

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

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Jones County...

Gray Bypass Opening Thursday; Six Months Early

THOMASTON- The Gray Bypass project, located in central Jones County will open to traffic Thursday, December 15 at 9 a.m.

This \$42 million six-mile construction project includes a bypass on new location north of Gray from State Route (SR) 22 at SR 18, west of Clinton, to SR 22, east of Gray. The newly located highway is a rural four-lane divided roadway with a 44-foot median. The design speed is 55 mph. There is one bridge on the project, over SR 11 and the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

The contractor, ER Snell, began work in June of 2014 and will complete the work more than 6 months ahead of the estimated completion date of June 2017. The contractor will remove all barricades once all construction and safety measures are completed Thursday morning, welcoming motorists to travel along the new roadway. Please obey all message boards and officials that may be on-site during the transition.

This project will provide a safer environment for trucks to operate, facilitate the movement of freight more efficiently and improve the safety and operational characteristics of both Gray and Clinton.

Georgia DOT urges travelers to call 511 for updated information about this or any other construction project on interstates and state routes. Georgia 511 is a free phone service and website sponsored by State Farm Insurance that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. State Farm also sponsors the Department's Highway Emergency Response Operators (HERO) program. More information is available at www.511ga.org. For information on the Department of Transportation, visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov>.