

**Georgia Department of Transportation**  
**Public Information Open House**  
**Project STP00-0002-00(404), DeKalb County, P.I. No. 0002404**  
**February 26, 2008**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project includes sidewalk improvements along SR 8 from the easternmost terminus of South Ponce de Leon Avenue to the eastern terminus of North Ponce de Leon Avenue, for a total distance of 0.64 mile (see Figure 1, Project Location Map).

New sidewalks would be constructed along both sides of the roadway in areas currently without them, and existing sidewalks would be replaced if they are determined to be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) noncompliant or are in poor condition. The proposed sidewalks would be 5 feet wide, and would include a 2-foot stamped concrete strip and curb and gutter unless protection of environmental features warrant a smaller typical section. In those cases, the width of the stamped concrete strip would be reduced or eliminated to minimize environmental impacts. Limited additional right-of-way (ROW) would be required for the proposed project, for the construction of miters.

An exception to this proposed typical section occurs on the north side of SR 8 along the periphery of Deepdene Park (bounded to the east and west by North Ponce de Leon Avenue. In this area, the proposed improvements would construct an 8-foot-wide asphalt path set back approximately 20 feet from existing SR 8 traversing the length of Deepdene Park. This portion of the proposed project ties into and is consistent with the Deepdene Park Phase IV Improvements project (Project TEE-0008-00(115), DeKalb County, P.I. No. 0008115). Drainage improvements would be provided as needed in the area of Deepdene Park.

Design would be performed to ensure proper drainage of the roadway and sidewalk. Existing drainage structures in the project corridor would be replaced if they are determined to be damaged to a point where they are no longer effective. Existing granite curb would be replaced with new granite curb. Existing concrete curb and gutter (gutter paved over) would be replaced with header curb to maintain existing lane widths and minimize impacts to properties and environmental features. Where retaining walls are required, they would be located at the back of the sidewalk and would be concrete with a granite facing.

Within Deepdene Park, an approximately 1.35-acre temporary easement would be required for construction of the proposed 8-foot path. This temporary construction easement would extend from the existing Georgia DOT ROW along SR 8 north to the northern boundary of the proposed construction limits for the 8-foot path. Upon construction of the proposed path, the Georgia DOT will work out a maintenance agreement with the park authorities for maintenance of the path. As a recreation facility owned by Fernbank, Inc., and leased by DeKalb County, Deepdene Park is afforded special protections under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act (recodified in 49 U.S.C. 303 and 23 U.S.C. 138). Because no recreational activities associated with the park and none of the park's features or attributes that qualify it for protection under Section 4(f) would be adversely affected by the project, the Federal Highway Administration intends to make a de minimis (minimal impact) finding for impacts to Deepdene Park, which satisfies the requirements of Section 4(f) and precludes the need for a Section 4(f) Evaluation.

The proposed project would connect to areas of existing sidewalks along SR 8 to the east and west of the proposed project limits. Due to the presence of five public parks (segments of the Olmsted Linear Park) listed on the National Register of Historic Places along the south side of SR 8 between Moreland Avenue and the easternmost terminus of South Ponce de Leon Avenue, as well as the potential for substantial public controversy if disturbance to these parks were to occur, no sidewalks are proposed along the south side of SR 8 between Moreland Avenue and the easternmost terminus of South Ponce de Leon Avenue. Asphalt paths currently meander through these five parks, which provide pedestrian mobility along the south side of SR 8 to the west of the project limits. In addition, sidewalks are present along South Ponce de Leon Avenue in this area, which roughly parallels SR 8 less than 300 feet to the south of SR 8.