

Title: **Part of I-95 reopens; hundreds of roads still out**  
 Author: BY JOHN MONK jmonk@thestate.com  
 Size: 38.28 square inch  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



# Part of I-95 reopens; hundreds of roads still out

BY JOHN MONK  
 jmonk@thestate.com

Road conditions are improving by the day in South Carolina, but hundreds of bridges and roads remained impassable Monday, eight days after historic rains and floods devastated much of the Midlands.

The southbound lanes of Interstate 95, a major north-south corridor along the Eastern Seaboard, reopened Monday. However, the northbound lanes remained closed in the Florence area as S.C. Department of Transportation officials worked to shore up bridges.

"We originally sent 200 truckloads of concrete (for I-95's northbound lanes), but we've had to add 70 truckloads to that," said Gov. Nikki Haley at her noon briefing Monday.

As of noon Monday, 322 roads across the state were deemed impassable — a figure that included 98 bridges, according to the Transportation Department.

In some cases, road closings imposed major hardships.

In Richland County, the Richland 1 school district remained closed, in part, because of roads out in

the Lower Richland area. More than half of the district's 23,000 students ride the bus to and from school. School officials don't know when the roads will be safe enough for buses but they hope to reopen later this week.

Richland 1 runs more than 675 different school bus routes to elementary, middle and high schools, superintendent Craig Witherspoon at a press conference. At least 29 impassable roads and bridges are on routes that school buses usually take, but officials have been scouting for alternatives.

"We have to make sure those routes have been checked," Witherspoon said. "The impact of the roads are across the school system; it's not just isolated to particular areas."

Some 111 roads and bridges remained impassable Monday in Richland County, perhaps the state's hardest hit, in part because of more than a dozen broken dams.

The blockages include major commuter corridors, such as the bridge over

**SEE ROADS, 7A**

FROM PAGE 3A

## ROADS

Gills Creek in the low-lying area where Devine Street changes to Garners Ferry Road at Fort Jackson Boulevard and Rosewood Drive.

State Rep. Joe Neal, D-Richland, who lives in Hopkins, said numerous parents are having to stay home with their children, babysitting them since they can't get to school.

Other parents can't get to work because the dirt roads that lead from secondary roads to their

homes have been washed out, Neal said. Those dirt roads are not included on any official count of washed-out roads, Neal said.

In neighboring Lexington County, County Council chairman Johnny Jeffcoat said some 85 roads and bridges in his area remain impassable. But that is better than the 205 closures reported last week, he said.

Local residents appear to be coping with the detours and longer travel

times, Jeffcoat said.

He added he couldn't begin to estimate how much it will cost to repair all the damage.

"This is massive. I don't know how much it will be, but it will run into the millions and millions of dollars," Jeffcoat said. "To get us back normal, it's going to be awhile."

A major Lexington commuter corridor, off I-77 to the 12th Street extension in Cayce, still is partially blocked by

high waters, Jeffcoat said. That route leads to Amazon, SCANA and Nephron Pharmaceuticals, which combined employ thousands.

Many workers at those businesses use Interstate 77 to go to work but that exit is closed due to flooding, Jeffcoat said. Instead, many commuters are traveling over to I-26 and using Old Wire Road to get to Amazon, SCANA and Nephron, he said.

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Title: **RICHLAND LEGISLATORS TO HOST FLOOD-RECOVERY MEETING**

Author:

Size: 5.89 square inch

Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

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**RICHLAND LEGISLATORS  
TO HOST  
FLOOD-RECOVERY  
MEETING**

State Sen. Joel Lourie and state Rep. Beth Bernstein will host a community meeting on flood recovery Tuesday in the Forest Lake neighborhood, hit hard by this month's historic flooding.

Representatives of Gov. Nikki Haley's office, the state Transportation Department, other state agencies and the federal emergency management will be present to take questions. The meeting will be held at Forest Lake Presbyterian Church, 6500 N. Trenholm Road, at 6 p.m.

