

# LEXINGTON COUNTY

## New bridge to be built in Irmo area Council makes providing more direct route to school a priority

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Lexington County drivers will continue travel on a mile or two of dirt roads for a while longer so a deteriorating bridge that carries children to school near Irmo can be replaced by spring 2012.

County Council unanimously approved the move Tuesday, delaying the paving of a handful of dirt roads for at least a year.

It means a direct route to and from Nursery Road Elementary School for traffic that county engineer Randy Edwards said uses a "circuitous route" through neighborhoods.

The plan calls for a 150-foot long bridge across Rawls Creek to connect the road on which the school sits to busy Bush River Road. The \$1.1 million span is estimated to take up to 15 months to complete. The new bridge will replace one on nearby Goldstone Drive whose wooden supports are "in ill repair," Councilman Bill Derrick of Batesburg-Leesville said. Travel on that 31-year-old span by heavier vehicles such as school buses and delivery vans was banned recently. County officials plan to convert that bridge into a pedestrian walkway for Coldstream area homeowners.

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