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**Contact:**  
Natalie Dale  
404.772.2836

### State Funding Secured for SR 5 Widening & McCaysville Bypass Project

**ATLANTA** –Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell McMurry announced that the State Route 5 widening project in Fannin County is now a reality due to state transportation funding from HB 170 – the Transportation Funding Act of 2015. Georgia DOT will focus on widening the existing SR 5 (Blue Ridge Drive) from SR 515 (Appalachian Highway) in Blue Ridge towards McCaysville from two to four lanes with a center turn lane and will also include a bypass around McCaysville.

“This project has been discussed, promised and delayed for more than 25 years, but now -- thanks to the funding HB 170 provides -- it is a done deal and is being expedited,” said Speaker of the House David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge). “This multi-phase project will improve public safety, ease congestion and allow for more visitors and goods to travel through the mountains. That means more jobs and a better quality of life in Fannin County.”

In previous public meetings, the Department proposed four alternates as required by the federal regulatory process. Overwhelmingly, business and community feedback was to stay on SR 5. Now, as a result of the Transportation Funding Act, the Department can proceed with widening the existing route which will minimize the impact to private property.

The Department anticipates buying right of way in summer 2017, two years ahead of the previously scheduled right of way timeframe if federal funding was available. The project is scheduled to go out to bid for construction in summer 2019.

“More and more, we will see the tremendous impact that the state’s commitment to invest in our transportation infrastructure will yield,” McMurry said. “We are thankful to the Governor, Speaker Ralston and the Legislature for helping to reduce our dependency on federal funding to address Georgia’s transportation needs.”

As a result of HB 170, Georgia now has state funding that allows the Department the flexibility to address critical infrastructure projects such as SR 5 in a more timely and cost-efficient manner, leading to more dependable schedules. As the design work proceeds, GDOT will hold additional public meetings to keep everyone informed.

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*The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia’s economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov). You also may follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) ([www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT)) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GDOTEastTraffic) ([http://twitter.com/GDOTEastTraffic](https://twitter.com/GDOTEastTraffic)).*