

February 1, 2008

ISSUE: Horsestamp Church Road Interchange

Issue: Construction of Horsestamp Church Road Interchange at Exit 22 off of Interstate 95 in Camden County, Georgia. This project is in the initial phases and is critical as an alternative emergency evacuation route for residents of the north eastern area of Camden County. The purpose of this project is for future Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hurricane evacuations and for additional access to Interstate 95 for future planned development.

Background: Camden County is currently working with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to place an interchange at Horsestamp Church Road (Exit 22). Currently Camden County has interchanges at Woodbine (Exit 14) and Dover Bluff Road (Exit 26). With the rapid growth in Camden County over the last several years and vast developmental expansion projected in the future, an additional interchange is essential in the event of an emergency situation that requires the evacuation of its residents.

Currently with only two interchanges to serve all the residents in the northern portion of Camden County, should a disastrous circumstance occur, evacuation of this area would be a horrendous task. It is the responsibility of government to provide its people with the best possible means to protect themselves within its control. It is the view of Camden County that providing an additional means of evacuation in this area is not only vital but should be our obligation. Cost projections for this project are \$14,000,000.00 with the County's portion being \$1,500,000.00.

FEMA and Georgia DOT currently rely on I-95 to provide for a timely, safe, and efficient mandated mass evacuation of the coastal populations during the onset of an impending hurricane. As coastal populations continue to increase, the proposed project would provide time and lifesaving benefits to these populations during such an event.

Action: Respectfully request that FHWA works diligently with the State of Georgia to ensure this project remains set for construction in 2009. Funding for this project should be earmarked and readily available to make certain that the project timeline is not delayed.

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