



Department of Transportation

HAROLD E. LINNENKOHL
COMMISSIONER
(404) 656-5206

GERALD M. ROSS, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER
(404) 656-5277

State of Georgia
#2 Capitol Square, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-1002

BUDDY GRATTON, P.E.
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
(404) 656-5212

EARL L. MAHFUZ
TREASURER
(404) 656-5224

September 27, 2007

Thank you for attending the Public Hearing Open House for MSL-0004-00(433), Rockdale County, P.I. No. 0004433, the proposed widening and reconstruction of Millers Chapel Road from SR 20 to SR 138 and of Parker Road from SR 138 to south of Flat Shoals Road. This handout package contains a map of the project area, information about the need and purpose, a description of the project, a summary of the environmental study, an overview of the right-of-way acquisition process, and a comment form.

As you enter the room, you will notice displays of the proposed projects. Department of Transportation representatives, who can be identified by the name tags they are wearing, are available to discuss the projects and answer your questions. Please take this opportunity to discuss the project with a DOT representative. There will be no formal presentation.

A court reporter will be available for those persons who would like to make a verbal statement about the project. You may also complete a comment card and deposit it into the box provided here or send in written comments about the projects until *October 11, 2007*. Written comments should be sent to *Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental/Location Engineer, Georgia Department of Transportation, 3993 Aviation Circle, Atlanta, Georgia 30336-1593*. Comments can also be made via the web at www.dot.state.ga.us. Click on **Public Outreach** from the list of Featured Links. All comments will be made a part of the project record. We hope you will take advantage of one of these opportunities to let the Department know your view of the proposal.

The displays used at this meeting will be available for review at the Georgia Department of Transportation Decatur Area Office located at 805 George Luther Drive, Decatur, Georgia 30332 as well as at the Rockdale County Administration and Services Building located at 958 Milstead Avenue, Conyers, Georgia 30012. A copy of all comments received will be available for public review at the 3993 Aviation Circle address noted above, as soon as compilation is completed.

Again, thank you for attending this meeting and for giving us your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James B. Buchan".

