



Orangeburg County  
Development Commission  
**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release



I-26 • US-301 • I-95  
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## **I-95/US 301 Interchange Improvements**

**Santee, S.C. – October 7, 2014** The highly anticipated I-95/US 301 interchange and exit improvements near the Town of Santee in Orangeburg County will begin October 13, 2014. The I-95 exit 97 and US 301 extension to SC 6 will have an official groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the Santee Conference Center.

The approximately \$40+ million project will be one of the largest construction projects in recent SCDOT history. This project will offer improved connectivity in the eastern anchor of South Carolina's Global Logistics Triangle (I-26 US 301 I-95). The project, which includes an extension from US 301 to SC Hwy 6, runs directly through the 1,300+ acres JAFZA Magna Site. The industrial park was established to create a logistic, manufacturing, and distribution park. This mega site in the eastern region of Orangeburg County takes advantage of being adjacent to I-95 and its proximity to the Port of Charleston.

The McCarthy Improvement Company located in Davenport, Iowa has been awarded the contract for the design-build project. The timeline for completion of the project will be an estimated 12 months. The SCDOT project will involve construction of a full access interchange from a currently partial interchange at I-95 and US 301. Construction will also involve building an extension of US 301, which currently ends at I-95, to SC Hwy 6. As a result of the new extension to SC Hwy 6, new turning lanes will be constructed at the junction of US 301 and SC Hwy 6. The project will also entail building a bridge over the existing CSX Rail line located in the construction zone.

The potential economic impact that this project will have is significant. This new interchange and connector will create a logistical benefit for the 1,300+ acre industrial park that gives it an advantage over other sites in the Southeast. The improved connectivity will greatly improve the attractiveness of the site to commercial and industrial development

"It's another great day in Orangeburg County," stated Johnnie Wright, Chairman of Orangeburg County Council. Councilman Wright continued by saying, "We are thankful to everyone who played a role in making this project a reality, especially Congressman Jim Clyburn and Senator Lindsey Graham. This project is another step in creating quality jobs for our citizens."

"This is a generational investment for the County," said Harold Young, County Administrator. "The impact on eastern Orangeburg County will create a foundation for future jobs and families for years to come. We're building a brighter future for our citizens."

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## I-95/US 301 Interchange Groundbreaking

“We must recognize that economic development is a process, not an event. It takes commitment, sacrifice, and patience as we prepare. Our thanks goes out to the Orangeburg County leadership for their continued efforts and vision to make our community a significant leader in manufacturing and distribution in South Carolina.” stated Ken Middleton, Chair of the Orangeburg County Development Commission.

Gregg Robinson, Executive Director of the Orangeburg County Development Commission expressed: “This will greatly assist the Port of Charleston and the SC Department of Commerce by providing a quality industrial location that is strategically located near the port and I-95 corridor. At the end of the day, capital investment leads to jobs and a better quality of living for our citizens. We must have the needed infrastructure in place at the right time to answer the call of business around the globe. This is a primary reason why Team South Carolina is and will continue to be a leader in the recruitment of business and industry in the Southeast.”

SCDOT has announced that during the construction period that the existing I-95 and US 301 interchange will be closed. Beginning October 13, 2014, all traffic will be detoured around the interchange. Southbound traffic on exit ramp 97 to US 301 will be detoured southbound to US 15. Northbound traffic on I-95 on-ramp will also be detoured to US 15. All motorists traveling through the construction area are advised to pay attention to the message board, detour signs, and be alert for equipment and crew members.

### FIVE FAST FACTS

- **\$40 million** will represent one of the largest construction project undertaken by SCDOT .
- Reconstruction of the existing partial interchange to a full-access interchange at I-95 and US 301
- The project will involve construction of a bridge over I-95 and a bridge over the CSX Railroad.
- Construction of the improvements are schedule to be completed within 12 months
- The improvements will give an added logistical advantage to the 1,300+/- acre industrial site

### **“IT’S A GREAT DAY IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY!”**

For more information, you may contact:

C. Gregory (Gregg) Robinson, Executive Director  
Orangeburg County Development Commission  
125 Regional Parkway, Suite 100  
Orangeburg, SC 29118  
Phone: 803.536.3333  
Fax: 803.534.1165  
Email: [grobinson@ocdc.com](mailto:grobinson@ocdc.com)