

Kelth Golden, P.E., Commissioner



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

April 17, 2014

Thank you for attending the public hearing open house for P.I. No. 0008986, the proposed Ocmulgee Heritage Trail: Walnut Creek Extension in Bibb County. In this handout package, you will find a need and purpose statement, project description, location map, environmental statement, and comment card. Since no right-of-way would be acquired for this project a right-of-way statement has not been provided.

As you enter the room, you will notice displays of the proposed project. Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Macon-Bibb County representatives, who can be identified by the nametags they are wearing, are available to discuss the project and answer your questions. Please take this opportunity to discuss the project with a GDOT or County 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 May 2, 2014. Written comments should be sent to Ms. Lenor Bromberg, PE, 6300 Powers Ferry Road, Building 600, Suite 341, Atlanta, Georgia 30068. 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 environmental document will be available for review for ten days after the public hearing open house at the Georgia Department of Transportation Area office located at 4499 Riverside Drive, Macon, Georgia 31210, and at the Ocmulgee National Monument Visitor Center located at 1207 Emery Highway, Macon, Georgia 31217. A copy of all comments received will be available for public review at the Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Environment Services, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30308, 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 Jeanne Kerney, TE Program Manager at (770) 263-5945.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hiral Patel".

Hiral Patel, PE  
State Environmental Administrator

HP/jk/lb

Attachments

## **Need and Purpose**

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has undertaken this Environmental Assessment (EA) for an extension of the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail (or Heritage Trail) into the Ocmulgee National Monument (OCMU). The need for this project is to correct deficiencies in the current trail system in the southwestern portion of the OCMU. The purpose of this project is to improve visitor access and use in the southwest portion of the OCMU by connecting the Otis Redding Loop Trail to the existent OCMU trails.

## **Project Description**

The proposed project is for construction of a 6,500-foot extension of the Heritage Trail between the Ocmulgee River and I-16, eventually connecting to the existing OCMU Monument Trail near Walnut Creek. Refer to the attached Location Map. The project would begin approximately 950 feet east of the Otis Redding Bridge at the future terminus of the Otis Redding Loop Trail and would terminate approximately 320 feet from the intersection of Walnut Creek and the Ocmulgee River at an existing OCMU trail. The total length of the Walnut Extension is approximately 6,500 feet (1.23 miles). The meandering 10-foot wide trail would remain between 30 and 100 feet from the banks of the Ocmulgee River at all times.

Approximately one mile of trail would be located within OCMU. This portion of the OCMU is currently undeveloped and reserved for recreational uses. The remaining section of the trail, near the Otis Redding Bridge, would be constructed on land owned by the City of Macon, Georgia Power, and Norfolk Southern Railroad Company.

The trail is planned to be constructed with concrete, asphalt, or other Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant surface material depending upon available budget. A canopy would be constructed under the Norfolk-Southern Railroad trestle.

