

2022 Year in Review



Images of construction in various stages for the Colonial Life Boulevard at I-126 Interchange

2022 was a busy year for the Carolina Crossroads Program. It marked the beginning of major construction on Phases 1 and 2 and the start of procurement for Phase 3. If you've driven through the I-20/26/126 corridor lately, you have already seen significant changes. Our construction crews and project team are working hard to ensure that the redesigned corridor prioritizes your time and safety while also bringing long-term improvements to the Midlands.

On Phase 1 of the Program, drivers may notice a difference in the scenery as they travel through the Colonial Life Boulevard interchange at I-126. To date, we have completed tree clearing along I-126 eastbound and westbound for new Colonial Life interchange ramps. Widening work also began along I-26 eastbound for the new offramp to US-378 at Lexington Hospital, and along I-26 westbound, bridge foundation work began in areas adjacent to the Saluda River.

For Phase 2 of the Program, final design plans were completed and submitted for review and major construction activity began in late 2022. To date, we have begun the relocation of Garner Lane, began paved shoulder reconstruction on I-20 and shifted I-20 lanes in at Broad River Road.

More of these activities will take place over the next year, and they may occasionally result in a detour from your usual route. You can always find these updates on the traffic alerts page on our website. You can expect some nighttime work, barrier wall shifts, a change in the physical appearance of landscape, and new routes while construction is underway, but rest assured that these changes are only temporary and will result in improved travel in the near future.

Did You Know?



Barges are large vessels with flat decks. They are used for storage and to support heavy machinery, like large cranes, during the construction of drilled shafts and bridges.



Saluda River bridge barge under I-26 westbound



Saluda River bridge barge under I-26 westbound



PHASE 1 - Colonial Life Boulevard at I-126 Interchange

Phase 1 Snapshot

Phase 1 Highlights

- Drilled shaft installation continues on bridge along the Saluda River
- Completed paved shoulder reconstruction on I-126 eastbound and installed temporary concrete barrier
- Earthwork nearing completion on new I-26 eastbound exit ramp to US-378



Phase 1 design aerial view

Phase 1 Look Ahead

We plan to make even more progress in 2023 after a very productive year for Phase 1. Here's what we anticipate during the coming months:

- New bridges and ramps at Colonial Life Boulevard and I-126 Interchange
- Road widening and retaining walls along I-26 westbound exit to Colonial Life
- Bridge construction on I-26 westbound over Saluda River

PHASE 2 - Broad River Road at I-20 Interchange

Phase 2 Snapshot

Phase 2 Highlights

- Demolition of structures within Right of Way
- Continued construction of detention ponds for I-20 to I-26 ramp
- Began foundation work for the relocation of Dominion power lines



Phase 2 design aerial view

Phase 2 Look Ahead

We expect increased construction activity for Phase 2 as the new year begins. Worked planned in the coming months includes:

- Complete construction of Garner Lane relocation
- Continuation of clearing and grubbing to remove unnecessary vegetation and roots
- Begin construction of the new bridge over I-20 that will be parallel to the current Broad River Road bridge
- Lengthen exit ramp to help ease congestion on I-20 westbound for drivers merging onto I-26 towards Spartanburg

Phase 3 Update

While construction on Phases 1 and 2 is underway, Phase 3 procurement has made advances, as well. Two firms have been shortlisted: Archer-United-Blythe Joint Venture and Kiewit Infrastructure South Co.

The final Request for Proposal will be issued in February and the winning firm will be announced in December. The Notice to Proceed, a letter that authorizes the contractor to begin work, is expected in early 2024; construction is slated to begin later that year.

The most extensive of the five phases, Phase 3 will reconstruct the I-20/I-26/I-126 interchanges including the St. Andrews Road and Bush River Road interchanges by replacing the loop ramps with barrier-separated ramps. With these changes, the interchanges will be safer, reduce congestion and allow easier access to I-26 and I-20.

