



ARTS Newsletter

January 2010

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FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS:

GDOT Area Office—Augusta
(706) 855-3466

GDOT District 2 —Tennille
(478)-552-4601

Augusta Engineering Department (706) 796-5040

Augusta Traffic Engineering Division (706) 821-1841

Columbia County Road Construction Department
(706) 447-7600

Columbia County Traffic Engineering Department
(706) 868-4223

Augusta Public Transit
(706) 821-1721

Aiken County Transit (Best Friend Express) (803) 648-6493

Economic & Community Development (North Augusta)
(803) 441-4221

This newsletter is part of an ongoing effort of the Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) to share information about transportation issues and activities with the citizens of the metropolitan area.

Augusta Canal and Savannah River Rapids Park Improvements

Canal Embankment work near The Clearing

Augusta Utilities Department must limit access to the towpath on weekdays to do work on the canal banks. The work began in November and is expected to be finished around February 15, 2010.

The closed section is from just upstream of the Raw Water Pumping Station to about half a mile below the I-20 overpass.

Temporary gates were installed and are closed on weekdays for safety while construction equipment is in use. The remainder of the historic Augusta Canal will be open to the public as usual during this phase. This area will be opened and safe for public use on Saturdays and Sundays and on observed Holidays. Those days are: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day (Dec 24 and 25, 2009), New Years Day (Jan. 1, 2010) and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Jan. 18, 2010).



Savannah Rapids Park Improvements

The Savannah Rapids Headgate Park is undergoing an upgrade. The project will reorient and expand parking areas and re-landscape the current paved lot. A loop road will be constructed connecting parking area to the existing road along the canal's south bank. The project also includes construction of three picnic pavilions and continuation of the bike path connecting the tow path to the Evans-to-Locks multi-use trail. The project will take an estimated five months to complete, barring weather delays.

Clearing, grading and paving will create hazardous conditions for several months. There may be periodic closing of the roadway along the canal's south bank and the pedestrian bridge as work progresses. Park users will continue to have access to the Augusta Canal towpath via the Headgate crossing. Users are asked to obey all posted signs.

Volunteers can get in the "ACT" to keep canal clean

The Augusta Canal National Heritage Area has established the ACT volunteer program. ACT stands for Adopt a Canal Trail. Groups can ACT by volunteering to adopt a section of canal trail and keep it clean and maintained. Groups will assist the canal staff by monitoring, maintaining and enhancing that section of trail and waterway. Volunteers are asked to visit their section at least four times a year and can choose the days and times that work best for them. Activities include keeping trail surfaces free of debris, pruning small limbs and branches, picking up litter, inspecting structures and reporting problems, such as downed trees, vandalism and safety issues.

To learn more about the program or to sign up, download the ACT brochure at www.augustacanal.com or call or email the ACT coordinator at adoptatrail@augustacanal.com or 706-823-0440 x 6.

EPA TO STRENGTHEN AIR POLLUTION STANDARDS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently issued two announcements that they are currently reviewing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground level ozone and sulfur dioxide. Ground level ozone, a primary component of smog, and sulfur dioxide can cause significant health problems in the general population, with persons with asthma, children and the elderly being particularly susceptible. Ground level ozone can also affect sensitive vegetation, forests and ecosystems.

The EPA will propose any revisions to the ground level ozone standards, which will be based on a review of the scientific and technical record that was used in the March 2008 review, by December 2009 and issue a final decision by August 2010. Final designations on whether an area meets the new standards (attainment) or does not meet the new standards (non-attainment) will be completed by August 2011. In order to reduce the workload for states during the interim period of review, the EPA will propose to stay the 2008 ground level ozone standards. The agency will continue to work with all parties to ensure that air quality is protected during that time.

The EPA is also proposing to revise the primary sulfur dioxide standard to a level of between 50 and 100 parts per

billion (ppb) measured over 1-hour. The existing primary standards were 140 ppb measured over 24-hours, and 30 ppb measured over an entire year. The Agency is also taking comment on alternative levels for the 1-hour standard up to 150 ppb.

