

Georgia Department of Transportation
Community Open House for Additional Sound Walls
P.I. No. 0009542, DeKalb County
September 25, 2010

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide operational and safety improvements along I-20 eastbound from the I-20/I-285 interchange to the I-20/Panola Road interchange in DeKalb County, Georgia. A primary goal of the proposed project is to renew and extend the operational life of a critical segment of Georgia's interstate system. This project is needed to address the operational and safety issues resulting from significant weaving (vehicular conflicts caused by travelers trying to move across one or more lanes) on I-20 eastbound between I-285 and Wesley Chapel Road. The weaving in this section results from the conflict between entering traffic from I-285 and exiting traffic to Wesley Chapel Road. This deficiency is made worse by a two-lane reduction in mainline capacity at the Wesley Chapel Road exit. The resulting congestion in this segment spills back onto I-20 west of I-285 and up both ramps of entering I-285 traffic, thereby creating congestion on I-285, as well.

This project includes the addition of barrier-separated collector-distributor (CD) lanes, modification of general purpose lanes, and ramp improvements from just west of the I-20/I-285 interchange to the I-20/Panola Road interchange, for a total distance of approximately 4.5 miles along the eastbound direction of I-20 (see Project Location map, Figure 1).

The project begins by developing an exit lane from just east of the I-20 eastbound off-ramps to I-285. This exit lane would provide access from the I-20 mainline to a new 1.2-mile, three to four-lane barrier-separated CD system originating at the I-285 on-ramps onto I-20 eastbound and continuing to Wesley Chapel Road. From the new CD system, two lanes would exit to Wesley Chapel Road and two lanes would continue eastbound on I-20. The barrier separation between the CD system and the I-20 eastbound general purpose lanes would end just east of Wesley Chapel Road, where the two remaining CD lanes would merge with the eastbound I-20 mainline to form a total of five general purpose lanes (three from the existing I-20 mainline and two new lanes from the CD system). One of the two new lanes would be dropped just west of Snapfinger Creek. The other new lane would continue eastbound to exit at CR 5150/Panola Road, where it would tie into the newly improved eastbound off-ramp.

The proposed project also provides for the construction of noise barriers/walls within the existing right-of-way (ROW) of I-20 to reduce noise levels at impacted receptors. Noise walls would be constructed in the northwest and southwest quadrants of the I-20/I-285 interchange, and along the I-20 mainline within the project limits. Numerous retaining walls would be constructed in order to keep all construction within the existing ROW of I-20. No ROW or easements would be acquired for construction of this project.