Title: **Help our fellow citizens**

Author:

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## Help our fellow citizens

Gov. Nikki Haley, (Adjutant General Bob) Livingston and other state and local emergency officials surely have helped decrease the loss of life by staying on top of the evolving natural disaster. From before the floods hit, they were warning people to take shelter, stay off the roads and not risk their lives. First responders proved once again why they are considered such heroes as they rushed to help evacuate people who were in dangerous situations. DOT employees have worked much overtime, often in dangerous situations themselves, to help stranded drivers and, as much as possible, keep roads open for travel.

The financial losses will be in the billions in our state. The potential for further destruction will not have ended until the last fragile dam expels the water collected from what is being called a 1,000-year flood and the last vulnerable bridge has been checked out and certified as capable of holding vehicles.

Our state will be forced to repair parts of a highway system

that already was crumbling. State residents will have to pull together, as they did for years after Hurricane Hugo, to help neighbors find new houses and cars,

and South Carolina rebuild from such terrible losses. President Barack Obama telephoned Gov. Haley soon after the scope of the disaster became apparent. South Carolina will need the federal aid coming its way, and state residents should demand that their elected representatives never forget how dependent all 50 states are on each other when such tragedy strikes.

For now, South Carolinians not affected by the floods are looking for ways to help. ...

In the meantime, some easy and safe ways to donate are: Red Cross Disaster Relief at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS or text the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

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- Greenville News

Title: **I-95 section reopens as victims view soggy ruins**

Author: BY ANDREW KNAPP and GAVIN JACKSON [aknapp@postandcourier.com](mailto:aknapp@postandcourier.com) [gjackson@postandcourier.com](mailto:gjackson@postandcourier.com)

Size: 89.59 square inch

Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



# I-95 section reopens as victims view soggy ruins

## Rivers falling, but areas still flooded

BY ANDREW KNAPP and  
GAVIN JACKSON  
[aknapp@postandcourier.com](mailto:aknapp@postandcourier.com)  
[gjackson@postandcourier.com](mailto:gjackson@postandcourier.com)

Officials partially reopened Interstate 95 on Monday as South Carolinians besieged by flooding struggled to fathom the devastation in their communities revealed by receding water.

The southbound lanes on the 16-mile stretch of I-95 through a low-lying area reopened at 8 a.m.

Monday, according to the S.C. Department of Transportation.

Motorists likely will be able to use the northbound lanes by early Tuesday.

The busy interstate had been closed for eight days as workers repaired 13 small bridges damaged by floodwater. The department said 4,000 man hours were spent on the work.

While the highway was shut down, motorists had to take a 170-mile detour through Columbia instead of

the 75-mile drive on I-95 between Interstates 26 and 20. The added traffic often jammed up I-26 south-east of Columbia.

Please see **WEATHER**, Page A6

# S.C. floodwaters receding

**WEATHER**, from A1

The progress on I-95 was "great news," Gov. Nikki Haley said Monday during a news conference, but 322 roads and 98 bridges remained closed throughout the Palmetto State. Breaches also have been reported at 27 dams.

The number of storm-related fatalities has held at 19 since late Friday, when officials added the deaths of two Orangeburg residents who drowned when their vehicle flipped into a watery ditch in Horry County the night before.

A cost estimate for the damage done to homes, roads and businesses remained unknown as officials plan to move this week from response mode to "a massive recovery situation," the governor said.

"We are in high gear," she said. "If we thought we worked a lot last week, we're working double-time this week."

## 'Still under water'

Rain-swollen rivers in the Lowcountry and the Pee Dee, meanwhile, continued to recede after the four-day storm at the beginning of October dumped more than 2 feet of rain on parts of the area. That gave some residents a chance to return home and take in the damage.

In Andrews, one of the hardest-hit areas just south of the Black River in Georgetown and Williamsburg counties, residents were still contending with serious flooding, Mayor Rodney Giles said Monday.

