



Officials take an inaugural drive across the new Paper Mill Road Bridge during its opening in October.

Roadway improvements roll on

Cobb County's Department of Transportation continues working towards completion of the 2005 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, which included a six-year collection period that ended December 2011. In 2013, six 2005 SPLOST transportation projects, valued at nearly \$31 million, were bid for construction. The remaining 19 of more than 300 projects listed in the 2005 SPLOST are no longer delayed or require state and/or federal funding.

2005 SPLOST projects underway/completed in 2013:

Barrett Parkway — This \$21 million thoroughfare improvement project widened 3.6 miles of the parkway to six-lanes divided from south of Burnt Hickory Road to Cobb Parkway. Other improvements include a 10-foot asphalt multi-use trail, a new pedestrian bridge and traffic signal upgrades.

Floyd Road — The \$5.5 million safety and operational improvement project on Floyd Road in August 2012 continues, widening 1.1 miles from Clay Road to Hicks Road to a standard four-lane median divided roadway. A 10-foot-wide sidewalk will be constructed on the west side of the roadway and a five-foot wide sidewalk will be constructed on the east side. The estimated completion date is spring.

Lower Roswell Road — The \$8.6 million project is a safety and operational improvement from Davidson Road to Timber Ridge Road. The project added four-foot bike lanes, eight-foot asphalt trail, five-foot sidewalks for the entire length and turn lanes at key intersections. The intersection of Lower Roswell, Timber Ridge and Willeo Roads will be the fourth roundabout in Cobb.

Noonday Creek Trail — This \$4.27 million project is adding 2.5 miles of multi-use trail on Barrett Lakes Boulevard from Barrett Lakes Boulevard at Duncan Road to Noonday Creek, then east along Noonday Creek to Bells Ferry Road. It adds two pedestrian bridges over Noonday Creek along with sections of elevated walkway and will be completed in June.

Queen Mill Road — This 1.8 mile project will add safety and operational improvements from Mableton Parkway to Veterans Memorial Highway. The \$3.57 million project will include curb, gutter, sidewalk and drainage where needed.

Collections for the four-year 2011 SPLOST began on Jan. 1, 2012. In 2013, engineering/design started on 130 of the 170 identified projects in the program. Construction has started on 81 projects with 55 projects reaching completion.

2011 SPLOST projects completed/underway in 2013:

Drainage Projects — Construction started on 17 drainage projects in 2013. Nearly all of the projects replaced deficient metal drains installed in the 1960s and 1970s. Cost of the drainage projects is approximately \$2.6 million to date.

Hopkins Road Bridge — The \$828,000 project replaced the former substandard, weight-restricted bridge over Wildhorse Creek, with a new bridge with enhanced pedestrian accommodations and sidewalk extension on the west side to connect to the Silver Comet Trail. The new bridge, now open to traffic, was a joint effort with the City of Powder Springs.

New Chastain Road Bridge — This \$1.2 million project replaced the weight-restricted westbound bridge over Noonday Creek with a new one with two travel lanes, shoulders and pedestrian accommodations. The project began in May 2013 and was completed in October.

Paper Mill Road Bridge over Sope Creek — This construction replaced the former substandard, weight-restricted bridge. The \$2.1 million project replaced and widened the bridge while adding sidewalks to improve pedestrian safety and was funded by 2005 and 2011 SPLOST dollars. The new bridge opened to traffic in October.

For a comprehensive list of SPLOST and other projects worked on during the past year, go online to review the Cobb County Annual Report at cobbcounty.org.

Highway widening in Cumberland district



Gary A. Witte

Cobb County, Cumberland Community Improvement District and state officials celebrated the start of the \$35 million widening of U.S. Highway 41 Friday, Dec. 6. U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson was the keynote speaker for the event. The project, scheduled for completion in 2017, will widen the area from Paces Mill to Akers Mill Roads to six lanes and add a multi-use trail. It is part of \$52 million in enhancements to the U.S. Highway 41 corridor. These planned improvements will create long-term benefits for the northwest corridor, including safer traffic flow and greater capacity.

New Web app helps report problems

A new smart phone and Web based tool, YourGOV, allows residents to submit non-emergency service requests directly to the Department of Transportation work management system. By accessing the YourGOV Web site or using the smart device app, residents can photograph a problem and request that work be completed at a specified location. YourGOV service requests relate to roadway issues like potholes, traffic signals, debris, signs, storm drains and sidewalks. People are able to track the progress of their requests and receive automatic updates throughout the lifecycle of the requests.

YourGOV is for reporting non-emergency issues only. If immediate police or fire department response is needed, please call 911. For more information, go to <http://cobbdot.org>.

Celebrate MLK Day with Cobb

All residents are invited to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 10 a.m., Monday, **Jan. 20**, at Jennie T. Anderson Theatre. This year's theme is "His Dream: Hope for the Future." The event is free and open to the public and will include the annual presentation of the "Living the Dream" award to a community member who demonstrates the ideals King exemplified.

Library hours change across system

To best serve Cobb residents and meet the needs for access to libraries and services, public libraries are expanding and adjusting hours of operation at all branches. Larger facilities, including Switzer Library, Mountain View Regional Library, South Cobb Regional Library, East Cobb Library and West Cobb Regional Library, will be open 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Mondays through Wednesdays and 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursdays through Saturdays.

Medium sized libraries, including East Marietta, Gritters, Kemp Memorial, Kennesaw, Powder Springs, Stratton and Vinings, will be open 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Mondays through Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays and 1-6 p.m., Saturdays.

Smaller libraries, including Acworth, Lewis A. Ray and Sibley, will be open 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Mondays through Wednesdays, closed Thursday and Friday and open 1-6 p.m. Saturdays. Sweetwater Valley Library will be open 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Mondays through Wednesdays and 1-6 p.m. on Thursdays. A summary of new hours for all library branches is available at cobbcat.org.



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