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December 6, 2007

Thank you for attending the public hearing open house for Project STP-7073(1), P.I. No. 250620, the proposed extension of William Few Parkway beginning at the existing William Few Parkway north of SR 104/Washington Road and ending at CR 92/Hardy McManus Road, Columbia County. In this handout package, you will find a need and purpose statement, project description, location map, environmental statement, right-of-way statement and comment card.

As you enter the room, you will notice displays of the proposed project. Department of Transportation (DOT) 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 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 project until December 20, 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 and plans will be available for review for ten days after the public hearing open house at the Columbia County Division of Engineering and Environmental Services, 630 Ronald Reagan Drive, Evans, Georgia 30809 and at the GDOT Area Engineer's Office at 4260 Frontage Road, Augusta, Georgia 30909. A copy of all comments received will be available for public review at these same locations and at the Office of Environment/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 planner, Alexis John of the Office of Environment/Location, at (404) 699-4409 or the project manager, Jan Hilliard, at (404) 656-5441 of the Office of Urban Design.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James B. Buchan".

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

JBB:aj:wr
Attachments

NEED AND PURPOSE
William Few Parkway Extension
Project STP-7073(1), Columbia County
P.I. Number 250620

Project STP-7073(1) would address three basic needs:

- 1.) Provide direct access from Greenbrier Elementary, Middle and High Schools to Hardy McManus Road and the northeast.
- 2.) Increase the operational adequacy and level of service along Washington Road based on current and projected high traffic volumes along the roadway.
- 3.) Improve the substandard safety conditions along Washington Road and its intersections with William Few Parkway and Hardy McManus Road resulting from the heavy traffic volumes along the roadway.

The proposed project is considered to have logical termini. The extension of William Few Parkway would provide continuity with the existing section of William Few Parkway that dead-ends just north of Riverwood Parkway. The existing section of William Few Parkway north of Washington Road begins as a four-lane divided roadway and gradually transitions to a two-lane section to its intersection with Riverwood Parkway. The proposed project begins at the end of the four-lane section and would reconstruct the existing two-lane section to a three-lane section consisting of two travel lanes and a center turn lane. This terminus is logical because it serves as the end-point for the existing William Few Parkway. As such, any extension of the William Few Parkway must begin at this point to maintain continuity with the existing roadway and to achieve an adequate level of connectivity between William Few Parkway, Hardy McManus Road, and Washington Road. The project ends at Hardy McManus Road. This terminus is logical because Hardy McManus Road is a two-lane roadway that generates a substantial amount of traffic onto Washington Road and is the nearest local thoroughfare that intersects Washington Road east of William Few Parkway. Existing conditions require that traffic from Hardy McManus Road access the neighborhood schools from Washington Road. If congestion is to be alleviated along Washington Road, traffic from Hardy McManus Road must be provided with alternate and more direct access to the neighborhood schools.

The proposed project also has independent utility as it would not necessitate additional transportation improvements to be made in the surrounding area. The proposed project would not force immediate transportation improvements to Hardy McManus Road or to William Few Parkway south of Washington Road, although each may require upgrading in the future.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

William Few Parkway

Project STP-7073(1), Columbia County

P.I. Number 250620

The Build Alternative is the proposed reconstruction and extension of William Few Parkway between Washington Road (SR 104) and Hardy McManus Road (CR 92). The proposed typical section would consist of a three-lane roadway with two 12-foot travel lanes, a 14-foot center turn lane, 12-foot shoulders (10-foot paved to include a 5-foot bike lane), side ditches, and a 600-foot bridge over Uchee Creek along a variable 100 to 150-foot wide right-of-way. Turn lanes would be added at intersections where necessary. Approximately 2,130-feet of Hardy McManus Road would also be reconstructed to create a signalized three-way intersection. The proposed design speed would be 45 mph. Total project length is approximately 1.6 miles.

