

## Damage To Bridge Accelerates Dennis Corporation's Survey Work

The J.E. McTeer Bridge in Beaufort County, SC was severely damaged Thursday night, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, after being struck by a barge's crane boom while attempting to pass underneath. The bridge spans the Beaufort River on U.S. 21 from Port Royal to Lady's Island. This is also the site for Dennis Corporation's newest survey and road design project.

Dennis Corporation is working to widen US 21/SC 802 from two lanes to four lanes, as a part of a new two lane bridge project across the Beaufort River. With the assistance of a local survey company in Beaufort County, Dennis Corporation has already commenced with surveys, utility locates and Right of Way research. The barge incident involving the J.E. McTeer Bridge has accelerated their work.

The only two bridges that currently connect Lady's Island to the rest of Beaufort County average nearly 44,000 crossings per day, 10,300 more than they are designed to handle, according to Mayor Bill Rauch. With this amount of traffic, Mr. Steven Bailey, Dennis Corporation's survey manager, says it can be dangerous for survey parties to work safely.

"The bridge closure creates a unique opportunity for surveying the roadway portion of this bridge and roadway design project. With traffic being reduced from heavy to very light, the surveyors will be able to collect the data much more safely, because drivers rarely slow down for survey crews," said Mr. Bailey.

Limited traffic is being allowed on the J.E. McTeer Bridge, primarily during rush hours. This will allow for further testing and inspections of the bridge. The repairs of the bridge are expected to take about three months. During repairs, the South Carolina Department of Transportation plans to have at least one lane remain open.



This photo, from *The Beaufort Gazette*, shows police officers as they direct traffic over the damaged bridge.



The photo above, taken by Christophe Mallet, shows workers inspecting the closed J.E. McTeer Bridge.