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## Money sought to ease Bragg traffic gridlock

**By Henry Cuningham**

**Military editor**

Fort Bragg's director of public works on Monday publicly asked a North Carolina senator and congressman for help with the Army post's transportation challenges.

U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan and U.S. Rep. Larry Kissell were among about 170 people at the N.C. Defense Business Association membership luncheon at the Crown Center.

"This is where, senator and Mr. Kissell, you can help us greatly, and that's find money for us," Greg Bean said as he flashed a slide on a screen showing multimillion-dollar transportation projects.

The proposed road alignments and intersection upgrades total \$228 million.

Hagan and Kissell said afterwards that they are familiar with Fort Bragg's traffic concerns and support the projects.

"I've come to Fayetteville quite often," Hagan said, "so I know that transportation and gridlock is certainly a big issue. When we even have more soldiers come on base it will be a bigger issue. ... It's something I'm certainly going to be looking at and working to help. It's definitely needed."

Hagan delivered the keynote address, in which she advocated getting North Carolina's low number of defense contracts in line with its large military presence.

She is attending this week's ninth annual Defense and Economic Development Trade Show and Government Procurement Workshops at Fayetteville Technical Community College.

Kissell said he has been working on those issues since he took office, and that he has talked to Fort Bragg's commander recently and key congressmen.

Fort Bragg's past and current garrison commanders say their top concern is the effect of 21st century growth and traffic on the Army post's 1950s road network.

"The most important is the extension of the All American Freeway from Longstreet (Road) up to Butner (Road)," Bean said. "That's required to get vehicles off of Reilly. ... If we could find a way to get people moving north and south other than Reilly Road, it would reduce a lot of the traffic."

The cost of the extension is \$21 million.

Fort Bragg would like to realign and widen Woodruff Road to move traffic rapidly from east to west, he said. The cost is \$55 million.

The other important project is construction of the Odell Road gate, south of the Pope Air Force Base runway. Odell Road goes east-west from N.C. 87 in Spring Lake to the Pope Air Force Base boundary.

The cost of the Odell Access Control Point is \$47 million.

"That will reduce an awful lot of traffic coming in from the north," Bean said.

The proposed Odell gate would allow traffic to bypass the "malfunction junction" where N.C. 87, N.C. 210 and Murchison and Butner roads come together in Spring Lake, he said.

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