



TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT

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PRESSRELEASE

For Immediate Release:

July 7, 2015

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A Smoother Robert Toombs Avenue...

Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Project Resurfacing Vital City of Washington Route

WASHINGTON, Ga. – Robert Toombs Avenue (State Route 10 Business/US 78) within the City of Washington is getting some much-needed upgrades, including road resurfacing. By way of Transportation Investment Act (TIA) funding of \$695,000, Wilkes County will soon have a fresh, smooth surface on this major local and state thoroughfare throughout the downtown area.



Resurfacing of Robert Toombs Avenue in downtown Washington, GA

With work scheduled to begin today, contractor C&H Paving, Inc. will begin milling the 4.5 mile project on US 78/SR 10 Business beginning south of the Washington Bypass (US 78/SR 10) and extending to US 78/SR 10/SR 17. The milling and resurfacing work is expected to last 30 days or less.

Washington City Administrator, Sherri Bailey, expressed the importance of this project saying, “Robert Toombs Avenue is the... main street through our picturesque town. It is also the most traveled road in our City for those that work

in and shop local businesses throughout town, making it a priority.” She went on to say that “Everyone who lives, visits, or passes through Washington will benefit from the resurfacing of Robert Toombs Avenue. It will alleviate the many potholes that have developed over time and

help with water drainage issues.” Ms. Bailey stated that without TIA the City of Washington would not have had the funds to complete this project.

Lane closures will come up as the contractor approaches downtown, though the road will never be totally shut down at any point. C&H Paving will move as quickly as possible through the city’s parallel parking sections, as to not cause lasting issues with business and apartment access.

The general work schedule is set for 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily during the week. Lane closures are restricted from SR 44 (North Mercer Street) to SR 10 (Thomson Highway), and work is not allowed between 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. with school in session. Citizens should expect slight delays as this TIA project commences.

The Robert Toombs Avenue Resurfacing project was a Band 1 priority on the approved investment list passed by voters in 2012. The Georgia Department of Transportation is responsible for the management and delivery of 871 transportation-related projects valued at nearly \$1.2 billion in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA), Heart of Georgia Altamaha (HOGA), and River Valley regions of Georgia. To date, TIA collections total more than \$316 million in the three regions. The CSRA, which includes Wilkes County, has 84 projects on the approved investment list valued at over \$536 million during the 10-year program.

The project delivery is divided into three bands: Band 1 - 2013-2015; Band 2 – 2016-2019; and Band 3 – 2020-2022. All projects must be in the construction phase of delivery by December 31 of the last year of the band assigned.

In the early phase of delivery, the TIA Office faced several hurdles, including lower than projected collections and short time periods to develop projects from design to construction. Through extensive analysis of cash flow, budgeting, designs and packaging of work, along with offering a local delivery option, the TIA Office successfully overcame these hurdles and moved the program forward. As a result, Band 1 nears completion with all projects on schedule to begin construction by December 31, 2015.

Forty-six counties and their respective cities comprise the three regional districts that approved the TIA referendum last July. Cumulatively, they are expected to self-generate approximately \$1.8 billion in new revenue dedicated to local transportation improvements. Georgia DOT will coordinate work for cities and counties on some smaller jobs, and also assist in the engineering and construction management of larger projects. All of the projects were selected by regional commission roundtables of local elected officials after much public input. Seventy-five percent of the revenues will be utilized for the construction of these roundtable pre-selected projects while the remaining 25 percent will be disbursed to the regions’ governments each month on a predetermined formula basis for discretionary use on local transportation-related efforts.

Committed to full disclosure of its TIA-related activities, Georgia DOT maintains a webpage devoted to the program and featuring current updates on all project activities; it may be accessed by visiting: <http://www.ga-tia.com/>

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