





**For Immediate Release:** October 12, 2016

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## Baldwin County...

## Fall Line Freeway opening Monday afternoon

MILLEDGEVILLE- The full Fall Line Freeway (FLF) project encompassing both Baldwin and Wilkinson counties will open to traffic Monday afternoon.

This \$78 million FLF construction includes a newly relocated roadway with four lanes and median from US 441 northeast to State Route (SR) 24 in Baldwin County, as well as eight bridges with the largest being the double-bridge over the Oconee River spanning 1,500 feet.

Prime contractor Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Inc. will be on-site the rest of the week and also next week preparing final items for the opening.

The contractor will remove all barricades in the areas of SR 112/Vinson Highway, Stembridge Road and the SR 24 connection once all construction and safety measures are complete Monday. Expect workers on the Stembridge Road approaches to the FLF intersection installing rumble strips and the final signage leading up to the official opening. Please obey all message boards and officials that may be on-site during the transition.

Balfour Beatty began construction on the massive project in spring 2013 and will finish within the allowed contract completion time.

This freeway falls under the Governor's Road Improvement Program (GRIP) corridor. The General Assembly started GRIP in 1989 to foster economic development throughout the state by connecting 95 percent of all cities of more than 2,500 persons to interstate highways and assuring 98 percent of Georgians live within 20 miles of a four-lane highway. There are 19 GRIP corridors in Georgia totaling nearly 3,300 miles. The FLF corridor traverses the entire width of the state from the Alabama State Line in Columbus to Macon and then to Augusta at the South Carolina State Line for a total length of 215 miles.

Georgia DOT together with numerous local and state officials will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. Monday prior to the roadway opening to the public later in the day.

Whenever you approach a work zone: slow down; allow extra distance between vehicles; read signs; obey road crew flaggers; and expect the unexpected.

Citizens should monitor 511ga.org or download the App to stay current on all upcoming roadwork and projects. <u>Georgia DOT East</u> on Facebook and <u>@GDOTEastTraffic</u> on Twitter also provide daily updates.

Please see attached photo for ribbon cutting event details.

*Please join* Georgia Department of Transportation and state and local officials

**Ribbon Cutting for Fall Line Freeway** Monday, October 17, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Attendees may enter the project

Approach barricades and posted flagman will direct you toward the river bridges

from either Stembridge Road or

the Vinson Highway side