



South Tifton Bypass

from US 82/SR 520 West
to US 319/SR 35 East

Public Information Open House

May 10, 2011

Tift Area Conference Center



Welcome!

Thank you for attending the Public Information Open House for the South Tifton Bypass from US 82/SR 520 west to US 319/SR 35 east. We hope that you will find the information provided in this project overview and the displays around the room helpful.



Why Are We Here?

So, why are we here? For many years, congestion on US 82 and US 319 in Tifton has been a hot topic, and the idea of a bypass around Tifton has been floating around for quite some time. The Georgia Department of Transportation has initiated an Environmental Assessment and traffic study on this heavily traveled corridor. The purpose of tonight's Public Information Open House is to present the information we have gathered to date on existing and projected conditions along the corridor and to get your input and comments on possible solutions.

What's the Problem?

- The large volume of truck traffic is an issue
- Tifton is a regional destination of I-75, US 41, US 82, US 319 and SR 125
- Safety and difficult access to retail establishments
- Downtown areas are unfriendly to regional truck traffic

Over the years, and certainly in conversations we have had related to the US 82 and US 319 corridor study, we have talked with key stakeholders, elected officials, business community leaders, and Tift County residents. We have heard almost unanimously that the large volume of traffic, particularly truck traffic, creates congestion and safety concerns, and limits economic development opportunities.

We heard that Tifton is a great stopping point for Interstate travelers, but the existing congestion threatens the vitality of the hospitality industry in Tifton.

We also heard that US 82 has the capacity to support future growth and development if truck traffic is rerouted.

Draft Purpose & Need

The need for improvements along the existing US82/SR520 and US319/SR35 corridor through the City of Tifton is due to the high percentage of truck traffic, as well as a need to support future industrial development within the county by enhancing connectivity, improve the quality of life in the downtown district, and increase safety throughout the corridor.

A Purpose and Need statement is developed for all transportation projects. This statement identifies the problem and states the purpose for the project. The alternatives, or solutions, developed for the project are then evaluated against the statement. The draft purpose and need for the South Tifton Bypass is printed above.