



ARTS Newsletter

Spring 2013

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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.

PHASE 1 OF EUCREE CREEK GREENWAY IN DESIGN



Phase 1 of Columbia County's Eucree Creek Greenway is in design at the present time. The county in 2011 was awarded a \$250,000 a federal Transportation Enhancement grant for the project. County SPLOST funds, in the amount of \$400, 392.20, are being used as local match. Design approval is pending from the Georgia Department of Transportation.

The greenway will extend for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from Wrightsboro Road near Grovetown to the existing trail in the Canterbury Farms neighborhood. The main feature will be a 12' wide multi-use concrete trail bordering Eucree Creek. The proposed improvements also include a trailhead, a pedestrian bridge, an orientation kiosk at the beginning of the trail and parking improvements at the trailhead. The pedestrian bridge will be 12' in width and have a 100-foot span. Directional signage, interpretive signs, benches, and trash receptacles are also proposed improvements. The project design will comply to requirements of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), and no right-of-way acquisition is necessary.

According to Barry Smith, Director of the Columbia County Community and Leisure Services Division, the project should be let for bids in about four months and construction completed in approximately three months. For additional information contact the Columbia County Community and Leisure Services Division at (706) 868-3484.

WILLIAM FEW PARKWAY CONTRACT AWARDED



The Georgia Department of Transportation has awarded a contract to Reeves Construction Company for the widening, reconstruction and extension of William Few Parkway in Columbia County. The \$6.4 million project will extend the road for 1.6 miles from SR 104 / Washington Rd. to Hardy McManus Rd., and includes construction of a bridge and approaches over Eucree Creek. The new section of the roadway will have single

travel lanes in each direction separated by a 14' wide flush median turn lane. Five-foot wide striped bike lanes will be located on paved shoulders on either side of the road. Improvements will be made at the roadway's intersections with SR 104, Riverwood Parkway and Hardy McManus Rd. The project is designed to relieve traffic congestion, improve connectivity, enhance facilities for drivers and bike riders and accommodate an increase in traffic in coming years. The project is to be completed by November 30, 2014.

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

STUDY AREA BOUNDARY UPDATED

On March 7, 2013 the ARTS Policy Committee adopted a new study area boundary map. The new map reflects the population and housing unit growth documented by the 2010 census. All of Augusta-Richmond County remains in the study area. In Columbia County, the boundary line shifted to the northwest to align with Clarks Hill Road, Scotts Ferry Road and the Appling-Harlem Road (SR 47). In Aiken County, New Ellenton and a portion of Montmorenci were added to the study area and a couple of sparsely developed areas were removed. The new study area boundary map is included as an insert in the newsletter.

REGIONAL I.T.S. PLAN BEING UPDATED



The firm of URS Corporation has been engaged to update the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Master Plan for ARTS. An Intelligent Transportation System involves the application of technology to improve the safety, efficiency and performance of the transportation network (streets, vehicles, transit and rail). ITS is also a tool to assist transportation operators in managing the transportation system. In a typical ITS, information is collected in the field using cameras and other detection devices and transmitted to a traffic control center (TMC). The information is analyzed at the TMC and updates are then sent to field devices (e.g. traffic signals, dynamic message signs) and travelers. This real-time response enables travelers, emergency responders and others adjust to changing conditions on the transportation network.

Thus far in the plan update process the consultants have inventoried the components of the region's transportation network, identified planned ITS projects and held small group meetings to obtain first-hand information about ITS goals and priorities. Two large group stakeholder meetings have been held to identify trouble spots on the freeways and arterials, and to evaluate alternatives for TMCs, ITS software packages and alternative communications systems. The study is to be completed in December.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE VACANCIES



Volunteers are needed to fill vacancies on the ARTS Citizens Advisory Committee. CAC members provide a valuable service to the community by sharing ideas and concerns about the transportation network and planning for future projects. It also provides an opportunity to interact with local, state and federal officials directly involved in transportation planning and project implementation. Representatives are needed from Augusta, Columbia County and Aiken County, so consider becoming a CAC member and / or share this information with someone else who might be interested in serving.

