

*David Taylor*  
1122 Mercer Road, Savannah, Ga. 31411  
Tel: (912) 866-1542 — Email: [david@peakwriting.com](mailto:david@peakwriting.com)

June 28, 200X

Letter to the Editor  
Savannah Morning News  
Savannah, GA

A Bridge to Nowhere  
by  
David Taylor

Dear Editor:

As you are aware, State Bill 3-7-18923C will be coming up for a countywide referendum vote this next week. This bill will authorize funds for the replacement of the current drawbridge over the Atlantic Intercoastal Waterway leading to Skidaway Island. You also are aware that some residents of Skidaway Island wish to preserve this bridge because of its historical importance as one of the last drawbridges in Coastal Georgia. While I respect the nostalgia of those opposed to replacing the drawbridge, I am also convinced that replacement is essential for the following reasons.

Because of the increase in sailboat traffic in the last two years due to the building of three new marinas on Skidaway Island, the number of times that the bridge must open--and traffic on both sides halted--has **tripled during the same time period**. The result is an average of traffic stopping approximately once every hour during the day. Because the bridge is old, the amount of time required to raise and lower the bridge can be as long as 15 minutes. The hourly traffic jam at the bridge is more than annoying. This problem is discouraging development and lowering our property values because the infrastructure is now seen as inadequate by potential businesses and homeowners.

Then there are the repairs. Because of its age (installed in 1943), the bridge is experiencing frequent breakdowns, averaging one per month during the last year. The company that repairs the aging components has recommended that the bridge be removed and replaced because of the increasing difficulty in finding replacement parts for machinery that is nearly 70 years old. It's clear that the present pattern of fix-and-repair simply cannot continue indefinitely. Replacement is seen by engineers as inevitable.

Finally, as a parent of a five-year-old, I speak for many parents on Skidaway who worry about receiving emergency medical care, which must travel over the bridge. Skidaway is also home to a large retirement community. These two vulnerable groups, children and the elderly, could suffer unnecessary injury or death if required emergency care cannot get over that bridge in time. When it comes to medical care for our children and parents, nothing should take precedence. I also don't need to remind you of the county's potential legal liability if a death occurs needlessly because an ambulance could not get over that old bridge.

I strongly support the preservation of history in my community. By all means, let's preserve this historic bridge--by moving it somewhere else. In the meantime, I urge you, my fellow citizens, to vote in favor of State Bill 3-7-18923C in order to protect the families and children of Skidaway Island.

Sincerely yours,  
David Taylor  
Skidaway Island