

[I-80 Corridor Development](#)

Development opportunities on I-80 south of Chicago
www.chicagosouthlandedc.org

[Exits](#)

Looking for Exits? Find exactly what you want today.
Yahoo.com

[Live Traffic Updates](#)

Get Driving Directions with Traffic Conditions! Free Maps Toolbar
Maps.alot.com

Ads by Google

Home | List of Interstates | Signed Routes | Unsigned Routes | Former Routes | Future Routes | Business Routes | All About Interstates | Official FHWA Interstate Route Log and Finder list | Three-Digit Interstates (3di) at Kurumi.com



Interstate 3



Route Status [Southern Terminus](#) [Northern Terminus](#)

Proposed Routing

Interstate 3 is the proposed designation for a new freeway corridor along the Savannah River corridor between Savannah, Georgia, and Knoxville, Tennessee. Proposed previously as the Savannah River Parkway, it was elevated to Interstate status through a bill introduced in July 2004 by Georgia Representative Max Burns. The highway has an initial numbering of Interstate 3 in honor of Fort Stewart's 3rd Infantry Division's lead role in the War on Terror in Iraq. Interstate 3 would be known as the "3rd Infantry Division Highway."

The new freeway corridor would start in Savannah at the current interchange between Georgia 21 and Interstate 95. Interstate 3 would then aim northwest from Interstate 95 via Georgia 21 past Springfield to the Sylvania Bypass and then onto U.S. 301 north. The freeway would depart U.S. 301 at Georgia 24, then continue northwest via Georgia 24 to Bypass U.S. 25 at Waynesboro. Interstate 3 would then follow U.S. 25 north to Interstate 520, then overlay Interstate 520 to the west of Augusta and passing by proposed [Interstate 14](#). North of Interstate 20, Interstate 3 would follow Georgia 104 north to Georgia 47 at Leah, then take Georgia 79 from Lincolnton north to Georgia 72 east of Elberton. Interstate 3 would head west to Elberton via Georgia 72, then continue northwest via Georgia 77 to Hartwell. After passing Interstate 85, Interstate 3 would take over Georgia 17 northwest to Toccoa, Clarkesville, and Hiawassee.

After departing Hiawassee, Interstate 3 would leave Georgia and enter North Carolina, following Georgia 17 and North Carolina 69 north to U.S. 64 west to Murphy. At Murphy, the freeway would follow U.S. 19-129 north and U.S. 74 east via an existing expressway to Topton, then head north along U.S. 129 to the western edge of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and onward into Tennessee. Once in Tennessee, Interstate 3 would follow U.S. 129 north through Maryville and Alcoa, then pick up Interstate 140 north to meet Interstates 40-75 just west of Knoxville. This interchange would serve as the northern terminus.

Interstate 3 is a somewhat disputed designation for this route because it does not fit into the grid pattern of U.S. Interstate highways. Lower, odd-numbered, north-south routes exist in the West. However, since there are no easily identifiable available numbers, Interstate 3 was proposed. However, this corridor could easily become a southern extension of Interstate 81 or even given an even designation such as Interstate 18 (similar to the trajectory of Interstate 24 or Interstate 26). Hopefully this designation will be altered, especially since Interstate 3 may someday be a number needed for California and the West Coast!

Route Status

The concept of Interstate 3 (and companion Interstate 14/14th Amendment Highway) was originally proposed by Republican Representative Max Burns from Georgia. A planned "Route Initiation Act" was authored by Rep. Burns in July 2004 for the 108th Congress that would authorize a study of the planned Interstate 14 corridor: "To require a study and report regarding the construction and designation of a new interstate from Savannah, Georgia to Knoxville, Tennessee." This act is known as the "Interstate 3/3rd Infantry Division Highway Initiation Act of 2004."

According to the act, the Interstate highway is necessary for several reasons, including (1) linking defensive installations across the South, including Fort Gordon, Eisenhower Army Regional Medical Center, the Augusta Veterans Administration Hospitals, Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield, and the Port of Savannah, "which is in the strategic defense interest of the Nation." (2) In addition, economic benefit would be achieved through this new Interstate highway because "East Georgia, Western North Carolina, and the Great Smoky Mountains region of Tennessee are underserved by north-south interstate highways, and [these regions] would benefit economically and through increased public safety by establishment of an interstate highway." Finally, this highway would honor the sacrifice of the United States Army 3rd Infantry Division, which was involved with various events in the Iraq War,

Top Health Stories

"I Fixed My Yellow Teeth!"
 Read a single mom's trick to whiter teeth.

