Welcome

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) welcome you to this public information meeting concerning proposed safety enhancements along I-95 in Jasper County. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public an opportunity to review and discuss the proposed improvements. You are welcome to review the displays and either make a verbal or written comment. All materials from tonight’s meeting can be found at: http://www.scdot.org/inside/I95_Safe/default.aspx

What Improvements are Proposed?

The purpose of the project is to achieve significant reductions in traffic fatalities and serious injuries along the I-95 corridor between the South Carolina/Georgia State line (MP 0) and the Jasper/Hampton County line (MP 33). The project involves adding safety features to try to keep vehicles on the road and provide an area for vehicles that do leave the road the opportunity to recover or get back on the road. These safety features include adding rumble strips along the shoulders of the roadway and increasing the clear zone to comply with current national guidance. The clear zone is the unobstructed area beyond the edge of the traveled way that allows a driver to stop safely or regain control of a vehicle that leaves the traveled way. Clear zone values are based upon many factors including: vehicle speeds, vehicle volume, and crash data.

Additional improvements that are proposed in this project include installing cable rail, and strategic installation of steel beam guardrail in select locations to protect wetland areas and/or steep slopes.
Why is this Improvement Needed?

South Carolina’s fatality rate is currently the highest of any state in the nation and more than 50% higher than the national average. Nearly 60% of all fatalities in SC occur on our rural roadways. Further safety analysis has identified that approximately 30% of all rural fatal and severe injury crashes occur on just over 5% of the state’s total rural roadways which includes the entire length of I-95 with the exception of a portion in Florence County.

I-95 in Jasper County experienced 1,486 crashes, resulting in 31 fatalities and 81 incapacitating injuries between 2011 and 2015. In addition, 246 of these reported crashes involved vehicles hitting trees resulting in a total of 50 persons (20%) being fatally injured or incapacitated because of the crash.

When comparing this section of I-95 to the rest of the state’s interstate highway system, SCDOT safety engineers identified the following:

- Fatality rate is nearly 50% above state average for interstate highway system
- The percentage of run-off-road fatal crashes is more than twice the state average for interstate highway system
- The percentage of crashes involving trees is 40% higher than the state average for interstate highway system

What are the Next Steps?

SCDOT will compile all comments given at the public information meeting along with those that are mailed in. SCDOT will then review, evaluate, and respond to all comments.

Thank You

Thank you for your participation. Please share this information with any interested persons unable to attend today. Please contact Eric Hall at 803-737-2083 or hallse@scdot.org with any questions you may have. Thanks again for your participation and comments.

I-95 JASPER COUNTY FATALITIES & SERIOUS INJURIES (2011-2015)

A PERSON IS KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED EVERY 5 WEEKS ON I-95 IN JASPER COUNTY