James Ben Buchan, P.E.
State Urban Design Engineer

JB/LBR/epei-tvm

Attachments

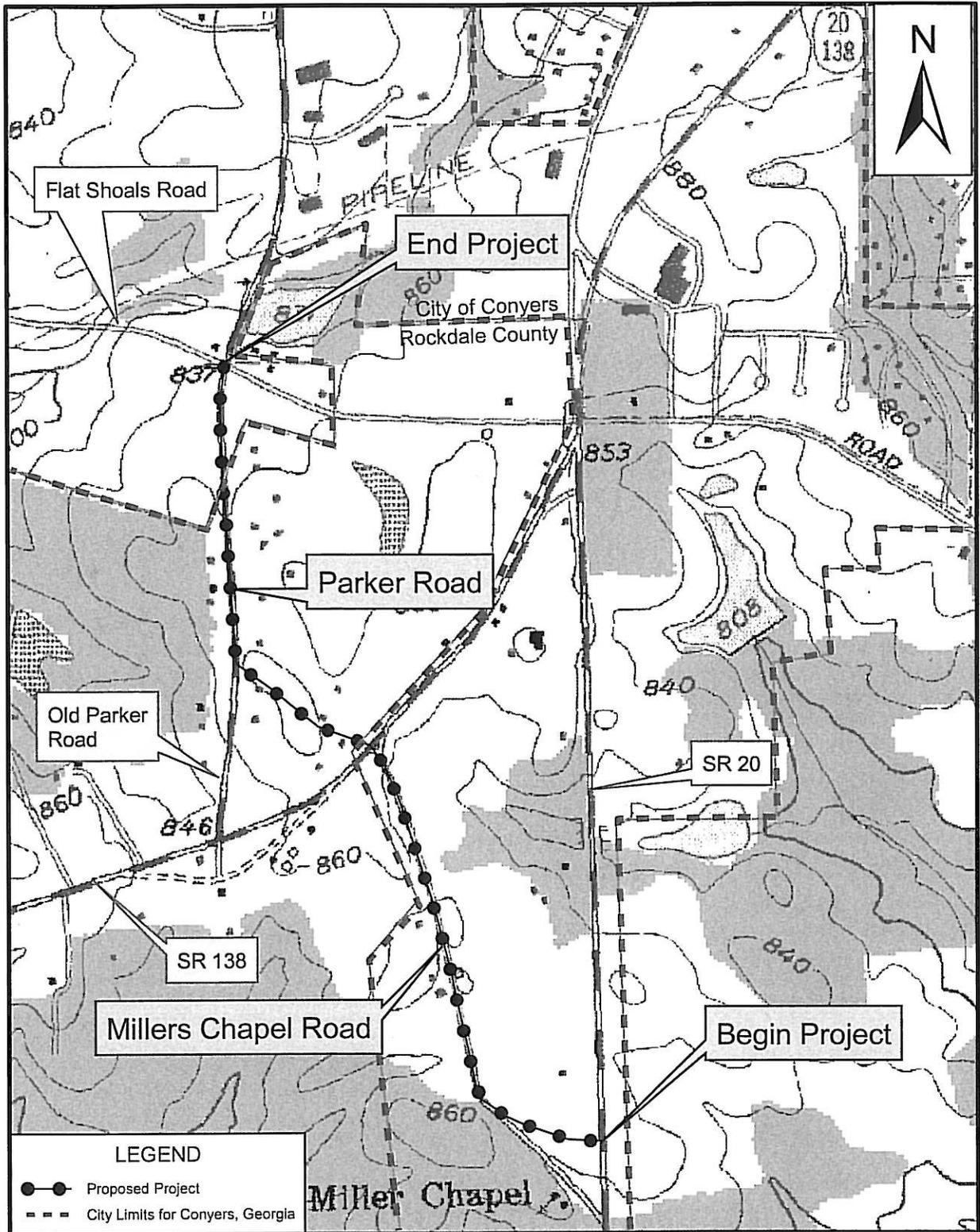


FIGURE 1
PROJECT LOCATION
 PARKER RD./MILLERS CHAPEL RD., PHASE III
 SR 20 TO FLAT SHOALS RD.
 MSL-0004-00(433), P.I.0004433
 ROCKDALE COUNTY



SOURCE: CONYERS, GA QUADRANGLE/
 USGS 7.5' SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1,000 500 0 1,000 Feet

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PROJECT MSL-0004-00(433), ROCKDALE COUNTY, P. I. NO. 0004433

WIDENING AND RECONSTRUCTION OF MILLERS CHAPEL ROAD FROM SR 20 TO SR 138 AND OF PARKER ROAD FROM SR 138 TO SOUTH OF FLAT SHOALS ROAD

Project Need and Purpose

Rockdale County is a diverse and growing community located on the eastern edge of the Atlanta Metropolitan Region. The population of the county has grown rapidly over the past decade and a half and it is estimated to continue at this rapid growth pace through the next decade. In 1990 the population was 18,336 and by the year 2000, the population had grown to 24,052. The population is projected to be 33,644 in the year 2009. One of the byproducts of this increase in population is the increase in both regional and local travel demand. A result of this travel demand increase, when applied to the existing transportation infrastructure, is traffic congestion. When congestion reaches unacceptable levels, it can have a devastating effect on an areas economy and perceived quality of life.

In order to meet the transportation infrastructure needs of this growing population, several key transportation corridors were recommended for improvements. Improvements to the Parker Road corridor are considered as one of the keys to improving the overall transportation network of Rockdale County. Project MSL-0004-00(433) is the third of three phases of the overall project to enhance the connection between the City of Conyers, SR 20 and SR 138 via the Parker Road corridor. The objective of the project is to provide a uniform typical section for Parker Road and for Millers Chapel Road that will adequately handle future traffic needs, provide for pedestrians and bikes, and incorporate context sensitive design to be compatible with the surrounding community. Once completed, the project will help reduce congestion along the SR 20 and SR 138 corridors.

Description of Alternatives

Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative is a roadway widening on existing alignment mostly using a symmetrical overlay for the proposed construction. The project limits of the preferred alternative are composed of two segments. The first segment is the widening of Millers Chapel Road (increased lane widths but no additional travel lanes) and begins at SR 20 then proceeds north for approximately 0.7 mile to SR 138. The second segment is on Parker Road (additional lanes) and begins at the intersection of SR 138 then proceeds north for approximately 0.5 mile to Flat Shoals Road. The total project length is approximately 1.2 miles. The preferred alternative, if chosen, would form the third of three phases of the overall project to connect the City of Conyers to SR 20 and SR 138 via the Parker Road corridor.

