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S8M approved for Pleasant Hill Road expansion

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The Gwinnett County Commission has approved an \$8 million project to expand Pleasant Hill Road from Old Norcross Road to Buford Highway.

The project will connect a section of the busy road with the six-lane stretch that was previously widened between I-85 and Old Norcross Road.

"This will tie in earlier work at the Gwinnett Place mall area with the Duluth area," said Alan Chapman, deputy director of the Gwinnett Department of Transportation.

Construction work will begin in June at the Buford Highway intersection, Chapman said, to coordinate with the state DOT's re-routing of Pleasant Hill under Buford Highway and the railroad tracks.

The work should be completed by this fall, he said. The state project is expected to be finished by January.

The Gwinnett road-widening project has been in the works for four or five years, Chapman said. When it began, a citizens' committee estimated 58,000 vehicles pass through Pleasant Hill's intersection with Buford Highway every day.

The road-widening will relieve traffic and make the road safer by replacing a center turn lane with a raised concrete median, Chapman said.

The project includes sidewalks, gutters and a multiuse path that connects an existing bike-walk path with Shorty Howell Park.

"It shouldn't make commutes any worse than they currently are," Chapman said, noting that lane closures would occur during off-peak hours.

Work will be handled by E.R. Snell Contractor Inc., the longtime Snellville firm that's currently working on the extension of Sugarloaf Parkway.