



Gwinnett County Government Communications Division NEWS RELEASE

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ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PAID BY SPLOST FUND

(Lawrenceville, Ga., Nov. 18, 2010) – Several road improvement projects funded by the SPLOST sales tax programs got a green light from Gwinnett commissioners on Tuesday. The board also entered an agreement with Gwinnett Village CID to contribute \$5.4 million to intersection and sidewalk projects there and approved using almost \$216,000 in federal stimulus funds to replace light bulbs in traffic signals with energy saving LED lights.

In the Gwinnett Village area, the CID will contract for right-of-way, design and construction while the County contributes funds from the 2005 and 2009 SPLOST programs. Three intersections will get upgrades: Beaver Ruin Road at Rockborough Trail/Norcross Parkway, Jimmy Carter Boulevard at North Norcross-Tucker Road, and Graves Road at McDonough Drive. Indian Trail Road will get new sidewalks from Willow Trail Parkway to Oakbrook Parkway, as will Beaver Ruin Road from I-85 to Satellite Boulevard and 26 other locations.

C.W. Matthews Contracting Co., Inc. was the lowest of five bidders at \$2.4 million to build a new lane along State Route 316 from the I-85 eastbound collector/distributor on-ramp to the Sugarloaf Parkway off-ramp. Designed to reduce congestion and improve safety, the project will draw funds from the three most recent SPLOST programs and take about nine months to complete.

Two safety and alignment projects also got approval Tuesday to use 2005 SPLOST program money. One will realign a mile of Temple-Johnson Road from west of Big Haynes Creek to west of Summit Place over the next year along with work to improve visibility at Lenora Church Road and Centerville-Rosebud Road. The \$1.4 million project, which includes improved roadside shoulders, went to Gary's Grading and Pipeline of Monroe, the lowest of seven bidders.

Pittman Construction Co. was lowest of nine bidders on a \$740,000 project to make South Rockbridge Road safer at Manitou Way/Carole Place by lowering two hills. Gwinnett Transportation Director Brian Allen said, "This project and the others approved by commissioners will improve the safety and efficiency of the roads in these areas."

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Roadworx won the LED contract as the lowest of seven bidders. The company will upgrade traffic signals, flashers and intersection beacons throughout the county. According to Allen, LEDs are brighter but use 80 to 90 percent less electricity and last up to seven times longer so the energy savings and lower maintenance costs offset their higher initial cost. About 500 of Gwinnett's 656 traffic signals are already equipped with LEDs. The remainder will be upgraded through this project, which is being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

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