The Millers Chapel Road portion of the preferred alternative would begin at SR 20. There is an existing entrance to the Irwin Place residential development, Jimson Way, directly opposite Millers Chapel Road at its terminus at SR 20. A traffic signal would be added at the intersection of Millers Chapel Road/Jimson Way with SR 20. Due to the lower traffic volumes on this portion, Millers Chapel Road would remain a two-lane roadway. The project would widen Millers Chapel Road to two 15-foot travel lanes (one in each direction) with a 20-foot raised grassed median and an 18-foot urban shoulder with a five-foot sidewalk on the east side and a 24-foot urban shoulder with a ten-foot multi-use path on the west side in accordance with the City of Conyers Mixed Use Village Overlay District specifications. The multi-use path is designed to accommodate both pedestrians and bicycles.

Two roundabouts would be added to Millers Chapel Road at the new commercial development entrances for Target. The roundabouts would have a truck apron feature in addition to the appropriately

designed pavement to accommodate truck traffic. The roundabout style entrances are secondary. The main entrance is located off SR 20.

The Parker Road segment of the preferred alternative begins at SR 138 then continues north to Flat Shoals Road. The traffic signal at the Parker Road/Millers Chapel Road intersection with SR 138 would be upgraded to include pedestrian signals and crosswalks. Due to the higher traffic volumes on this portion, Parker Road would be widened from two 11-foot lanes to four 12-foot travel lanes (two in each direction) with a 20-foot raised grassed median, 16-foot urban shoulder with a five-foot sidewalk on the east side and 20-foot urban shoulder with a ten-foot multi-use path on the west side. Again, the multi-use path is designed to accommodate both pedestrians and bicycles. The intersection of Parker Road and Flat Shoals Road would be improved as part of the Parker Road Phase II project, although the addition of sidewalks to the east and west sides of Parker Road south of the Flat Shoals Road intersection would be included as part of this preferred alternative.

No-Build Alternative

The no-build alternative is one in which neither GDOT, Rockdale County nor the City of Conyers would take any action to improve Millers Chapel/Parker Road between SR 20 and Flat Shoals Road. The City of Conyers controls development along the Millers Chapel Road segment of the project corridor and is likely to continue to approve adjacent commercial development such as the Target Store. Other development is also anticipated to cause traffic along the corridor to increase. As traffic builds on the existing roadway facilities, congestion will increase and the corresponding traffic flow will worsen. The purpose of the preferred alternative is to enhance the connection between the City of Conyers, SR 20 and SR 138 via the Parker Road corridor by improving capacity and decreasing congestion along the corridor. The no-build alternative does not address the need or serve the stated purpose. The no-build alternative would leave in place the substandard lane widths and pedestrian facilities. However, none of the impacts associated with the preferred alternative would occur.

**SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY
PROJECTS MSL-0004-00(433)
ROCKDALE COUNTY,
P. I. NO. 0004433**

In compliance with the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act, the Georgia Department of Transportation has conducted an assessment of the social, economic and environmental effects for the proposed widening and reconstruction of Millers Chapel Road from SR 20 to SR 138 and of Parker Road from SR 138 to south of Flat Shoals Road. The length of the proposed project is approximately 1.2 miles. The following information is a summary of the environmental document.

No residential or business displacements would occur as a result of the preferred alternative. Property owners would be compensated for their losses.

In accordance with Executive Order 11990, the proposed project was surveyed for waters of the U.S. A total of six waters of the US were identified within the project area: one stream and five wetlands. The anticipated impacts to the waters of the US include a total of 220 linear feet of stream impacts and 1.10 acres of wetland impacts. Due to the proposed impacts to the waters of the US, the project would require a Nationwide Permit 14 from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

In accordance with Executive Order 11988, the proposed project was surveyed for floodplain involvement. No floodplains were identified within the project area.

