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**To:** Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov  
**Date:** 4/29/2014 6:13:48 AM  
**Subject:** Roads, Bridges, and North Augusta Jobs Announcement -- Update from Sen. Tom Young  
– April 22 to 28, 2014

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**Roads, Bridges, and North Augusta Jobs Announcement -- Update from Sen. Tom Young – April 22 to 28, 2014**

One of my goals as your state senator is that you find this update helpful and informative. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated. If I can help you with an issue, please let me know. Thank you for reading and for allowing me to serve our District!

**North Augusta -- Big Announcement!** : Last Thursday, Medac, an anesthesiology billing company, announced that it will consolidate its operations to North Augusta from three locations outside of South Carolina. This announcement brings over 400 existing jobs and the potential for approximately 200 more jobs. Medac will be the largest private employer within the City of North Augusta. To learn more, go [here](#). To apply for a job, go to [www.careerbuilder.com](http://www.careerbuilder.com) and use the keyword search "Medac."

**Savannah River National Lab** : Last Wednesday, I participated in events surrounding the National Lab at SRS for its 10 year anniversary as a national lab. We are fortunate to have a national lab in our community and state. Our legislative delegation is working with state officials to utilize the lab's assets for private entrepreneurship and economic development.

**Roads and Bridges**

**SCDOT Presentation:** SCDOT provided its report on the "State of the SCDOT" to the Senate Transportation Committee last month. The SCDOT maintains 41,414 miles of roads -- the 4th largest state maintained system in the nation. The Department estimates that 10% of the interstate system is in poor condition but nearly half of the primary and secondary system is in poor condition. To see the full report, go [here](#).

**Roads and Bridges – Funding Issue:** In December 2012, a state task force released this [report](#) projecting that the state needs about \$1.5 Billion more per year for the next 20 years to meet anticipated infrastructure needs. My understanding is that amount means that the state needs to find \$600 Million more per year in state revenues for the next 20 years to fund SCDOT.

**Roads and Bridges -- Last Year's Budget Appropriations :** Last year, the General Assembly was able to put together a combination of one time and recurring money to pay for \$600 Million of interstate and bridge improvements around the state. The interstate improvements will be done over the next few years. While this was a good start, much more is needed.

**Roads and Bridges – Funding Solutions?:** The 2012 report referenced above suggests a number of ways to address the problem. Ideas include (1) dedicating all money from the automobile vehicle sales tax to roads (about \$103 Million per year); (2) dedicating all new general fund dollars collected over projections each year after the House budget is done; (3) dedicating 20% of new general fund revenue each year going forward; (4) dedicating some capital reserve funds; (5) passing a bond bill for one time infrastructure needs; (6) raising the gas tax and tying any future increases to increases in the consumer price index; and/or (7) dedicating all sales taxes collected on internet purchases in the state if and when Congress lifts the exemption on online businesses to collect (estimated at more than \$300 Million per year). Governor Haley said in her January State of the State Address that she will veto any increase in the state gas tax (set at 16.875 cents per gallon since 1987).

**Roads and Bridges -- Perspective:** South Carolina must address the impending crisis in our road and bridge infrastructure. Strengthening South Carolina's infrastructure will benefit our state for the long term and provide us with a competitive advantage over other states in our effort to keep existing businesses and to attract new and expanding businesses. The continued growth in Medicaid funding requirements – over \$400 Million in last year's budget even without accepting the federal expansion -- will present challenges as policy makers consider how to pay for Medicaid growth and still meet other needs in our state including those of public education and road and bridge infrastructure. The DOT report referenced above describes the situation and offers possible solutions for consideration by the Governor, the General Assembly, and the public. We need strong leadership on this issue. I will continue to work with other elected officials and private sector leaders to find a solution going forward. Your input is appreciated and valued. Please email me back or contact me by phone or in person with your thoughts and ideas on this issue.

**Local Road and Bridge Project Update :** In case you missed it, last week I provided an update on several local road and bridge projects. To see that information, go [here](#).

#### **Other News of Local Interest**

**National Day of Prayer :** This coming Thursday, May 1 is the National Day of Prayer. In North Augusta, the Mayor's Prayer Luncheon will be at noon on April 30

with featured speaker USC Head Baseball Coach Chad Holbrook. For more information, call 441-4350. In Aiken, a service will be held at the H. Odell Weeks Center from 6:45 to 8:00 pm on May 1. There will also be a program from noon to 1:00 pm at the Municipal Building on Park Avenue in Aiken. For more information about these events, call 640-4689. Whether you can attend these events or not, please know that prayer works and our state and nation need our prayers not just on May 1, but every day.

**Aiken County Teacher of the Year:** Congratulations to Harvetta Havird of Ridge Spring Elementary/Middle School for her being named Aiken County Teacher of the Year last night! She is a kindergarten teacher at the school.

**Hitchcock Parkway/Bypass -- Aiken:** The Aiken City Council will have significant input and decisionmaking on this project and its scope as the project moves forward. Last night, Council recommended (1) eliminating sidewalks in place of one multiuse lane for pedestrians and bicyclists and (2) narrowing the median as ways to reduce the potential project's cost and footprint. SCDOT plans to present an update on its progress with this project to the local Board of the Augusta Regional Transportation Study this Thursday, May 1 at 4:00 pm at the Aiken County Council Building at 736 Richland Avenue West. To learn more about the meeting, go [here](#).

