

A Summary of Public Involvement to Date

The SR 204 Improvements planning process has followed a public involvement plan that includes a variety of opportunities for the public to participate at every level and to provide input. Public outreach efforts to date include:

- Ongoing coordination with the Chatham Area Transportation Study Technical and Policy Committees since April 2006
- Ongoing coordination with several key stakeholders since April 2006 including:
 - Armstrong Atlantic State University
 - St. Joseph's Candler Hospital
 - Hunter Army Airfield
- Conducted Public Information Open House in November 2006
- Conducted neighborhood meeting with Grove Hill and Forest Cove subdivisions in May 2007
- Conducted project briefing to the Chatham Area Transit Study Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation
- Conducted Public Information Open House in June 2007
- Conducted project briefing to the Chatham Area Transportation Study Citizens Advisory Committee



Next Steps of Project Development

Once the team has refined and finalized environmental and traffic studies and conceptual layouts for this intersection, there will be an additional opportunity to provide input and comments.

A Public Hearing Open House - the final opportunity for the public to provide input on the project - is anticipated for early 2011. Comments recorded at this open house and during the comment period following the hearings will go on record and become a part of the final EA document.

Questions? Call the Project Hotline at 1-800-470-2344 to speak with the Public Involvement Team or to leave a message.

OR

Submit your question in writing to:
SR 204 Improvements
c/o Sycamore Consulting, Inc.
195 Arizona Avenue; Unit LW-4
Atlanta, GA 30307

Vance C. Smith, Jr., Commissioner



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

One Georgia Center, 600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

June 17, 2010

Thank you for attending the Public Information Open House for NH000-0111-01(024), P.I. No. 522870. The proposed improvements include construction of a grade separated interchange at the intersection of SR 204/ Abercorn Street Extension and King George Boulevard in Chatham County. In this handout package you will find a description of the need and purpose, a project description, location map, and a comment form.

As you enter the room, you will notice displays of the project. Department of Transportation (DOT) representatives, who can be identified by the name tags 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 June 28, 2010. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator, Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street, NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30308. Comments can also be made via the web at 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 the Department 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 Office of Program Delivery located at 600 West Peachtree Street, NW, 25th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308; the GDOT District Office, located at 204 North Highway 301, Jesup, GA 31546; and at the GDOT Area Office, located at 630 West Boundary Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401. 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 Environmental Services, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30308, as soon as compilation is completed.

Again, thank you for attending this Public Information Open House and for giving us your comments.

Sincerely,

Bobby Hilliard, P.E.
State Program Delivery Engineer

How has this Project Changed?

The SR 204 corridor provides an important link between historic Savannah and major activity centers to the east, and Highway 17 and I-95 to the west. The corridor includes several key destinations, including the Oglethorpe Mall, Savannah Mall, Atlantic Armstrong University, the Hunter Army Airfield, and St. Joseph's – Candler Hospital.

An at-grade intersection is one where traffic that crosses the roadway enters at the same level or grade.

A grade-separated interchange is aligned at differing heights so that the flow of traffic is not interrupted when streets cross.

Previously, GDOT studied SR 204 from US 17 to the proposed Truman Parkway Phase V Extension/Wilshire Boulevard within the alternatives evaluation framework. The alternatives evaluation process is part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which establishes a process that must be followed on projects receiving federal funds. NEPA factors, including environmental impacts, property impacts (including relocations), impacts to traffic operations, safety, and cost, are considered during the evaluation of alternatives. Alternatives that minimize negative impacts, that

provide benefits by way of improved travel, and that are the most reasonable are carried forward for public consideration.

Public Opinion and the Alternatives Evaluation Process

Public opinion is a key factor in the alternatives analysis process. Public meetings were held in November 2006 and June 2007, providing two opportunities for the public to review and comment on a variety of alternatives for both sections of the project. The public was asked to provide input on the alternatives by completing comment forms, giving verbal statements to the court reporter on site, or by submitting comments in writing to the project team during the open comment period.

That public planning process resulted in the selection of alternatives for the entire length of the corridor, including the improvements shown for the King George Boulevard intersection tonight. At this time, GDOT will move forward with developing the project at the SR 204 and King George Boulevard intersection, only.

The intersection improvements would improve the operational and safety aspects of SR 204/Abercorn Street Extension at King George Boulevard (CR 71) from Pine Grove Road to Veterans Parkway through the construction of a grade separated interchange at this intersection.

Why are these Intersection Improvements Needed?

The proposed project would provide operational and safety improvements along SR 204 from Pine Grove Road to Veterans Parkway by the construction of a grade separated interchange at the existing at-grade intersection of King George Boulevard. This intersection is currently operating at level of service (LOS) F with excessive delays at the signalized intersection of SR 204 and King George Boulevard. While the crash and injury rates for this section of SR 204 are slightly below the statewide averages for this type of facility, rear-end type crashes comprise 77% of all crashes.

Level of Service (LOS) is a way to describe how well traffic is moving through a corridor. When traffic is flowing freely with little or few restrictions, that corridor will have a better LOS (an A,B or C). When delays become longer and traffic becomes greatly congested or even gridlocked, that corridor will have a poor LOS (an E or F).

The proposal to convert SR 204 at King George Boulevard to a grade separated interchange would provide the most benefit for traffic operations and safety and would increase mobility and minimize delay for both local and commuter vehicles traveling through the corridor. When we compare the proposed intersection improvements with the option of doing nothing (the "No Build" alternative), the project would substantially reduce travel time along SR 204. It would also significantly reduce crash rates and improve east-west connectivity in this region. During peak travel times in the morning, improvements would save commuters more than six minutes when traveling towards downtown Savannah. During peak travel times in the evening, improvements would save commuters 20 minutes when returning home.

Roadway Segment	Average Travel Time (min:sec.)		
	2009 Existing	2035 No Build	2035 Build
Eastbound AM			
SR 204 from Pine Grove to King George	3:03	7:05	0:34
SR 204 from King George to Veterans	0:53	0:53	0:50
Eastbound AM TOTAL	3:56	7:58	1:24
Westbound PM			
SR 204 from Rio Road to Veterans	9:11	22:12	1:33
SR 204 from Veterans to King George	5:34	6:54	4:05
SR 204 from King George to Pine Grove	1:07	1:35	5:17
Westbound PM TOTAL	15:52	30:41	10:55

Saves 6 Minutes

Saves 20 Minutes

