

July 15, 2016

Beaufort County Holds Ribbon-Cutting for Bluffton Parkway 5A Flyover

Beaufort County hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony this morning for the Bluffton Parkway 5A Flyover, a mile-long elevated roadway designed to link Bluffton Parkway at Buckingham Plantation Drive to U.S. 278 and the bridges to Hilton Head Island. The flyover opening marks years of public engagement, planning, coordination, dedication, and collaboration, as well as design and construction.

The \$46 million project began in May 2013. Project funding came from a 1-percent sales tax approved by County voters in 2006 and a Federal Highway Administration grant of \$15 million via the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). More than 53,000 vehicles travel on this stretch of U.S. 278 daily. Based on estimates by the SCDOT, traffic is expected to decrease from U.S. 278 by 25-percent with about 13,000 vehicles being diverted to the flyover.

Beaufort County Councilmember Tabor Vaux helped to provide opening comments during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. After thanking all project partners, he stated that the opening of the flyover marks a significant move forward to Beaufort County's transportation system.

"The flyover will add to public safety by giving motorists an alternate evacuation route that will serve our County well for years to come. It is a perfect example of what transportation is all about. It supports jobs and businesses. It links jurisdictions. It joins communities and families."

Vaux added that the flyover also gives motorists spectacular views of the marsh between The Gatherings and Buckingham Landing, while demonstrating a defining community success for Beaufort County, the region, and South Carolina. For more information about this project, contact the Beaufort County Traffic and Transportation Engineering Department at 843-255-2940.