There, the water had risen so fast during the rainstorm that people woke up to find their homes flooded. Many had to be rescued, the mayor said.

Giles estimated that 100 homes in the area had water damage. The town has fewer than 3,000 residents. The Federal Emergency Management

Agency was set to arrive there Monday to conduct a formal assessment, he said.

"People are ready to get back to normalcy right now," he said. "They're just anxious to see what resources they can tap into to restore their homes."

A Black River measuring site in Kingstree, which is north of Andrews, hit 22.6 feet at its height, besting a 1973 record crest of 19.77 feet, according to the National Weather Service. By Monday, it had dropped to 13.15 feet, but with more rainfall last weekend, it was expected to tick upward again to 13.6 feet in the coming days.

That leaves the area in minor flood status through at least this week.

The subsiding floodwater, though, allowed some residents to get back to their homes after authorities reopened Cherry Street in the town, Giles said.

Deep water has lingered along

S.C. 41, which crosses the Black just north of Andrews. That road remains closed.

"This caught a lot of people off-guard," Giles said. "At some of the area houses, you could only see the rooftops. A lot of homes are still under water."

## Picking up the pieces

Other rivers in the area continued a slow descent.

The Waccamaw River in Conway was at 15.9 feet, down from 16.2 feet over the weekend. That still amounts to major flooding for the area, where flood stage is 11 feet, according to the Weather Service.

In Orangeburg, the north fork of the Edisto River dropped to 8 feet. That's around minor flood stage. But like the Black, the Edisto may rise again because of last weekend's rainfall, cresting at more than 9 feet by Thursday and causing minor flooding.

The Santee River near Berke-

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ley County's Jamestown was at 21 feet on Monday, down a foot from the weekend. There was still moderate flooding in the area.

Members of the Berkeley County legislative delegation toured the county Monday with DOT Commissioner Jim Rozier to see damaged roads. Jean-clad legislators climbed down embankments and peered through holes in the roadbed to get a first-hand idea of the damage.

"I just had to see this for myself," said Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Daniel Island. "People drive around barriers and don't realize how unsafe it is, but the dirt underneath some of these roads has washed away."

The DOT hopes to approve some emergency contracts to

expedite road repairs.

Employees have been working 12-hour days and most have only taken one day off since the rain, said SCDOT District Engineering Administrator Robert Clark.

Work to fix a bridge on S.C. 41 in Berkeley County is still ongoing and likely to be finished by midweek, while repairs to the Wadboo Creek Bridge on U.S. Highway 17A in Macedonia are likely to take a month.

Members of the Dorchester County delegation and county councilmen also toured their county Monday.

"For several days last week, I told people to stay home, so I did too," said Dorchester County Council Chairman David Chinnis as he surveyed the damage to Dorchester Road

near Trolley Road, where one lane and part of a curb was washed away by the flood. "So this is really my first look at the damage."

Banks Construction is doing the repairs to Dorchester Road. The work is expected to take about 10 days.

"If all goes well, we should have everything (in Dorchester) opened except for the roads that are affected by the Edisto River, by Friday," said SCDOT Engineer David Pilch.

Most of the region has been declared a major disaster area by the federal government. By Monday, FEMA had taken more than 37,000 applications for individual financial aid and had already approved \$13.2 million to help those affected by flooding, Haley said.

Some areas had started pick-

ing up the mess the storm left behind.

Debris removal was underway in Lexington, Richland and Sumter counties. The DOT is leading those efforts in Dorchester, Lexington and Sumter counties and the town of Summerville, Haley said.

But much of the state's focus also has shifted to finding more-permanent homes for the 304 people still staying in shelters, the governor said.

"This is not going to take us years to come out of this," she said. "We are a team that's ready to get South Carolina back to where we used to be."

**Brenda Rindge of The Post and Courier and The Associated Press** contributed to this report.



## Online

For more photos and video, go to

[postandcourier.com/multimedia](http://postandcourier.com/multimedia).