The No-Build Alternative is an alternative in which Columbia County would take no action to construct the proposed project. The no-build alternative would have no environmental effects, but would not satisfy the project need and purpose. Heavy traffic volumes created by the area's three schools has significantly affected the safety and operational adequacy of the Washington Road/William Few Parkway intersection and must be addressed. The no-build alternative would not provide a direct connection to Hardy McManus Road to help alleviate the safety and operational adequacy issues along Washington Road, particularly at the William Few Parkway intersection.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY
William Few Parkway Extension
Project STP-7073(1), Columbia County
P.I. Number 250620

In compliance with the 1969 National Environment Policy Act, the Georgia Department of Transportation has conducted an assessment of the social, economic and environmental effects for the proposed reconstruction and extension of William Few Parkway from SR 104/Washington Road to CR 92/Hardy McManus Road, a distance of 1.6 miles. The following information is a summary of the environmental document.

There would be no displacements from the proposed project. The proposed project would result in the loss of private property. Property owners would be compensated for their loss.

In accordance with the Executive Order 11990, the proposed project was surveyed for involvement with Waters of the U.S. A total of 2 wetlands, 2 areas of open water (lakes and ponds) and 4 streams were identified within the project area. The anticipated impacts to the Waters of the U.S. include a total of 0.06 acres of wetland impacts, 0.43 acres of open water impacts and 118 linear feet of stream impacts. Due to the proposed impacts to the Waters of the U.S., the project would require a Section 404 Nationwide Permit 14 with Preconstruction Notification to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

In accordance with Executive Order 11988, the proposed project was surveyed for floodplain involvement. One transverse crossing of 100-year floodplain associated with Uchee Creek has been identified within the proposed project corridor. The proposed project would be designed in such a way that it would have no significant encroachment on this floodplain. The project would not have an adverse effect on water quality within the project corridor.

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 construction of this project would result in a maximum noise level of 69 dBA along the project corridor. One residential site exceeds the 67dBA L/D residential noise abatement criterion level established by 23 CFR Part 772. This receptor is located along SR 104/Washington Road and will be impacted by increased traffic on SR 104/Washington Road and not the proposed William Few Parkway Extension. Noise abatement measures, such as barriers and acquisition of rights-of-way, 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. As a result of these efforts, no National Register resources were identified with the proposed project's area of potential effect (APE). Implementation of the proposed project would not result in adverse effects to cultural resources. Planning to minimize harm to the historic resources was taken into consideration during project development.

Right-Of-Way Acquisition Project STP-7073, Columbia County

Columbia County 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 Columbia County's use, written appraisals using actual sales data in the surrounding community.

In making an appraisal, Columbia County 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 Columbia County purchases property, we will make additional payments to property owners for the cost of transferring ownership to Columbia County. These costs generally include transfer taxes, deed-recording fees, mortgage pre-payment penalties and the pro-rata share of city or county taxes.

Columbia 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 occupants.