"My Teeth Aren't Yellow Anymore"
 Learn the trick, discovered by a mom, to turn yellow teeth white from home.

simulated imagery momsteethstory.com

Mileage

State	Georgia
Mileage	TBD
Cities	Savannah, Sylvania, Waynesboro, Augusta, Lincolnton, Elberton, Hartwell, Toccoa, Hiawassee
Junctions	Interstate 95, Interstate 520, Interstate 20
State	North Carolina
Mileage	TBD
Cities	Murphy, Andrews, Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Junctions	--
State	Tennessee
Mileage	TBD
Cities	Maryville, Knoxville
Junctions	Interstate 140, Interstate 40, Interstate 75
TOTAL	TBD
Source: --	

[I-80 Corridor Development](#)

Development opportunities on I-80 south of Chicago
www.chicagosouthlandedc.org

[Cabin Rentals in North GA](#)

(877)-857-3107 Luxury Cabin Rental Hot Tub, Game Room, on the River
www.BlueSkyofHelen.com

[Interstate Map](#)

Find more sources/options for Interstate Map
www.webcrawler.com

[Hotels in Savannah](#)

Great Hotels in Savannah GA Free Internet & Kids Eat Free!
www.HolidayInn.com

Ads by Google

including taking over Najaf, seizing Saddam International Airport and Saddam Hussein's palaces, and fighting on the day of Baghdad's "liberation."⁴

The bill was introduced in the House of Representatives by six members of Georgia's delegation in late July; the legislation was written by Representative Burns. Companion legislation for Interstates 14 and 3 was filed in the Senate by Georgia Democrat Zell Miller and Georgia Republican Saxby Chambliss.¹ The bill is assigned the designation [H.R. 4925](#) and was introduced on July 22, 2004. The bill requires the Secretary of Transportation to study the two proposed Interstate routes and present options for construction to Congress by December 31, 2004. For more, visit Rep. Burns' [official webpage](#).

On November 2, 2004, Representative Max Burns was defeated by Democrat John Barrow. Due to the extensive, bipartisan support of the freeway, local suggest that new Representative Barrow is likely to lobby just as hard for the road as Burns did. Changes to the corridor are possible, especially since Barrow is from Sylvania in Screven County (along the Interstate 3 corridor) and Barrow is from Athens, which is not along the originally envisioned Interstate 3 corridor. Athens does not currently have a main interstate link through it, although U.S. 78 passes through the town. Georgia 316 is a four-lane parkway from Interstate 85 in Gwinnett County near Atlanta.³ As of March 2004, plans call for the conversion of Georgia 316 into an upgraded toll freeway complete with interchanges and HOV lanes.⁵ It is unclear whether this expanded Georgia 316 highway would connect to Interstate 3 or become part of the Interstate Highway System.

On August 10, 2005, the legislation to study the Interstate 3 corridor was signed into law by President George W. Bush as part of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). However, the Interstate 3 designation was not written into law. Here is the text from Section 1927 of SAFETEA-LU:

SEC. 1927. 14TH AMENDMENT HIGHWAY AND 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION HIGHWAY.

Not later than December 31, 2005, any funds made available to commission studies and reports regarding construction of a route linking Augusta, Georgia, Macon, Georgia, Columbus, Georgia, Montgomery, Alabama, and Natchez, Mississippi and a route linking through Savannah, Georgia, Augusta, Georgia, and Knoxville, Tennessee, shall be provided to the Secretary to-

1. carry out a study and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the steps and estimated funding necessary to construct a route for the 14th Amendment Highway, from Augusta, Georgia, to Natchez, Mississippi (formerly designated the Fall Line Freeway in the State of Georgia); and
2. carry out a study and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the steps and estimated funding necessary to designate and construct a route for the 3rd Infantry Division Highway, extending from Savannah, Georgia, to Knoxville, Tennessee, by way of Augusta, Georgia (formerly the Savannah River Parkway in the State of Georgia).

Completion of the route would be costly. It is anticipated that Congressional support will bring needed funding to the project. Thus far, the Savannah River Parkway (which follows the Interstate 3 corridor between Savannah and Augusta and is assigned as future Georgia 555 and Georgia 565) is being upgraded to expressway standards, but it is not complete. If funding is identified through the efforts of Congress, the entire corridor would be upgraded to Interstate standards.

Southern Terminus - Interstate 95 - Savannah, Georgia

This terminus location is just an approximation at the current time. Therefore the concept of trying to photograph the location is impractical and not requested at this time.

Northern Terminus - Interstate 40 and Interstate 75 - Knoxville, Tennessee

This terminus location is just an approximation at the current time. Therefore the concept of trying to photograph the location is impractical and not requested at this time.

Sources

1. "Highway idea may be boon for state: Lawmakers push 2 new interstates" by James Salzer, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* published on 07/23/04 (includes map of route for Interstate 3)
2. Craig, Jeremy, "Interstate 3 and Interstate 14," July 26, 2004, personal email from an Augusta resident
3. Craig, Jeremy, "RE: Interstate 3 and Interstate 14," November 6, 2004, personal email from an Augusta resident
4. [Representative Max Burns Official Webpage](#)
5. "Two more firms to bid for Ga. 316 toll project" by Duane D. Stanford, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* published on 03/22/04

Page Updated August 10, 2005.