

March 13, 2008

## **ISSUE: Kingsland Bypass**

Camden County is currently working in connection with the Georgia Department of Transportation, FHWA and the Cities of Kingsland and St. Marys to widen Colerain Road/Laurel Island Parkway to four lanes as an emergency evacuation route. Currently the proposed logical termini are west of I-95 to end at the intersection of Georgia Hwy 40 and Colerain Road and east of I-95 at the intersection of Kings Bay Road and Colerain Road.

It is the desire of Camden County to change the eastern logical termini to St. Marys Road at Colerain Road. Continued discussions are expected to determine the possible need to further the expansion to Spur 40, but this would require the approval of the City of St. Marys.

**Background:** Due to the rapid growth in Camden County over the past several years and considerably more residential impact projected in the near future, it has become imperative to widen Colerain Road/Laurel Island Parkway to ensure the safety and well being of its residents in the event of an emergency situation and the need for evacuation. Georgia DOT currently has this project for widening west of I-95 to end at Georgia Hwy 40 and east of I-95 at Laurel Island/Colerain to Kings Bay Road.

The County's position is with the expanded growth in the unincorporated area near and including the City of St. Marys necessitates the widening project to terminate at St. Marys Road. The expansion of the logical termini for Colerain Road to St. Marys Road would alleviate additional traffic flow from Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay for the families of naval personnel, as well as civilian personnel working on base in the event of a catastrophic event.

Cost projections for Phase I of this project, which includes logical western terminus at the I-95 Interchange and eastern terminus at the intersection of Kings Bay Road, are \$39,844,636.76 with Camden County's portion being \$11,000,000.00. Cost projections for Phase II have not been released to date, but are expected to be higher than Phase I figures.

**Action:** We are currently awaiting response from FHWA regarding their position on logical termini for this project. Camden County requests that serious consideration is placed in changing the logical termini of this project in order to ensure the protection of its citizens. Should logical termini be changed to expand through to Spur 40 the State would, in all belief, make Colerain Road/Laurel Island Parkway a State roadway (SR 40). In a state of emergency, if eastern logical termini remains at Kings Bay Road, this can only add to the already stressful conditions by requiring those residents in the St. Marys area to attempt an evacuation on a two-lane roadway, making the change in eastern logical termini to St. Marys Road "logical".

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