

## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



# Press Release

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## *Much Anticipated FLF GRIP Corridor to Open with Ribbon Cutting Celebration...* **GA DOT Announces Final Wilkinson County FLF Section Opens To Traffic Next Week**

**Tennille** – Local government leaders in Wilkinson County will gather with officials from Georgia Department of Transportation celebrating successfully opening the final Wilkinson County Fall Line Freeway (FLF) section, also a Governor’s Road Improvement Program (GRIP) corridor. Beginning at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 25, a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held to commemorate opening the \$33 million American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) project.

The much anticipated ceremony will be held on a section of the newly constructed roadway prior to opening to traffic. Attendees will enter the project from either end and proceed slowly to the site. To assist in entry, project personnel will be located at the intersection of the FLF and State Route 57, close to the Twiggs/Wilkinson County line, and will also be located at the intersection of the FLF and State Route 18 in Gordon.

After opening to traffic, motorists are asked to use caution while traveling through this active work zone as occasional lane closures and/or traffic switches may be needed to complete the project.

Prince Contracting, Inc. was awarded this project, also known as the North Gordon Bypass, a new roadway from State Route 57 at the Twiggs/Wilkinson County line to State Route 243 at Lake Tchucoloako in Ivey. The total length of the project is 7.2 miles, consisting of two 12-foot lanes in each direction separated by a 44-foot median and includes bridges over Little Commissioner Creek and Central of Georgia Railroad. Additionally, this section of the corridor will connect two completed sections of the FLF, one that follows State Route 57 and US 80 to Macon and the other connecting US 441, another GRIP corridor, to the North Gordon Bypass.

The Governor’s Road Improvement Program was begun by the Georgia General Assembly 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. GRIP, originally consisting of 12 corridors, now totals 19 corridors in Georgia and nearly 3,300 miles. GRIP corridors provide connectivity, opportunity for growth, effective and efficient

transportation and safer travel in rural areas as accidents occur three times more often on 2-lane highways than on multi-lane divided highways. To obtain more information on GRIP corridors visit [www.dot.ga.gov/informationcenter/programs/roadimprovement/GRIP/Pages/GRIPFactsandMap.aspx](http://www.dot.ga.gov/informationcenter/programs/roadimprovement/GRIP/Pages/GRIPFactsandMap.aspx).

*The Georgia Department of Transportation continues its RoadWorks2012 construction program. Dozens of important roadway improvement projects continue 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 in work zones and at all times. For more information on Georgia DOT projects, please visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov>; you also may follow the Department on [Facebook \(http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT\)](http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) and [Twitter \(http://twitter.com/gadepthoftrans\)](http://twitter.com/gadepthoftrans).*

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