

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

---

**INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE**

FILE: P. I. Nos. 222560, 122660 & 0001222      OFFICE: Environment/Location  
DATE: October 12, 2005

*HDK Imm*  
FROM: ~~Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer~~

---

TO: Distribution Below

SUBJECT: Project EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(222), Morgan and Oconee Counties, Summary of Comments Received During the Public Comment Period - The Proposed Widening, Reconstruction, and Partial Realignment of US 441/SR 24 from the Madison Bypass in Morgan County to the Watkinsville Bypass in Oconee County and the Replacement of US 441/SR 24 Bridge Over Hard Labor Creek and Big Sandy Creek

COMMENT TOTALS:

A total of 259 people attended the public information open house held for the subject project. From those attending, 35 comment forms and 17 verbal statements were received. An additional 47 comments were received during the ten day comment period following the public information open house, for a total of 99 comments. They are summarized as follows:

No. Opposed	No. In Support	Uncommitted	Conditional
40	25	5	29

MAJOR CONCERNS:

- Many supporters were pleased with the change in the project alignment which would avoid any impacts to the historic City of Bishop.
- Supporters noted the need to alleviate the traffic congestion on the existing corridor.
- While the bypasses would avoid impacts to historic and archaeological resources, they would increase impacts to ecological resources.
- Concern with the ease of access from the bypasses to the existing US 441.
- Concerns of small businesses on the existing alignment that the bypasses would cause a decline in business, which would cause their businesses to close.
- Project would bypass farmland and open space.

61-1111-07-100-002  
DOT General Files  
Received

Summary of Comments

EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(222), PI Nos. 222560, 122660 & 0001222, Morgan and  
Oconee Counties

Page 3

October 12, 2005

DISTRIBUTION:

Don Attaway

George Brewer

Don Brown

Keith Golden

---

Russell McMurry

Michael Thomas, P.E.

Joe Palladi, P.E.

Ken Thompson

Greg Hood

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties.

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name

Carole Ludwig

Address

(Pritchard)

1510 Old Farmington Rd, Watkinsville Ga. 30677

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments

I can't support destruction of green space - watershed, to preserve a bunch of old buildings  
Widen 441 thru Bishop! IF at all -

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

---

---

---

---

### Mail To:

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Michael S. Hunter

Address 1591 Old Bishop Road  
Bishop, GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments I believe the alignment should be along  
the original 441. Why move the road for a few  
historical buildings? I believe most can be saved  
and the road still be built. Why not move a few if  
they are that critical to our future?

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

I think the DOT does a pretty good job  
with its meetings.

### Mail To:

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

5

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name THOMAS MURRAY

Address 2600 OLD FARMINGTON RD.

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments There needs to be access at 441 / Branch Road / New 441 (4 way intersection) versus the proposed "T" where Branch road dead end in Farmington.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593



# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Tony & Judy Highfield

Address 1350 Branch Road

Bishop GA 30621

(706) 769-7257

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments Should have been done twenty years ago.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

I have only one complaint - The new road's route would leave us a small triangle shaped piece of land on the eastern side of the highway that would be worthless for pasture land and too small to try & sell. What do you do in cases like this?

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keeper, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name FLYNN WARREN

Address 1081 LANE CREEK CIRCLE  
BISHOP GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments NORTH of Bishop section seems to have  
too much curve

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keeper, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name MONICA ALI

Address 1081 LANE CREEK CIRCLE

BISHOP, GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments I support converting 441 into a 4 lane highway.  
However, I realize that there are some very unhappy  
people because of the proposed route around Bishop

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

I would like to have a presentation given initially,  
followed by a question and answer period followed  
by free time to wander about looking at the  
maps and having questions answered by your people

Mail To:

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Jeff Dantre

Address 3883 Macon Hwy  
Watkinsville, GA 30677

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments Property is family owned, see "Ernestine Brinson and Claire Hove". Road to our home bisects those two pieces of property and connects on 441. Land includes graveyard of original family member owner "William Scott Branch" who fought in revolutionary war. This land is part of his land grant - payment for fighting in Rev. War

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

Please ensure our driveway has access - it appears we are losing a bit of footage on the front - I believe this property is historic.

