

Keith Golden, P.E., Commissioner



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

April 1, 2014

Thank you for attending the Public Hearing Open House for the proposed widening and reconstruction of State Route (SR) 3/US 19 from County Road (CR) 73/East-West County Road to CR 8/Atwater Road and the realignment of Delray Road to intersect SR 3/US 19 at Jimmerson Road in Thomaston, Upson County, Georgia, PI Number 0000297. 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 need and purpose statement, description of the project, a location map, environmental statement, right-of-way statement, and a comment card.

As you enter the room, please take a look at the project displays. 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 the next 45 days. 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 Tuesday, April 15, 2014** by using either of the following methods:

- Online at [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov).
  1. Click *Information Center* on the upper right side of the page;
  2. Click *Public Outreach* in the Public Events block;
  3. From the menu, select the county in which the proposed project is located and click *Go*;
  4. Then select *SR 3/US 19 Widening/East-West Rd to Atwater Rd*;
  5. 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, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308

The project displays and plans will be available for review for ten days after this Open House at the *Information Center* at [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov), described above. Hardcopies will also be available at the Georgia DOT Area 1 Office located at 101 Transportation Boulevard, Thomaston, Georgia 30308. 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 Adam Smith at 706-621-9704 or Bobby Dollar at 404-631-1920 of the Office of Environmental Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hiral Patel" followed by a small circular mark.

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

**NEED AND PURPOSE STATEMENT**  
**PI No. 0000297, Upson County**  
**SR 3/US 19 Widening and Reconstruction**

Federal transportation funds have been programmed for this project under GDOT Project NHS00-0000-00(297), Upson County, PI No. 0000297. The proposed project would widen and reconstruct SR 3/US 19 from County Road to approximately 300 feet north of CR 8/Atwater Road in Thomaston, Georgia. The proposed project location is shown in the figure attached to this handout.

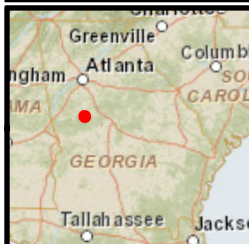
The project is needed to address travel delay and above average crash rates along SR 3/US 19. The purpose of the project is to reduce crash rates, improve operational conditions, and control left turn movements to and from connection streets along SR 3/US 19 between County Road and CR 8/Atwater Road. The proposed project would include operational improvements to intersections and a raised median. The existing traffic volumes on SR 3/US 19 are greater than the GDOT's design threshold for requiring raised medians. The raised median would eliminate or restrict turning movements currently allowed with the center turn lane and help control left turn movements to and from SR 3/US 19, which is expected to reduce the high number of rear end and angle crashes. The proposed Delray Road realignment is needed to provide continuity along Delray Road and Jimmerson Road, and increase the distance between intersecting cross streets along SR 3/US 19.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**  
**Upson County, PI No. 0000297**  
**SR 3/US 19 Widening and Reconstruction**

The proposed project is located in the City of Thomaston, in Upson County, Georgia. The project proposes to widen and reconstruct SR 3/US 19 from just north of County Road to 300 feet north of CR 8/Atwater Road for a total project length of about 2.0 miles. The existing roadway is an urban section with two lanes (width varies from 11.5 feet to 12 feet) in each direction and a two-way left-turn lane on the south third of the project. In addition, it includes one existing signalized intersection at Jeff Davis Road/Harp Road. The posted speed limit is 45 miles per hour (mph) along this route.

The preferred alternative would widen SR 3/US 19 by providing a four-lane divided urban highway with two 12-foot lanes in each direction, a raised median of variable width, auxiliary lanes at major intersections and sidewalks in both directions. Delray Road would be realigned opposite Jimmerson Road, and the intersection would be signalized. Realigned Delray Road would consist of two 12-foot lanes with 8-foot shoulders. Previously, GDOT proposed a roundabout at the realigned intersection of Jimmerson Road and Delray Road, but recently determined that a signal controlled intersection would be more appropriate.





**Figure 1. Project Location**  
 GDOT PROJECT NHS00-0000-00(297)  
 Upson County, PI No. 0000297

Source: ESRI Imagery

0 395 790 1,580 2,370 3,160 Feet



**SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY**  
**PI No. 0000297, Upson County**  
**SR 3/US 19 Widening and Reconstruction**

In compliance with the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has conducted an assessment of the social, economic, and environmental effects for the proposed widening and reconstruction of State Route (SR) 3/US 19 from County Road (CR) 73/County Road to approximately 300 feet north of CR 8/Atwater Road, including the realignment of Delray Road to intersect SR 3/US 19 at Jimmerson Road, in Thomaston, Upson County, Georgia. The following information gives a summary of the environmental document.

Approximately three residential units and seven businesses would be displaced by the proposed project. The roadway would be placed closer to remaining residences, and would result in the loss of both residential and business frontage as well as some business parking. Owners would be compensated for these losses.

In accordance with Executive Order 11990, the proposed project was surveyed for wetland and stream involvement. No jurisdictional wetlands, two jurisdictional open waters, and eight jurisdictional streams were identified within the project's area of potential effect (APE). It is estimated that 201 linear feet of perennial and intermittent stream, and 0.029 acre of ephemeral stream would be impacted by the proposed project. The proposed project would not affect the two jurisdictional open waters. 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 the floodplain associated with Norris Creek and Five Mile Creek. 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 1.9 to 5.2 decibel (dbA) increase in traffic generated noise (from 43.2 and 69.7 dbA to 48.4 and 71.6 dbA, respectively) by the design year (2039), and eight houses would approach or exceed the noise abatement criteria. No feasible noise abatement measures were identified for the eight 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. Eight eligible resources were found within the project's area of potential effect. For all eight historic resources, the State Historic Preservation Officer made a No Adverse Effect determination under Section 106, and the Federal Highway Administration made a *de minimis* finding under Section 4(f) for two of the eight resources.

The proposed project would have No Effect on threatened or endangered plant or wildlife species, as none were located in the project area. Marginally suitable habitat was observed for the federally endangered fringed campion (*Silene polypetala*) and relict trillium (*Trillium reliquum*), but these species were not found within the proposed project corridor.

The project would not involve farmland as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act, 7 CFR Part 658, because the preferred alternative is completely within an US Bureau of the Census Urban Area. No additional alternatives 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 13 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 sending your request to:

Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E.  
State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

**Right-Of-Way Acquisition**  
**PI No. 0000297, Upson County**  
**SR 3/ US 19 Widening and Reconstruction**

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 at the Public Hearing Open House (PHOH), 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 GDOT personnel have revealed that there will be three residences and seven 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 3 office, located in Thomaston, Georgia, (706) 646-7553 will be in charge of acquiring the necessary right-of-way for this project.

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Hearing Open House Comment Card

Project NHS00-0000-00(297), Upson County, PI No. 0000297

April 1, 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail To:**

*Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308*