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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**COUNTY USES COST-EFFECTIVE PROCESS IN
IMPROVEMENTS TO BUFORD DAM ROAD**

Foam asphalt cement process rebuilds road, increases safety

FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia – Local pennies are helping to make portions of Buford Dam Road like new. Forsyth County’s current Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax program, or SPLOST VI, is funding improvements along Buford Dam Road. Two overlapping county projects, funded by the one-percent SPLOST sales tax, are in progress: an intersection improvement project at Samples Road and Buford Dam Road, and the reclamation of Buford Dam Road. Both are scheduled to be completed by the end of October.

The project is adding turn lanes at Buford Dam Road where it crosses Samples Road and Lanier Beach South Road. Also included as part of this project is work to straighten out the angle at which these streets intersect Buford Dam Road, and the addition of a one-foot paved shoulder on each side of the road.

Forsyth County Assistant Director of Engineering Tim Allen said the end result will be a safer road. A foam asphalt process will help achieve this, and allows the county to complete the project in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

“It was more economical on this project to do a foam reclamation project than rebuild the entire roadway from the foundation up,” he said. “What you end up with is a product that is very much a new road. You take care of all the stress cracks, the degradation of the asphalt, the oxidation, the potholes, and you can typically, as we are doing with this project, widen the road out a foot to a foot and a half on either side of the road and get 11 to 12-foot travel lanes, which makes the road safer.”

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Allen said the process begins by grinding the existing road into a fine aggregate composition that is later mixed with foamed asphalt cement. Another mixing process involves the foamed asphalt cement, which is 320 degrees, being injected into water which makes the asphalt cement expand 100 times its normal volume to create a froth.

“It is then mixed back in with the aggregate and placed back down on the roadway, reshaped and compacted,” Allen said. “Once this process is done, the road is ready to be driven on immediately and then we come back and put a two-inch wearing surface of new asphalt on top of the foam reclamation base.”

Allen said the entire process is very quick and cost-effective.

“It typically takes half the time of a traditional asphalt widening and overlay project,” he said. “We have found it to be approximately 20 to 30 percent more economical to perform.”

When compared to traditional road projects, the foam asphalt projects result in less potholes or surface cracks for motorists, Allen said.

“Since you have rejuvenated essentially the entire road surface, you do not see these failures reappearing,” he said. “You basically get a new road that has a 10 to 15 year lifespan before needing to go back and repair the surface.”

Forsyth County Director of Engineering John Cunard said he appreciates the public’s patience during this project.

“We have worked to keep delays to a minimum while these worthwhile improvements are being completed,” he said. “We appreciate motorists’ patience and know they will soon be able to tell a difference when the project is completed.”

Allen said motorists will experience a smoother and safer ride when the project is completed.

“The travel lanes are much wider,” he said. “You have a paved shoulder and the road surface will be smoother. Motorists will notice that and have noticed it all along Buford Dam Road. We have received calls to commend the contractor and how smoothly and quickly it was done.”

The original Buford Dam Road was never expected to cope with the amount of traffic it receives today, Allen said.

“When it was built, it was never intended to accommodate the 11,000 to 12,000 cars a day it does now,” he said. “The asphalt that was here has been fatigued by the traffic volume. The daily loading and unloading of the asphalt has destroyed it to where it was in need of serious repair.”

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Forsyth County also utilized the foam asphalt cement process on recent improvements to Dr. Bramblett Road, another SPLOST VI-funded project.

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