



October 13, 2015

Thank you for attending the Public Hearing Open House for the proposed widening and reconstruction of SR 1/US 27/Hamilton Road in Troup County, PI Number 322250. Our goal is two-fold: 1) to provide you with information on the proposed project and 2) to provide an opportunity for you to give us your comments on the proposed project. In this handout package, you will find a description of the project, a location map, summary of environmental study statement, right-of-way acquisition statement, and a comment card.

As you enter the room, please take a look at the project display. Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) representatives, wearing nametags, are available to discuss the project and answer your questions. There will be no formal presentation.

We hope you will take the opportunity to tell Georgia DOT what you think. Listed below are several ways to comment on the project. Your comments are important to us and, should you provide comments by one of the methods noted below, we will respond to you in writing usually within 30 days of the close of the comment period. All comments will become part of the project's official record.

While you are attending the open house, you can **provide your comments today** by filling out the comment card provided with this handout and dropping it in the comment box, or you may choose to provide your verbal comments to the court reporter who will transcribe your comments.

You can also **provide your comments by Friday, October 23, 2015** by using either of the following methods:

- Online at www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Public/PublicOutreach.
 1. From the menu, select the county in which the proposed project is located and click *Go*;
 2. Then select: *SR1/US27/LaGrange fm Auburn St to SR219/Morgan St*;
 3. Lastly, click *Comment* and follow the instructions to leave your comments.
- Mail in your comment card to Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

The project displays and plans will be available for review for ten days after this open house at the website noted above. Hardcopies will also be available at the Georgia DOT Area 5 Office located at 1107 Hogansville Road, LaGrange, GA 30240 and at the Ethel Kight Library located at 601 Union Street, LaGrange, GA 30241. Following the ten-day public comment period, a copy of all comments received will be available by request at the Atlanta address listed above.

Again, thank you for attending this open house. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact the project manager, Kevin VanHouten, at 706-646-7557 or the environmental analyst, Paul Alimia, at 404-631-1353 of the Office of Environmental Services.

Sincerely,

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

Hiral Patel, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation

PI#(s): 322250, County: Troup

Why We Are Here: The purpose of the proposed widening and reconstruction of SR 1/US 27/Hamilton Road is to reduce the number of crashes that occur when left turns are made from the existing two-lane facility, to accommodate pedestrian traffic and to improve the overall safety and operations of the corridor for all users. There is also a need to accommodate increasing future traffic volumes on this urban principal arterial route.

Project Description: The existing two lane roadway would be widened to provide four 11-foot lanes, two in each direction, with a 14-foot center turn lane (flush median) introduced south of the intersection with Union and Fannin Streets. A 20-foot raised median would be introduced north of the intersection with Union and Fannin Streets and continue to the intersection with S.R. 219/Whitesville Street. During construction, traffic would be maintained on the existing roadway.

The intersection of S.R. 1/U.S. 27/Hamilton Road with S.R. 219/Whitesville and Morgan Streets is currently signalized. The signal at this location would be retained and upgraded to meet current vehicular and pedestrian signal standards, if required. A new signal is proposed for the intersection of Union and Fannin Streets with S.R. 1/U.S. 27/Hamilton Road. Pedestrian access would be provided at the signal including pedestrian signal heads, pushbuttons, crosswalks, landings and curb ramps.

The proposed improvements would also include construction of curb and gutter and sidewalks along both sides of the roadway. Pedestrian crosswalks would be added across S.R. 1/U.S. 27/Hamilton Road at signalized intersections. Crosswalks would be added across side roads where there is stop control on those roadways. With the exception of the intersection at Brown Street, right turn lanes would also be constructed at signalized intersections. Colquitt Street would be realigned to tie directly to Cannon Street with turn lanes added as warranted. The intersection of Fannin Street and Union Street would be shifted to the north and turn lanes would be added to improve the intersection's operation.

Access from Tower Street, Keyes Street and Heard Street directly to S.R. 1/U.S. 27/Hamilton Road would be eliminated in order to reduce residential displacements and reduce side road traffic congestion. Since there is no existing curb and gutter along S.R. 1/U.S. 27/Hamilton Road, the runoff from the roadway drains either by sheet flow across adjacent properties or down driveways toward homes or in existing swales or ditches across the properties. Therefore, the construction of curb and gutter along with the proposed system of catch basins and pipes would contain the runoff within the roadway drainage system and release the water into existing outfalls. Structurally deficient drainage structures in the project area would be replaced.

