

# Gwinnett County Government NEWS RELEASE

Charles E. Bannister, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners

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## MAJOR ROAD PROJECTS PROGRESS IN GWINNETT

(Lawrenceville, Ga., Oct. 16, 2008) – Ten major road projects, including two big intersection overhauls, are opening to traffic this year in Gwinnett County. All involved at least some funding from Gwinnett’s SPLOST sales tax program.

The County managed five projects on its own and worked together with the state DOT on five others. These five projects, funded entirely by SPLOST, include widening sections of Rockbridge Road, Five Forks Trickum Road, Webb Gin House Road, Old Norcross Road and U.S. 29/State Route 8/Crogan Street. Three of those will open to traffic by the end of this month while the U.S. 29 and the Five Forks Trickum Road projects will take until the end of the year. All involve widening and adding turn lanes and sidewalks. Total cost was \$38.3 million.

Three of the other five projects used a combination of county, state and/or federal funds to widen major corridors from two to four lanes. In the Dacula and Mall of Georgia areas, State Route 324/Gravel Springs Road is already open. The County handled engineering, land acquisition and construction using \$35 million in SPLOST funds plus \$5 million in state money. County officials are currently working with state and federal authorities to widen the I-85 bridge.

The newly-widened State Route 120/Duluth Highway connecting Lawrenceville to I-85 is now open. The County managed land acquisition while the state DOT provided engineering and construction.

State Route 20/Grayson Highway is opening its new lanes south of Lawrenceville to Grayson over the next few weeks and to Ozora Road in December. The County kept the project moving using \$13 million of its allocation of state funds for arterial road improvements.

About \$9 million of SPLOST money went into engineering and managing land acquisition for the \$147-million interchange of I-85 and State Route 316 that is now open. The County’s contribution of SPLOST funds allowed the state to use federal money for the project. The state spent \$29 million on land purchases for this interchange reconstruction. The County also

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provided environmental mitigation that will be reimbursed by the state and spent another \$9 million relocating its water and sewer lines for the project.

Another major project is now allowing Pleasant Hill Road to run under Buford Highway and the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks near that intersection. The County spent about \$10 million for land acquisition, engineering and utility relocations there, and the state spent \$40 million on land purchases and another \$36 million in state and federal dollars to build the project.

“All these major projects are helping keep traffic moving,” said Gwinnett DOT Director Brian Allen, “and we are very grateful for the SPLOST dollars along with the state and federal funds that make such improvements possible.”

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