

Ms. Elissa Yount:

Secretary Conti asked me to respond to your recent email regarding the status of Chavasse Avenue in Henderson.

As you noted, this project was funded a few years ago, and by the time the City of Henderson acquired the right of way, our financial situation had declined. The Department is currently enduring the same financial constraints that many counties and municipalities are experiencing. Last year the Department had to prioritize many previously funded projects and determine which projects we could deliver based on the funding that is currently available to us, which is called the "Spend Plan". The Department had to make many decisions and I regret to inform you that this project is not in this year's spending plan.

In addition, the Southeast High Speed Rail (SEHSR) project goes through this intersection and actually closes the crossing. There have been many SEHSR meetings held in Henderson and the city is aware of this SEHSR corridor, impacts to the street system, and proposed crossing closures. It is my understanding that City of Henderson officials are aware of the SEHSR project and they have been very supportive of the plan. Also, there is a possibility that the funding for SEHSR may come sooner than later through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Please know that if the SEHSR project gets delayed for 5-10 years, we agree to consider it in next year's spending plan as there would be some benefits of the project for 5-10 years.

Our Division Engineer, Wally Bowman, has conveyed this information to the City of Henderson. Most recently he attended a meeting in Henderson on June 30, 2009, with Assistant City Manager, Frank Frasier, and other city commissioners and representatives. During the meeting, Mr. Bowman provided an update on the status of the Chavasse Avenue project and explained the Department's funding situation and decision to wait on the outcome of the SEHSR project.

If you have any additional questions concerning the status of the project, please call
Mr. Bowman at 919-220-4600.

Thank you again for your e-mail and concerns for the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Terry R. Gibson, P.E.
State Highway Administrator

cc: Wally Bowman, P.E., Division Engineer
Ellis Powell, Jr., P.E., Director of Field Support

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