Transportation conformity is required for Federal transportation projects in areas that have been designated by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as not meeting the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). These areas are called nonattainment areas if they currently do not meet air quality standards or maintenance areas if they have previously violated air quality standards, but currently meet them and have an approved maintenance plan. On January 5, 2005, the EPA designated a 20+ county metro Atlanta nonattainment area (including Rockdale County) for fine particulate matter, called PM_{2.5}. This designation became effective on April 5, 2005, 90 days after EPA's published action in the Federal Register. Transportation conformity for the PM_{2.5} standards applies as of April 5, 2006, after the one-year grace period provided by the Clean Air Act. Metropolitan PM_{2.5} nonattainment areas are now required to have a transportation improvement program (TIP) and a long range transportation plan (LRTP) that conforms to the PM_{2.5} standard. The project is in the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) conforming Mobility 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and FY 2006-2011 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) identified as TIP number RO-15E. The Federal Highway Administration and Georgia Department of Transportation have addressed PM_{2.5} Hot-Spot Analysis and determined the Widening and Reconstruction of Millers Chapel Road from SR 20 to SR 138 and Parker Road from SR 138 to south of Flat Shoals Road project is not considered "a Project of Air Quality Concern" per the transportation conformity rule, and as such meets the statutory and regulatory requirements for transportation conformity without a PM_{2.5} hotspot analysis. Further, it has been determined that this project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act and 40 CFR 93.116 requirements.

Three residential receivers would be impacted on the basis of approaching the Noise Abatement Criteria set forth by 23 CFR Part 772. Noise abatement measures, such as vegetative and structural barriers, traffic management, and alignment alterations, were considered, but none were found to be reasonable and feasible.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the project has been surveyed for existing and eligible National Register properties. No existing or eligible National Register properties were identified.

The proposed project would not affect any threatened or endangered plant or wildlife species, as none are located in or frequent the project area.

A survey for sites which may contain hazardous materials, including soil and/or water contaminated by leaking underground storage tanks, has been conducted for the proposed project. No UST/Hazardous waste sites were identified within the project area based on this survey.

Copies of the environmental document are available at this hearing for your review or by sending your request to:

Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E.
State Environmental/Location Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, Georgia 30336-1593

**RIGHTS OF WAY ACQUISITION
PROJECT MSL-0004-00(433), ROCKDALE COUNTY,
P. I. NO. 0004433**

Rockdale County will assist families or individuals in finding and relocating to decent, safe and sanitary housing which is adequate to meet their needs and within their financial means. Assistance will also be given to businesses, farm operators, and nonprofit organizations in relocating to other quarters. This assistance is provided to families, individuals, businesses, farms and nonprofit organizations in the form of moving expenses in order for them to relocate. In addition, owner or tenant occupants of residential housing being displaced will be provided financial assistance for increased costs they may encounter in buying or renting. Owner occupants may also be provided financial assistance for certain other incidental expenses such as closing costs and increased interest payments required in their purchase of a replacement home.

The proposed project would not displace any residences or business displacements.

In making an appraisal, the appraiser will contact each property owner and arrange a convenient time to make an on-site inspection of the property with them. After completion of the appraisal, the appraisal will be reviewed for accuracy to insure that all items relating to value have been considered in establishing the amount to be offered.

Rockdale County is aware of the problems experienced by individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofit organizations when they are required to move. It is our commitment that no family or individual will be required to relocate until comparable decent, safe, and sanitary housing is available or is provided for those who are initial occupants, or adequate decent, safe, and sanitary housing is available or provided for those who are subsequent occupants. Additionally, Rockdale County will provide assistance to the business in relocating to other sites and will encourage it to remain in the community.

The information pamphlet "What Happens When Your Property is Needed for a Transportation Facility" is available at the entrance. This booklet outlines the services offered and any payments for which you may be eligible, such as moving expenses and replacement housing benefits for owners and tenants. The brochure also outlines the eligibility requirements for receiving these payments. Rockdale County will be in charge of acquiring the necessary rights of way for this project.

It is our assurance that all displacees will be given sufficient advanced notice of Rockdale County's intention to purchase any property in order to allow them adequate time in which to move.

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Hearing Open House Comment Card

Project MSL-0004-00(433), Rockdale County, P.I. No. 0004433

September 27, 2007

Please print responses.

Name _____

Address _____

Do you support the project? For Against Conditional Uncommitted

Comments _____

How did you hear about this meeting? Radio Newspaper Signs Word of Mouth

Was the location of the meeting convenient for you to attend? Yes No

If no, please suggest a general location that is more convenient to your community.

Was the time of the meeting convenient for you to attend? Yes No

If no, please suggest a time frame that is more convenient for you. _____

Were your questions answered by the DOT personnel? Yes No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting? Yes No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

Mail To:

*Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental/Location Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593*