Ceremony kicks off construction to widen Capital Circle Southeast

Six-lane corridor could open as early as 2010

By Jeff Burlew

Construction is beginning on the $83 million project to widen Capital Circle Southeast from just west of Woodville Highway to just south of Tram Road.

Blueprint 2000 officials as well as city and county leaders had a ground-breaking ceremony Wednesday on the project. The contract with Sandco calls for 900 days of construction, which means the new corridor could open in early 2010.

"We're hopeful that we'll maybe finish (the project) early," said Jim Davis, director of Blueprint 2000. "But it all depends on the weather.

The 2.2-mile stretch of road will be widened from two lanes to six lanes. The new road will have one straight sidewalk on one side and a meandering, or curving, sidewalk on the other. Bicycle lanes, curbs and gutters, stormwater improvements and landscaping are included in the project.

Blueprint 2000 uses proceeds from a 1-cent sales tax to pay for road and park projects and the acquisition and preservation of sensitive lands.

Voters approved the tax in 2000.

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