



August 22, 2013

Thank you for attending the public information open house for MSL00-0001-00(340), P.I. No. 0001340, the proposed South Tifton Bypass from SR 520/US 82 West to SR 35/US 319 East. In this handout package you will find a project description, a location map, a Frequently Asked Questions handout, and a comment card.

As you enter the room, you will notice a project video providing some background on the proposed project and displays of the proposed project. Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) 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 GDOT 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 September 3, 2013. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator, Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308. Comments can also be made via the web at [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov). On the home page choose "Information Center" and then "Public Outreach". Next select "Tift" as the county and choose "Go." A list of active DOT projects in the county will appear. Select the "South Tifton Bypass" to view. Click on "Comment" to complete the submission form. All comments will be made a part of the project record. We hope you will take advantage of one of these opportunities to let GDOT 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 District Four Office located at 710 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Tifton, Georgia 31793. A copy of all comments received will be available for public review at this same location and at the Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental Services, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308, as soon as compilation is completed.

Again, thank you for attending this public information open house and for giving us your comments. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact the project manager Matt Bennett at (912)427-5737 or Paul Alimia at (404) 631-1353 of the Office of Environmental Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Genetha Rice-Singleton".

Genetha Rice-Singleton  
State Program Delivery Engineer

GRS/PPA/KHD

Attachments

**Georgia Department of Transportation**  
**Public Information Open House**  
**Project MSL00-0001-00(340), Tift County, P.I. No. 0001340**  
**Project Description**

In the spring of 2010, to address the need for truck traffic relief on SR 520/US 82 through Tifton, the Georgia Department of Transportation began evaluating alternatives to improve SR 520/US 82 through Tifton as well as bypass alternatives to the north and to the south of the existing alignment. To assist with the effort, a Citizens Advisory Committee was formed comprised of local government representatives, community organization representatives, business representatives, and area residents. A public information open house was held in May 2011 to present the project and collect public input. Based upon feedback from the Citizens Advisory Committee, input heard at the 2011 PIOH, and results from the environmental studies, a preferred alternate emerged and is presented here this evening. The alternate is known as the Orange Alternate.

The Orange Alternate would construct a Tifton Bypass south of the City of Tifton using portions of the existing county roads Carpenter Road, Southwell Boulevard, Tifton Eldorado Road, and New River Church Road and new location for a total project length of 9.1 miles.

The Orange Alternate would begin at the intersection of SR 520/US 82 and Carpenter Road, west of the City of Tifton, and would end at the intersection of SR 35/US 319 and New River Church Road, east of the City of Tifton.

The Orange Alternate would primarily consist of a two-lane facility with variable turn lanes. The section between Tech Drive, just west of I-75, and Vernon Drive/Magnolia Industrial Boulevard, east of US 41, would consist of a four-lane facility because of the higher existing traffic volumes on this section. The proposed bypass would utilize both rural design with grassed shoulders and drainage ditches and urban design with curb-and-gutter and closed drainage systems. The shoulder section proposed for a particular area would depend on the adjacent land use.

