaged the S-105, Old Vacluse Road bridge, which serves as an Interstate 20 ("I-20") overpass ("I-20 Overpass Bridge") in Aiken County, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, due to the aforementioned incident and resulting fire, the I-20 Overpass Bridge sustained substantial damage, which rendered it unserviceable to the motoring public and required its demolition to reopen I-20 and has caused the diversion of approximately 1,500 vehicles per day to an alternate, detour route; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Department of Transportation ("DOT") has determined that a complete replacement of the I-20 Overpass Bridge is required, which is beyond the scope of heavy or extraordinary maintenance for purposes of 23 C.F.R. § 668.101; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with 23 U.S.C. § 125, the United States Department of Transportation, through the Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA"), administers an emergency relief ("ER") program to assist States with the repair or reconstruction of federal-aid highways that have suffered serious damage due to certain extraordinary conditions, such as natural disasters or catastrophic failures from an external cause; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 125 and 23 C.F.R. Part 668, a State's application for ER funding must be made to and approved by the FHWA Division Administrator and, absent a presidential major-disaster declaration, shall include documentation reflecting that the Governor of the affected State has determined and declared, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Transportation, that the circumstances constitute an emergency; and

WHEREAS, I-20 is a critical part of the Strategic Highway Corridor Network ("STRAHNET") for military surface deployment and distribution command transportation purposes, and the I-20 Overpass Bridge was originally constructed in 1968 to provide vital connectivity to both sides of this strategic corridor; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the foregoing, Old Vaucluse Road currently provides critical access to the Sage Mill Industrial Park, which consists of several major industrial and manufacturing facilities, and connectivity between the same and the surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, for the aforementioned and other reasons, and due to the significant impacts of the destruction of the I-20 Overpass Bridge on individuals, employers, and businesses, upon consultation with DOT, the undersigned has determined that the expedited replacement of the I-20 Overpass Bridge is necessary to reopen this critical corridor to vehicular traffic, provide for and protect public safety, and maintain the State's roadways.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and of these United States and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1. Emergency Measures to Replace the I-20 Overpass Bridge

A. I hereby declare that the existing and anticipated circumstances and conditions referenced and described herein associated with a fuel tanker's collision with the I-20 Overpass Bridge and resulting fire, which significantly damaged and destroyed the I-20 Overpass Bridge in Aiken County, South Carolina, constitute an emergency for purposes of 23 U.S.C. § 125 and 23 C.F.R. Part 668, and I have determined that this matter represents an ongoing concern to maintaining vehicular traffic on the roadway.

B. I hereby authorize and direct DOT to initiate and undertake any and all actions or activities DOT deems necessary to provide for the immediate replacement of the I-20 Overpass Bridge and to ensure the safety and well-being of the traveling public.

C. I further authorize and direct DOT to apply for or otherwise seek the requisite federal approval from the FHWA Division Administrator to make ER funds or other FHWA assistance available to the State of South Carolina in connection with the emergency declared herein.

Section 2. General Provisions

A. This Order is not intended to create, and does not create, any individual right, privilege, or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the State of South Carolina, its agencies, departments, political subdivisions, or other entities, or any officers, employees, or agents thereof, or any other person.

B. If any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Order is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such holding shall not affect the constitutionality or validity of the remaining portions of this Order, as the undersigned would have issued this Order, and each and every section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, and word thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more other

June 17, 2025

sections, subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs, sentences, clauses, phrases, or words hereof may be declared to be unconstitutional, invalid, or otherwise ineffective.

C. This Order shall be implemented consistent with and to the maximum extent provided by applicable law and shall be subject to the availability of appropriations. This Order shall not be interpreted, applied, implemented, or construed in a manner so as to impair, impede, or otherwise affect the authority granted by law to an executive agency or department, or the officials or head thereof, including the undersigned.

D. I hereby expressly authorize the Office of the Governor to provide or issue any necessary and appropriate additional or supplemental guidance, rules, regulations, or restrictions regarding the application of this Order or to otherwise provide clarification regarding the same, through appropriate means, without the need for further Orders.

E. This Order is effective immediately.



GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 17th DAY OF
JUNE, 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Henry Dargan McMaster", is written over a horizontal line.

HENRY DARGAN MCMASTER
Governor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark Hammond", is written over a horizontal line.

MARK HAMMOND
Secretary of State



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

South Carolina Division
Strom Thurmond Federal Building
1835 Assembly Street, Suite 1270
Columbia, SC 29201

June 24, 2025

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-SC

Mr. Justin Powell
Secretary of Transportation
South Carolina Department of Transportation
955 Park Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

**Subject: Emergency Relief Request regarding S-105 (Old Vacluse Road) Bridge over I-20
in Aiken County**

Dear Secretary Powell:

Thank you for your June 17, 2025 letter requesting Emergency Relief (ER) funding as a result of the June 14, 2025 tanker crash and subsequent fire resulting in catastrophic damage to the S-105 (Old Vacluse Road) bridge (Asset ID 5198) over I-20 in Aiken County and damage to the pavement on I-20.

The work required to restore traffic to I-20 and the replacement of the S-105 bridge over I-20 have been determined to be eligible for ER funding. Emergency repair work to restore essential traffic (i.e. bridge demolition, detour setup costs, and damaged pavement repairs on I-20) is eligible for 100% reimbursement, and permanent repairs to S-105 over I-20 are eligible at the normal pro-rata share. Please ensure records supporting all eligible costs are maintained. A disaster code of SC2025-02 has been assigned to this event.

We look forward to supporting you and ensuring that SCDOT gets all eligible ER funds for this event. Should you have any questions regarding the progress determination, please contact David Cook at david.cook@dot.gov or (803) 765-5460.

Sincerely yours,

Jermaine R. Hannon
Digitally signed by
Jermaine R. Hannon
Date: 2025.06.24
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Jermaine R. Hannon
Division Administrator

cc: Rob Perry, SCDOT Deputy Secretary for Engineering
Karl McCottry, SCDOT Deputy Secretary for Finance and Administration