



Orangeburg County  
Development Commission  
**NEWS RELEASE**



For Immediate Release

I-26 • US-301 • I-95

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***Significant day for the I-95 Corridor and South Carolina's Global Logistics Triangle***

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**Wednesday, March 5, 2014:** The Jafza Executive team and SCDOT Officials met at the South Carolina Department of Commerce on Monday, March 3 to execute the paperwork for the new Interchange at I-95 (Exit 97) and US-301 Extension to SC Hwy 6.

The approximately US\$40+ million project will be the eastern anchor of South Carolina's Global Logistics Triangle (I-26 US-301 I-95) and represents one of the largest projects undertaken by SCDOT in recent history.

Jafza demonstrated their commitment to the region and the Jafza South Carolina project by donating 43 acres of land to the state in order to facilitate the development of this project, which will offer improved connectivity to over 2,000 acres for commercial and industrial development. Construction contracts have been awarded, and construction is expected to commence within the next 30-45 days.

The delegation of Jafza and Economic Zones World (EZW), the parent company of Jafza, was led by His Excellency Hisham Abdulla Al Shirawi Al Shirawi, Chairman of the EZW Board and Vice Chairman of Dubai Chamber of Commerce; Her Excellency Salma Hareb, Group CEO of the Jafza and EZW; Asim Al Abbasi, CFO; and Samir Chaturvedi, the head of EZW's Global Development.

In emphasizing Jafza's dedication to the South Carolina project, Al Shirawi congratulated the local leadership and the community at large on bringing the milestone project to fruition. In addition to improving connectivity to the larger area of Santee and the Jafza project site, the project will have larger socio-economic benefits in promoting growth and development in the local community.

"We are very impressed with the business friendly attitude of the Government of the state of South Carolina and the local authorities of Orangeburg, which adds to our confidence and vision for the Jafza South Carolina project" Al Shirawi said.

Salma Hareb further emphasized the importance of continued collaborative efforts of the state, the community and organizations like Jafza in reigniting the growth engines of the region. "Backed by Jafza's experience in developing and managing industrial and logistics Zones and the State's commitment towards improved multimodal connectivity through ports, road and rail, we have a very positive project evolving in Santee, South Carolina" she said.

"The success of our economic development efforts hinges on our inventory of good sites, buildings and parks," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt. "Working with our partners at the county and local levels, it is crucial to have quality product to show prospects looking to locate or expand in South Carolina. Having and keeping a robust inventory across the state is one of our top priorities."

"The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) has been working diligently to develop this project since its initial funding. The prospect of developing this portion of Orangeburg County has drawn the support of leaders from the local, state and federal levels. Jafza's recent visit to execute agreements and tour the project site shows their commitment to develop their proposed industrial facility adjacent to the I-95 / US 301 Interchange and SC 6 Connector also expedites our contractor's efforts to begin construction on the project. SCDOT is genuinely excited to see this project come together for the benefit of Orangeburg County, its citizens and the state of South Carolina." Christy Hall, PE – Acting Secretary of Transportation

Central SC Alliance Vice President David King stated, "We are highly focused on the continuation of product development in the region and remain confident that companies will find our region to be a cost effective location. Every day we are marketing available sites and buildings to a global audience that are dependent on a skilled workforce, superior transportation network and a business friendly state. These large scale projects require a tremendous amount of coordination and I would like to recognize the local, state and federal officials who have assisted Jafza in the process to reach this milestone."

"This is a very important milestone in the development of the I-95 Corridor and for the future development of eastern Orangeburg County. We have placed infrastructure on the forefront of economic development. We are thankful to everyone who took a part in making this a reality, especially Congressman Jim Clyburn and Senator Lindsey Graham, whose assistance was fundamental in making this project a reality at the federal level. This project is another significant step in creating quality jobs for our citizens. We appreciate the vision of our legislative delegation and, especially, our County Council for their commitment to the *Global Logistics Triangle*," said Johnnie Wright, Chairman of Orangeburg County Council.

"This is a generational investment for the County," Stated Harold Young, County Administrator. " This 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."

"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.

Mr. Gregg Robinson, Executive Director of the Orangeburg County Development Commission said: "The development of the interchange will create one of the best logistical parks in the Southeast. The 1,300+/- acres represent a true 'mega site' unlike any other in the State. 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 the 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."

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**"IT'S A GREAT DAY IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY!"**

For more information, you may contact:

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*Left to Right- Back:*

*Claude Ipock, SCDOT, Asim Abbasi, Hisham Shirawi, SCDOT Commissioner Sam Glover, Samir Chaturvedi, David Link SCDOT, Gregg Robinson, OCDC and Randall SCDOT*

*Young*

*In front:*

*Christy Hall, Interim Secretary of Transportation and Mrs. Salma Hareb execute documents related to the project.*



*Left to Right:*

*Mr. Asim Abbasi, SCDOT Commissioner Sam Glover, Mr. Hisham Shirawi, Senator John W. Matthews, Jr. and Mrs. Salma Hareb.*



*Left to Right:*

*Gregg Robinson, Salma Hareb, Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt, Hisham Shirawi, Asim Abbasi, Samir Chaturved.*



South Carolina

**Just right.**



Orangeburg County is Home to  
SOUTH CAROLINA'S  
Global Logistics Triangle  
I-95 US301 I-26