

## **Charleston County News Release**

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## Traffic Alert: Tree Planting on Palmetto Commerce Parkway

Drivers asked to be aware of lane closures 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14

<u>Charleston County Government</u> announces lane closures on Palmetto Commerce Parkway in North Charleston from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14.

## **Details of the closures:**

- Approximately one year after construction, 20 of the new trees that were planted during Charleston County's <u>Palmetto Commerce Parkway project</u> did not survive.
- Crews will replace the 20 trees in the median of Palmetto Commerce Parkway.
- Both inside lanes next to the median will be closed from Ashley Phosphate Road to Patriots Boulevard.
- At no time will the entire roadway be blocked to traffic.
- The trees are being planted as part of the landscaping warrantee on the project.

## SIDEBAR: Background on the Palmetto Commerce Parkway Project:

- The project was funded by the Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax.
- The \$36 million project, nearly six miles in length, opened a new connection between Ashley Phosphate Road and Ladson Road, and relieves congestion along Dorchester Road and I-26.
- The project was finished on schedule nearly one year ago.
- The project was approved by voters in the first <u>Transportation Sales Tax bond referendum</u>.
  The voters of Charleston County authorized the County to issue \$77 million in bonds, which will be repaid through Transportation Sales Tax revenues.
- It serves as a direct route for workers traveling to facilities in the Palmetto Commerce Business Park.
- The project's completion was celebrated at an event on March 23, 2011 in front of the Daimler Vans Manufacturing facility.
- The Palmetto Commerce Parkway was constructed in two phases with the following improvements:
  - <u>Phase I</u> is a 1.7-mile widening and expansion project that added two lanes to the existing two-lane parkway and extended all four lanes 1,500 feet in length. Phase I construction started along the existing parkway and included these as well as other improvements:
    - An extension for the roadway of 1,500 feet, making Phase I a total of 1.7 miles in length
    - Widening the existing road from two to four lanes
    - Roadway lighting
    - Multiuse (walking and bicycle) path
    - Landscaped median
  - Phase II includes four lanes of all new roadway beginning where Phase I ended and continuing to Ashley Phosphate Road at North Spartan Road. Phase II includes:
    - An additional 3.9 miles of roadway
    - Divided four-lane roadway
    - Roadway lighting

- Traffic signals
- Multi-use (walking and bicycle) path
- Landscaped median

Visit <u>www.ccroadwise.org</u> for public meeting notices and up-to-date news and information about all Charleston County Transportation Sales Tax road projects.

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- written by Jennie Flinn -