Gena L. Evans, Ph.D., Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

One Georgia Center, 600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Telephone: (404) 631-1000

September 30, 2008

Project CSNHS-0006-00(043), Cherokee County
The Construction of an I-575 Interchange at Ridgewalk Parkway/Ashland Parkway
P.I. Number 0006043

Subject: Public Hearing Open House

Thank you for attending the public hearing open house for CSNHS-0006-00(043), Cherokee County, P.I. No. 0006043, the proposed construction of the Ridgewalk Parkway/Ashland Parkway interchange at I-575. As you enter the room, you will notice several displays of the proposed project. The displays are identical and Team Members, who can be identified by the nametags they are wearing, are available at each display to discuss the project and answer your questions. Please take this opportunity to discuss the project with a GDOT representative. **There will be no formal presentation.**

Attached to this letter, you will find a need and purpose statement, project description, location map, environmental statement, right-of-way statement and comment card. Please deposit completed comment cards in the comments boxes provided on the tables. 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 project until October 14, 2008. 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.ga.gov***. Click on **Public Outreach** from the **Information Center** dropdown menu at the top right side of the page. 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 GDOT know your view of the proposal.

The information presented this evening will be available for review for ten days after the public hearing open house at the GDOT District 6 Office located at 500 Joe Frank Harris Parkway in Cartersville. A copy of all comments received will be available for public review at this same location and at the Office of Environmental/Location, 3993 Aviation Circle, Atlanta, GA 30336-1593, as soon as compilation is completed.

Again, thank you for attending this public hearing open house and for giving us your comments. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact the project manager, Greg Wiggins, at (404) 631-1712 or Laura Rish at (404) 699-4439 of the Office of Environmental/Location.

Sincerely,

Darryl D. VanMeter, P.E.
Office of Innovative Program Delivery

DVM/LBR/mm

Attachments

Project CSNHS-0006-00(043), Cherokee County
P.I. Number 0006043

Need and Purpose Statement

The primary purpose of the project is to provide additional access between I-575 and areas east of historic downtown Woodstock. Currently, access from I-575 to areas east of Woodstock is primarily via Towne Lake Parkway and Arnold Mill Road, which is currently constrained by capacity limitations and restricted turning movements at the intersection of Towne Lake Parkway and Main Street/Canton Highway/Old SR 5 in the historic downtown area. After project implementation, additional access to I-575 from areas east and northeast of Woodstock would be provided traveling along East Cherokee Drive west to Main Street/Canton Highway/Old SR 5 and following that road south to Ashland Parkway/Ridgewalk Parkway. The additional connection would also supplement the existing travel route for vehicles traveling west on Arnold Mill Road. Travelers on Arnold Mill Road could access the new interchange by taking Mill Creek Road northbound to East Cherokee Drive and continuing as previously stated, or they can follow Arnold Mill Road to Dobbs Road and travel Dobbs Road west to Main Street/Canton Highway/Old SR 5, then north to Ashland Parkway/Ridgewalk Parkway. Vehicles could also take Old Rope Mill Road from Main Street/Canton Highway/Old SR 5 to Ashland Parkway/Ridgewalk Parkway. The reduced traffic to and from I-575 on Towne Lake Parkway would result in better traffic operations at the I-575/Towne Lake Parkway interchange allowing Towne Lake Parkway to better serve regional traffic flows to and from the west, while the proposed interchange at Ashland Parkway/Ridgewalk Parkway would serve regional traffic flow to and from the east. Finally, the proposed project would improve safety in the project area by relieving congestion on I-575 and Towne Lake Parkway, as well as in downtown Woodstock.

Project Description

Project CSNHS-0006-00(043), Cherokee County is a proposal to construct a new full diamond interchange on I-575, between the existing interchanges at Towne Lake Parkway (Exit 8) and Sixes Road (Exit 11), within the city limits of Woodstock. The interchange would be constructed at the existing Ridgewalk Parkway/Ashland Parkway overpass of I-575 (signed under bridge as Rope Mill Road). The existing bridge over I-575 would be widened to accommodate the proposed interchange. In addition, new auxiliary lanes would be constructed between the new interchange and the Towne Lake Parkway interchange. The proposed project would also realign Old Rope Mill Road to intersect with Ridgewalk Parkway/Ashland Parkway approximately 525 feet to the east of the existing intersection to accommodate the proposed interchange ramps and form a four way intersection with Ridgewalk Parkway/Ashland Parkway and Woodstock Parkway. The total project length would be approximately 9,300 feet (1.76 miles).