Approximately 40 feet of additional right-of-way would be required for a total required right-of-way width of approximately 90 feet. Additional right-of-way would be required for the proposed relocated intersections, required alignment shifts where substandard horizontal and vertical curves will be replaced with curves meeting the design speed, and at intersecting streets and proposed median openings in order to provide for left turns and U-turn movements.

Summary of Environmental Study

In compliance with the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act and Georgia Environmental Policy Act, the Georgia Department of Transportation has conducted an assessment of the social, economic and environmental effects for the proposed the proposed widening and reconstruction of SR 1/US 27/Hamilton Road in Troup County. The following information gives a summary of the environmental document.

Approximately 34 residential unit(s) and 25 businesses would be displaced by the proposed project. The roadway would be placed closer to remaining residences, and loss of yard area will occur. The proposed project would result in the loss of both residential and business frontage as well as some business parking. Please see the right-of-way acquisition statement on the next page for more information.

In accordance with Executive Order 11990, the proposed project was surveyed for wetland and stream involvement. No jurisdictional wetlands and 6 jurisdictional streams were identified within the project's area of potential effect (APE). It is estimated that there would be no impacts to wetlands and 590.8 linear feet of streams would be impacted by the proposed project. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit *would be* required for this project.

In accordance with Executive Order 11988, the proposed project was surveyed for floodplain involvement. The proposed project would not significantly encroach upon floodplain or floodways within the project area. 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 1.4 to 4.1 decibel increase in traffic generated noise by the design year 2038, and 40 receptors would approach or exceed the noise abatement criteria. *No feasible noise abatement measures were identified for these 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. As stated in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), six eligible historic resources and no archaeological sites were found within the project's area of potential environmental effect. Since the approval of the DEA and further investigations of the project corridor, three historic properties were found to be no longer in existence; therefore, only three eligible historic resources remain in the project area.

The proposed project *would* have no effect to threatened or endangered plant or wildlife species.

In accordance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act, the criteria of 7 CFR, Part 658 have been applied to determine the project effects on farmland. Based on the assessment of these effects, the project *would not involve any farmland and no* additional alternates need to be examined.

The proposed project has been surveyed for potential sites where contaminated soil and/or water from leaking underground storage tanks may exist. The ten potential sites that were identified are being further investigated. If contaminants are found, avoidance alternates may be considered, or applicable laws and regulations concerning the removal of toxic or hazardous material will be coordinated with the Environmental Protection Division.

Copies of the environmental document are available at this hearing for your review or by request to the Atlanta office on the first page of this handout.

Right-Of-Way Acquisition

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) 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 GDOT'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, the 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 GDOT purchases property, we will make additional payments to property owners for the cost of transferring ownership to GDOT. These costs generally include transfer taxes, deed-recording fees, mortgage pre-payment penalties and the pro-rata share of city or county taxes.

Georgia DOT 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, GDOT 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 greeter's table. 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 GDOT personnel have revealed that there will be 37 residences and 27 businesses that will be required to relocate.

It is important to remember that GDOT 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 GDOT to provide housing. It is also important to remember that all displacees will be given sufficient advance notice of GDOT's intention to purchase any property in order to allow sufficient time in which to relocate.

The GDOT District Office, located in Thomaston, Georgia, 706-646-7553 will be in charge of acquiring the necessary right-of-way for this project.

PI#(s): 322250, County: Troup

Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name _____

Address _____

Do you support the project? (check your response)

- For**
- Against**
- Conditional**
- Uncommitted**

General Comments _____

As part of the PHOH, GDOT would like comments on the proposed Historic Preservation Plan (HPP). Please visit the HPP display table, and we would appreciate your input on the following questions.

Do you currently live, rent or own a business within the project area? **Yes** **No**

Did you have a chance to review the Historic Preservation Plan (HPP) information presented? **Yes** **No**

Would you support the activities proposed as part of the HPP? **Yes** **No**

How did you hear about this Open House? (check) **Newspaper** **Signs** **GDOT Website** **Radio**
 Word of Mouth **Social Media** **Other** _____

Was the location of the Open House 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**

Mail to:
 Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., State Environmental Administrator
 Georgia Department of Transportation
 600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor
 Atlanta, Georgia 30308