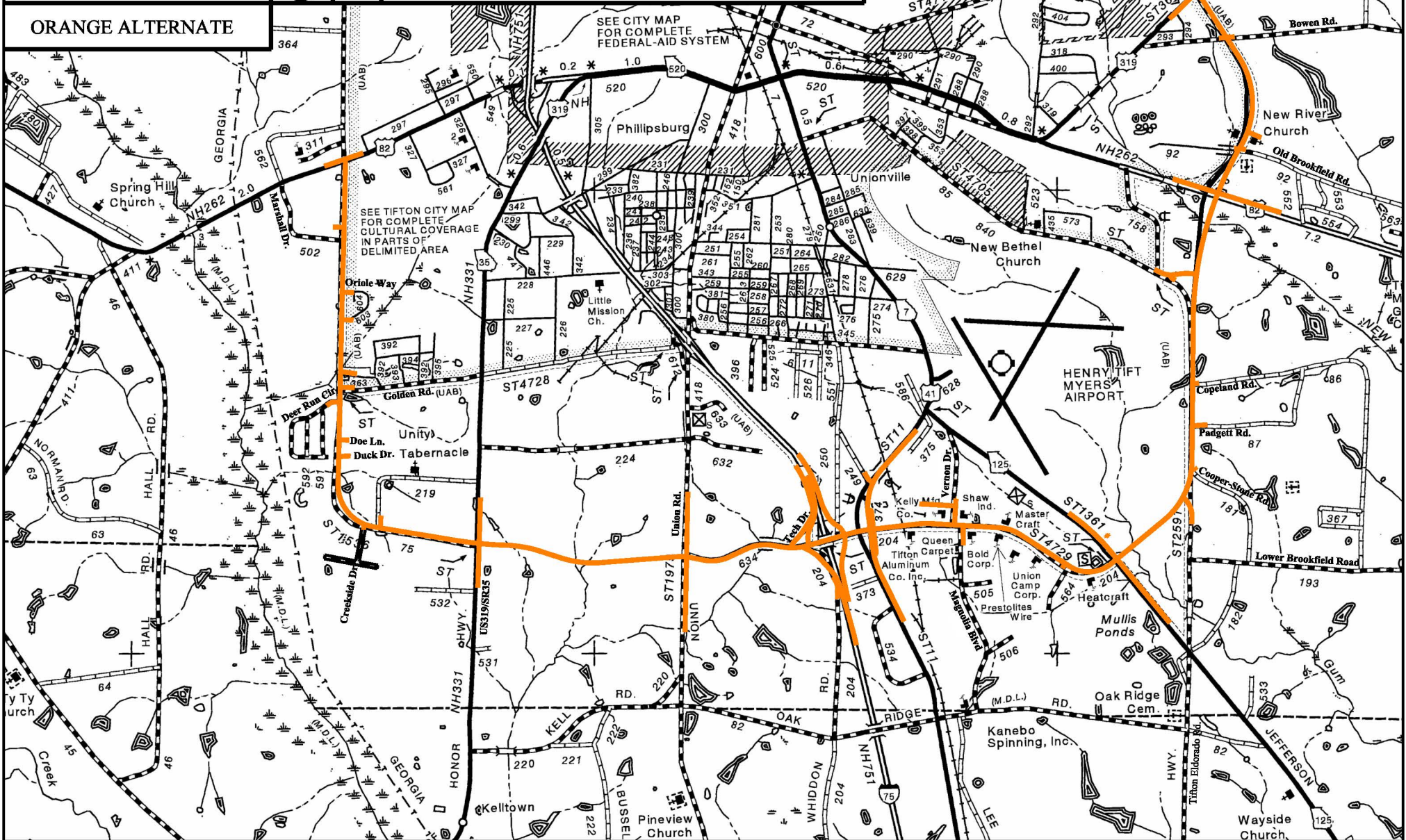
# SOUTH TIFTON BYPASS

Heath & Lineback Engineers  
INCORPORATED  
1390 CANTON ROAD, BUILDING 200  
MARIETTA, GEORGIA 30066-5391



SCALE:  
1" = NTS

## ORANGE ALTERNATE



TIFTON  
POP. 14,215  
ELEV. 370

SEE TIFTON CITY MAP FOR COMPLETE CULTURAL COVERAGE IN PARTS OF DELIMITED AREA

SEE CITY MAP FOR COMPLETE FEDERAL-AID SYSTEM

Doc Ln.  
Duck Dr. Tabernacle

HENRY TIFT MYERS AIRPORT

Kanebo Spinning, Inc.

Mullis Ponds

Wayside Church

Lower Brookfield Road

Copeland Rd.

Old Brookfield Rd.

New River Church

New Bethel Church

Phillipsburg

Unionville

Spring Hill Church

Pineview Church

Kelltown

Oak Ridge Cem.

(M.D.L.) RD.

RIDGE

WHIDDON

BUSSEL

KELL

HONOR

GEORGIA

(M.D.L.)

HALL

NORMAN RD.

Crepek

JEFFERSON

Tifton Elmore Rd.

HWY.

ST 2597

ST 1361

ST 1299

ST 111

ST 104

ST 75

ST 197

ST 418

ST 4728

ST 7536

ST 197

ST 197

ST 197

ST 197

ST 197

Padgett Rd.

