



ARTS Newsletter

April 2008

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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) 541-4011

Columbia County Traffic Engineering Department
(706) 447-7611

Augusta Public Transit
(706) 821-1721

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

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

Freight Study Public Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

An open-house public information meeting is scheduled as part of the ARTS Regional Freight Study. The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 15, 2008** from **5:00-7:00 PM at the Augusta Public Library**, 902 Greene Street, Augusta, Georgia. The meeting gives the public an opportunity to become acquainted with the study's goals, objectives, and schedule and to discuss issues related to freight movement in the region.

Commenting on the ARTS Freight Study, Augusta Mayor Deke Copenhaver emphasized the following, "As transportation infrastructure issues are key to the future economic development of our region, I strongly encourage the public to attend this meeting to give their input into freight problem areas and potential improvements which could be made to enhance freight movement in the ARTS region."

Public Information Open House Meeting

WINDSOR SPRING ROAD PHASE IV & PHASE V — widen & reconstruct Windsor Spring Road to 4 lanes/19' median from SR 88 in Hephzibah to Tobacco Road and replace the bridges over Norfolk Southern RR & Spirit Creek.

Jenkins Memorial CME Church
4218 Windsor Spring Road
Monday, April 21, 2008
5:00—7:00 P.M.

Air Quality Standards Strengthened

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently issued a final rule strengthening the national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone, the primary component of smog. The changes are designed to improve both public health protection and the protection of sensitive trees and plants.

The revisions to the ozone standards mean that communities in the Aiken-Augusta area could face being declared in nonattainment (not meeting the standards) if efforts to reduce ozone concentrations within the next few years are not successful. Air quality monitors in Jackson, S.C. (Aiken County) and at Bungalow Road Elementary School (Augusta) would be in violation of the new ozone standards based on data for the years 2005-2007.

EPA has issued the following schedule for designation under the revised ozone standards:

- March 2009 – States make recommendations to EPA for areas to be designated attainment, nonattainment and unclassifiable (insufficient data to classify). Note that state recommendations will likely be based on 2006-2008 monitoring data.
- March 2010 – EPA issues final designations of attainment, nonattainment and unclassifiable areas. Prior to final designations, states will be allowed to update their recommendations using 2007-2009 data.
- March 2013 – Likely deadline for states to submit State Implementation Plans (SIP) outlining how they will reduce pollution in designated nonattainment areas to meet the standards.
- 2013-2030– Communities in non-attainment are required to meet the standards by deadlines that will vary based on the severity of the air quality problem.

(Continued Page 2)

Air Quality Strengthened Continued...

The CSRA Air Quality Alliance is developing an action plan to address air pollution in a proactive manner. The Alliance includes representatives from industry, government, utilities, schools, forestry, agriculture, military, and environmental organizations. To learn more or become involved in the CSRA Air Quality Alliance, contact either Cristhine Kraft (706) 821-1796 (e-mail ckraft@augustaga.gov) or Gerald Jefferson (803) 642-1520 (e-mail gjeffer-son@aikencountysc.gov). Also go to the following website established by the Alliance:

http://www.augustaga.gov/departments/planning_zoning/csra_alliance.asp

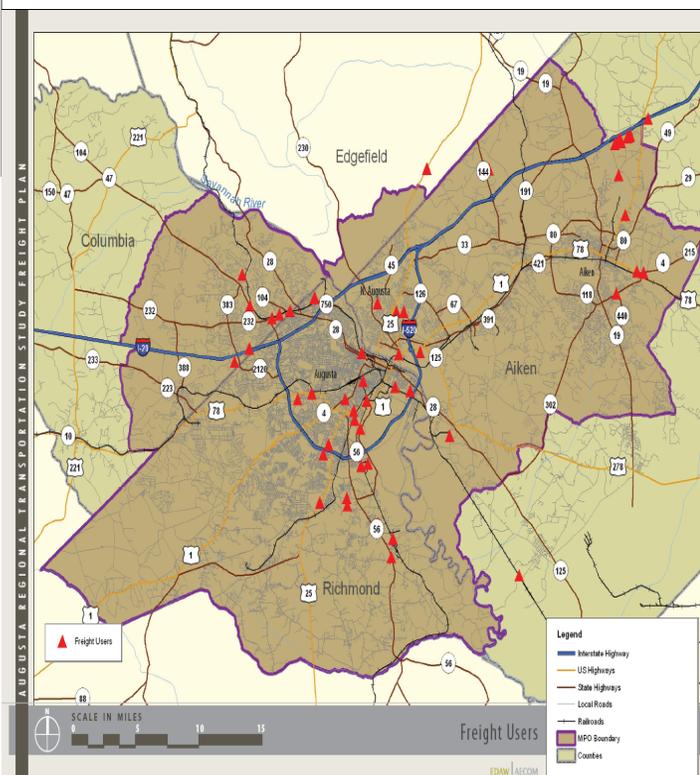
For more information about the revised ozone standards, go to the following EPA website:

<http://www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone/actions.html#mar07s>



“Working Hard to Breathe Easy”

Regional Freight Profile



The freight profile completed as part of the ARTS Regional Freight Study revealed some interesting facts about freight volumes and movement in and through the Aiken-Augusta area.

- Truck cargo accounts for 93% of the all freight transported in the region. In 2006, approximately 101.2 million tons of freight was transported to, from, within, and through the region via truck. Another 7 percent (8 million tons) was transported via rail and less than one percent (308 tons) was air cargo.
- Freight moving through the area makes up the most significant portion of the truck freight in the region, accounting for 65 percent of freight by weight. Another thirteen percent of the truck movement is outbound freight and 16 percent is inbound freight movement. Freight movement within the region makes up the smallest share of the movement by weight (6 percent).
- Much of the freight moving through the region represents shipments headed to / from Atlanta, Savannah, Macon, Albany, Columbia, and Charleston.
- The top commodity groups shipped by truck are nonmetallic minerals; lumber or wood products; clay, concrete, glass or stone; and petroleum or coals products.
- Interstate 20 and Interstate 520 are the primary freight routes in and through the region.