To find out more about CAC membership contact Ms. Lynn Russell at lrussell@augustaga.gov or phone (706) 821-1796

UPCOMING ROAD / TRAIL PROJECTS

The following projects are scheduled to be let for bids this summer by GDOT :

- **SR 232 / Columbia Rd.** - widen to 4 lanes from CR 221 / Old Belair Rd. to SR 383 / Belair Rd. (PI # 231440) - **Let date 6/21/2013**
- **SR 56 / Mike Padgett Hwy.** - widen from Ben-nock Mill Rd. to Old Waynesboro Rd. (PI # 0006431) - **Let date 6/21/2013**
- **Euchee Creek Trail 3** - extend multi-use trail from Harlem-Grovetown Rd. to Reynolds Farm (PI # 0009018) - **Let date 8/16/2013**
- **Augusta Canal Multi-Use Trail, Phase IV** – extend the multi-use trail from 12th St. to 7th St. along the Third Level canal (PI # 0008195) - **Let date 8/16/2013**

AIKEN COUNTY NEWS

SPECIAL STUDIES

The **Dougherty Road Corridor Study** is approximately 90% complete. The last of three public meetings will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2013 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1003 Spaulding Drive in Aiken. Staff from the study team will be present to discuss the latest recommendations for the corridor. Public participation has resulted in alternative designs for the corridor and connections to other roads in the study area.

Aiken County Planning & Development, in cooperation with the City of Aiken, is in the process of finalizing a contract with DRMP for the **SC 19 (Edgefield Highway) Corridor Study**. The study area will stretch from Hampton Avenue near downtown Aiken to the Edgefield County line. A kick-off meeting will occur during the summer, and the study is scheduled to be completed in 10 months.

SURFACE ROAD PROJECTS

SC 302 (Silver Bluff Road) - The ARTS Policy Committee recently approved an additional \$1,032,000 for right-of-way for the corridor improvement project. Right-of-way acquisition is now scheduled to begin in the summer of 2013 and take approximately 12 months to complete. Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of next year.

SC 118 (Hitchcock Parkway) - The city of Aiken has hired a consultant to develop an alternative design for the road widening project. The objective is to reduce the footprint of the project. A second public meeting on the project is pending.

SC 125 (E. Buena Vista Avenue / Atomic Road) - The environmental document is complete and right-of-way acquisition for this corridor improvement project is scheduled to begin in this month, and construction is scheduled to begin next summer.

US 25/Walnut Lane—Construction has started on this corridor improvement project, and is scheduled to be complete in September 2014.

SC 126 (Belvedere - Clearwater Road) - Surveys are complete for this road widening project.

AIR QUALITY NEWS

North Augusta Park and Ride Facility - This project is scheduled to be let for bids in July 2013. The facility is to be located off Exit 5 at the intersection of I-20 and U.S. Highway 25. The estimated cost of the facility is \$1.2 million.

Open Burning Ban in Effect - A seasonal open burning ban is in effect for Columbia and Richmond counties from May 1 – September 30. The open burning ban prohibits citizens and businesses from burning yard and land-clearing debris. The exceptions to the ban are:

- Agricultural Burning
- Forestry “prescribed burning”
- Campfires or barbeques
- Fire-fighting training exemption, provided appropriate permit is issued
- Operation of open flame equipment exemption
- Explosive disposal in accordance with U.S. Department of Labor Regulations

Failure to adhere to the burn ban may result in fines. For additional information contact the EPD Augusta District Office (706) 792-7744

PEDESTRIAN / MOTORIST SAFETY



According to the Federal Highway Administration, midblock locations account for more than 70% of pedestrian fatalities. This is where vehicle speeds are higher, contributing to a larger injury and fatality rate at these locations. In urban and suburban locations medians and pedestrian crossing islands can provide safety benefits to pedestrians and motorists. If designed and applied appropriately, they can improve safety by allowing pedestrians a safe place to stop, enhance the visibility of pedestrian crossings, reduce the speed of vehicles approaching pedestrian crossings and may reduce both pedestrian and motor vehicle crashes.

Source: Federal Highway Administration, Proven Safety Countermeasures



Augusta Planning and Development Department
525 Telfair Street
Augusta, GA 30901

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UPCOMING ARTS MEETINGS

TCC and CAC Meeting
August 14, 2013, 10:30 AM

Policy Committee Meeting
September 5, 2013, 11:00 AM

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

Augusta Regional Transportation Study Contacts

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Juriah Lewis, **Transit Planner**
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