**Certificate of Need:** Two weeks ago, the State Supreme Court upheld the certificate of need law that gives the state authority to approve plans of hospitals and nursing homes to add beds or build new additions. Last year, Governor Haley vetoed the appropriation for the program and the House of Representatives sustained the veto. The Department of Health and Environmental Control has appealed the decision. To read more, go [here](#).

**Celebrity Waiter Night, Relay for Life, Wounded Warriors, and Charitable Giving:** One of the largest and most widely supported charitable fundraisers in Aiken County is the Celebrity Waiter Night event held annually in May to raise money for Children's Place. Many children in Aiken County benefit from the efforts of those at Children's Place. The Celebrity Waiter event is May 12 in participating restaurants around Aiken. Also, Relay for Life in North Augusta is Friday, May 9 at North Augusta High School and Relay for Life in Aiken is Friday, May 16 at South Aiken High School. Hundreds of local residents walk to raise money for cancer research and prevention. The Aiken/Augusta Wounded Warrior Golf Classic is May 19 at Woodside. Thank you to all who help with these events. There are dozens of other philanthropic fundraisers and events held in Aiken County throughout the year. Our community's support for these worthwhile endeavors is one way which makes where we live special. If you can help with your time or your financial resources, please find a local charitable organization and contribute.

**Donate Life:** You can register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor through the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles or at [DonateLifeSC.org](http://DonateLifeSC.org).

## Constituent Information

**Legislative Email Updates :** Locally, three members of the House of

Representatives, who represent portions of Aiken County within Senate District 24, send regular email updates. Their respective contact information to get on their email lists to receive their email updates are as follows:

- Rep. Bill Hixon (Dist. 83): [bill@billhixon.com](mailto:bill@billhixon.com)
- Rep. Bill Taylor (Dist. 86): [bill@taylorscheuse.com](mailto:bill@taylorscheuse.com)
- Rep. Don Wells (Dist. 81): [dwells29801@gmail.com](mailto:dwells29801@gmail.com)

**Congressman Joe Wilson Contact Information** : Congressman Wilson now represents all of Aiken County. He has staff in Aiken County with office hours in Aiken and in North Augusta. His office number is [608-9747](tel:608-9747).

**Speaking with Groups Around the District** : If you are involved with a local group that would like for me to attend a meeting to provide a legislative update, please let me know.

**Report Waste, Fraud and Abuse in State Government** : To report waste, fraud and abuse in state government, you can call: [1-855-SC-FRAUD](tel:1-855-SC-FRAUD).

**Facebook**: I have a Facebook page for Senator Tom Young. Please “like” the page to receive updates during the week from me on Facebook.

**Tom Young's Website** : My website can be reached at <http://www.senatortomyoung.com>. There are links to a variety of constituent services; the status of sponsored bills; and roll call votes. Please add my web site as a bookmark on your computer.

**Small Business Help – SC Dept. of Commerce** : The South Carolina Department of Commerce has helpful information for small business owners and employees. To learn more, go to <http://sccommerce.com/south-carolina-business-network>.

**Save for College - Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan** : South Carolina's 529 College Savings Plan Future Scholar offers special tax benefits for South Carolina residents. To learn more or to enroll, go to <http://www.FutureScholar.com/parents>.

**Child Passenger Safety** : To learn more about ways to keep your children or grandchildren safe in your car, go to <http://www.bucklebuddiessc.org/>. The information at this link is provided in part by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

**Request a Flag** : If you would like to request a state or U.S. flag flown over the State Capitol in Columbia, please let me know at [tom@senatortomyoung.com](mailto:tom@senatortomyoung.com). Flags vary in cost according to their size and their material from which they are made.

**State House Tours** : Tours are available for the S.C. State House by calling [\(803\) 734-2430](tel:803-734-2430). If you set a tour between January and June and it is on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, please let me know so I can do my best to see you.

**Thoroughbred Country-- South Carolina Regional Tourism Organization** : To learn more about tourism in the four county region of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell, visit <http://www.tbredcountry.org>.

**Email Updates** : If you know of people in or around District 24 who do not receive my updates but they would like to get them, please email their names and email addresses to me.

**Road Issues** : If you see a road problem such as a pothole needing repair, call the SCDOT at [641-7665](tel:641-7665) or Aiken County at [642-1532](tel:642-1532) to report the problem. If you do not get a prompt response, please let me know at [tom@senatortomyoung.com](mailto:tom@senatortomyoung.com) or call me. Generally, most paved roads in the County are maintained by SCDOT and are identified on the road sign poles by a small black and white sign listing the road number, such as S-2-1669. Most unpaved roads in the County are maintained by the County.

Thank you for the opportunity and the honor to represent you. Please let me know if I can help you in any way or if you have questions about these or other issues. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Young  
649-0000 (o)  
215-3631 (cell)

Paid for by Tom Young for Senate

This message was sent to [katherineveldran@gov.sc.gov](mailto:katherineveldran@gov.sc.gov) from:

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