**Mail To:**

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name JAMES M. Sidwey

Address 1341 Apalachee Rd  
MADISON, 30650

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments IT might put me out of  
PAVING business

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth Letter

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name William H. Lee, Jr. and Dolores J. Lee

Address 1540 Old Bishop Rd,  
Bishop, Ga. 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments The right of way is coming very close to the house  
We live in. We would like to have it moved to the east as much  
as practical. The property next ours is mislabeled on map.  
To the east is Thomas Orchard - to the west is Evelyn Hardigree.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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. 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Were your questions answered by the DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

6

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Keith & Cindy Savage  
Address 3511 MACON Hwy 491 (Watkinsville) Farmington

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments Prefer the New highway Come in front of our Area/home than Proposed behind/back of property. We prefer to have it take our home than just degrade the value by coming so close.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

No Comment

**Mail To:**

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593



# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Jim Schmitt

Address 824 Dixie Ave.  
Madison, Ga. 30650

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No *Better*

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

Land currently marked on the map as Jimmy Bay, in Morgan  
County, will be the location of a new subdivision. The corner  
of Madison. A cross-over section needs to be created at the subdivision  
entrance to allow people driving in both directions to enter or  
(over)

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

leave the subdivision. There also needs to be a  
cross over point in front of the Morgan County  
Landfill to allow people traveling north bound  
to enter the landfill. There will be a many  
residents living south of the landfill that will  
need access. These people do not have garbage  
pickup.

---

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Amy Bishop

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments CARS running off road & coming closer to my home, hwy taking 70 ft. of front property & rail road taking 70 ft. of back property, leaves not much for my children.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593



# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Wilbur & Linda Bohlen Sammie & Michelle Brown  
 Address 2760 Athens Hwy. 2630 Athens Hwy  
Madison, Ga. Madison, Ga.

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments Property lines are incorrectly drawn  
around our property - Michelle & Samuel Brown

How did you hear about this meeting? Received a letter.  
 Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name John W. Pritchet

Address P.O. Box 245  
Bishop GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments I support the overall project however it should not be limited access because of some <sup>people's</sup> properties that are split should have access to their properties.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

ok

Mail To: Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name LARRY & LINDA MINTER

Address 1471 MAYNE MILL RD  
WATKINSVILLE, GA. 30677

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments FARMINGTON INTERSECTION OF 441 DEFINITELY NEEDS  
IMPROVEMENT FOR SAFETY - NO ONE OBSERVES THE 45 MPH  
SPEED LIMIT, AT/OR NEAR THE PRESENT TURN LANE  
ESPECIALLY COMING FROM THE SOUTH OVER THE SMALL CREST  
OF THE ROAD.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel? N/A  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

**Mail To:**

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Emory B. Lewis

Address P.O. Box 384

Monroe, Ga. 30655

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

I own property near Farmington on  
Marshall Store Road  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593



# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Scott Hembre <sup>Hembrae</sup>

Address 1971 <sup>S. Macon</sup> Main Hwy  
Watkinsville GA 30677

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments This proposed But looks better than the last. Don't  
Raise the Elevation of the Road. Put in more cut thru lanes  
so we don't have to go so far south to Drive North.  
If the houses in Bishop are so historical. Why don't they fix them up?

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

---

---

---

---

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name

MARtha POWDER THURMOND & Frances POWDER

Address

2256 GILKINS HWY  
MADISON GA 30650

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments

Rather keep my pasture than be  
paid for right of way

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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.

MADISON

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

Do not understand why Road comes  
on side of the water line already  
in ground.

Mail To:

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Vivian Ferguson Seibert Bell

Address 1100 Beaver Dam Rd.  
Madison, GA 30650

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments In the spirit of progress I support  
this project

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name EDWIN F. PRIOR, JR.