Air Quality: Three Simple Steps For Spring

1. Care for your car. Regular maintenance and tune-ups, changing the oil, and checking tire inflation can improve gas mileage, extend your car's life, and increase its resale value. It also can reduce traffic congestion due to preventable breakdowns and it could reduce your car's emissions by up to 50%.

2. Care for yourself. Walking and bicycling are great ways to travel, they're easy ways to get exercise, and they're easy on the air. Passenger cars and trucks create more than 25% of all air pollution nationwide.

3. Spread the word. If everyone took just a few of these simple, easy steps, it could make a big difference, because —
It all adds up to cleaner air!

ARTS Project Status 2008

Aiken County

E. Buena Vista Ave. from Atomic Rd. (s.2-125) to Jefferson Hwy (US 25)

A preliminary design field review was held on January 11, 2008. Due to project coordination, the estimated ROW and construction begin dates of summer of 2008 and spring of 2009 will have to be moved. The new schedule will be determined within the month.

Georgia Ave. Ext. from Georgia Ave. to Riverside Blvd.

The project was awarded to Satterfield Construction, Inc. on February 9, 2007. The notice to proceed with construction was issued on May 8, 2007. The project is scheduled to be completed May 31, 2008, however, due to constructability issues, the completion date is currently under review and may be extended. Construction activities are underway.

Intersection Improvement Project S-419 (Dougherty Rd.) w/ SC 302 (Silver Bluff Rd.)

TD Bulldozing was awarded the construction contract. The project will provide dual left turn lanes onto SC 302 from Dougherty Road and signal modifications. Completion Date: *April 30, 2008.*

Palmetto Pkwy Phase 2 from US Route 1 to I-20

The contract was executed on November 22, 2006 and a Notice to Proceed was issued early January 2007. Construction activities are underway. Completion Date: *July 31, 2009.* For more information on the project, visit www.PalmettoParkway.com.

Silver Bluff Rd. from Indian Creek Trail to Richardson Lake Rd.

A public information meeting was held on September 27, 2007 with approximately 475 individuals in attendance. SCDOT is currently conducting traffic studies of the project corridor and intersections along the corridor. A revised project schedule will be developed as soon as the revised project scope is determined.

Whiskey-Silver Bluff Connector

Construction on the first phase of the Whiskey Road-Silver Bluff Connector is underway. The construction project has been divided into four phases. The whole project is estimated to be completed by the end of 2009.

Columbia County

Walton Way Ext/Davis Rd Improvements

Widen to 4 thru lanes with turn lanes as needed from Washington Road to Skinner Mill Road. Includes half diamond interchange @ I-20. Construction started on September 22, 2005. Major work has been completed. Contractor is almost complete with punch list items. Waiting on the final inspection. Expected Completion Date: *February 29, 2008.*

Sound Barrier Project @ I-20

Construction of noise barriers west of SR 383 in Columbia County is underway.

William Few Parkway Extension

A widening project from SR 104 to Hardy McManus. Study completed 3/3/08. Current let date is *October 2009.*

SR 104 at Halali Farm Road

This is an intersection improvement project. Right of Way funds have been authorized.

Flowing Wells Road

Widen to four thru lanes with turn lanes as needed from Washington Road to I-20. Environmental document being updated. Right of Way plans submitted to GDOT. Project construction is in Long Range.

Richmond County

I-20 @ I-520 Interchange Improvement

Stage 1 of bridge deck for I-20 bridge over I-520 is being poured this week. Concrete Island on Wheeler Road has been removed. Contractors are finalizing plans to clean up for Masters Week. Completion Date: *July 31, 2010*

I-20 from Warren Rd. to Augusta Canal

Sound walls are progressing and bridge work has started. Drainage improvements are ongoing and median lanes are being prepared for paving. Completion Date: *October 31, 2009*

St. Sebastian/Greene St. Extension

Project was let January 18, 2008. As of March 25, 2008, award is still deferred. The project is an extension of St. Sebastian Way on new location from Walton Way to 15th Street to Riverwatch Parkway and connectivity to Broad Street. Negotiations with the railroad is underway. The bid to demolish one of the building as part of the project was awarded by the Augusta Commission on April 1, 2008; demolition must be completed 60 days from date Notice to Proceed is issued. Completion Date: *July 31, 2010*

SR 121/US 25 from SR 88 to Tobacco Rd.

This is a resurfacing project. Reeves Construction was awarded this construction contract. Preconstruction conference was held March 12, 2008. Contractor is set to begin after the Masters. Expected completion Date: *September 30, 2008.*

SR 4/15th St. @ Central Ave.

This is an intersection improvement project. Beams Contracting was awarded this construction contract. Work should begin sometime after the Masters.

Source: SC Department of Transportation and Georgia Department of Transportation

Work Zone Safety Tips

- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.
- Allow ample space between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- Obey work zone signs. Don't **SPEED!**
- Minimize distractions: avoid using cell phones.



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

UPCOMING ARTS MEETINGS

April 2008

CAC/TCC—No Meeting
Policy Committee—No Meeting

May 2008

CAC/TCC— 5/14/08 @ 10 AM
Policy Committee—No Meeting
SC Subcommittee—5/15/08 @ 4 PM

June 2008

CAC/TCC—No Meeting
Policy Committee—6/05/08 @ 11 AM

ARTS Committee Meetings are usually 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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Visit Us at the Web!

http://www.augustaga.gov/departments/planning_zoning/arts_home.asp