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

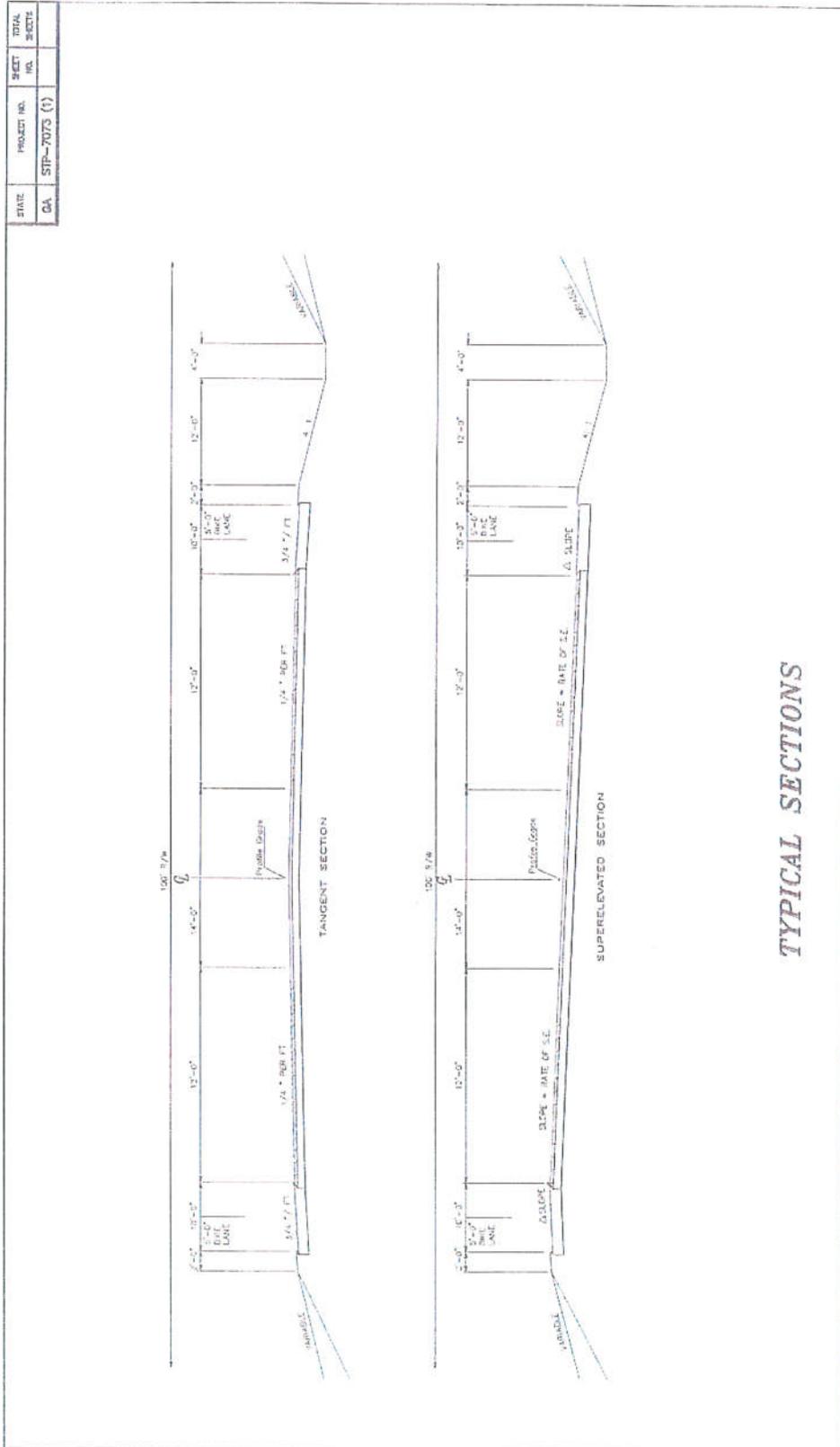
The information pamphlet "What Happens When Your Property is Needed for a Transportation Facility" is available at the entrance, and this booklet outlines the services offered and any payments for which you may be eligible, such as moving expenses and replacement housing benefits for owners and tenants.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

Results of the field inspection by Columbia County Personnel have revealed that there will be 0 residential and 0 business(es) that will be required to relocate.