Address 1150 SHOCKLEY ROAD (APALACHEE) MADISON GA. 30650

Do you support the project? [X] For [ ] Against [ ] Conditional [ ] Uncommitted

Comments

How did you hear about this meeting? [ ] Radio [ ] Newspaper [X] Signs [ ] Word of Mouth

Was the location of the meeting convenient for you to attend? LETTER FROM D.O.T. [X] 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? [X] Yes [ ] No

If no, please suggest a time frame that is more convenient for you.

Were your questions answered by the DOT personnel? [X] Yes [ ] No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting? [X] Yes [ ] No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

[ ]

Mail To: Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer Georgia Department of Transportation 3993 Aviation Circle Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

29

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Sherry Michael

Address 43661 Macon Hwy  
Bishop GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments I believe that the Highway needs widening to help traffic flow. The current proposal works very well for me and my family.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

33

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name A.S. Johnson

Address 5300 Price Mill Rd  
Bishop Ga 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments Looks reasonable. Close-in alternative would  
have been good. But representative's explanation  
(archaeological sites) clarified reason.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

23

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Margaret Brinson Dantre

Address 3883 Macon Hwy  
Watkinsville GA 30677

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

This is virtually a No-win situation for GDOT  
in that any proposal is going to upset people  
so I feel you've done the best possible  
proposal.

**Mail To:**

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

211

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Jerry and Janett Underwood

Address 3240 Old Farmington Rd.  
P.O. Box 243  
Farmington Ga. 30638

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments South end of Old Farmington Rd. where it connects to 441.  
Old Farmington Rd. is only a cut through road and could be closed  
instead of moving road & disturbing the quality of life for the residents  
that will be affected.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No ?

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No ?

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

---

---

---

---

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Amy Rosen

Address P.O. Box 837  
FARMINGTON, GA  
30638

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments BESIDES THE FINANCIAL BURDEN TO OUR STA  
IT IS HARD TO JUSTIFY DISTRUPTING SO MANY  
FAMILY FARMS AND LIVES TO BUILD A  
ROAD FOR "SNOWBUNNIES" TO TRAVEL BACK  
AND FORTH TO FLORIDA. WHEN HAVE YOU SURVEYED

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth 7

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?  
HAVE REPS MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT  
PROJECT. MANY SAID THEY WERE JUST  
DRAFTED IN THE MORNING.

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO USE THIS ROAD  
2X/DAY? WHAT WERE YOUR CRITERIA

TO JUSTIFY THE NEED FOR THIS  
PROJECT? IT HAS BEEN PROVEN THAT

<sup>THE BY-PASSES)</sup>  
IT HAS NOT BROUGHT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OPPORTUNITIES TO RURAL LOCATIONS. IN

FACT, MANY BUSINESSES HAVE SHUT THEIR  
DOORS DUE TO LACK AND INCONVENIENCE  
OF PATRONAGE.

HAVE YOU ASKED FOR VOLUNTEER LANDOWNERS?

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED MORE PASSING

LANES ALONG EXISTING ROAD (US. 441).

~~It is not a good idea to have a road that is so narrow  
that it is a safety hazard.~~

I would rather see state funds  
used to support a failing educational  
system.

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name <sup>(New Owner)</sup> ~~MASH~~ Paul CHAWLA (SAMUEL P SHOCKLEY) ~~old owner~~

Address 4001 Athens Hwy  
Madison, GA - 30650  
706-342-3277

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments Needs Access on 441. I am located on the corner of 441 & Apalachee Rd with frontage on 441. I will be out of business if you move 441 above me. My Business depends on 441.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Stan Michael

Address 4361 Macon Hwy  
Bishop GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments clear for the current bypass alignment 100%

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593



# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Nedra Johnson

Address P.O. Box 63 5300 Price Mill Rd.  
Bishop GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments The East side, current alignment appears to  
be the best alternative after talking with your  
representatives at the meeting.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Allen Bishop

Address 1870 Macon Hwy  
Watkinsville Ga  
30677

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments We need to talk about 441 + Branch  
Road on the corner. I got kids to feed  
AND D.O.T. is taking out my business  
No. No. No. Call 706-769-9274

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

~~On 441 and 27th road we have~~

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

8

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Amy Bishop

Address 1570 Macan Hwy. Wark. Ga 30677

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments NOT much of property left, inconvenienc  
trying to cross median to get home,  
loss of fruit trees that makes our living,  
business up road will be gone. You leave  
me NO way to support my fam. all the way aroun

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name MARK N. FREEMAN
Address 1510 OLD FARMINGTON RD
WATKINSVILLE, GA 30677

Do you support the project? [ ] For [X] Against [ ] Conditional [ ] Uncommitted

Comments \* Please see comments on reverse ->

How did you hear about this meeting? [ ] Radio [ ] Newspaper [X] Signs [X] Word of Mouth

Was the location of the meeting convenient for you to attend? [X] 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? [X] Yes [ ] No

If no, please suggest a time frame that is more convenient for you.

Were your questions answered by the DOT personnel? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting? [ ] Yes [ ] No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

Four horizontal lines for writing suggestions.

Mail To: Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Concerning Project EDS-441(43) "Bishop by-pass" -

- The preliminary route shown in red seems to involve far more land purchase, road construction, environmental impact than

the original route (purple). The current alignment has twice as many stream crossings, more forested land to clear, (& most significant) more properties disturbed! Look at the

map! Why not alter the purple route to run into existing 129/441 just south of

Bishop city limits? And when were the sites "eligible for national historic register"

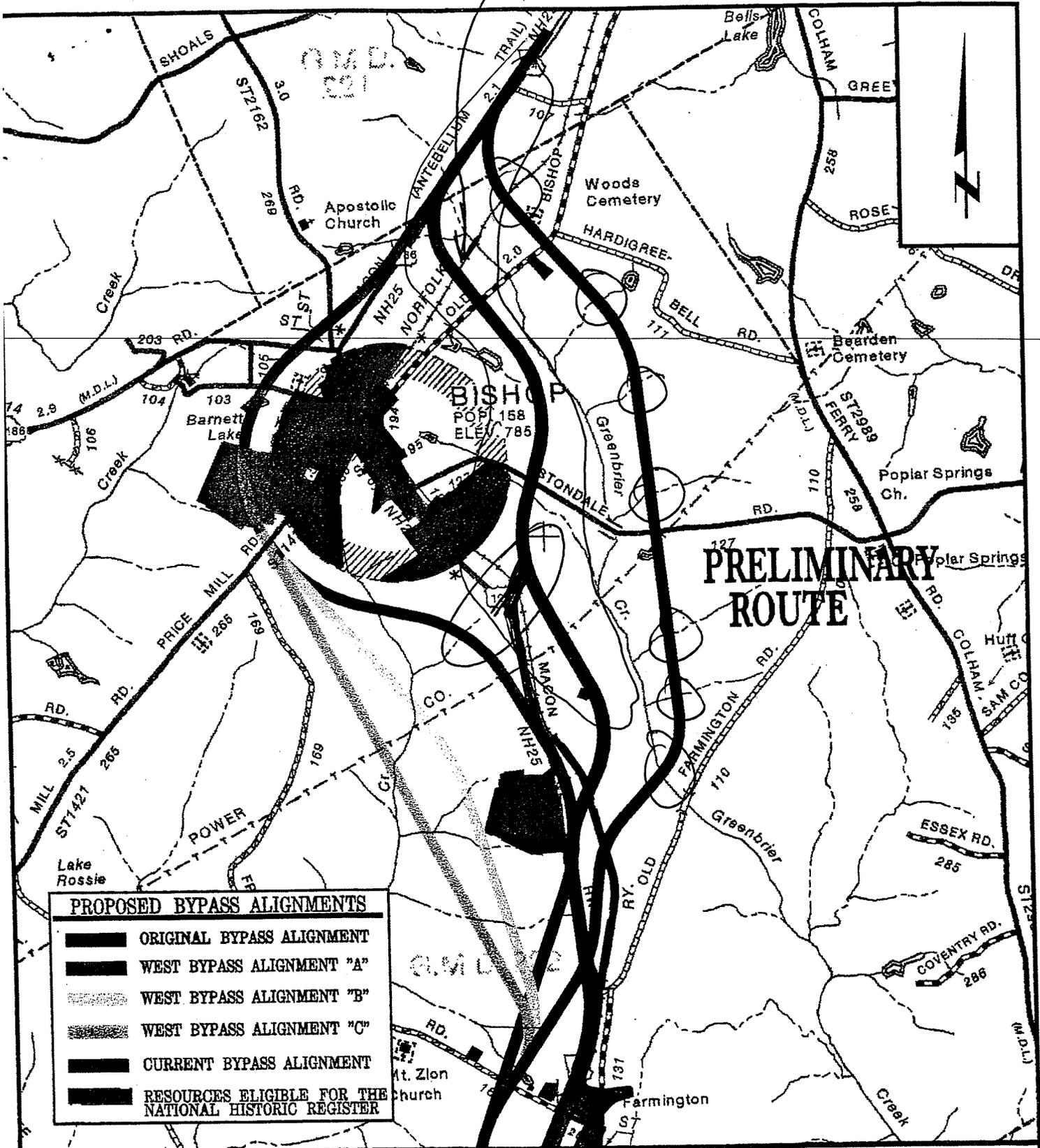
declared as such?? Is this an end-run by "connected" landowners? THIS PROJECT