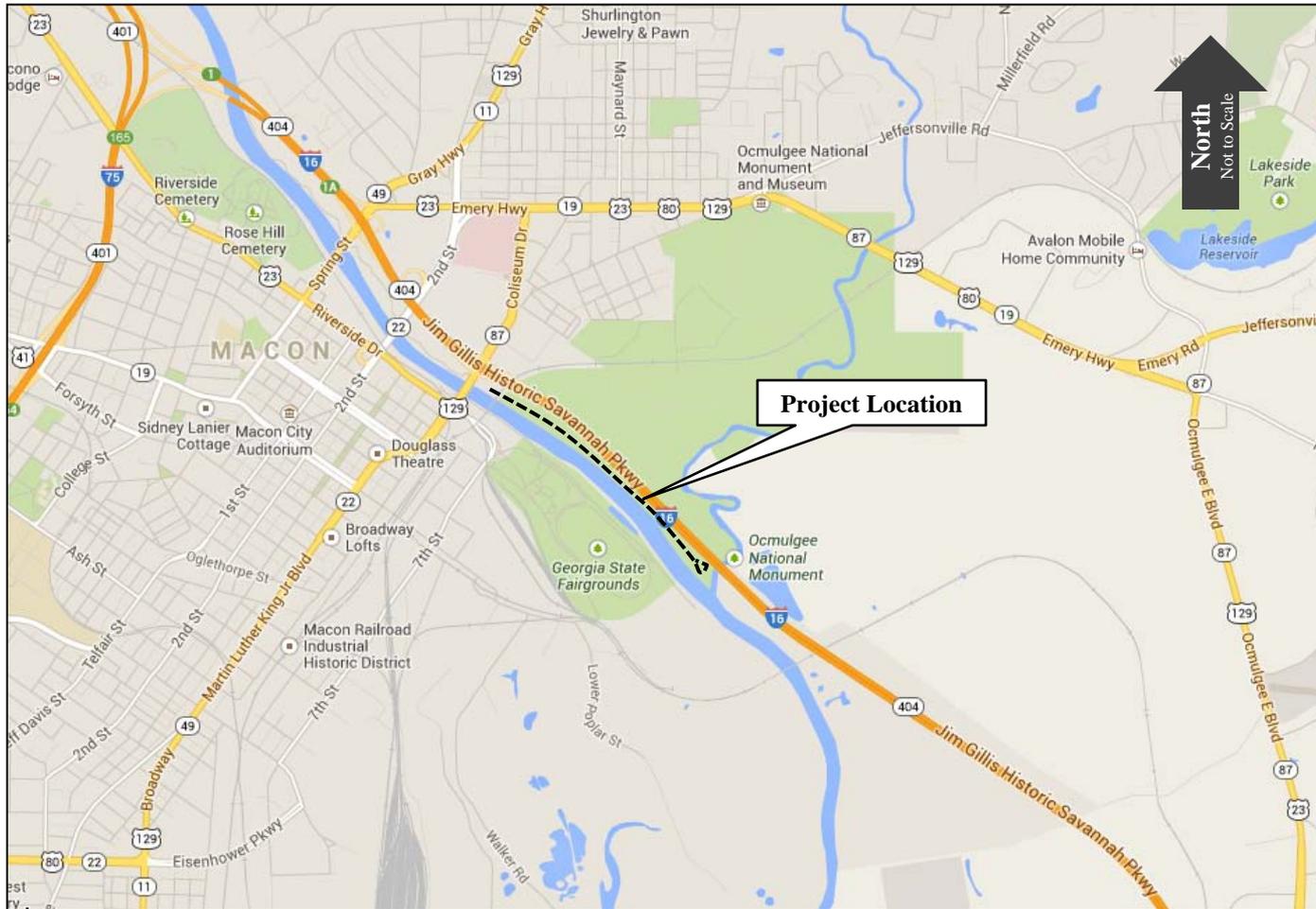
One 70 foot long footbridge would cross over Stream-1 (S1). The project would also introduce a culvert to a Wetland (W1) in order to cross the feature. The trail would be constructed using low-impact techniques such as keeping mostly with the existing grade, avoiding environmentally sensitive areas, and minimizing clearing during construction.

# Project Location Map

Ocmulgee Heritage Trail: Walnut Creek Extension

Bibb County, Georgia

P.I. Number 0008986



SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY  
P.I. 0008986, BIBB 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 Ocmulgee Heritage Trail: Walnut Creek Extension. The following information gives a summary of the environmental document.

No residential units or businesses would be displaced by the proposed project.

In accordance with Executive Order 11990, the proposed project was surveyed for wetland and stream involvement. One jurisdictional wetland meeting US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) criteria and three jurisdictional streams were identified within the project's area of potential effect (APE). One additional wetland meeting National Park Service (NPS) criteria was also identified. It is estimated that 0.08 acre of jurisdictional wetland and 15 linear feet of jurisdictional stream would be impacted by the proposed project.

In accordance with Executive Order 11988, the proposed project was surveyed for floodplain involvement. Although the proposed project lies within the 100-year floodplain of the Ocmulgee River, it would have negligible effect upon the floodplain. A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) No-Rise Certificate documenting the project would not result in a significant rise in the existing base flood elevation of the Ocmulgee River has been concurred with by the Bibb County Engineering Department. The project would not have an adverse effect on water quality within the project corridor. A USACE Nationwide Permit has been obtained as required for minor impacts to jurisdictional waters.

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. The proposed project was found to be exempt from the fine particular matter (PM2.5) hot spot requirements.

The construction of this project would not result in an increase in traffic generated noise.

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. Five existing or eligible historic or archaeological resources were found to be located within the project area of potential environmental effect; there would be no effect to these resources.

The proposed project would not affect any threatened or endangered plant or wildlife species.

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. There are no known underground storage tanks located within the project area.

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

Ms. Lenor Bromberg at 6300 Powers Ferry Road, Building 600, Suite 341, Atlanta, GA 30339

Georgia Department of Transportation  
& Macon-Bibb County

Public Hearing Open House Comment Card

**Ocmulgee Heritage Trail: Walnut Creek Extension, Bibb County, P.I. No. 0008986**

April 17, 2014

*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 GDOT personnel?     Yes     No

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

Please share your suggestions on improving the way GDOT conducts public meetings.

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**Mail To:**

Ms. Lenor Bromberg, PE  
6300 Powers Ferry Road, Building 600, Suite 341  
Atlanta, GA 30339