

A few project updates



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CODY CROUCH/THE CONNECTOR

A newly widened section of I-20 is seen here with six travel lanes (up from four) on Feb. 24, 2022. The I-20 widening project is anticipated to be complete in June 2022. Photograph taken near the S.C. 6 / I-20 interchange in Lexington County.

I-20 Widening Project in Lexington County

By Brittany Harriot

The I-20 Widening Project in Lexington County is currently close to completion. The project goal is to reconstruct and widen I-20 from mile marker 49 (S-204/Longs Pond Road) to MM 61 (West of U.S. 378) for an approximate distance of 11 miles.

Widening the project also consists of one additional travel lane in each direction. The existing I-20 Bridges over the Norfolk Southern Railroad line and S-1065 are being replaced with a single structure to carry the six total new interstate travel lanes.

All four lanes of traffic on I-20 are currently shifted back to the original configuration without the use of any split travel lanes. Concrete grinding operations on the new pavement were to be completed by the end of February. Traffic will be shifted to the new inside travel lane and center lanes, but the right lanes will remain closed to traffic until project clear zones are constructed. All asphalt paving from mile marker 49 to mile marker 54.3 is complete, as well as all concrete pavement from mile markers 60 to 54.3. Installation of the new noise barrier wall along Ginny Lane is almost finished.

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All shoulder and clear zone construction along I-20 westbound between mile maker 61 and mile marker 55 were to be completed by the end of March 2022. This will open three lanes of traffic within this section of the project.

All westbound lanes within the project are scheduled to be open to traffic by May 2022. Contractors plan to complete all shoulder work along I-20 eastbound between mile marker 61 and mile marker 55 in May 2022.

All six lanes of traffic within the project will be open between early Spring and late Summer.



The Peak exit (Exit 97) is part of the Midlands Connection project on I-26. This exit will be a future diverging diamond interchange.

Midlands Connection Project

By Brittany Harriot

The Midlands Connection Project is underway along I-26. This widening project is a federally funded design-build project that will widen approximately 16 miles of I-26 in Lexington, Newberry and Richland counties. The project is from mile marker 85 to mile marker 101.

The goal of the project is to improve the interchanges at Exit 97 (U.S.176), Exit 91 (S-32-48) and Exit 85 (S.C. 202). Overpass

bridges in seven locations (Koon Road, Shady Grove Road, Mt. Vernon Church Road, Old Hilton Road, Peak Street, Holy Trinity Church Road and Parr Road) will also be replaced.

Right now, construction crews are working on clearing and grubbing, storm drainage, grading and retaining wall work. Bridge construction at S.C. 202 continues, as well as the installation of parapet walls and slope protections.

The estimated completion date for this project is within the Summer of 2024.

I-85 Widening Project in Cherokee/Spartanburg Counties

By Brittany Harriot

SCDOT is continuing work on the I-85 reconstruction and widening project in Cherokee and Spartanburg counties. The goal is to improve the 21-mile long section of the corridor to increase traffic capacity and upgrade interchanges and overpass bridges to meet state and federal design requirements.

Construction crews are focused on the widening portion of the project from mile marker 80 in Spartanburg to mile marker 106 at the North Carolina state line. This work includes grading, drainage, asphalt paving and concrete paving.

Bridge work on the eight interchanges will be ending by mid to late summer. In fact, the summer months will include a heavy focus on paving with crews working around the clock to complete the work.

In the near future, drivers can expect nightly lane closures along the entire corridor for paving work. Motorists should also be aware of temporary ramp closures as the paving progresses to help speed up construction.

The completion date is mid-2024 for the southern sections of the project, while the northern eight miles of the project are estimated to be finished between the end of 2022 to the beginning of 2023.