



For Immediate Release:

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New Signal Installation Coming to New State Route 72 Bypass

Department Concludes Traffic Study

COMER, GA – The Georgia Department of Transportation conducted a traffic study at the new State Route 72 bypass and its intersection with State Route 98 in March. The study was conducted in conjunction with the ongoing widening and reconstruction project due to numerous concerns raised by the public, the School Board and City and County Officials due to the proximity of Comer Elementary School.

As a result of the findings, Georgia DOT determined it will place a traffic signal at that location. “We heard the concerns and worked in partnership with state, local officials and members of the community, in particular Senator Frank Ginn, and State Representatives Alan Powell and Tom McCall to assess and address the concerns brought to our attention,” said Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell McMurry.

There are currently two active projects to widen State Route 72. The widening is part of the Governor’s Road Improvement Program (GRIP) and is proposed to stimulate economic growth throughout the state. In addition to the economic growth, the proposed improvements will provide a safer and more efficient highway. “I have to commend the Georgia DOT for listening and for the decision to install a traffic signal at the intersection closest to the school,” said Senator Frank Ginn. “The safety and control of the traffic flow at the busy intersection will benefit our community greatly.”

The first project widens from State Route 172 to the western city limits of Comer with a current construction completion date of June 7, 2017. The contract construction cost is \$18.5 million.

The second project widens State Route 72 from the end of the first project to the Broad River in Elbert County and includes a bypass around the City of Comer. The current construction completion date is January 27, 2018 with a contract cost of \$49.9 million. “Safety is our number one priority. The traffic signal has been added to the project and will be installed as the project continues to progress toward completion,” explained DOT District Engineer, Brent Cook.

Work is progressing on both projects. Major grading, drainage, clearing and grubbing work is occurring as well as work on both bridges along the project corridor.

Every day Georgia DOT employees work on roadways in close proximity to travel lanes. Whether they’re maintenance, construction or HEROs, it’s dangerous. Fifty-eight Georgia DOT personnel and many more motorists, passengers and contractors’ workers have been killed in work zone crashes since 1973. When you drive in a work zone, obey the rules: Pay

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