IS UNNECESSARY TO BEGIN WITH. But the L... will be far more expensive & damage

7/10/81

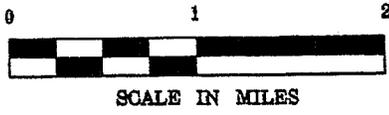
I am happy to discuss -

WHY NOT THIS ROUTE???



**PRELIMINARY ROUTE**

PROPOSED BYPASS ALIGNMENTS	
	ORIGINAL BYPASS ALIGNMENT
	WEST BYPASS ALIGNMENT "A"
	WEST BYPASS ALIGNMENT "B"
	WEST BYPASS ALIGNMENT "C"
	CURRENT BYPASS ALIGNMENT
	RESOURCES ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER



**LOCATION**

**STRIPMAP**  
 EDS-441(43)  
 S.R. 24/U.S. 441 IMPROVEMENTS  
 OCONEE COUNTY  
 P.I.# 122660

SOURCE: GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP, MORGAN CO., GEORGIA  
 PREPARED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, 1962

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name RANDY KORANDO

Address 3800 ATHENS HWY  
MADISON, GA 30650

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments WHY ARE THEY TAKING ALL FROM ONE SIDE  
ON A LONG STRAIGHT SECTION AND NOT FROM  
BOTH SIDES

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Henry T. Mann

Address Box 783  
Farmington, Ga

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments Do not make this Road Limited Access

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name CLAUDE WILLIAMS

Address P.O. Box 5875  
ATHENS, GA. 30604

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name DAN BELMAN

Address 3800 Athens Hwy (441)  
Madison, GA

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments WE DO NOT NEED ANOTHER 4 LANE Highway.  
NOT ALL ~~THE~~ THINGS DONE IN THE NAME OF  
'progress' ARE GOOD. SOME GROWTH, LIKE  
CRACKS, ARE NOT GOOD!

How did you hear about this meeting? Mail  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name BART HARDIGREE

Address 1030 ASTONDALE ROAD  
BISHOP GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments I'VE LIVED HERE MY WHOLE LIFE  
AND HONESTLY FEEL THIS WILL DESTROY OUR  
COMMUNITY!

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

IT'S NOT THE MEETING I'M CONCERNED ABOUT.

Mail To:

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name CAROL DONALD

Address 2161 SALEM RD
PO Box 240
FARMINGTON GA 30638

Do you support the project? [X] For [ ] Against [ ] Conditional [ ] Uncommitted

Comments

How did you hear about this meeting? [ ] Radio [ ] Newspaper [X] Signs [ ] Word of Mouth

Was the location of the meeting convenient for you to attend? [X] 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? [X] Yes [ ] No

If no, please suggest a time frame that is more convenient for you.

Were your questions answered by the DOT personnel? [X] Yes [ ] No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting? [X] Yes [ ] No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

A chart of the process to be followed after the meeting with notations of typical time lines

Mail To: Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer Georgia Department of Transportation 3993 Aviation Circle Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Charles Bone

Address 2300 Athens Hwy  
Madison, Ga. 30650

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments We were told by D.O.T. that 441 would expand to the east side of the highway. We would never have built the wall or done the landscaping that we did had we know otherwise. The property value across from →

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
 Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
 Georgia Department of Transportation  
 3993 Aviation Circle  
 Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name JAMES V. LUKEV, JR

Address 23 South Third St.  
WATKINSVILLE, GA 30677

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments The north-south connection of  
RT 491 between the Watkinsville bypass and  
the Madison bypass is extremely important  
for this region. The eastern bypass around  
Bishop is the strongest option.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name W. B. Haddigree - Southeastern Testing Lab, Inc.

Address P.O. Box 149 - 1030 Astorville Rd  
Bishop, GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments My Family Runs a business visible from existing Hwy 441.  
We do NOT like losing Hwy 441 Frontage, so our customers  
do NOT see our building which stands as an advertisement  
for them to see. This bypass should remain closer to the old  
route. Businesses along this route can be put out of business or see  
a significant decrease.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

Should remain open for suggestions and consider  
those suggestions when implementing preliminary  
plans. Seems like the plan has already been decided on  
which route, before public hearings. There might be too  
much concern with archeological, historical wetlands to design  
a sensible route.

Mail To:

Mr. Harvey D. Keeper, State Environmental/Location Engineer

Georgia Department of Transportation

3993 Aviation Circle

Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Rosemary Woodel

Address 4691 Macon Hwy  
Bishop GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments Bishop must be bypassed. Huge  
trucks regularly speed through town.  
There are no sidewalks in "Southern"  
Bishop so I drive down the street even though  
I would prefer to walk.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

This is first one for me.

*Cto Mayor of Bishop*

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593



## GREENBRIAR CREEK FARM

---

Carole C. Ludwig, DVM  
1510 Old Farmington Road  
Watkinsville, Georgia 30677  
**706-769-7008**

---

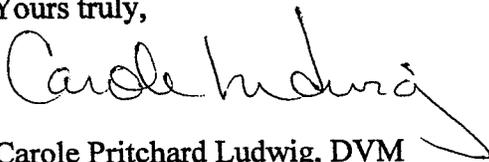
Aug. 16, 2005

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler  
State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Ga. DOT  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, Ga. 30336-1593

Dear Mr. Keepler:

I am very disturbed and upset with the proposed route of 441 through Oconee County. If you are an environmentalist, please come to my farm and let me show you where I've picked up a handful of arrowheads, where the Greenbriar Creek feeder runs so clear you can see the minnows from the banks, the oaks where the warblers stop over to feed and rest during spring migration, where the wild turkeys raise their poults, where the Red-shouldered Hawks nested this year. The highway would obliterate all of that, just on my property. I'm sure it would do the same to both working farms beside me one of which is in a Farmland Trust. Surely we can have good highways (I travel a lot myself) without destroying pristine creeks and forests.

Yours truly,



Carole Pritchard Ludwig, DVM

MY NAME IS DR. JAMES HILL IV. I OWN TWO ADJACENT PIECES OF PROPERTY IN

FARMINGTON GA. ONE IS ON THE N.W. CORNER OF US 441 AND FREEMAN CREEK RD. THE

SECOND IS CONNECTED TO THE FIRST ON ITS WESTERN BOUNDARY. MY QUALIFICATIONS:

~~I HAVE DOCTORATE IN ECOLOGY, A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL~~

ENGINEERING, A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING, AND I WAS EMPLOYED BY

THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR THIRTY YEARS. FOLLOWING IS A

LIST OF PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS WITH THE WIDENING OF US 441 THAT WAS PRESENTED

AT THE OCONEE COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER 15AUG05. A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF EACH

PROBLEM OR CONCERN WILL BE FOUND FOLLOWING THE LIST.

1. THE PROPOSED ROAD GOES THROUGH A CLASSIFIED TOXIC WASTE SITE.
2. THE PROPOSED ROAD MAY DISRUPT AN 85 GAL/MIN SPRING.
3. THE PROPOSED ROAD MAY DISTURB A WETLAND HABITAT.
4. THE PROPOSED ROAD MAY DISTURB TWO RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES.
5. THE PROPOSED ROAD DIVIDES MY PROPERTY IN HALF DOWN THE MIDDLE.
6. THE PROPOSED ROAD WILL ELIMINATE MY WELL, WATER, ELECTRIC, AND PHONE LINES.
7. INCREASED RUN-OFF FROM THE PROPOSED ROAD COULD DESTROY MY HOUSE.

1. TOXIC WASTE SITE: IN THEIR "HASARDOUS SITE INDEX" THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION LISTS A WASTE-HOLDING POND ON THE WESTERN

END OF BUDDY MURROW'S PROPERTY WHICH IS CONNECTED TO MY PROPERTY ON THE

NORTHERN EDGE IN FARMINGTON. THE POND IS IN THE DIRRECT PATH OF THE PROPOSED

---

ROAD. FOR MANY YEARS THE POND RECEIVED CARBON TETRACHLORIDE WHICH WAS USED

FOR DE-LINTING COTTON SEEDS.

ALTHO CARBON TETRACHLORIDE IS QUITE VOLATILE, IT ATTACHES TO THE

CLAY-MINERAL PARTICLES IN THE SOIL MATRIX AND IT CAN REMAIN IN THE GROUND

FOR DECADES OR LONGER, DEPENDING ON SITE CONDITIONS. THE HEALTH PROBLEMS

ATTRIBUTED TO CARBON TETRACHLORIDE INCLUDE: HUMAN CANCER, HEART ARRHYTHMIA,

LIVER DAMAGE, KIDNEY DAMAGE, ASTHMA AND OTHER RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS,

HEADACHES, FATIGUE, NAUSEA, DIARRHEA, VOMITING, AND MENSTRUAL IRREGULARITIES.

The following solvents can cause human cancer, based on animal tests:

methylene chloride, carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, dioxane, formaldehyde,

perchloroethylene and trichloroethylene.

Overexposure to trichloroethane, or to other chlorinated solvents, has

sometimes caused arrhythmia also.

Liver and kidney damage. Some solvents are much more potent than others in

causing chemical hepatitis, kidney failure, or glomerulonephritis (a kidney disease). They include carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, dimethylformamide, d-limonene, formaldehyde, methyl chloride, perchloroethylene, styrene, toluene, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, trichloroethylene, xylene.

---

THE CHEMICAL DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS OF CARBON TETRACHLORIDE INCLUDE

FORMALDEHYDE AND CHLOROFORM; BOTH OF WHICH CAN REMAIN IN THE SOIL AND HAVE A

HEALTH-PROBLEM LIST SIMILAR TO THAT OF CARBON TETRACHLORIDE, EXCEPT THERE IS

MORE EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT FORMALDEHYDE IS ALSO A CARCINOGEN.

2,3,4 SPRING, WETLAND, RARE SPECIES: THE LAKE ON MY PROPERTY IS FED BY A

CONTINUOUS (NOT SEASONAL OR INTERMITTANT) SPRING AT 85 GAL/MIN ALL YEAR.