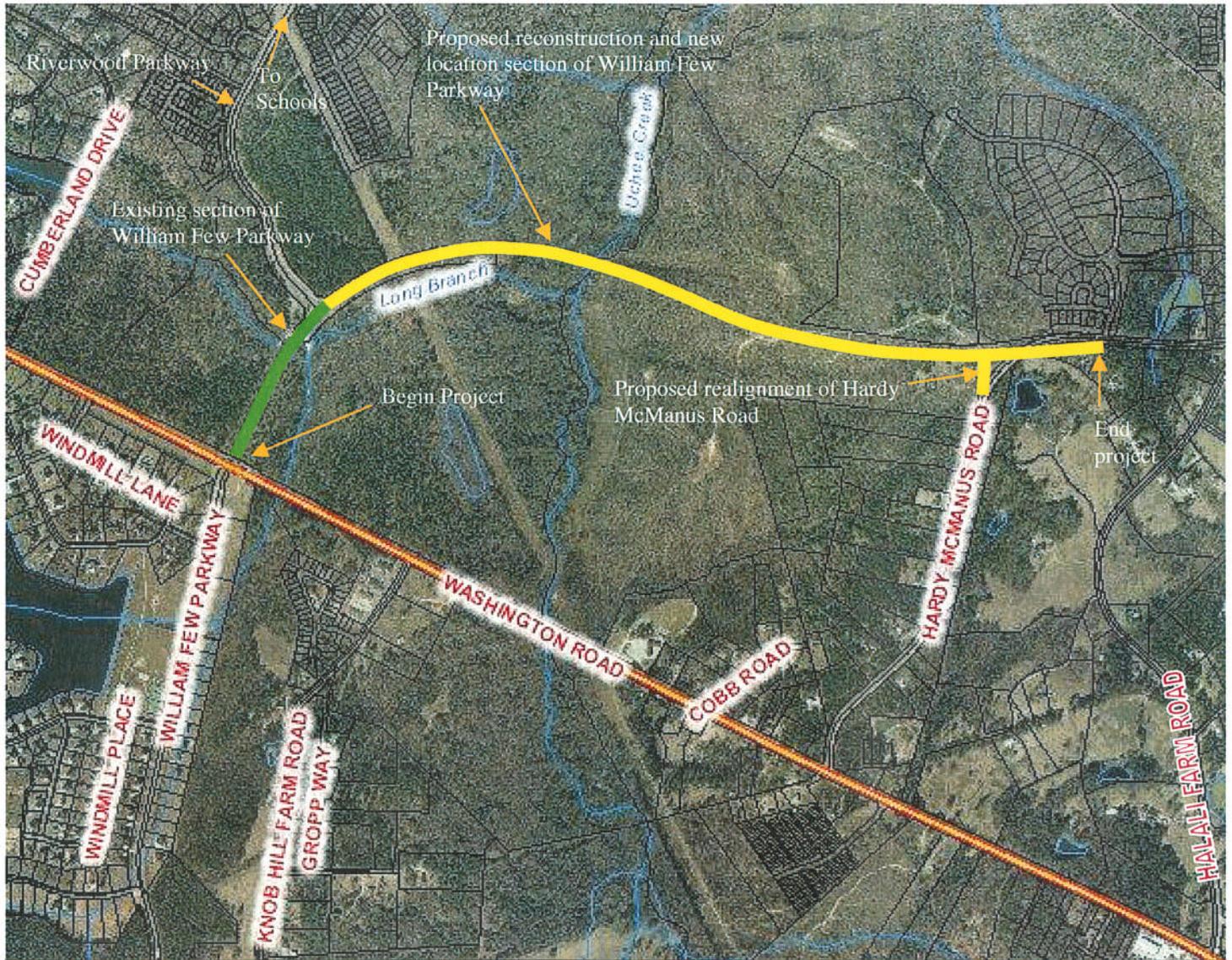
It is important to remember that Columbia County is committed to the principle that no one will be required to relocate until housing is available, or, if there is no housing available, until provisions have been made by Columbia County to provide housing. It is also important to remember that all displacees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

Columbia County Property Acquisition Department, located at 962 Halali Farm Road, Evans, Georgia 30809, telephone (706) 868-5841 will be in charge of acquiring the necessary right-of-way for this project. Mark Custer is the Manager.

Figure 6 Typical Sections of Build Alternative



Project Location Map



**GDOT Project STP-7073 (1)
P.I. #250620, Columbia County**

Reconstruction and Extension of William Few Parkway



Not to Scale

Georgia Department of Transportation
Public Hearing Open House Comment Card
Project STP-7073(1), Columbia County, P.I. No. 250620
December 6, 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
 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