

# Tree razing angers I-385 neighbors

Greenville News 2/28/02

## City to study how to landscape wider interstate

By E. Richard Walton  
STAFF WRITER  
rwalton@greenvillenews.com

Irene Morrah isn't pleased with how the landscaping along Interstate 385 in Greenville is being handled.

"Why don't they stop cutting trees until they come up with a plan," the Overbrook resident, whose neighborhood overlooks the roadway, said Wednesday.

The mayor of Greenville says the plan is in the works.

The city will propose how to landscape I-385 following the "tree devastation," Greenville Mayor Knox White said. The study, to be completed in three months, will focus on I-385 from Pleasantburg Drive to downtown, White said.

The action comes two weeks after DOT's executive director, Betty Mabry, toured I-385.

The city and residents from the Overbrook com-

munity are upset so many trees were cut. Overbrook is near the Stone Avenue exit of I-385.

"The issue for us and driving into town is that it's a pretty messy thing," White said. "It's pretty well devastated now."

White said SCDOT previously budgeted \$1 million for landscaping.

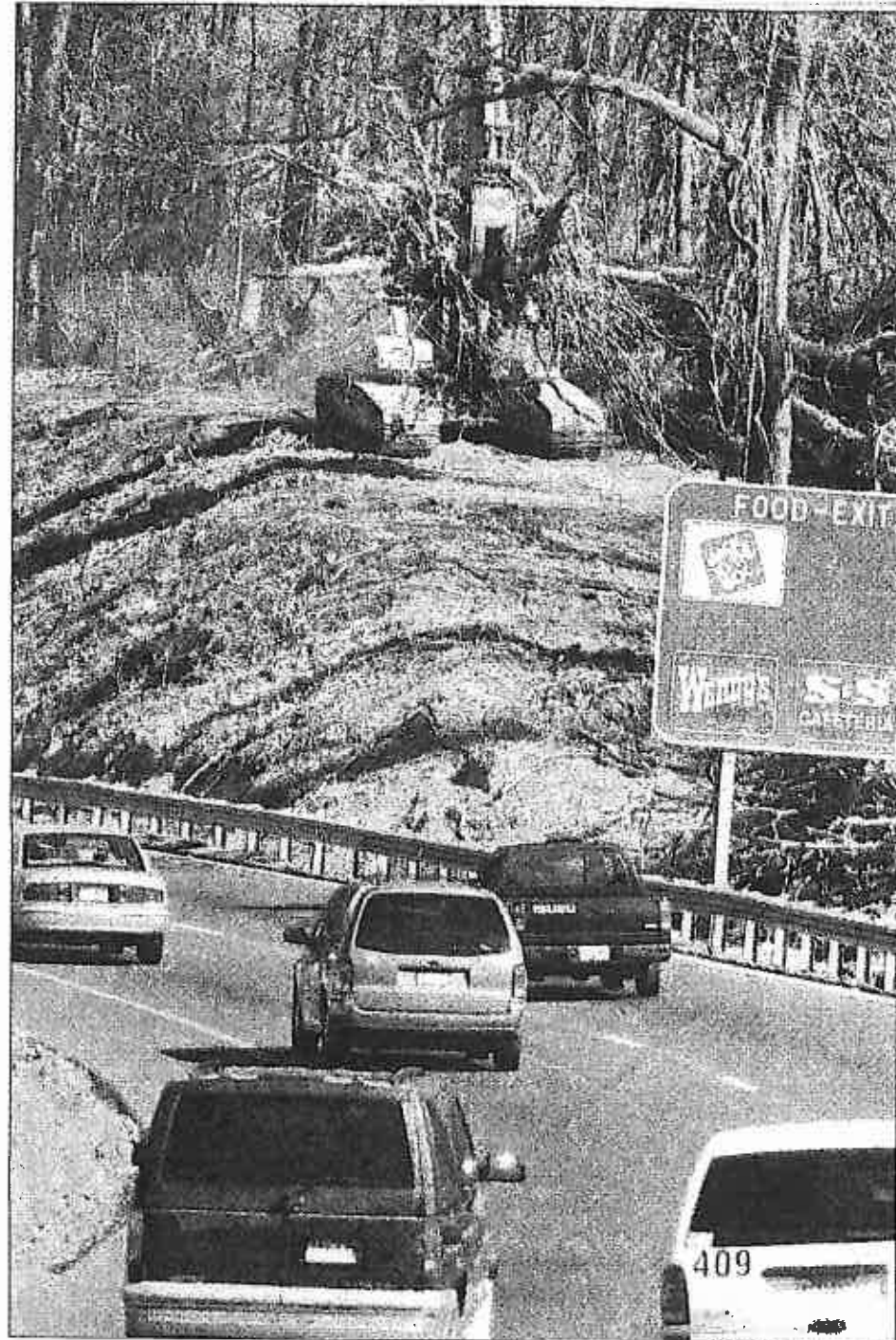
"The area is more devastated than anyone expected," the mayor said.

Earlier this month, the city hired Fulbright Partnership for \$28,000 to assess the extent of the damage.

Katie Chamberlain of Upstate Forever said her environmental group is assisting Overbrook, the city and DOT with a "conceptual plan" for the landscaping.

"We're still in the information-gathering stage," she said. "We're trying to work with the city to see what they can afford."

The mayor said the city is interested in returning the stretch to its former splendor because it sets the tone as motorists drive into downtown. It's the city's gateway, he said.



BART BOATWRIGHT / Staff

**Clearing space:** The removal of trees to widen Interstate 385 has angered some residents of the nearby Overbrook neighborhood.