The proposed project would be constructed primarily within existing right-of-way. A variable amount of right-of-way, with a maximum of 275 feet, would be required in the immediate area of Ridgewalk Parkway/Ashland Parkway to accommodate the proposed interchange ramps. Also, approximately 80 feet of right-of-way would be required for the realignment of Old Rope Mill Road.

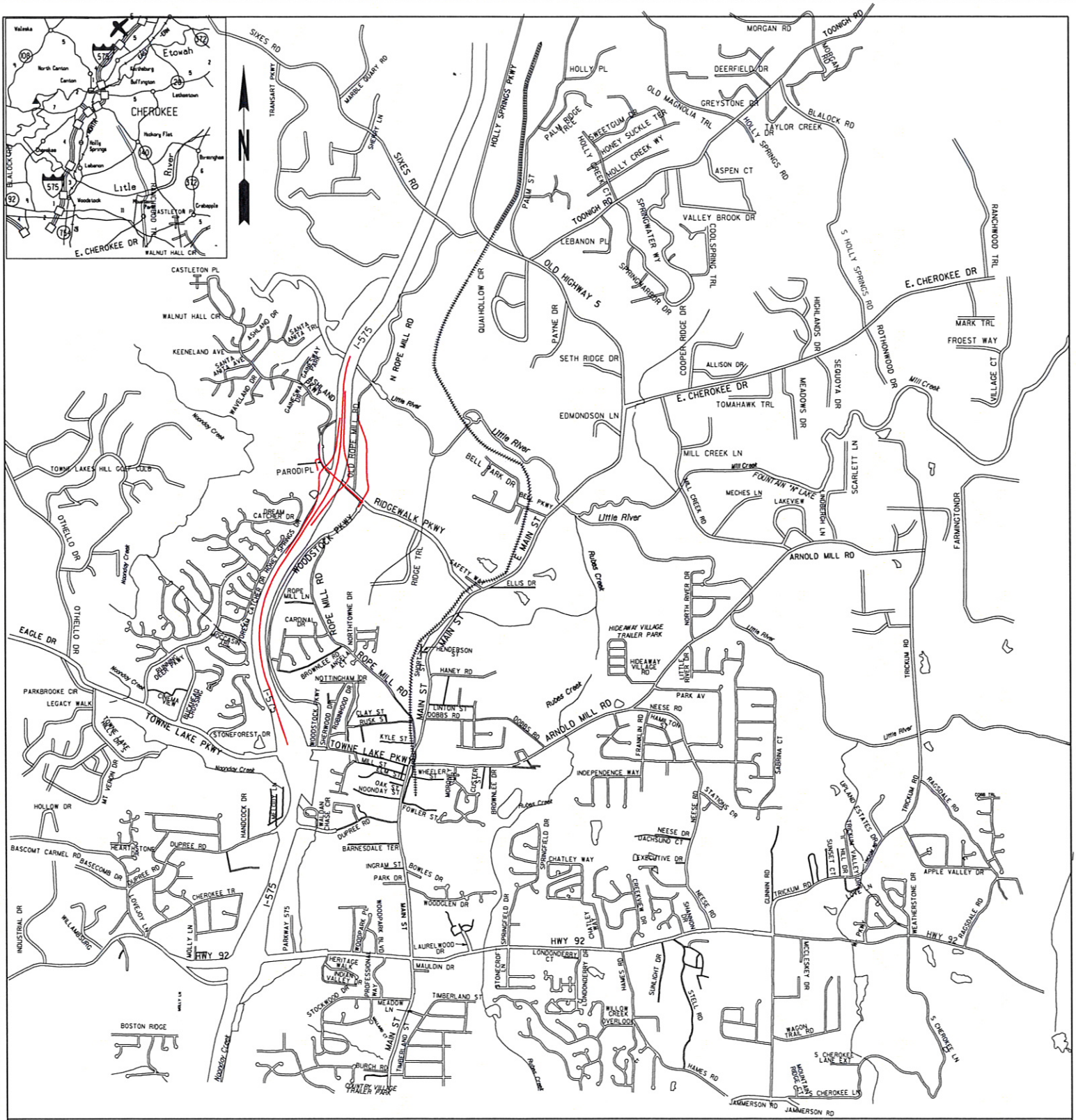

FIGURE 1 - PROJECT VICINITY MAP

—— = PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

GDOT PROJECT CSNHS-0006-00(043)
P.I. NO. 0006043
CHEROKEE COUNTY, GEORGIA

SCALE: N.T.S.	DATE: 02/25/08
JOB NO.: 0719	DRAWN BY: JPS

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY
CSNHS-0006-00(043), CHEROKEE COUNTY

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 construction of the Ridgewalk Parkway/Ashland Parkway interchange at I-575. The following information gives a summary of the environmental document.