The EPA will accept comments for 60 days after the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register. The Agency will hold a public hearing on the proposed rule January 5, 2010 in Atlanta. The EPA will issue a final rule by June 2, 2010. The Agency expects to designate areas as attainment, non-attainment, or as unclassifiable for sulfur dioxide in 2012. Source-EPA Fact Sheets

Related Air Quality Links:

Clean Air Campaign – link to <http://www.cleanaircampaign.com/>

Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) - link to http://www.gaepd.org/Documents/index_air.html

Georgia Department of Natural Resource Air Protection Branch—link to <http://www.georgiaair.org>

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control – link to <http://www.scdhec.net/environment/baq/pm.aspx>

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency – link to <http://www.epa.gov/air/particles/index.html>

2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

In September 2009, ARTS contracted with Wilbur Smith Associates to update the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The LRTP will evaluate existing and future year (2035) transportation conditions in the region and will identify improvements to address deficiencies for all transportation modes including the following:



HIGHWAYS



TRANSIT



BIKE/PEDESTRIAN

The LRTP will identify and prioritize projects that will increase travel safety, increase multimodal accessibility and mobility options, protect and enhance the natural and built environment, improve connectivity of the transportation system, support economic development, and promote an efficient network that emphasizes the preservation of the existing transportation system.

The Project Advisory Committee met on October 15th to discuss the goals and objectives of the 2035 LRTP. ~ *continued*

Continued from below ~ An on-line survey is available at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YGJNBC9> and we encourage everyone in the region to provide us comments. A public meeting was conducted on December 8th at the North Augusta Municipal Center. The purpose of the meeting was to update local residents on the planning process and to receive input on the goals and objectives, as well as multimodal needs and issues that need to be addressed in the 2035 LRTP. The next public meeting will be conducted in January 2010 and it will present the existing and future multimodal transportation needs in the region. The draft 2035 LRTP will be completed in March 2010 and the final plan will be adopted in August 2010. For more information about the 2035 LRTP, please contact Marya Moultrie, at (706) 821-1796, or mmoultrie@augustaga.gov

CLEAN AIR CAMPAIGN PARTNERS WITH CSRA EMPLOYERS



As communities in the ARTS area wait for the Environmental Protection Agency to determine whether they meet federal air quality standards for ground-level ozone or instead will face the challenges of being designated a “nonattainment” area, more employers are joining the fight against air pollution, for the health of their employees and the region.

The EPA extended the amount of time counties have to comply with revised air quality standards, possibly to 2011. However, immediate action is vital because air quality standards may become more stringent. Meeting the new standard will take a community-wide effort, but there are resources to help employers, commuters and schools.

Employers like DSM Chemicals and Milliken & Company are leading the way by partnering with The Clean Air Campaign to improve air quality and change the way employees get to work. These employers promote alternatives to driving alone, thereby taking cars off the road and pollution out of the air.

Find out what you can do to help by visiting www.CleanAirCampaign.org/CSRA or calling 1-877-CLEANAIR.

Aiken County News

- There was a ribbon cutting ceremony for Phase 2 of the Palmetto Parkway Project (I-520) on December 16, 2009. This final section extends the existing Parkway (known as the Bobby Jones Expressway on the Georgia side) from US 1/ US 78 to the intersection with I-20 at Exit 5.
- A public information meeting for the proposed widening of Silver Bluff Road from Indian Creek Trail to Richardson Lake Road was held on September 24, 2009. The turnout was great and the consensus from many people is to have SCDOT install a stop light at the Town Creek Drive intersection. SCDOT is reviewing all the comments and continuing to move forward with the design plans. Another meeting will be scheduled.
- The North Side Road Study for the City of Aiken is underway and is being performed by Wilbur Smith Associates. The purpose of the study is to propose and evaluate a future road network for the northern side. The study is expected to take 12 months. A Vision and Purpose Meeting was held on November 30, 2009, and included discussions of the project status, data collection, and the goals & objectives.
- The city of North Augusta is proposing a Park & Ride Facility which could potentially benefit the air quality in the area. If funded and approved, it would be located on a 3.4 acre parcel of SCDOT right-of-way in the northwest quadrant of I-20 @ Exit 5. A conceptual meeting on October 2, 2009 was attended by a number of stakeholders, including representatives from major manufacturing industries.
- The city of Aiken and the LSCOG are considering a cooperative effort to install bus shelters at locations along Best Friend Express transit routes.

