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# Carolina Crossroads Quarterly

Fall 2024

## Brand New Access to I-26



The new, full access interchange at Colonial Life Boulevard allows drivers to more safely travel from I-26 to Bush River Road.

The new bridge over the Saluda River (Bridge 35) is complete and the new, full access Interchange at Colonial Life Boulevard is now officially open. This marks a major milestone for the Carolina Crossroads Project.

This is also one of the project's most significant traffic shifts to date with the permanent closure of the I-26 ramps on Bush River Road.

The Colonial Life Boulevard interchange allows drivers to more safely travel between Bush River Road and I-26 by giving drivers more time to change lanes and reducing some of the traffic weaves near the I-26/I-20 ramps.

The project team recognizes that this new traffic pattern is a major adjustment for drivers and appreciates the community's patience as everyone works to become comfortable navigating through the new Interchange.



## Phase 3B Awarded: Clearing & Grubbing Activity to Start in Early 2025

SCDOT has announced a notification of award to NJR Group, Inc. of Albemarle, NC for Phase 3B of the Carolina Crossroads Project.

Phase 3B activity includes the clearing and grubbing of approximately 170 acres along the I-20/26 and I-26/126 System Interchanges, St. Andrews Road at I-26 Interchange, and Bush River Road at I-20 Interchange. This work facilitates the advancement of critical utility relocations within the I-20 and I-26 Interchange area.

Phase 3B is a traditional design-bid-build project which means that the contractor team will not be involved in project design and will go right into construction activity in early 2025.

As work gets underway, the public will observe the removal of trees and underbrush to prepare for future utility and frontage road relocations. This will include the trees and shrubbery along I-26 between Bush River Road and Beatty Road on the westbound side of I-26 and Tram Road on the eastbound side. Work will also take place inside the cloverleaves at the I-20/I-26 Interchange.

The removal of these trees and shrubbery will improve sightlines for drivers and be another safety improvement prior to future project phases.



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## Phase 1 - Colonial Life Boulevard at I-126 Interchange

### Work is Progressing Along I-26



Aerial photo of I-26 facing east toward Charleston.



Construction of the retaining wall along I-26 westbound between Highway 378 and the Saluda River.

Phase 1 of the Carolina Crossroads Project is on track to reach substantial completion in early spring 2025.

In addition to the closure of the Bush River Road/I-26 Interchange, construction teams are hard at work progressing on other areas of Phase 1. Construction of the new retaining wall that runs along I-26 westbound between 378 and the Saluda River has recently been completed, and as we move into the spring, crews will begin final stages of work on Phase 1 which will include final paving and pavement marking work.

## Phase 2 - Broad River Road at I-20 Interchange

### Phase 2 Approaching Next Milestone



The newest bridge in Phase 2 connects Broad River Road Traffic to I-20 and I-26 westbound. It crosses over a new collector-distributor ramp.



Another new bridge has opened within Phase 2 of the project. This one is part of the new on-ramp from Broad River Road to I-20 westbound.

The bridge crosses over the future collector-distributor ramp (CD Ramp) that will take drivers from I-20 westbound to I-26 westbound. This new CD Ramp will increase safety and relieve congestion at this system-to-system interchange by allowing I-20 westbound traffic to continue flowing while drivers connecting to I-26 westbound travel along a separate travel lane.

The opening of the CD Ramp will mark another milestone for Phase 2 of the project.

Other activity in Phase 2 includes the ongoing construction of the second Broad River Road bridge over I-20. The median bent (column and cap), which supports the main structure, has already been completed and work on the end bents (steel piles and cap) is underway. Girders are anticipated to be placed by December, advancing the timeline for the bridge's completion and its integration into the broader traffic management system of the interchange.

Drivers are encouraged to continue to pay close attention to all posted signage and drive carefully through the project area.



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