No residences or businesses would be displaced by the proposed project. The roadway would be placed closer to remaining residences; however, loss of yard area would not occur. The proposed project would not result in the loss of residential or business frontage. The loss of some business parking and the displacement of one privately owned baseball field would occur. However, owners would be compensated for these losses.

In accordance with Executive Order 11990, the proposed project was surveyed for wetland and stream involvement. One jurisdictional wetland and four jurisdictional streams were identified within the project's area of potential effect (APE). It is estimated that 0.04 acre of temporary impacts to wetlands and 79 linear feet of permanent impacts to streams would occur by project implementation.

In accordance with Executive Order 11988, the proposed project was surveyed for floodplain involvement. The proposed project would not significantly encroach upon the floodplain associated with the Little River or Noonday Creek. The project would not have an adverse effect on water quality within the project corridor. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit would be required for this project.

The proposed project would not exceed state and federal air quality standards, and it is consistent with the State Implementation Plan for the attainment of clean air quality in the state. A quantitative PM 2.5 assessment is only required for projects of air quality concern within the PM 2.5 nonattainment area. USEPA is presently developing guidance for completion of quantitative (hot spot) analysis of PM 2.5. In accordance with 40 CFR 93.123 (b) (1) projects of air quality concern are identified as highway and transit projects that involve significant levels of diesel traffic, or any project that may be identified in the state implementation plan (SIP) as a project local concern for PM 2.5. Based on examples provided in the preamble of the updated regulations, a qualitative analysis for this project is not required. This project was reviewed by an Interagency Group consisting of representatives from the USEPA, FHWA, EPD, and the local Metropolitan Planning Organization(s) (MPO). Interagency has determined that this project is not a project of air quality concern under 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1). The Clean Air Act and 40 CFR 93.116 requirements were met without a hot spot analysis. The PM 2.5 determination was coordinated with an inter-agency committee and the committee concurred with the determination via e-mail on November 2, 2006.

The construction of this project would result in a 3.0 to 3.4 decibel increase in traffic generated noise by the design year 2030, and 115 houses would approach or exceed the noise abatement criteria. Noise abatement walls appear feasible for 100 of the affected houses.

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 historic or archaeological resources were found to be located within the project's APE.

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

The project would not involve any farmland as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act, 7 CFR Part 658, due to the land in this corridor being in or committed to urban development.

The proposed project has been surveyed for potential sites where contaminated soil and/or water from leaking underground storage tanks may exist. No potential sites were identified.

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

Right-Of-Way Acquisition
Project CSNHS-0006-00(043), Cherokee County

The Georgia Department of Transportation has the responsibility once a project is approved, of appraising, purchasing property and, if required, assisting individuals, families or businesses in relocating. When purchasing property, we desire to pay full market value for the necessary property. This value will be established by using qualified real estate appraisers who will prepare, for the Department's use, written appraisals using actual sales data in the surrounding community.

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 him or her. After completion of the appraisal, our right-of-way appraisal staff will review and field check the findings for accuracy to ensure that all things relating to value have been considered in establishing the amount to be offered. When only a part of the property is needed, we will purchase that part plus pay for loss of value, if any, to the remaining property. In all cases, when the Department purchases property, we will make additional payments to property owners for the cost of transferring ownership to the Georgia Department of Transportation. These costs generally include transfer taxes, deed-recording fees, mortgage pre-payment penalties and the pro-rata share of city or county taxes.

The Department 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 occupants.

Additionally, the Department will provide assistance to businesses and nonprofit organizations in relocating to other sites and will encourage them to remain in the community.

The information pamphlet "What Happens When Your Property is Needed for a Transportation Facility" is available at the entrance, and 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.

Results of the field inspection by Department of Transportation Personnel have revealed that there will be no residences or businesses that will be required to relocate.

It is important to remember that the Department is committed to the principle that no one will be required to relocate until housing is available, or, if there is no housing available, until provisions have been made by the Department to provide housing. It is also important to remember that all displacees will be given sufficient advance notice of the Department's intention to purchase any property in order to allow sufficient time in which to relocate.

The Department of Transportation District office, located in Cartersville Georgia, telephone (770) 387-3640 will be in charge of acquiring the necessary right-of-way for this project.

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Hearing Open House Comment Card

Project CSNHS-0006-00(043), Cherokee County, P.I. No. 0006043

September 30, 2008

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*
☐ *Other* _____

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