

CAROLINA CROSSROADS QUARTERLY

October/November 2023

Bridges!



A new bridge over the Saluda River from I-26 westbound to I-126 eastbound being constructed.

One of the most exciting aspects of a major road construction project is seeing infrastructure take shape. As you travel through the Carolina Crossroads corridor, you will see bridges in various stages of construction. That's an unmistakable sign that this project is proceeding with great vigor.

In Phase 1, there are three bridges currently being erected: a bridge from the Colonial Life Boulevard ramp to I-126 westbound, a flyover from I-26 westbound leading to Colonial Life Boulevard, and a bridge over the Saluda River from I-26 westbound to I-126 eastbound. All three bridges will likely open within months of each other, completely transforming travel within the corridor.

For the bridge nearest the river, all 89 drilled shafts have been completed, 25 of 32 caps have been poured, and drilling in the Saluda River has been completed.

In Phase 2, the substructure is complete and concrete beams have been set for one of two new Broad River Road bridges that will extend over I-20. In addition, construction for another bridge that will lead to an entrance ramp from Broad River Road towards I-20 westbound will begin soon. This bridge will make for a smoother transition for traffic traveling westbound towards Augusta.

Between Phases 1 and 2, there are a total of six bridges slated for construction. Five are already well underway.

Fun Fact

The bridge currently under construction spanning the Saluda River and beyond is one of the longest bridges within the Carolina Crossroads project. The distance is equivalent to 10 football fields.

Did You Know?



Steel Girders

Steel girders are horizontal beams that provide support for a bridge. Two of the three bridges within Phase 1 will utilize steel girders to span I-126 and new ramps.

Here, two girders are bolted together to form the curve of the new bridge being constructed from Colonial Life Boulevard to I-126 westbound. These two girders weigh 216,000 pounds, which is equivalent to eight full-sized school buses.



Steel girders being supported by three cranes.



Phase 1 Progress Report

Phase 1 of the Carolina Crossroads Project shows the greatest progress and will likely be the first completed. While erecting bridges is exciting to witness, there are a lot of tasks that go into the completion of a bridge.

Retaining walls are necessary components of bridge construction. These walls provide a stable foundation for the road and prevent soil erosion from causing damage to the road or surrounding areas. Currently, there are multiple retaining walls being erected along the Phase 1 corridor, which can be viewed along I-26 and I-126.

Oftentimes, utilities must be moved and/or relocated, to make way for the new roads. Most recently, a City of Columbia pump station and 24" waterline were relocated.



Bridge along Colonial Life Boulevard being painted.

As mentioned before, bridge work is very noticeable within the Phase 1 footprint. Travelers will notice that the existing bridges along Colonial Life Boulevard are being rehabilitated, including getting a new coat of paint. New bridges are undergoing pile driving to set the foundations, and girders are being placed. The CCR construction team is working with SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Congaree Riverkeeper, and CSX railroad to work within environmental and railroad guidelines.

Upcoming bridge work includes setting girders for the new bridges along Colonial Life Boulevard.



Steel form used to create concrete columns.



Three new bridges under construction along I-126.



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Phase 2 Progress Report

One of the most significant milestones within the Phase 2 corridor thus far is the relocation of Garner Lane. Instead of accessing Garner Lane from the I-20 eastbound ramp, travelers now access Garner Lane from Longcreek Drive. This updated design improves safety and minimizes congestion.

In addition to the relocation of Garner Lane, is the completion of the construction of a new temporary ramp from Broad River Road onto I-20 westbound towards Augusta. This ramp was created to allow the construction of a new bridge in the Broad River Road area. Initial groundwork includes installing drainage, erecting a retaining wall, and pile driving.

You can't miss the progress that is being made on the bridges within Phase 2 as you travel along I-20 near Broad River Road. You can observe the progress of this phase through the construction of retaining walls, the driving of piles, the erection of beams, and the clear view of foundational work, columns, and caps. All substructure work is complete on the Broad River Road southbound bridge.

Additional progress is listed below.

- Completed the barrier wall on I-20 westbound
- Completed MSE walls at the south bound Broad River Road bridge
- Relocating utilities along I-20 and Broad River Road
- Continued grading east of Broad River Road



The entrance of Garner Lane from Longcreek Drive.



A concrete beam being set on a new Broad River Road bridge that will extend over I-20.



A retaining wall being constructed along I-20 near Broad River Road.



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Project Photo Highlights



Steel girders and MSE wall for Ramp from Colonial Life Blvd to I-126 westbound.



Steel girders for Ramp from Colonial Life Blvd to I-126 westbound.



New Broad River Road bridge end cap that girders will be placed on.



Bridge piles that will support the end of the new Broad River Road bridge. A new retaining wall is also being constructed.



Bridge piles for both end bents as well as the center columns to support the new Broad River Road bridge over I-20.



Nearly completed retaining wall for the new Broad River Road bridge currently under construction over I-20.

CCR Word Search

How many words related to the CCR project can you find?

- Highway Project
- Garner Lane
- Westbound
- Ramp
- Substructure
- Interchange
- Steel Girder
- Eastbound
- Form
- Groundwork

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