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on the project; two people supported the project; 102 people were against the project; one person was uncommitted; and 60 people expressed conditional support.

“Those respondents expressing conditional support and opposition of the proposed project were primarily opposed to the detour route and duration,” according to the letter to Commissioner Paris.

Continued the letter: “The 23.5-mile detour proposed at the meeting may be required for larger vehicles and tractor trailers; however, access will be maintained for a vast majority of vehicles.”

“A structural engineer has determined the proportions of the existing bridge could be removed to allow for construction of a portion of the new bridge, while at the same time allowing for a single lane of vehicular operation to remain on the old bridge.”

“The maximum size and/or tonnage allowable to cross the existing bridge during construction would be determined as the project design moves forward. Every design option is being considered to ensure school buses, emergency vehicles, and small/medium size delivery trucks would be able to utilize SR 180 during construction.”

A petition against closing the 180 bridge was turned over to GDOT at the end of the Aug. 25 meeting, and that, too, along with verbal comments delivered to the court reporter

present at the open house, has been made part of the project’s official record.

“It should be a huge relief to most people that your engineers have determined that you will be able to keep Highway 180, at Lake Winfield Scott, open during construction to most vehicles,” wrote Commissioner Paris in response to Mr. Duff of GDOT. “This is certainly good news for all involved, and especially the residents of Suches.”

“I also appreciate that the people of Suches and Union County came out in such large numbers to express their opinions to you that night, yet did it in a very respectful manner. Again, thank you and the staff for working with us all to make a difficult situation much better for us all to live with.”

The proposed detour, which is under reconsideration, would take Suches-bound commuters past SR 180 to go down the mountain toward Cleveland, to then take a right at Turner’s Corner, only to make their way up Stone Pile Gap and several miles of inconveniently crooked road to Suches.

Past the inconvenience the detour would create for many, one major concern was whether or not emergency vehicles would be able to make it to Suches in a meaningful time – a concern that undoubtedly weighed heavily upon GDOT’s decision to reconsider the detour.

Voting...continued from Page 1A

Hillary Clinton, with her vice presidential running mate Tim Kaine, Democrat; and Gary Johnson, with his vice presidential running mate Bill Weld, Libertarian.

For U.S. Senate, Incumbent Johnny Isakson, Republican; Jim Barksdale, Democrat; and Allen Buckley, Libertarian.

For Public Service Commissioner, Incumbent Tim Echols, Republican, and Eric Hoskins, Libertarian.

For U.S. Representative in 115th Congress from the 9th Congressional District of Georgia, Incumbent Doug Collins, Republican.

For State Senator from 51st District, Incumbent Steve Gooch, Republican.

For State Representative in the General Assembly from 8th District, Matt Gurtler, Republican.

For Clerk of Superior Court, Incumbent Judy Odom, Democrat.

For Sheriff, Incumbent Mack Mason, Republican.

For Tax Commissioner, Incumbent Lee Knight.

For Surveyor, Jason Henson, Republican.

For Coroner, Incumbent

Benny Erwin, Republican.

For Sole County Commissioner, Harold Cook, Republican, and Incumbent Lamar Paris, Democrat.

For County Board of Education District 1, Janna D. Akins, Republican.

For County Board of Education District 3, Cynthia “Cindy” Byers.

The ballot will also feature a series of proposed state constitutional amendments asking for a “yes” or “no” vote each.

The amendments have the following stated effects:

One, “provides greater flexibility and state accountability to fix failing schools through increasing community involvement;”

Two, “authorizes penalties for sexual exploitation and assessments on adult entertainment to fund child victims’ services;”

Three, “reforms and re-establishes the Judicial Qualifications Commission and provides for its composition, governance, and powers;”

And four, “dedicates revenue from existing taxes on fireworks to trauma care, fire services, and public safety.”

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