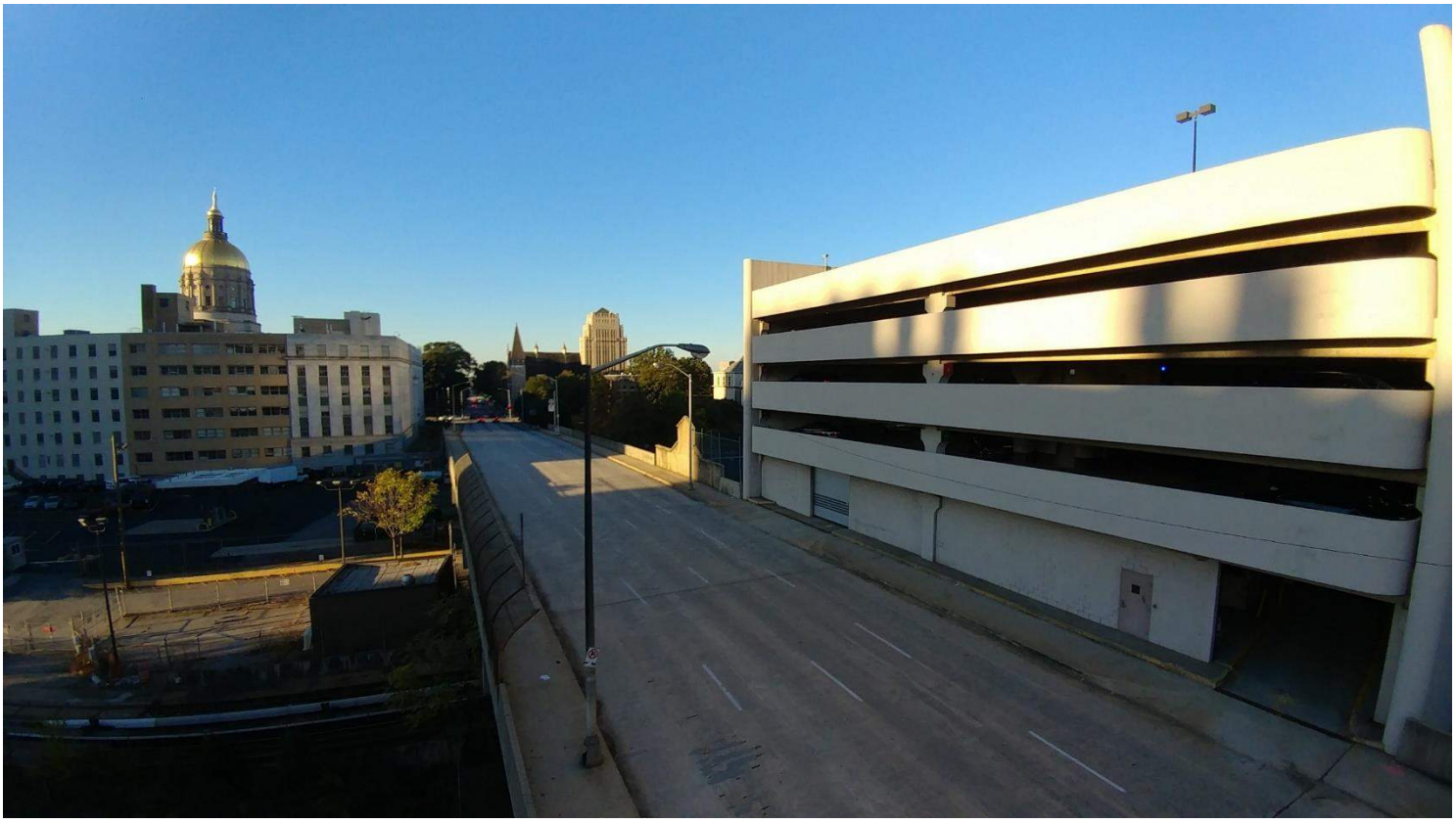
Georgia Department of Transportation

COURTLAND STREET ACCELERATED BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Courtland Street Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) Project will replace all 28 spans of the Courtland Street Bridge over the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) rail lines, CSX rail lines, and Decatur Street. The bridge replacement will occur on the location of the existing bridge and both vehicular traffic and pedestrian activity will be routed to offsite detours during demolition and construction. The project limits extend on Courtland Street from Martin Luther King Jr. Drive to Gilmer Street. There will be two detour options for motorists, one will include a specific detour for buses. Additionally, signed detours will safely guide pedestrians through the project area.

WHERE IS THE PROJECT LOCATED?

The Courtland Street Bridge is located in the City of Atlanta, in close proximity to the Georgia State Capitol building, and serves as a major thoroughfare through the downtown campus of Georgia State University (GSU). The viaduct runs between Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and Gilmer Street. Courtland Street crosses over two MARTA tracks, two CSX Railroad tracks, and Decatur Street. Courtland Street also serves as a second-level viaduct connecting the facades of several buildings which are part of GSU and serve as primary access to adjacent parking garages.

WHEN WAS THE BRIDGE BUILT?

Construction on the Courtland Street Bridge (originally referred to as the Washington Street Viaduct) began in 1906. It provided much needed connectivity from the Grant Park area on the south side of the City of Atlanta to the north side of the city by connecting Washington and Courtland streets from Hunter Street (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive) on the south end to Gilmer Street on the north end of the viaduct.
The cost to construct the 1,546-foot bridge was $126,180. It opened to traffic on September 20, 1907 and at that time, it was the longest viaduct in the City of Atlanta.

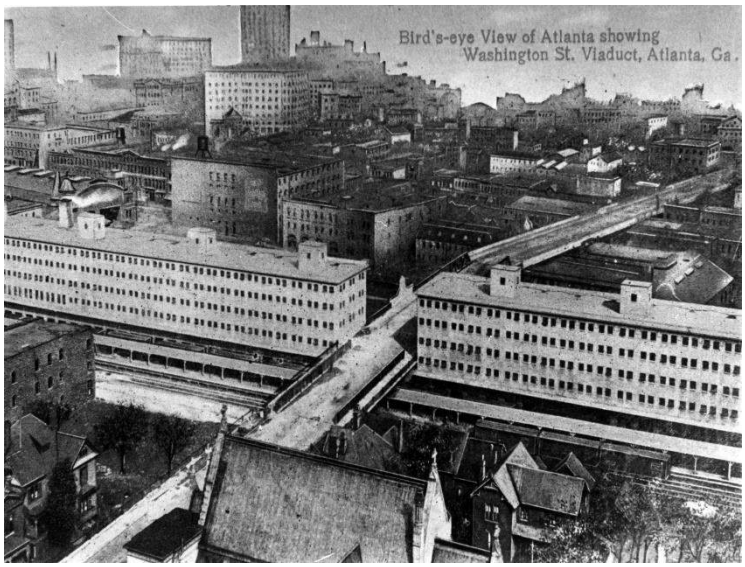


Photo credit: Keenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center

WHY DOES THE BRIDGE NEED TO BE REPLACED?

The existing Courtland Street bridge structure has shown signs of deterioration over the last few years and is now in need of a full replacement.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT SCHEDULE?

The design phase for the bridge will take place in the Fall and Winter of 2017. Construction will begin in 2018 starting with the foundations under the bridge. The Courtland Street Bridge will be closed to traffic no earlier than May 7, 2018 and will remain closed until October. The bridge will be demolished between May 7 and mid-June. The Bridge closure will be coordinated with GSU's 2018 Summer Semester - to lessen impacts to students, faculty and staff, the 2019 State Legislative session, as well as downtown businesses.

CONSTRUCTION

HOW WILL THE BRIDGE BE REBUILT?

This project presents the first end-to-end replacement of the Courtland Street Bridge since its opening in 1907. To safely accomplish the full replacement of the structure within the allotted 6 months, the following methods will be employed:

- Construction of protected access/exit areas through the work zone to key GSU buildings.
- Use of specialized equipment to install new bridge foundations beneath the existing bridge in advance of the road closure.
- Use of accelerated concrete mixes that were proven effective on the recent I-85 Bridge emergency repair.

- Implementation of aggressive work schedule.
- Use of precast concrete beams for fast completion of bridge superstructure.

HOW WILL MOTORISTS NAVIGATE DURING THE BRIDGE CLOSURE?

Two detour options will be posted. One option, for cars and buses, would follow Edgewood Avenue, Pryor Street, and Mitchell Street for a length of approximately 0.8 mile. A second option, for cars only, would follow Gilmer Street, Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive for a length of approximately 0.7 mile. To view a map of the Vehicular Detours, go to www.dot.ga.gov/CourtlandStDetourMap.

HOW WILL PEDESTRIANS GET AROUND THE CLOSED BRIDGE?

Signed detours will safely guide pedestrians through protected pathways on Collins Street, while foot traffic on Courtland will be directed away from construction activity to offsite routes. To view a map of the Pedestrian Detour, go to www.dot.ga.gov/CourtlandStPedestrianDetourMap.

HOW WILL THE BUILDINGS ON COURTLAND STREET BE ACCESSED DURING CONSTRUCTION?

Ensuring safe access to the surrounding buildings is paramount to the success of the project. For this reason, all building access points that are located on Courtland Street between Gilmer St. and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive will be closed from May until October 2018. Alternate access points will be identified and provided with clear directional signage. Some ground level building access points beneath Courtland Street will be closed, however, several doors must remain accessible throughout the duration of the project and will be fenced off and protected from the work site providing secure passage to the nearest street or plaza. Lighting that is currently suspended from the bridge will be replaced with temporary lights to maintain visibility to these access points during the course of the project. The Courtland Building that houses the ROTC will be closed during the road closure as continuous access cannot be maintained to this landlocked property.

WHO IS THE DESIGN-BUILD TEAM?

The team of C.W. Matthews Contracting Company/Michael Baker International is the Design-Build Team for this important project.

WHAT IS THE COST OF THE PROJECT?

The project cost is $25 million.

HOW IS THE PROJECT BEING FUNDED?

The Courtland Street Bridge Accelerated Construction Project is funded through a combination of state, federal and local sources.

HOW IS THE PROJECT BEING DELIVERED?

The Courtland Street Bridge replacement is a Design-Build project which will use innovative Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) methods designed to shorten construction times and minimize the impacts to the surrounding area, businesses and the traveling public.

Some construction activities will begin beneath the bridge in January 2018. These activities will have minimal impact to the traveling public. The demolition of the existing bridge, new bridge installation, and required detours will occur within a 180-day period between May and October 2018.

C.W. Matthews' construction plan involves shorter closure periods, fewer parking impacts to GSU, extensive stakeholder involvement and stronger pedestrian access and safety plans.

PROJECT UPDATES

HOW WILL THE PUBIC STAY INFORMED ABOUT CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES?