



December 6, 2012

Thank you for attending this public information open house for the Spout Springs Road Widening Project, P.I. No. 0009679, in Hall County. In this handout package you will find a project fact sheet, a project location map, a project description, and a comment form. The objectives of this public information open house are to allow you to view study area maps and displays, speak with project staff, and to provide your comments.

As you enter the room, you will see aerial displays of the conceptual layouts for the proposed project. Signage is placed throughout the room to guide you through the displays. Hall County and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) representatives, identified by their name tags, are available to discuss the project and answer your questions. There will be no formal presentation.

As a convenience to you, we have provided a number of different ways for you to give us your comments on this project. A court reporter is available for those persons who would like to make a verbal statement. You may also complete a comment form and deposit it into the box provided here or send in written comments until December 21, 2012. Written statements may be submitted at the following address:

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

You may also submit your comments by email to hansen-dederick@sycamoreconsulting.net and by fax to 404-377-9091. All comments will be made a part of the project record.

The displays at the Public Information Open House will be available for review online at www.dot.ga.gov. Please follow the link under the "Information Center" tab to the "Public Outreach Project Information" page. Displays will also be available until December 21, 2012 at the GDOT District 1 Area 1 Office located at 2594 Gillsville Hwy, Gainesville, GA 30507.

Again, thank you for attending this open house and for submitting your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn Bowman / m".

Glenn Bowman, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator



PROJECT DESCRIPTION



Hall County, PI # 0009679

Spout Springs Road from Thompsons Mill Road to Hog Mountain Road

Spout Springs Road is a congested two-lane, north-south route that provides regional connectivity between the cities of Braselton and Flowery Branch in south Hall County, GA. Improvements are proposed along a 5.7-mile segment from the Thompsons Mill Road – New Friendship Road/SR 347 area to the Hog Mountain Road - Interstate 985 (I-985) interchange area. Proposed improvements include widening from two lanes to four, adding a raised median, and adding facilities for bicycles and pedestrians. The west side of Spout Springs Road will include a 10' multiuse trail from Thompsons Mill Road to Hog Mountain Road. The east side of Spout Springs Road will include a 5' wide sidewalk from Thompsons Mill Road to Union Circle and from Elizabeth Lane to Hog Mountain Road. Due to the large number of pedestrian attractions, such as schools, a park, and a library, both sides of Spout Springs Road will include a 10' multiuse trail between Union Circle and Elizabeth Lane.

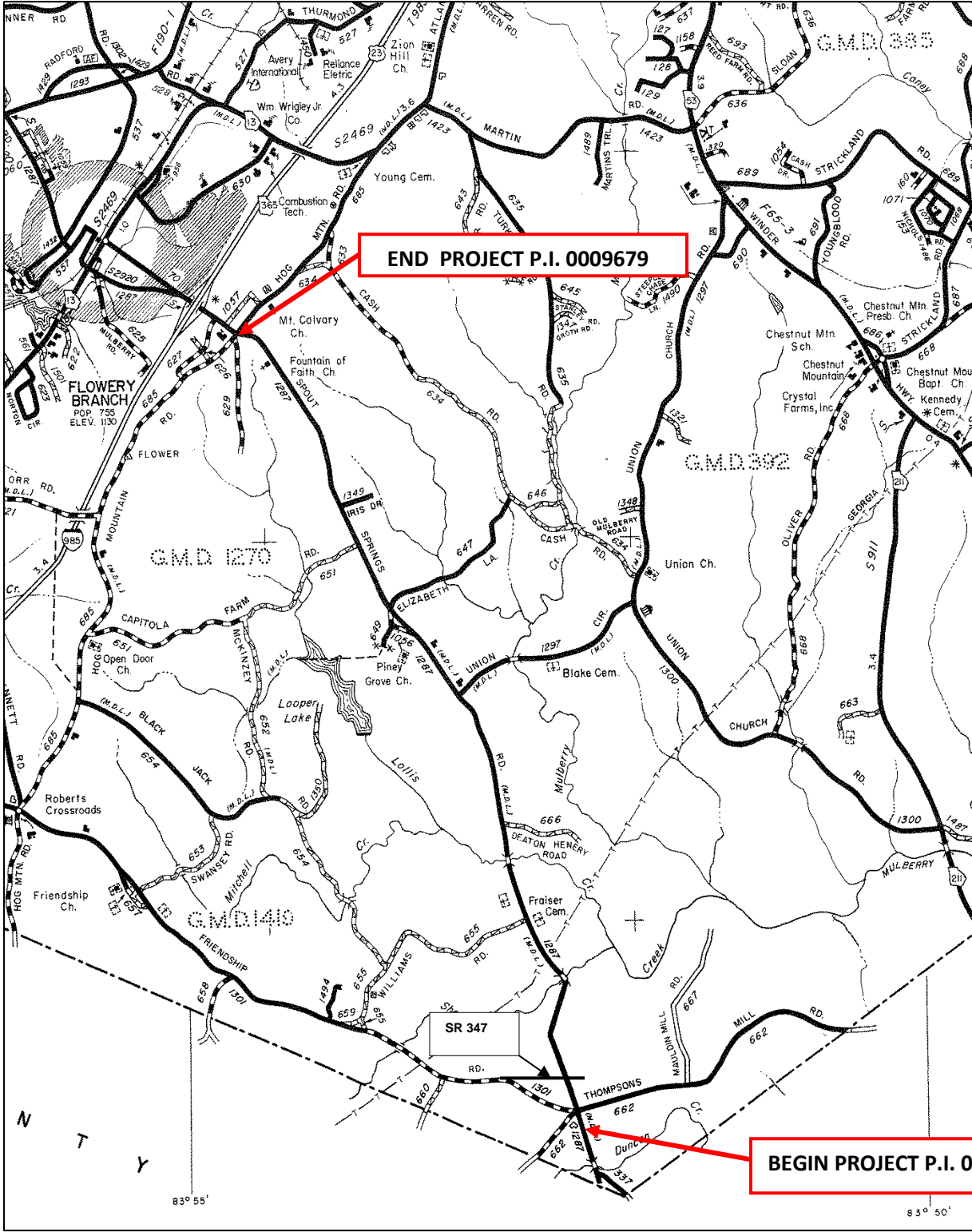
This project is intended to relieve congestion, accommodate current and future travel demand, reduce crash frequency and severity, and improve intersection operations to an acceptable level of service. Analysis of the projected traffic shows that the entire project area along Spout Springs Road would experience major operational breakdowns in the 2040 design year if no improvements occur.

Within the project limits, Spout Springs Road contains four signalized intersections (Hog Mountain Road, Elizabeth Lane, New Friendship Road/SR 347, and Thompsons Mill Road), 21 unsignalized intersections, and numerous residential and commercial driveways. Spout Springs Road has an interchange at I-985 approximately 0.31 mile north of Hog Mountain Road. The speed limit on Spout Springs Road south of Hog Mountain Road is 45 miles per hour (mph).

Land use along the Spout Springs Road includes significant commercial areas at both ends, with a mix of residential and related community developments in between. Individual home sites, subdivisions, churches, schools, a park, a library, and emergency service facilities exist along the corridor. In addition to the project ends, pockets of commercial properties also reside along the corridor.

This project has been identified as PI 0009679 (Hall County) and is listed in the Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as project GH-023.

PROJECT LOCATION MAP, PI # 0009679



END PROJECT P.I. 0009679

BEGIN PROJECT P.I. 0009679

FACT SHEET

Fall 2012

Alternatives Analysis is Complete!

The Spout Springs Corridor Improvements Project is looking to improve congestion and safety along Spout Springs Road. Among the proposed improvements are the addition of travel lanes, turn lanes, a median, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. An Alternatives Analysis (AA) for the project kicked off in August of 2011 and was completed in July of 2012. The eleven month process included the development and comparison of several design options, as well as extensive data collection and public involvement. The AA resulted in the selection of the preferred alternative, described on page 2 and 3 of this newsletter. This preferred alternative will move forward as the concept on which the final design will be based.