For an interactive map with tweets, photos and video of the flooding, go to

[postandcourier.com/flood-map](http://postandcourier.com/flood-map).

For an updated forecast, go to [postandcourier.com/weather](http://postandcourier.com/weather).



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CHUCK BURTON/AP

**A truck rests near a washed-out road outside Columbia on Oct. 5. Most of the flooded region has been declared a major disaster area by the federal government.**

Title: **\$32M export center to bring 200 jobs**  
 Author: BY DAVID WREN [dwren@postandcourier.com](mailto:dwren@postandcourier.com)  
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# \$32M export center to bring 200 jobs

Upstate startup to build on 107-acre Charleston County site with rail access off U.S. 78

BY DAVID WREN

[dwren@postandcourier.com](mailto:dwren@postandcourier.com)

Sea Pac LLC, an Upstate-based startup company that plans to transport plastic pellets to overseas manufacturers, is investing \$32 million to build a large export operation off U.S. Highway 78.

The Greenville company expects to create 50 jobs initially and more than 200 in the next five years, Gov. Nikki Haley's office said Monday.

Established in 2014 by Upstate entrepreneur Jon McClure, Sea Pac plans to build a 1.5 million-square-foot export center on 107 acres of undeveloped land in Charleston County, next to the former Force Protection plant. The company said it chose the site because it is served by a Norfolk

Southern rail line and is close to the Port of Charleston.

McClure said he hopes to have the first phase finished within two years.

"The first objective was to secure the site, one close enough to the port with rail access. Our goal is to have the first 400,000- to 650,000-square-foot building completed by mid-2017," he said in a written statement.

Demand for plastic pellets used in an array of products, from paper and china to fuel and windshields, is soar-

ing. About 5 million tons of them — or a little more than 200,000 cargo containers — will go to overseas markets on ships leaving the U.S. each year.

Jim Newsome, CEO of the State Ports Authority, said plastics resins "are a key commodity sector" for the maritime agency and "a significant component of the port's planned above-market volume growth."

While much of the plastic resin exports sail from the Gulf Coast, where the bulk of production takes place, Newsome is confident the Charleston port can grab its share because — unlike ports in the Gulf — the East Coast is on the main trade routes for the major shipping lines.

Production of the pellets used to be mostly concentrated in the Middle East, but it has moved back to the U.S. because of the declining costs of shale oil and natural gas, which are used to manufacture the resin.

"The chemical industry in America, on the petrochemical side, is in a huge expansion mode," McClure told The Post and Courier in August, after his Stoney Ladson LLC bought the Highway 78 site for \$5.4 million.

Anita Zucker, chairwoman of the

Charleston Regional Development Alliance, cited "the region's rail, logistics, fast permitting and competitive incentives" as factors in luring Sea Pac.

"This was a seamless team effort," she said.

McClure, a University of South Carolina graduate, went to work in the plastics packaging business in 1983, and he

stepped out on his own to launch ISO Poly Films Inc. with \$1,200 in cash and a \$10,000 line of credit in 1997. Four years later, Ernst & Young recognized him as its Carolinas Entrepreneur of the Year.

The Gray Court company quickly grew into a sizable player in the plastic films industry, with two manufacturing sites, 160 employees and \$115 million in sales in 2013. McClure sold a majority stake in the business in 2009 and the rest last year.

His latest venture was code-named "Project Gray" while Charleston County Council reviewed and approved tax breaks and other incentives for Sea Pac.

**John McDermott of The Post and Courier** contributed to this report.



**Upstate entrepreneur Jon McClure wants to export plastic pellets through the Port of Charleston.**

Title: **Help our fellow citizens**

Author:

Size: 18.44 square inch

Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



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- Greenville News



Title: **I-95 reopens as SC dries out**  
 Author: By MEG KINNARD and JEFFREY COLLINS The Associated Press  
 Size: 40.3 square inch  
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# I-95 reopens as SC dries out

Haley not estimating  
damage from floods

By MEG KINNARD  
and JEFFREY COLLINS  
The Associated Press

CHAPIN — As the worst of the floodwaters that roared through South Carolina washed out to sea, Gov. Nikki Haley and other officials said Monday it is time to start recovering instead of reacting to the ongoing emergency.

