



September 9, 2010

Thank you for attending this Public Information Open House (PIOH) for Project CSMSL-0008-00(690), Chatham County, P.I. No. 0008690, the proposed construction of the Jimmy Deloach Connector from Bourne Avenue (SR 307) to the existing eastern end of Jimmy Deloach Parkway. A PIOH was previously held on April 23, 2009. Since that meeting, the proposed project's design has progressed. Based on coordination with the City of Port Wentworth, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) wants to share our findings and progress and provide another opportunity for residents to view the project and provide comments.

In this handout package, you will find a project description including the anticipated environmental impacts, location map, need and purpose statement and comment card.

As you enter the room, you will notice displays of the proposed project. GDOT representatives, who can be identified by the name tags they are wearing, as well as members of the design and environmental consultant team, are available 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.

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 September 24, 2010. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator, Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308. Comments can also be made via the web at [www.dot.ga.gov](http://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 GDOT know your view of the proposal.

The displays and plans will be available for review for ten days after the Public Information Open House at the Georgia Department of Transportation District 5, Area 5 Office, 630 West Boundary Street, Savannah, Georgia 31402 and the City of Port Wentworth City Hall. A copy of all comments received will be available for public review at these same locations and at the Georgia Department of Transportation Office of Environment Services, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308, as soon as compilation is completed.

Again, thank you for attending this public information open house and for giving us your comments. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact Mr. Mike Dover, Project Manager at (404) 631-1733 or Mr. Paul Alimia of the Office of Environmental Services at (404) 631-1353.

Sincerely,

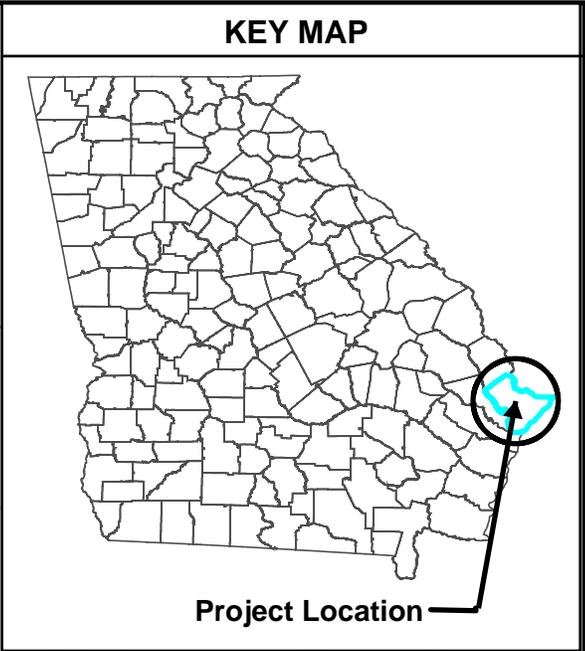
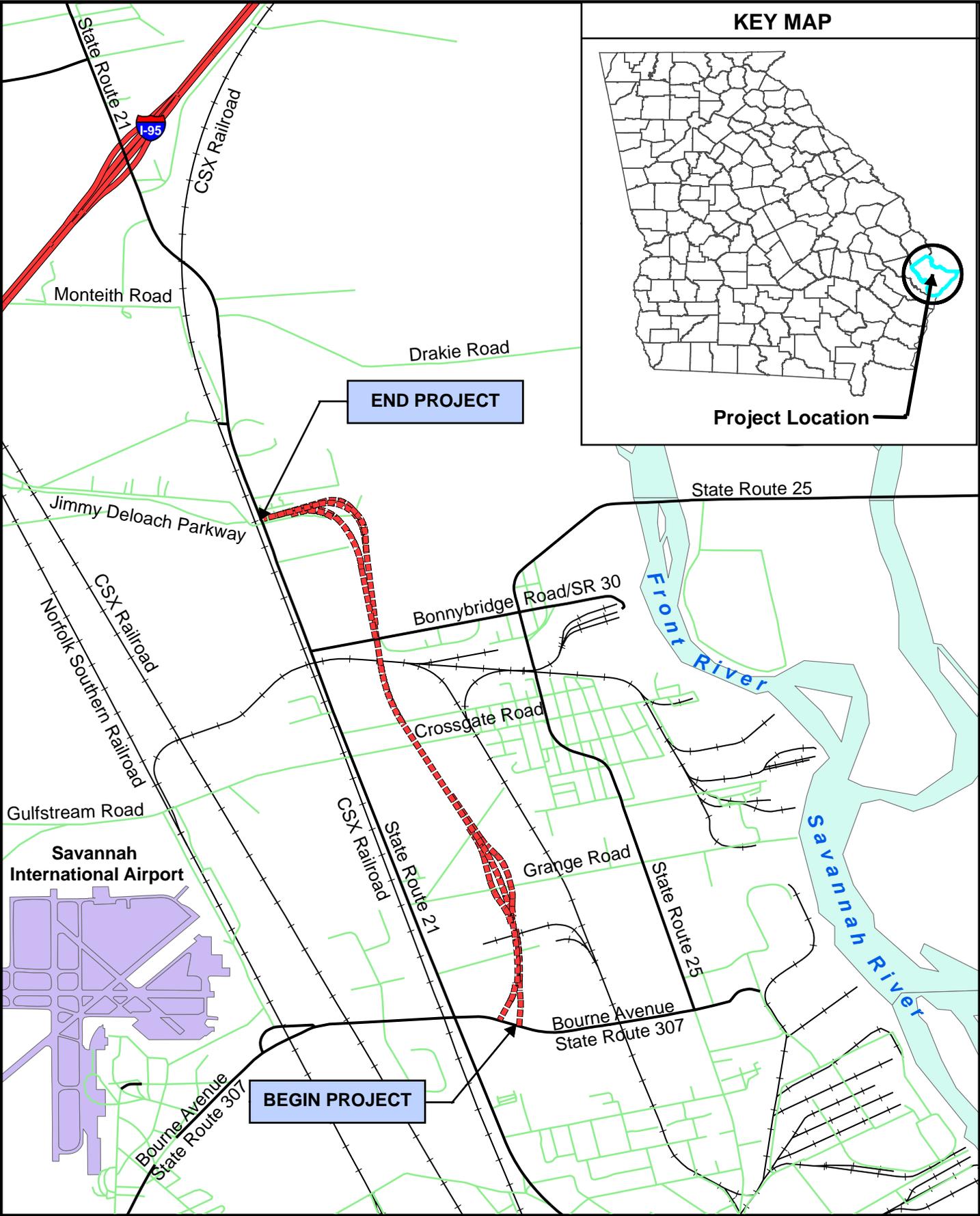
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Bowman, P.E." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Glenn Bowman, P.E.  
State Environmental Administrator

