

# Carolina Crossroads project officially underway

By Brittany Harriot

The Carolina Crossroads Project in Columbia is officially underway. This interstate improvement project is set to improve 14 miles of I-20, I-26 and I-126. While this area is commonly known as “Malfunction Junction”, it will soon be redesigned to improve traffic delays, safety, and to create an innovative interstate design.

Construction activity for the Carolina Crossroads project will be seen by residents and drivers in phases. Right now, construction crews are currently working on Phases 1 and 2.

“Most of the work is the design work that’s occurring right now, but [drivers] will also see utility relocations, some logging operations, and some soil borings,” explains Project Manager of the Carolina Crossroads Project **Brian Klauk**.

For those that don’t know, soil boring is the process of gathering data about the characteristics of the soil. This helps engineers create their final design for roadway pavement or any structures that will be built for the project.

More than 134,000 vehicles travel through this area on a daily basis. However, as of now, drivers should know that there are no significant lane closures planned for now or in the near future.

“When the major work on Phases 1 and 2 starts in the summer, there will be some temporary lane closures, but we’re working hard to make sure that traffic gets to flow where it needs to flow especially during those peak times of the day,” Klauk explained.

“Most of the major work for both phases will start later on in the spring and summer. In the fall, drivers will start to see major activity happening on the interstate.”

The public is asked to be patient, be careful, and practice safety for the duration for the project.

The Carolina Crossroads project formally kicked off with a groundbreaking ceremony held on Nov. 8, 2021. Construction of the entire corridor is expected to be completed in 2029.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH /THE CONNECTOR  
**Crews are seen clearing trees alongside the Colonial Life Boulevard flyover ramp near I-126 on Feb. 2, 2022, as part of phase 1 of SCDOT’s Carolina Crossroads project.**



## SCDOT, SCDPS win State Library Award for Target Zero plan

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) won a South Carolina Notable State Documents award of 2021 from the South Carolina State Library for creating the “South Carolina Strategic Highway Safety Plan Target Zero” plan, which provides a comprehensive and coordinated framework for safety partners to unite around in reducing fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads in South Carolina.

Accepting the award on behalf

of SCDOT was Crash Data Research Manager Emily Thomas, Director of Highway Safety and Justice Programs Phil Riley accepted on behalf of SCDPS.

Winners of the South Carolina Notable State Documents awards are announced in honor of Freedom of Information Day, which occurs annually on March 16. These noteworthy publications call attention to the most informative documents released by state agencies in 2021.

Some of the comments by the judges, according to South Carolina State Library Communica-

tions Director Ellen Dunn, included:

- “The document is easy to read and has a good color scheme.”

- “Various formats are used for the information. Text is interspersed with charts, which makes the information engaging and can work for everyone.”

- “The information is well-spaced and there is a good flow between information and charts.”

- “The document is striking and eye-catching. Charts are to the point, not confusing, simple and succinct.”



**SCDOT Crash Data Research Manager Emily Thomas, left, and SCDPS Director of Highway Safety and Justice Programs Phil Riley accepted the award on April 13, 2022.**