Workers reopened the entire stretch of Interstate 95 southbound Monday, making it the first time in eight days that traffic on the major highway link from Florida to the Northeast didn't take a two-hour detour. Crews hope the northbound lanes would soon follow.

Again on Monday, Haley refused to speculate how much damage

in dollars the massive floods that started Oct. 2 have caused and how the state might pay to fix it. But she promised to rebuild.

"This is not going to take us years to get out of this," the governor said.

Haley also thanked volunteers, law enforcement and other workers for their times. Those helping included people such as Bob Kuenzli, who usually works as a police officer at a school in Chapin, but while school was cancelled last week, put on a South Carolina State Guard uniform and was assigned to help at a Columbia food bank.

Kuenzli, 68, was directing traffic

Friday when a food bank volunteer, 72-year-old Charles Kauffman, became irritated that Kuenzli was letting truck traffic move and stopping other cars.

"Out of the corner of my eye, I saw him coming my way," Kuenzli told reporters Monday. "He sped up and threw me. ... I got thrown to the ground."

An angry Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott made sure Kauffman was charged with attempted murder.

Kauffman's lawyer said at his

**Please see FLOOD on 9A**

## FLOOD

Continued from 1A

bond appearance Sunday that he has apologized to Kuenzli and is taking medication after suffering two recent strokes. Kauffman's bond was set at \$75,000 and he was put under house arrest after being released from jail. There was no answer Monday at a phone number listed for him, and his attorney did not immediately return a message.

Kuenzli broke a bone in his wrist. But the Air Force vet-

eran from the Vietnam War was ready to go back and volunteer as soon as he could.

"I was just doing my job," he said, his left arm in a sling. "That's all I was doing."

Thousands of other people in South Carolina have also been working long hours, including crews continuing to fix a breach in the canal that supplies Columbia drinking water. Reserve tanks had been refilled and the city hopes to get all 375,000 of its

customers off a boil water advisory soon. The South Carolina State Fair in Columbia was on schedule to start Wednesday in Columbia, and Lott said his deputies could handle traffic and security for the University of South Carolina's football game scheduled for Saturday.

Contractors were also busy putting rock and concrete to shore up the foundations under more than a dozen small bridges over rivers

and swampland on a 13-mile stretch of Interstate 95 that had been closed since Oct. 3. The southbound lanes were reopened Monday morning, ending a 168-mile detour through Columbia for people trying to drive the 75-mile stretch between Interstate 20 and Interstate 26.

The repairs were permanent and the bridges shouldn't have to close again, said South Carolina Department of Transportation Sec-



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retary Christy Hall.

Officials hoped to reopen the northbound lanes of I-95 by this morning.

And as officials announced

every rain-swollen river in the state had finally reached their crests and were falling, the governor promised to send teams of insurance ad-

justors, mental health professionals and unemployment specialists to every hard-hit community so those people wouldn't have to drive out of

town to get help.

"We are going from a massive response situation to a massive recovery," Haley said.

Title: **Help our fellow citizens**

Author:

Size: 23.09 square inch

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## OTHERS SAY: EDITORIALS FROM AROUND SOUTH CAROLINA

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## FLOODING

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BY MEG KINNARD AND  
JEFFREY COLLINS

Associated Press

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CLIF LEBLANC cleblanc@thestate.com

Columbia Canal repairs are underway, but officials won't say when it would be fixed.



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Author:

Size: 22.94 square inch

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- Greenville News

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**STATE RESIDENTS SHOULD DEMAND THAT THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES NEVER FORGET HOW DEPENDENT ALL 50 STATES ARE ON EACH OTHER WHEN SUCH TRAGEDY STRIKES.**