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State Transportation Board

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RoadWorks 2013; On Time, On Budget...

Major Mobility Improvements In Muscogee & Walton Highlight \$75 Million In GA DOT Transportation System Projects Across State

ATLANTA – Completion of two long-awaited transportation improvements – the final segments of Columbus’ Eastern Connector and the Social Circle Bypass – are among 34 projects across the state announced today by the State Transportation Board (STB) and the Georgia Department of Transportation. The work, collectively valued at approximately \$75 million, also includes noise barrier construction on Interstate Highway 85 southwest of Atlanta and more than 80 miles of highway resurfacings throughout Georgia.

The Columbus work will be the final of three phases of Eastern Connector construction, an effort begun in 2004 to enhance mobility by adding a new four-lane route on the city’s east side, a heavily travelled commercial and industrial corridor adjacent to Fort Benning. The final 4.3-mile section will be built by a joint venture of Robinson Paving Company, of Columbus, and Alexander Contracting Co., Inc., of Fortson, GA, for \$11.9 million. Work is scheduled to be concluded and the Connector open in its entirety by May 31, 2015.

“Completing the Eastern Connector will be the fulfillment of a long-standing vision of Columbus’ elected and business leaders,” noted Sam Wellborn, himself a leading Columbus business executive who represents the Third Congressional District on the STB. “We’ve worked for many years to bring this to fruition. It is going to help us immeasurably in growing and better serving this important area.”

In Walton County, Social Circle leaders have been working since at least 2002 to develop a bypass. Every day, as many as 5,000 tractor trailers and other vehicles travelling to and from Interstate Highway 20 and State Route 11 have to navigate through Social Circle’s downtown historic

district. With a major medical manufacturing facility locating nearby, area traffic will increase exponentially. The bypass section announced today – the final segment to be built – will reduce that downtown “through” traffic; it will extend 2.7 miles from the existing northern bypass to State Route 11 at the Walton and Newton County line. It will be built by E.R. Snell Contractor., Inc., of Snellville, for \$8.1 million and is scheduled to open in the fall of 2015.

Among the other new projects announced are:

- More than \$6 million in new sound walls at various locations along 15 miles of I-85 between State Route 92 in south Fulton County and State Route 34 north of Newnan in Coweta County; to be installed by Massana Construction, Inc., of Tyrone, GA; to be completed by October, 2014; and
- Various highway resurfacings in more than 20 counties totaling approximately 81 miles.

Detailed information on these and other projects in the Department’s April bid awards is available via Award Announcements

at: <http://tomcat2.dot.state.ga.us/ContractsAdministration/index.cfm?a=a&fuseaction=dynamic.subsection&secID=3>

Construction details and lane closure schedules on all projects will be forthcoming before work begins.

The Georgia Department of Transportation continues its RoadWorks construction program. Dozens of important roadway improvement projects are ongoing throughout the state as we work to deliver projects on time and on budget while keeping our transportation network the nation’s finest. Pardon the necessary inconvenience and please drive cautiously and safely at all times, especially in work zones.

The State Transportation Board determines policy for and exercises general governance of Georgia’s Department of Transportation. The Board’s 14 members, representing each of the state’s congressional districts, serve staggered, five-year terms. Board members are elected by those state senators and representatives whose legislative districts fall within all or part of the relevant congressional district. For more information on the Board or Georgia DOT, please visit www.dot.ga.gov or subscribe to our Press Release [RSS feed](#). You also may follow us on [Facebook](#) (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) and [Twitter](#) (<http://twitter.com/gadepoftrans>).

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