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## **\$54 million transportation investment coming to East Central GA**

TENNILLE– Georgia Department of Transportation awarded seven contracts inside the 27-county east central district totaling over \$54 million. This is impressive considering the entire statewide awards were \$79 million this September cycle.

The largest individual investments this month are two construction projects in **Bleckley** and **Newton** counties.

In Bleckley County, a \$21.3 million contract was awarded for 4.3 miles of widening and reconstruction on US 23/State Route (SR) 87 (Cochran Bypass) beginning north of Foskey Road and extending to Dykes Circle. The existing Bypass corridor has experienced growth in development in recent years.

Plans are to provide a grade separation at the Norfolk Southern Railroad and SR 87 by way of an overpass bridge. The project connects to an existing five-lane section south of Cochran and to an existing four-lane section north of Cochran. The contractor is Everett Dykes Grassing Co., Inc. of Cochran, and the anticipated completion date is August 31, 2020.

In Newton County, a \$13.6 million contract was awarded for 1.6 miles of widening and reconstruction for additional lanes on SR 142 beginning at Interstate 20 and extending to Alcovy Road. A typical section will include two 12-foot lanes in each direction, a 20-foot raised median and turn lanes as required.

Industrial development along this corridor has contributed to a steady increase in traffic. The widening will increase the capacity of the roadway to accommodate higher traffic volumes, while reducing congestion due to lack of passing opportunities. The contractor is Southeastern Site Development, Inc. of Newnan, Ga. and the anticipated completion is June 30, 2019.

Other district awards of note include:

- **Baldwin:** 4.717 miles of milling, plant mix resurfacing and single surface treatment paving on SR 243 beginning at US 441 Bypass/SR 29 and extending to SR 22 (Montgomery Street); The \$1.9 million project has an August 2017 completion date.
- **Columbia/McDuffie:** An \$8.2 million project will cover 21.955 miles of concrete pavement replacement on I-20 beginning at SR 10 and extending east of SR 383. This area from mile 172 to mile 194 has received spot slab replacements recently. This project will completely replace slabs and redo drainage in the corridor. Expected completion is August 2017.
- **Emanuel:** 4.984 miles of milling, inlay, plant mix resurfacing, single surface treatment paving and shoulder rehabilitation on SR 46 beginning at US 1/SR 4 and extending to the Candler County line. The \$1.2 million project has an August 2017 completion.
- **Greene/Morgan:** Another major maintenance project totaling \$7.1 million will improve 16.971 miles of concrete pavement on I-20 beginning at the Morgan County line and extending to SR 44 in Greene County. This work should be complete by the end of August 2017.
- **Richmond:** This safety project includes \$674,000 to cover 2.650 miles of pavement marking upgrades on I-520 (Bobby Jones Expressway) beginning west of Richmond Hill Road and extending east of SR 56 (Mike Padgett Highway). Expected contract completion is August 2017 as well.

Citizens should monitor [511ga.org](http://511ga.org) or download the App to stay current on all upcoming roadwork and projects. [Georgia DOT East](#) on Facebook and [@GDOTEastTraffic](#) on Twitter also provide daily updates.