Tips to Save Gas and Reduce Air Pollution
 ~ *Walk, bike, take a bus or carpool when possible*
 ~ *Combine errands into one trip*
 ~ *Avoid revving or idling engine over 30 seconds*
 ~ *Use air conditioning only when necessary*

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROJECTS

The ARTS Policy Committee has approved a number of road improvement and public transit projects for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, also known as the Economic Stimulus Program. ARRA authorized funding for a wide variety of domestic programs in order to jumpstart the economy, create or retain jobs and address critical needs for the future of the country. Allocations within the ARTS area have been earmarked for expenditure on the projects listed in the following tables:

Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Projects

Columbia and Richmond County				
County	Project Description	Termini	Work Type	Cost Estimate
Columbia	Flowing Wells Road (CR 164)	Wheeler Rd. to Washington Rd.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	\$361,064.00
Columbia	South Old Belair Rd. (CR 221)	S. Belair Rd. to Columbia Rd.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	\$603,983.00
Columbia	Evans-to-Locks Rd. (CR 1236)	Washington Rd. to Fury's Ferry Rd.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	\$431,755.00
Columbia	Old Evans Rd. (CR 176)	Washington Rd. to CSX Railroad	Resurfacing and Maintenance	\$424,654.00
Columbia	Fury's Ferry Rd. (SR 28)	Evans-to-Locks Rd. to Savannah River	Resurfacing and Maintenance	\$731,611.00
Richmond	Walton Way	15th Street to Gordon Highway	Resurfacing and Maintenance	\$659,277.00
Richmond	Walton Way	15th Street to Johns Road	Resurfacing and Maintenance	\$650,848.00
Richmond	Walton Way	Johns Road to Jackson Rd./ Walton Way Ext.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	\$657,944.00
Richmond	Laney Walker Blvd.	Sand Bar Ferry Rd. to New Savannah Rd.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	\$1,063,304.00
Richmond	Broad Street	5th Street to 13th Street (US 25 BUS)	Traffic Signal and Street Light Upgrades	\$3,000,000.00
TOTAL				\$8,584,440.00

Augusta Public Transit	
Project Description	Cost Estimate
Bike Racks	\$30,000.00
Preventive Maintenance	\$700,000.00
ADA Expenses	\$275,453.00
Handheld GPS	\$1,534.00
Fareboxes	\$150,000.00
Buses (3 @ \$362,713.88 each)	\$977,547.00
Supervisory Van (Opns)	\$20,000.00
Pickup Truck (Maintenance)	\$20,000.00
Engines (3 @ \$20,000 each)	\$80,000.00
TOTAL	\$2,254,534.00

Best Friend Express - Lower Savannah Council of Governments	
Project Description	Cost Estimate
Purchase of two para-transit buses	\$130,000.00
New Information and Transportation Center Expansion	\$435,000.00
TOTAL	\$565,000.00

Aiken County Road Projects				
County	Project Name	Termini	Work Type	Cost Estimate
North Augusta:				
Aiken	Austin Graybill Rd.	Five Notch Rd. to Northridge Dr.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Columbus Ave.	Buena Vista Ave. to Pershing Ave.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Hammond Dr.	Martintown Rd. to Woodlawn Ave.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Alta Vista Dr.	Woodlawn Ave. to West Terrace	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Observatory Ave.	Georgia Ave. to Summerhill Rd.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Sidereal Dr.	Georgia Ave. to Concord Ave.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Fairlane Ave.	Woodlawn Ave. to Crestview Ave.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Clifton Ave. W	Meridian Ave. to End	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Summerhill Dr.	Georgia Ave. to Alpine Ave.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Socastee Dr.	Waccamaw Dr. to Martintown Rd.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Wando Dr.	Waccamaw Dr. to Socastee Dr.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Fairway Ave.	Woodlawn Ave. to Crestview Ave.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Lake Ave.	Woodlawn Ave. to Buena Vista Ave.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Pine Grove Ave., E.	East Ave. to Buena Vista Ave.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Martintown Rd.	Bunting Dr. to Hammond Pond Rd.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Cumberland Ave.	West Terrace to Bluff Ave	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Fairwood Ave.	Woodlawn Ave. to West Ave.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	West Terrace	Bluff Ave. to Cumberland Ave.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Brookgreene Ave.	Martintown Rd. to End	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Whitebark St.	Pisgah Rd. to High School Dr.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Seymour Dr.	Old Edgefield Rd. to Mae St.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Carolina Ave.	Martintown Rd. to Georgia Ave.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Talisman Dr.	Old Edgefield Rd. to End	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	West Ave.	Martintown Rd. to Jackson Ave.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Jackson Ave.	Lake Ave. to Alta Vista Ave.	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Georgia Ave.	Jackson Ave. to Savannah River	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	Buena Vista Ave.	West Ave. to Crystal Lake Dr.	Drainage	Lump Sum
SUBTOTAL				\$1,482,000.00