Cooper Stone Rd.

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

ST 111

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House

### Project MSL00-0001-00(340), Tift County, P.I. No. 0001340

#### Frequently Asked Questions

**1. Why is this project proposed and how will it benefit me?**

This project is proposed to reduce the volume of truck traffic on existing US 82/SR 520 and US 319/SR 35 through downtown Tifton. This project is also proposed to support industrial development south of the downtown area. This project benefits the citizens of Tift County by improving the quality of life in the downtown district and along US 82/SR 520.

**2. How much traffic is projected along the proposed route for the bypass? How much of this projected traffic would be truck traffic?**

The highest traffic volumes are expected to the east of I-75, along Southwell Boulevard between I-75 and US 41. Today, this section of Southwell Boulevard carries approximately 9,200 vehicles a day, with 27% of those vehicles being trucks. If the proposed bypass opens in 2021, the roadway volume at this high point is expected to be approximately 16,000 vehicles a day with 29% trucks. In 2041, this section of the bypass is expected to carry approximately 20,150 vehicles a day, with 31% trucks. By comparison, if the truck bypass is not built, Southwell Boulevard is expected to have 10,000 vehicles with 27% trucks in 2021 and 12,200 vehicles with 27% trucks in 2041. If the bypass is built, almost 3,000 trucks a day will be removed from US 82 by the design year 2041.

**Table 1. Traffic Volumes on Southwell Boulevard**

*(between I-75 and US 41)*

	Current Year 2013	No Bypass		Bypass (Orange Alternate)	
		2021	2041	2021	2041
<b>Vehicles per Day</b>	9,200	10,000	12,200	16,000	20,150
<b>Number of Trucks</b>	2,500	2,700	3,300	4,650	6,250

**3. How many lanes is the proposed bypass?**

For most of its length, the bypass would be a two lane facility with turn lanes, where needed. The section between Tech Drive and Vernon Drive/Magnolia Industrial Boulevard would consist of a four-lane facility because of the higher existing traffic volumes on this section.

**4. Will improvements be implemented along the route, such as sidewalks or additional stoplights?**

Yes, improvements such as sidewalks, roundabouts, and stoplights, where warranted, will be added. They will vary by location along the route. In locations where curb and gutter is being added, sidewalks will be added. At intersections where traffic numbers dictate, either a roundabout or a traffic signal will be used.

**5. What is the speed limit on the proposed bypass?**

The segments of the bypass utilizing existing County owned roads will maintain the same speed limit currently posted. The new location segment of the bypass will have a 55 mph design and posted speed limit. The area near I-75 will be posted at a lower speed (45 mph) to increase safety where there are frequent heavy turns to and from the bypass.

**6. Will there be increased noise to residents along the proposed route?**

A Noise Impact Assessment will be completed to evaluate traffic generated noise impacts from the proposed project to properties near the corridor. Abatement measures such as noise wall barriers, traffic management techniques, or alignment alterations will be considered for impacts that approach or exceed the criteria established by the Federal Highway Administration.

**7. If I own property along the proposed route, will I have to give up land or access? Will someone come talk to me about buying my property, and how much will I be compensated?**

An exact alignment for the project has not been determined, so the right-of-way needs are unknown at this point. If and when the determinations are made, the GDOT Right-of-Way Office will send out letters under separate cover to those property owners who would be affected by land acquisition for the proposed project. Please note, land acquisition for transportation purposes is strictly governed by numerous state and federal laws and regulations. For additional information, please contact Troy Byers at (404) 347-0176.

**8. Will impacts to side streets and existing intersections be considered? Will it be harder for me to get into or out of my neighborhood?**

Traffic to and from side streets and intersections will be considered in the project. Design features will be proposed to ensure safety and ensure minimal negative impact. In some cases, changes to access from subdivisions may be necessary. The intent is not to make access more difficult for residents, but to increase safety and efficiency.

**9. What other alternates have you considered?**

A total of six alternates have been developed to date. The alternates have been considered and evaluated for their impacts to both natural and community resources and the ability to

meet the project's purpose and need. Through technical analysis and input from the Citizens Advisory Committee, four of the alternates were eliminated for further consideration. In May 2011, the two remaining alternates were presented for comment at a public information open house. Input collected from the open house as well as the results of additional environmental studies has led us to the current preferred alternate presented at this August 2013 open house.

