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Wooden bridge on Bob Davis Road in Gray. (Ron Campbell / Johnson City Press)

## County's last wooden bridge to go

By Staff reports

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Washington County's last standing wooden bridge is about to bid farewell as the Tennessee Department of Transportation makes plans to replace it.

What has been referred to as the Bob Davis Road bridge, which runs over a CSX railroad in Gray, will soon be replaced by a concrete I-beam bridge.

According to Washington County Highway Superintendent Johnny Deakins, the bridge replacement is being made possible by stimulus funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and was marked for replacement by TDOT because it is a wooden structure.

"TDOT inspects bridges every few years," Deakins said. "The wooden structures were at the top of the list to be replaced."

The replacement project has been bid out to local construction company Summers-Taylor Inc. The company estimates the replacement cost to be nearly \$900,000.

According to a proposal contract from TDOT, the bridge is expected to be completed on or before April 30, 2010.