Aiken County Road Projects				
County	Project Name	Termini	Work Type	Cost Estimate
City of Aiken:				
Aiken	Whiskey Rd. Corridor Phase I	Ola Hitt/Corporate Pkwy. to Shannon Ln.	Drainage / Signal Upgrade	\$242,625.00
Aiken	Whiskey Rd. Corridor Phase II	Shannon Ln. to East Gate Dr.	Drainage / Signal Upgrade	\$422,824.00
Aiken	Whiskey Rd. Corridor Phase III	East Gate Dr. to Brookhaven Dr.	Drainage / Signal Upgrade	\$421,739.00
Aiken	Whiskey Rd. Corridor Contingency	N/A	Drainage / Signal Upgrade	\$394,812.00
SUBTOTAL				\$1,482,000.00
Pavement Marking:				
Aiken	I - 20		Pavement Remarking	\$415,000.00 (incls. Fed. Funds)
District 2 Commissioner Selected:				
Aiken	SC 191	S-491 TO S-33	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	S-125	S-197 TO S-2026	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	SC 126	S-957 TO Near S-553	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	S-120	Near S-427 TO S-430	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	SC 125	S-363 TO SC 125 CONN	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	S-419	SC 19 TO Near S-1052	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	SC 302	S-87 TO SC 118	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	US 25	S-340 TO Near S-1591	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	SC 19	N of S-2304 TO S of SC 191	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	S-879	S-1496 TO SC 125	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	SC 125	US 25 BUS TO S-363	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	US 25	SC 121 TO SC 230	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	SC 230	US 25 TO S-309	Resurfacing and Maint.	Lump Sum

County	Project Name	Termini	Work Type	Cost Estimate
District 2 Commissioner Selected:				
Aiken	SC 125 CON	US 25 TO US 1	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	SC 19	Railroad Crossing TO 2.53 mi S of RR Crossing	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	US 25 BUS	S-640 TO S-708	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	US 25	Edgewood Dr TO 0.66 mi N of S-355	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	US 25	Edgefield Co Line TO 1.27 mi S of County Line	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	S-346	S-567 TO S-105	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	S-440	S-85 TO SC 302	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	SC 302 SC 302 FROM S-1849 TO S-87	S-1849 TO S-87	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	SC 389	S-185 TO Cold Stream Rd	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
Aiken	US 78	S-783 to Near SC 4	Resurfacing and Maintenance	Lump Sum
SUBTOTAL				\$6,064,000.00 (Includes Fed. Fund)
TOTAL				\$9,443,000.00



Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission
525 Telfair Street
Augusta, GA 30901

PRSR STD

US POSTAGE

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PERMIT #363

UPCOMING ARTS MEETINGS

January 2010

No meetings scheduled

February 2010

CAC/TCC– Wednesday 02/10/10
@ 10:00 AM

March 2010

Policy Committee–Thursday,
03/04/10 @ 11:00 AM
CAC/TCC– Wednesday, 03/10/10
@ 10:00 AM

ARTS committee meetings are held on the 8th Floor of the Municipal Building at 530 Greene Street, Augusta, GA. Please call the ARCPC (706)821-1796 to verify time and place.

The ARTS Staff

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