Clemson streetscape project completed

By GREG OLIVER
greg@dailyjm.com

CLEMSON — With the exception of a few housekeeping measures, the City of Clemson's $1.7 million Tiger Boulevard Streetscape Enhancement Project is finished.

"I think it's taken us a long time to get this done and I'm glad we're finished," said Andy Blondeau, program manager for the City of Clemson.

Blondeau said the project began May 2008 and included sidewalk, street lighting, and drainage improvements. The Tax Increment Finance (TIF) project previously authorized by City Council in the TIF Redevelopment Plan consisted of three sections: general construction and landscaping, purchase of street light pole and light fixture assembly structures and electrical installation of the street lighting.

Work was initiated at Lake Hartwell on the eastbound side of Tiger Boulevard and continued to Guthrie's facing the Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce. Construction then moved across the street and headed down the westbound lane to Lake Hartwell.



Jessica Nelms/Staff

Work on the Clemson streetscape project, with improvements that included sidewalks, landscaping and tree plantings, is now complete.

The work later picked back up on the eastbound lane at the Ramada Inn and concluded at the Highway 93 Bridge. Blondeau said trees, shrubs and flowers have been planted on Tiger Boulevard.

Blondeau said the project account will be closed out within the next couple of months and that the city is awaiting $200,000 in Enhancement Grant money from the South Carolina Department of Transportation. The SCDOT portion was used to fund Phase I sidewalk work between the Ramada Inn and S.C. Highway 93.

Meanwhile, Blondeau said the Clemson Rec Department will be seeding grass between the sidewalk and curb areas that presently consist of a dirt strip.

"They will have to clean it up first by removing dirt and rocks along the entire length of the project," Blondeau said, estimating the length to be about a mile.

Blondeau attributed delays to an SCDOT audit, in which the agency was required to cease work on all enhancement projects as well as three weeks to remobilize once the go ahead was given. Utility problems and a sinkhole found near Keowee Trail also contributed to the delay.