

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has received the subgrant application for Hardee County's Jack Jones Bridge replacement due to damages in Hurricane Irma (DR-4337-FL PW 3591). Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 and 44 CFR Part 9.12, final notice is hereby given of FEMA's intent to provide funding for this project under the Public Assistance (PA) Program.

An initial disaster-wide Public Notice was published October 6, 2017 for Hurricane Irma. Comments and other information received were fully evaluated by FEMA along with evaluation of social, economic, environmental, and safety considerations. This notice serves as a project-specific final notice for FEMA's funding action located within the floodplain. FEMA has determined that the only practicable alternative is to locate this facility at its original location within the floodplain because the facility is functionally dependent upon its location within the floodplain.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions. This action complies with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements.

Responsible Entity: FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program

Applicant: Hardee County

Project Title(s): PA-04-FL-4337-PW-03591; PN 28653 – Jack Jones Bridge

Location of Proposed Work: Latitude: 27.57336, Longitude: -81.75195

Floodplain: Project is located in the A Zone, otherwise known as the area of 1% annual chance for flooding (100-year flood zone), per Hardee County FIRM Panel #12049C0184D, dated 11/6/2013.

Proposed Work and Purpose: Hardee County will replace a double-tee concrete bridge that was destroyed due to hydraulic discharge as a result of Hurricane Irma. The bridge will be replaced with mitigation to reduce the likelihood of recurrence of damages. The new design will replace the double-tee shaped concrete substructure with a system of corrugated aluminum pipes with step-miter ends to allow for increased flow capacity and to lessen the likelihood that the bridge will be overtopped during the 100-year flood. Hardee County has obtained permission from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (App ID/Permit No: 770983/47010694.001) and has conducted a Hydrological and Hydraulic (H&H) study to determine the overall effect on the upstream and downstream conditions during a 100-year discharge. The project has been evaluated by FEMA per Executive Order 11988 and 44 CFR Part 9 and has been determined to be the most practicable alternative.

Project Alternatives: The alternative that has been considered is the no action alternative. This alternative is not feasible as the bridge provides the community with an East-West travel route where other routes are being closed or their use poses an unnecessary risk to public safety. With the no action alternative, continued negative impacts on adjacent infrastructure, property, residents, and the community may be experienced. Alternate locations were not considered as the bridge is functionally dependent upon its location within the floodplain.

Comments: This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by the FEMA PA program. Interested persons may submit comments, questions, or request a map of this specific project by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 4, 3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30341, calling 770-220-5432, or by emailing FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line FL-4337-PW-03591, Hardee County at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice.