

DOT-Fall Line Freeway & Future Projects

According to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) officials, steady progress is being made on the Fall Line Freeway (FLF). The project, part of the Governor's Road Improvement Program (GRIP), is meant to create an efficient east-west mobility across Central Georgia for residents and freight being moved across the area.

"The goal of the GRIP is to provide all small towns in the state with access to a four-lane freeway for economic and safety purposes," said Kyle Collins, GDOT District Two communications officer.

The GRIP is composed of 16 corridors that crisscross the state and expands existing primary routes and connecting truck routes to multi-lane highways. As part of this system and the only east-west GRIP corridor, the FLF serves a critical role in providing connectivity through Central Georgia.

The FLF roadway from S.R. 112/Vinson Highway is now open for traffic from the south side of Milledgeville heading westbound to Macon. "This section of the corridor is now 90 percent complete with work on several bridges nearing completion," said Collins.

Collins explains that the \$13 million double bridges over the Oconee could be finished by late summer while completion for the total 9.1 mile roadway is schedule for late fall.

"We are always at the mercy of the weather," said Collins. "We also have to make environmental concerns top priority including protection of wildlife and water quality control."

The Central Georgia east-west corridor houses many critical economic assets including three military bases, a freight link connecting the Port of Savannah with West Georgia, Alabama, and points westward. In addition, the FLF region is plentiful with agricultural and industrial resources, including the profitable Kaolin industry-all of which would benefit from a multi-lane highway.

In addition to the FLF, Collins explained the GDOT has several upcoming road and bridge improvement projects that will start in the next few weeks. These projects include maintenance on the Bobby Parham Bridge on highway 22, a resurfacing project for highway 49 that will run from the Jones county line to the Elbert Street/112 intersection, and construction on 441/North Columbia at Lakeside Drive.

For most of the projects, lanes will be closed and traffic will be slowed. Collins stresses safety when traveling around GDOT construction. He added, “Please have patience with us as we improve the roads and bridges around the area. If you know you will be traveling in construction zones, plan to allow a little more time to get through these spots.”