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NEWS RELEASE
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COUNTY COMPLETES MAJOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

(Lawrenceville, Ga., Aug. 5, 2005) – Gwinnett County Department of Transportation officials are pleased to announce that two significant road projects have been completed in time for the beginning of the new school year: traffic signal modifications on Ga. 20 at Cooper Road/Ozora Road and a new bridge on Russell Road. Both projects were funded by the special purpose local option sales tax, or SPLOST.

The Ga. 20 traffic signal changes include left turn lanes for northbound drivers turning onto Cooper Road and for those turning from Ozora Road westbound onto Ga. 20 south. Gwinnett County DOT also installed new intersection control hardware and software in an attempt to improve traffic flow along the corridor to allow better coordination of the signalized intersections.

With school beginning, signal engineers will be in the area over the next few weeks to adjust and tweak the traffic signal timings in an attempt to optimize the system.

County DOT staff worked diligently with their counterparts at the Georgia Department of Transportation over the past several months to process the paperwork required to modify the traffic signal permit for this location. These modifications are intended to improve the operation of the intersection and flow of traffic along the Ga. 20 arterial. Increased traffic in the area and the planned widening of Ga. 20 south of Lawrenceville were catalysts for the project.

Construction of the Russell Road bridge project began last February following the award of a \$2 million construction contract to CW Mathews. Preliminary work was completed by April and the road was closed on May 7 to tear out the old bridge and begin placement of the culvert. The County's objective in closing the road on this date was to reopen it prior to the Aug. 8 school start date. The road reopened to traffic this afternoon (Aug. 5).

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The old bridge, while safe to drive on, would have become structurally substandard over the next couple of years. The alignment of the old road at the bridge also needed improvement. The crew raised the road by more than 15 feet, installed wide roadside shoulders and added a center turn lane to make the crossing as safe as possible.

This work completes improvements to Russell Road between Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road and Collins Hill Road. Earlier jobs included safety and alignment improvements at Ashbrook Drive and Pamela Kay Road. Sidewalks will now also extend all the way from Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road to Collins Hill Road.

"Our staff, consultants and contractors all worked very hard to fulfill our commitment to the citizens of Gwinnett County to have these two projects opened to traffic by the start of the school year," said Gwinnett Transportation Director Brian Allen. "I would also like to acknowledge the Georgia Department of Transportation's District I Office for their help with the turn signal at Ga. 20 at Cooper and Ozora Roads. This project would not have been possible without the cooperation of District Engineer Russell McMurry and his staff in Gainesville."

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