



Renderings of the planned Skipp Spann Connector, which will span Interstate 75 and connect parts of Kennesaw State University. The project, which is expected to be finished in 2016, was partially funded through the 2011 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.

Project to improve walk, traffic

It's a bridge not just designed for travel. It also aims to help bring a community together.

The Skipp Spann Connector, a \$13 million Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax project which started work in April, will traverse Interstate 75 just north of Chastain Road. It is scheduled to be finished in 2016.

Cobb Department of Transportation Deputy Director Jim Wilgus said the bridge, which will include two walkways for pedestrian traffic and bike lanes, will help connect Kennesaw State University facilities currently separated by the interstate.

"As KSU continues to grow, this links their two halves," Wilgus said. "It's certainly going to give them a much safer path than they have now."

Funds for the work come from various sources, including the 2011 SPLOST program, the Town Center Community Improvement District, state DOT and KSU itself.

There will also be a roundabout constructed at Busbee Drive and Townpark Lane. It is expected to improve access to the Northwest Corridor Managed Lanes access ramps at Big Shanty as well as park and ride lots.

Officials project the bridge will reduce traffic on Chastain Road at the I-75 interchange by 19 percent.

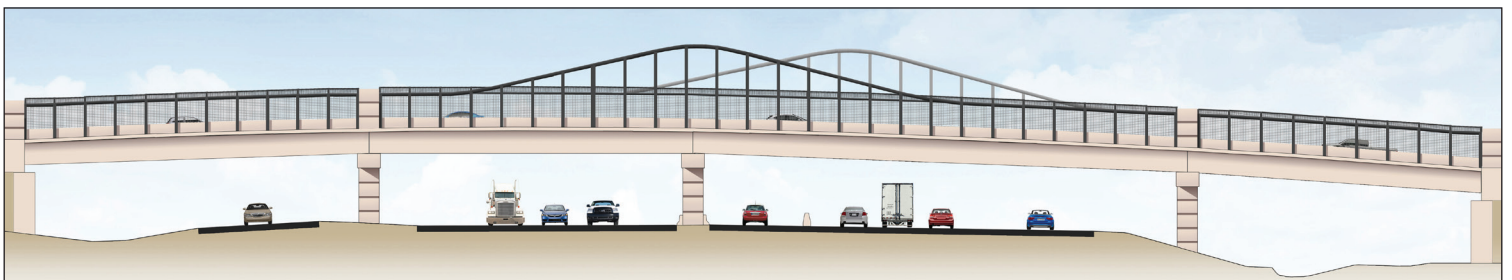
Wilgus said the look of the bridge was created by KSU students, who competed for the honor and came up with the twin mountains incorporated in its appearance.

The 2011 Special Local Option Sales Tax has provided funds that are being used to make major improvements around Cobb County and its six cities. As an example, 170 transportation projects are planned, with 43 percent already completed and 42 percent in the construction or design phase.

This includes needed repairs to five Silver Comet Trail bridges, the replacement of more than 80 bridges to ensure a safe and reliable transportation network and the resurfacing of more than 85 percent of Cobb's roadways.

More than 800 miles of sidewalk have been added, providing pedestrians with safe access to schools, activity centers and transit. More than two-thirds of Cobb's major thoroughfares have also been improved by safety and operational enhancements. All of these projects were made possible by SPLOST.

For more information on SPLOST, go to cobbcounty.org.





Special

From left, Terrilyn Hannah with Keep Cobb Beautiful, Carina O'Bara with Sierra Club Centennial Group, Joyce Yung with Kennesaw State University Public Administration Students Association, Jennifer McCoy with the Watershed Stewardship Program, Nekeshia Griffin with Southern Poly State University Biology and Chemistry Student Organization, Kaye Wilson with the Cobb PARKS Natural Resources Management Unit and Rivers Alive Chairperson Lynn Cobb.

Shared efforts cleans waterways

The Environmental Protection Division's Rivers Alive program recently honored Cobb County Government for its Adopt-A-Stream program. Rivers Alive, the state's largest volunteer cleanup program, presented the county with its Georgia Club award during its April 15 event. Several county departments earned the award through their joint efforts organizing volunteer cleanups, including the Water System, Keep Cobb Beautiful and the PARKS Natural Resource Unit. The Rivers Alive awards honor the efforts of individuals and groups who are working to improve Georgia's waterways. Volunteers waded into rivers, lakes and coastal waters each fall as part of the continuing campaign to clean and preserve more than 70,000 miles of Georgia waterways. During the 2013 statewide cleanup, 27,679 volunteers cleaned more than 1,800 miles of waterways and removed more than 500,000 pounds of trash and recyclables, including car parts, grocery carts, luggage, basketballs, TVs, sinks, bicycles, tires and plastic bottles.

County honored for new green efforts

Cobb County was honored April 7 with the inaugural Green Tech/Clean Tech Cutting EDGE Award at the Cobb Chamber of Commerce's first breakfast. The awards were created to identify Cobb-based companies that excel in manufacturing, processing or utilizing high-end technology in innovative ways. Costs associated with the quantity of paperwork generated by government processes can be significant, but by integrating new technology, Cobb County's Risk Management Department is now able to effectively manage all aspects of risk strategy from a central data repository. Cobb is one of the first government entities in the state to move risk management operations to the Cloud. This helps save the environment and taxpayer money.

County manager earns service award

Cobb County Manager David Hankerson was recently honored with the 2014 Jerry R. Griffin Excellence in Public Service Award by the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia. This prestigious award recognizes an individual who has worked toward achieving a lasting positive impact on his or her community.

"His county government track record is extensive with numerous contributions and achievements that include the implementation of priority-based budgeting system, operating a county budget with seven Triple A rankings, the completion of the East-West Connector, and most recently, the relocation of the Atlanta Braves stadium to Cobb County," ACCG officials said in a statement.

Hankerson has more than 30 years of local government experience, serving as county manager since 1993.



Special

Doing business with Cobb explained

The first How to do Business with Cobb seminar of 2014 will be held 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, **May 13**, at the Cobb Chamber of Commerce, 240 Interstate North Parkway, Atlanta. Participants will learn how to become a vendor for the county and network with other business owners and county personnel that make purchasing decisions. The seminar is free, but space is limited. To RSVP, send an email to Inger.Eberhart@cobbcounty.org or call 770-528-3317.

Presentation shows the place to play

Get a new look at what's available in Cobb County. Go to the TravelCobb YouTube site and click on "Other Sports Destinations Just Don't Compete" to see our community at play.



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

COBB COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT • 770.528.2480 • information@cobbcounty.org • www.cobbcounty.org

CobbLine is brought to you by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners. Cobb County Government does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. Complete minutes and agendas for commission meetings are available at CobbCounty.org.

Tim Lee, Chairman
Helen Goreham, District One
Bob Ott, District Two

JoAnn Birrell, District Three
Lisa Cupid, District Four
David Hankerson, County Manager

This is an official publication of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners.