

District 4 News

Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Lancaster, Union and York counties

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Phase III of I-85 widening nears completion

SCDOT is nearing completion of Phase III of the I-85 Widening Project in Cherokee County. This project is one of the interstate widening projects on the Strategic 10-Year Plan to rebuild our state highway system. This project begins at the Broad River and ends at the North Carolina state line and is expected to have all six lanes of traffic on the interstate in its final configuration by the end of September. Final work on the crossing routes and ramps is expected to be completed by March 2023.

This project utilized a design-build contract method which required the contractor to design, obtain permits, acquire right-of-way, coordinate utility relocation, and construct approximately eight miles of interstate; all under the oversight of the SCDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. The first public hearing was held for Phase III of the I-85 Widening Project in March 2017. Lane Construction Corporation of Charlotte, N.C., was awarded the contract on March 15, 2018, and began construction of Phase III in August 2019.

The Phase III segment of the I-85 Widening Project is creating additional capacity for more reliable travel times, more efficient movement of freight and enhanced mobility for traffic headed into and out of South Carolina while increasing road user safety using this heavily traveled corridor.

Originally constructed as a two-lane highway in the 1920s, U.S. 29 was initially widened to four lanes and designated as I-85 in the late 1950s. Since the I-85 designation in the late fifties, only limited improvements have been made. This project will provide a

financial boost to the local economy and increase the capacity of this section of the interstate system so it may function more efficiently for many years to come.

In addition to widening from four to six lanes in both directions, four interchanges and associated secondary roads were reconfigured and upgraded to provide better roadway safety by eliminating two-way ramps, and providing the required separation between ramps and frontage roads. These new interchanges also raised all bridges crossing the project from as low as 14' 5" to the new height of minimum of 17 feet. Lastly, a Norfolk Southern Railroad bridge over I-85 was reconstructed to provide greater vertical clearance to meet design standards.

During this project, Lane Construction moved more than 1 million yards of dirt, installed around 35,000 linear feet of storm drainage, and placed over 500 thousand tons of asphalt. Phase III of the I-85 widening project will be completed and opened in October 2022. The work performed on these roads and bridges will help alleviate traffic congestion throughout this entire corridor.



Five hundred thousand tons of asphalt was used on the project. Here, crews do paving overnight on I-85.



Crews put the finishing touches on I-85 widening near exit 104, Tribal road. The project includes an extra lane of travel and a concrete barrier wall.



All new bridges on the project will have more vertical clearance.

Got news?

Contact Lee Oliver with your ideas at 803-377-8101 or by emailing him at OliverHL@scdot.org



Lee Oliver

Meet Jacky Steen

Please welcome **Jacky Steen** to the SCDOT family as District 4's newest safety officer. Steen joined SCDOT on May 17, 2022.

Steen brings with him knowledge and skills honed while working at his previous job with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). While employed with SCDNR, he was assigned to the Land, Water and Conservation division with the state-wide drilling program. He possesses a diverse background of education and work experience, that ranges from law enforcement to heavy equipment operation to administrative duties and management.

He is a devoted husband to his wife of 29 years, Lisa, and resides in Lancaster County. They have one daughter, Macy, and one grandson, Reese. Steen loves being a grandfather. Between t-ball games, soccer matches, and ice cream snacks



Jacky Steen

with 5-year-old Reese, he still manages to find some time for enjoying hunting, fishing and racing. He cherishes his time with family and friends.

So when you see him around, take a moment to share a smile, a handshake or a few friendly words and welcome him to our SCDOT family.