

Talking Points for I 295 Campaign

Timeline

First identified in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program in **1978**, the I-295 Loop was envisioned as providing a multi-lane freeway to serve traffic demands and to provide direct access between I-95 and the Fort Bragg Military Reservation, with a new crossing of the Cape Fear River.

In **1989**, the section of proposed I-295 was identified as a part of the Intrastate System when the Highway Trust Fund was approved by the North Carolina General Assembly.

Construction funding for these projects was identified in the STIP in **1994**, with construction originally scheduled to begin in **1999**.

In **2003**, the NC General Assembly amended the legislation, designating the segment of the project that was then not constructed (from US 401-N to East of NC 24-87) a part of the Urban Loop System. (The segment from I-95 to US 401-N was completed in **2005**, utilizing equity formula funds.)

Delays in completing the pre-construction process (planning, design, and right of way acquisition issues) prevented the department from awarding contracts. Those matters have now been settled and construction of the next segment of I-295 is scheduled for construction in **2009**.

National Security and FORSCOM Relocation

- The addition of the FORSCOM 4-star headquarters significantly increases the security threat to Fort Bragg and the Fayetteville community. Expansion of I-295 is a linchpin in the U.S. Army-directed closure of an existing major access road (Bragg Boulevard) in order to meet this increased security threat.
- For the Global War on Terrorism, Fort Bragg has moved more than 34,500 18-wheel trucks, 745 million tons of cargo, 480 military convoys, and tens of thousands of soldiers. With no direct link to the State's interstate highway system, all of this movement has had to be on existing city roads
- The relocation of FORSCOM, USARC, and other military units is anticipated to greatly increase the strain on the area's existing road network. Without significant expansion and linkage to I-95, this growth

could severely impede the ability of units at Fort Bragg to respond quickly.

City of Fayetteville Impacts on Infrastructure

- Without the I-295 corridor, Fayetteville and the surrounding region will not be able to properly accommodate the anticipated 40,000 persons that will move to the region as part of the FORSCOM and USARC relocation.
- Fayetteville and the surrounding area are faced with a known economic expansion and the ability to accommodate can translate into the growth of a viable and valuable concentration of defense-related industry.
- Department of Defense has earmarked 21.8 million dollars for improvements to Murchison Road, a main access road to Fort Bragg that is anticipated to be part of the new road system that will accommodate the growing force structure. I-295 is a vital part of this proposed transportation sector expansion, as it will connect existing I-95 directly with Fort Bragg access roads and the improved Murchison Road, allowing for dispersal of traffic and population to the surrounding counties.

Impacts on Cumberland County GRP and Regional areas

- Total GRP for the counties surrounding Fort Bragg would increase by 1.1 billion dollars as a result of this expansion and relocation. This includes three Tier-1 counties in the state.
- The infusion of military, civilian, and supporting contractors-together with the accompanying investments needed for construction and related activities-is expected to provide a further boost to the Cumberland County economy and lead to a GRP increase of \$524 million
- Under the Fort Bragg expansion, the total demand of goods and services by Cumberland County is expected to increase by \$792 million.

Overall Economic Development Picture and What this means for Recruitment

- Failure to demonstrate the area's readiness and ability to accommodate this population growth will inhibit expected growth in the form of defense contract firms and economic migrants that will now be incentivized to relocate to positions close to FORSCOM and its 30 billion dollars in contracting authority.

- FORSCOM relocation is anticipated to increase Gross Regional Product by approximately 1.1 billion dollars and the State's Gross Domestic Product by 2.9 billion dollars.
- This expansion gives us the opportunity to preplan for known economic growth/opportunity for new industry as opposed to "regular growth" of other metropolitan areas.
- An infrastructure that allows relatively easy access to Fort Bragg and is conducive to area growth will be key to attracting these businesses to the (and thereby creating) All-American Defense Corridor endorsed by now Governor Elect Beverly Perdue. This industry would significantly increase both the tax base and consumer spending in the Fayetteville regional area.
- Completion of I-295 is the linchpin in an overall development plan designed to capitalize on the economic growth that will occur as a result of the increased military presence and to make the All American Defense Corridor a reality.
- Although North Carolina has 6 major military installations and is the 4th largest in number of military personnel in the nation, we still only rank 26 for the number of procurement dollars awarded to our companies. Of the 706 billion awarded in 2006, NC only received 2.9 billion in total contracts.