

Work begins on I-85/I-385 gateway project



By Pete Poore

isting interchange in Greenville County which handles 200,000 vehicles per day.

The work that began in late July involves repaving operations on the northbound travel lanes on I-85 between Mauldin Road (mile marker 46) and Woodruff Road (mile marker 51). Repaving will also start soon between Pelham Road (mile marker 54) and the Greenville-Spartanburg (GSP) Airport exit (mile marker 57), the repaving operations are expected to be complete in November

of this year.

“This rehabilitation work is just the first of many upgrades scheduled in the next four years to improve safety and ease congestion around this interchange. The public can expect to see a huge transformation of the current I-85/I-385 interchange in the coming years,” said David Hebert, SCDOT Resident Construction Engineer.

Highlights of the project include:

- Extending the right-hand lane on I-85 Northbound, about a mile north of the interchange, to tie directly into the Pelham Road exit.

- Extending the Pelham Road on-ramp on I-85 Southbound to tie directly into the new interchange.

- Adding collector/distributor ramps through the new interchange and also under Woodruff Road on I-385.

- Widening the I-385 corridor from four thru-lanes to six thru-lanes between Butler Road and Roper Mountain Road.

- Constructing 11 new bridge structures within the interchange, including two fly-over bridges to replace the existing “tight loop ramps” associated with the existing interchange.

- Reconstructing and enhancing the traffic signal system along the Woodruff Road Corridor between Roper Mountain Road and Highway 14.

- Reconstructing three intersections on

Woodruff Road at Market Point Drive, Garlington and Miller Roads.

- Providing a “right-out only” exit from The Shops at Greenridge onto westbound Woodruff Road.

The major phases of construction are expected to begin by early 2016 and finish in late 2018. During this time, lane closures will be restricted to the nighttime hours to minimize impacts on traffic.

This project is using a design-build approach in which Flatiron-Zachry, a joint venture of Flatiron Construction Corp. and Zachry Construction Corporation will not only be responsible for building the interchange, but also perform the design, obtain permits, acquire right-of-way and coordinate utility relocations under the oversight of SCDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The funding source for this project is Act 98 of 2013 which provided SCDOT with additional funding for bridge, resurfacing and mainline interstate projects, the Federal Interstate Improvement Program and the Greenville-Pickens Area Transportation Study Committee (GPATS).

More information for the I-85/I-385 Gateway project, including construction updates and lane closure restrictions is available at www.85385gateway.com, social media at Facebook (85-385gateway) and Twitter (85385gateway).

Motorists traveling at night on I-85 between Mauldin Road and Woodruff Road have seen the first signs of construction activity on the second largest transportation infrastructure projects undertaken by SCDOT in its history. The \$231 million I-85/I-385 interchange improvement project is a four-year project to modernize the ex-