**10. Impacts to environmental resources seem more important than impacts to home and business properties. Shouldn't people come first?**

Impacts to the environment, including those to natural, human, and social resources are all important. Any project seeking to utilize federal funding is required through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to conduct environmental studies to determine the effects of the proposed project on these resources. Public involvement is also a part of NEPA and is equally critical. Therefore, in addition to the studies on historical resources, wetlands, endangered and threatened animals and plants, and others, we also conduct the Citizens Advisory Committee and host public information open houses to ensure we collect input from the community. The results of the environmental studies and feedback we receive from stakeholders and the public together shape the project's outcomes.

**11. What is the cost of the bypass and from where will the funds come?**

The cost of the bypass has not been determined, as the exact alignment has not been developed. Funding for transportation projects often do not generate from a single source, but rather from a variety of sources and may include a mix of local, state and federal funding.

**12. How has the public been involved in the process to date?**

Stakeholders and the public have been involved from the start of the project. Shortly after kick-off, the project team met with staff and elected officials from City of Tifton, Tift County and Tift County Development Authority to gain a better understanding of the problems and issues, as well as desires for potential solutions. In addition, a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was formed that includes representatives from local government, community organizations, businesses, and area residents. The CAC has met four times to date to review project information and provide input into the development of the alternates. In May 2011, a public information open house was hosted to offer the public an opportunity to learn more about the project, comment on the alternates and speak with project staff.

**13. Is this a "done deal", or can I still provide input into the project?**

The project is very much still in the early stages of development and input from the community is absolutely welcome and necessary as we continue to craft a solution.

Please make sure to leave a comment in response to this open house. You may leave a comment today either by comment form or court reporter. If you wish to provide your comments after the meeting, you can send your written comments to Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator, Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atlanta, GA 30308. Comments can also be made online at [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov). On the home page choose “Information Center” then Public Outreach” and select “Tift” county and choose “Go.” A list of active DOT projects in the county will appear. Select the “South Tifton Bypass” to view. Click on “Comment” to complete the submission form. Please submit your comments by September 3, 2013.

**14. What are the next steps?**

At the conclusion of the comment period, the project team will compile the comments and draft a response. All those who commented will receive a copy of the response letter. A copy of all comments received will be available for public review at Georgia Department of Transportation District Four Office located at 710 West 2nd Street, Tifton, Georgia 31793 and at the Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental Services, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308. The project team, with direction from the Department, will consider the input received in the further development of the alternates. Additional environmental studies along with technical analysis will be conducted. The public will be notified of any future meetings.

**15. How can I get more information about this project?**

The displays from this PIOH will be available for review for ten days after the open house at the Georgia Department of Transportation District Four Office located at 710 West 2nd Street, Tifton, Georgia 31793. A copy of all comments received will be available for public review at this same location and at the Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental Services, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308, as soon as compilation is completed. The displays will also be available on the DOT website after the open house meetings at [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov). On the home page choose “Information Center” then Public Outreach”, select “Tift” county and choose “Go.” A list of active DOT projects in that county will appear. Select “South Tifton Bypass” to view. If you should have any other questions or need additional information, feel free to contact the project manager Matt Bennett at (912)427-5737 or Paul Alimia at (404) 631-1353 of the GDOT Office of Environmental Services.

Georgia Department of Transportation  
Public Information Open House Comment Card  
Project MSL00-0001-00(340), Tift County, P.I. No. 0001340  
August 22, 2013

*Please print responses.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you support the project?**       *For*     *Against*     *Conditional*     *Uncommitted*

***Please explain:***

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**If you do not support the project as shown today, would you consider other alternates?**

*Yes*       *No*

***Please provide your suggestions:***

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Were the location and time of the meeting convenient for you to attend?**     *Yes*       *No*

**If no, please suggest a general location or timeframe that is more convenient to your community:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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:**  
*Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator*  
*Georgia Department of Transportation*  
*600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16<sup>th</sup> Floor*  
*Atlanta, Georgia 30308*