GB/MD/PTG

Attachments







**Georgia Department of Transportation**  
**Public Information Open House**  
**Project CSMSL-0008-00(690), Chatham County, P.I. No. 0008690**  
**Jimmy Deloach Parkway Connector**  
**September 9, 2010**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project would consist of the construction of the Jimmy Deloach Connector, a new roadway alignment that would begin at Bourne Avenue/SR 307 and terminate at the existing eastern end of Jimmy Deloach Parkway in Chatham County, Georgia (see attached Project Location Map). New interchanges would be constructed at Grange Road and Jimmy Deloach Parkway. The proposed project would be approximately 3.1 miles in length. The typical section of the proposed limited access roadway would consist of four 12-foot wide travel lanes (two in either direction) separated by a median barrier with 4-foot wide inside shoulders and 6.5-foot wide paved outside shoulders. From north of Bonnybridge Road to Jimmy Deloach Parkway, northbound and southbound lanes will be separated by a depressed median varying in width up to 350 feet. The posted speed limit would be 55 mph. The proposed right-of-way for the Jimmy Deloach Connector would vary from 200 feet along the mainline, up to 820 feet at interchange locations.

In the vicinity of the proposed project, State Route (SR) 21 is a four-lane divided highway (two lanes in either direction) with a variable 16-foot wide to 42-foot wide median and 10-foot paved outside shoulders. The existing right-of-way varies from approximately 175 feet to 200 feet.

The new location roadway would run parallel to and east of SR 21 for approximately three miles beginning at Jimmy Deloach Parkway, and would allow direct access to the Port of Savannah gates. The purpose of the project is to improve travel time into the Savannah Port facilities from Interstate 95 and SR 21, as well as to provide an alternate route to accommodate increasing truck traffic entering and exiting the Savannah Port.

Environmental studies have been performed in accordance with state and federal guidelines to evaluate impacts of the proposed project. Below is a list of documented impacts.

- Wetland Impacts – approximately 63 acres. Wetland mitigation work would be performed as the project advances to the next phase.
- Air quality impacts – This project has been evaluated for consistency with state and federal air quality goals including Carbon Monoxide, Ozone, Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSATs). Results indicate that this project is consistent with the State Implementation Plan for attainment of clean air quality in Georgia and is in compliance with both state and federal air quality standards.
- Noise impacts – Results from the Noise Barrier Analysis have determined that noise walls are not feasible for use on this project.

- Impacts to cultural resources – One historic road cut and one archeological site are located in the project corridor; project construction would result in no adverse impacts to these resources.
- Displacements/Relocations - 6 businesses and 5 residences are anticipated to need to be displaced or relocated.

## **NEED & PURPOSE**

The proposed project is primarily needed to provide improved efficiency and safer movement of commercial freight traffic into and out of the Port of Savannah, most of which originates from I-95 and utilizes the Jimmy Deloach Parkway intersection to reach the Port via SR 21. The project is also needed to accommodate the anticipated increase in truck traffic that is expected as a result of the future expansion of the Port of Savannah and the proposed deepening of the Savannah River Channel, maintaining the economic viability of the Port and the southeast region.

The proposed project stems from the GDOT Statewide Truck Lanes Identification Study (2007). Within this study, Savannah, a subarea of Chatham County, was studied for potential truck lanes and other truck travel improvements because of increased freight traffic through the Port of Savannah. The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) studied the feasibility of constructing an express route from the SR 21/Jimmy Deloach Parkway intersection southeast to provide direct access to the Port gates. As a result of this study, GDOT and GPA have been working together to develop a project that would run parallel to SR 21, which would provide direct truck access to the Port facilities, thereby removing a large portion of truck traffic currently using SR 21.

GPA moved more than 2 million containers through the Port of Savannah in 2006, many of which were offloaded to interstate-bound trucks. Counts conducted in the summer of 2006 estimated 5,200 to 5,800 gate transactions per day involving container trucks, including movements into and out of the Port of Savannah's gates. Additional container berth capacity and Port upgrades, including a major channel deepening project expected to be complete in 2012, indicate that many years of strong growth are anticipated at the Port of Savannah. By 2018, total throughput capacity at the Garden City Terminal is forecast to increase more than 250 percent from current volumes.

The direct and indirect economic benefits due to the Port of Savannah's growth are immense. It is projected that 30 million to 50 million square feet of additional retail distribution space would be added in the Savannah area over the next 10 years, bringing additional distribution traffic and employment opportunities to the area. As such, it is imperative that freight-related access to the Port is enhanced and that safe and efficient mobility for local employees and commuters is maintained.

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Project CSMSL-0008-00(690), ChathamCounty, P.I. No. 0008690

September 9, 2010

*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?**

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**Mail To:**

*Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30308*