Based on feedback from the public involvement process as well as information derived from the traffic study for this corridor, the design team analyzed several alternatives. The goal was to develop each alternative far enough to compare their relative benefits and impacts, and select the alternative that yields the greatest benefit to the community for the least impact. Impacts were measured in terms of home and business relocation, amount and cost of right-of-way acquisition, amount of disturbance to environmental and cultural resources, amount and cost of utility relocations, effect to level of service or traffic delay along the corridor, and overall construction costs. It was important to include the stakeholders' priorities in all of the alternatives. The highest priorities included safety, capacity, and bicycle/pedestrian facilities. Of additional importance to the stakeholders were access, aesthetics, and connectivity.

It is important to note that the preferred alternative is not the final design; that will be developed with much continued input from the State, County, cities, and numerous businesses, churches and residents along the corridor.

Community Involvement

Please join us on December 6, 2012 for a Public Information Open House at Prince of Peace Catholic Church. The meeting will present the preferred alternative design concept and provide an opportunity for your input. There will be no formal presentation. Please attend any time between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Staff will be on hand to walk you through the concept, answer your questions and accept your comments. The church is located at 6439 Spout Springs Road, Flowery Branch, GA 30542.

Outreach for the project to date includes sixteen individual and small group stakeholder interviews with local churches, homeowner associations, businesses, and City, County, and school representatives, as well as a large group public meeting for utility owners and government agencies, and a large public meeting for local residents, businesses, and interested citizens. Each meeting was well attended and resulted in a list of stakeholder priorities for the corridor. In addition to the stakeholder meetings, a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) was established with local volunteer participants coming together to discuss project goals and preferred outcomes.



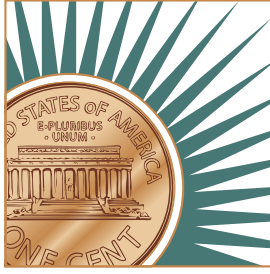
Hall County
SPLOST
Spout Springs Road Widening

**Public Information Open
House:**

**December 6, 2012
Prince of Peace Catholic
Church**

**Drop in between 5:00 and
7:00 p.m.**

www.improvespoutsprings.com



Hall County
SPLOST
Spout Springs Road Widening

What's Next?

Following the PIOH, the project team will work to finalize the preferred alternative. A Citizens Advisory Committee meeting is anticipated in spring 2013 to discuss refinement of some of the design features including landscaping and pedestrian amenities. Preliminary design will begin before the end of 2012 and will conclude in early 2014. Environmental studies looking at history, ecology and community resources will continue throughout that duration. A Public Hearing Open House will be held at the completion of the environmental and preliminary design work to get the public's approval. Final plans will then begin and are anticipated to conclude in mid to late 2017 with construction anticipated in early 2018. Right-of-Way acquisition will take place throughout 2015, 2016, and 2017.

How to Stay Involved

We greatly value your input and want you to be involved in the project. The measure of our success is based on how well the new and improved facility meets your needs! Please join us at the PIOH on December 6th and learn more about the progress we've made in the past year. Ask questions. Stay informed. Feel free to make comments at the PIOH and/or online. Talk to your neighbors and ask them to join you at the PIOH. Take the time to let us listen to your questions and concerns.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, we invite you to visit the project's website at www.improvespoutsprings.com to learn more and stay up to date with the project's progress. You can also contact staff via the contact information below. For questions about the PIOH or how to stay involved, please contact Kristine Hansen-Dederick at 404-377-9147.

Project Contacts

Mr. Jody Woodall, PE
Hall County Engineering
2875 Browns Bridge Road
Gainesville, GA 30504
Phone: 770-531-6800
Email: jwoodall@hallcounty.org



Harvest Balloon Festival 2012

Margie Shames Pozin, PE
STV/Ralph Whitehead Associates
3505 Koger Boulevard, Suite 205
Duluth, GA 30096
Phone: 770-452-0797
Email: margie.pozin@stvinc.com

www.improvespoutsprings.com

How did you hear about this meeting?

- Newspaper Signs Word of Mouth Mailed Meeting Notice
 Other (please specify): _____

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 the project personnel?

- Yes No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?

- Yes No

Please share any additional comments about the proposed improvements on Spout Springs Road.

Submit by December 21, 2012. By mail to:

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

By email at: hansen-dederick@sycamoreconsulting.net or by fax 404-377-9091