DISRUPTING OR 'CHANNELIZING' THE SPRING'S FLOW WOULD ELIMINATE THE SMALL

(ABOUT 1/2 ACRE) MARSH THAT LIES BETWEEN THE SPRING AND THE EASTERN END OF

MY LAKE. IT WOULD ALSO RUIN SOME EXCELLENT BASS/BLUEGILL FISHING. FOR 35

YEARS THE MARSH HAS HAD 'Trillium persistens' (Persistent Trillium) AND

'Cypripedium acaule' (Pink Ladyslipper Orchid) BOTH OF WHICH ARE LISTED AS

RARE, ENDANGERED, OR UNUSUAL DEPENDING ON WHOSE LIST YOU CONSULT.

5. DIVIDED PROPERTY: IT APPEARS THAT AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO ROUTE THE

WIDENED US 441 ALONG PROPERTY LINES INSTEAD OF CUTTING  
PROPERTIES IN TWO. ON

THE D.O.T MAP #24 (FARMINGTON) MY TWO HOLDINGS LOOK LIKE  
SEPARATE

PROPERTIES, UNLESS SOMEONE NOTICES THAT THEY ARE BOTH OWNED  
BY JAMES HILL IV

---

AND THUS THEY ARE A SINGLE CONTIGUOUS PIECE OF PROPERTY. THE  
PROPOSED ROAD

WOULD SEPARATE MY HOUSE FROM MY LAKE AND PASTURE.

6. WELL AND UTILITIES: MY WELL WOULD BE DESTROYED BY THE  
PROPOSED ROAD. MY

BURIED WATER, ELECTRIC, AND PHONE LINES WOULD ALSO BE  
DESTROYED. THESE ARE

NOT UTILITY COMPANY LINES, I BURIED THEM MYSELF 30 YEARS WHEN I  
BEGAN

BUILDING MY HOUSE.

7. INCREASED RUN-OFF: THE STREAM FROM MY LAKE FLOWS ABOUT 20  
FEET FROM MY

HOUSE, THE INCREASED RUN-OFF FROM THE PROPOSED ROAD IS LIKELY  
TO UNDERCUT

THE FOUNDATION OF MY HOUSE. (MY SPECIAL INTEREST FOR MY MASTER  
OF SCIENCE

DEGREE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING WAS FLOOD ROUTEING.)

*Dr. James Hill IV*  
*hilljiv@gmail.com*

James Hill IV  
P.O. Box 184  
Farmington Ga

30638

Harvey D. Keeper  
US 441 Widening  
State Environmental Engineer  
Ga. Dept. of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta GA. 30633-1593

pply



7004 1160 0006 0891 6218



U.S. POSTAL SERVICE



30336

0000

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE  
FARMINGTON  
GA 30638  
AMOUNT \$7.90  
00030733-01

(441)

P.O. Box 252  
1171 Freeman Creek Road  
Farmington, GA 30638  
[pickettpottery@hotmail.com](mailto:pickettpottery@hotmail.com)  
(706)769-8100  
August 19, 2005

Harvey D. Keepler  
State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Dept. of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

---

Dear Mr. Keepler:

I tried to submit the content of this letter via the web, but due to the 1000 character limit, we have decided to mail it to you instead.

We would like to file a formal objection to the proposed re-routing of Hwy 441 through Farmington EDS-441(42)(43) as announced at the public viewing at the Oconee County Civic Center 08/15/05. I also have some general comments concerning Farmington and specific questions.

**OBJECTION:** The proposed route of Hwy. 441 is 600 feet from our residence and 200 feet from my workshop, where I spend my entire working life. Our concern is that an increasingly busy four lane highway, with constant truck traffic, will seriously degrade our quality of life due to the very high noise level. As can be seen from the aerial photograph, my workshop cannot even be provided with a buffer of trees due to its close proximity to the property line. Because of my established home based business and immovable kilns, relocation is not a viable option.

**COMMENTS:** I have lived around Farmington for approximately 22 years. The general assumption locally during that time has been that when the inevitable widening of Hwy. 441 takes place it would be approximately in the existing corridor. When we purchased our land in 1993, I contacted the local Ga. DOT office, who were also of the opinion that the road through Farmington would not drastically change. A large convenience store, carefully set back from the existing road to allow space for a four lane highway, is shortly due to open in Farmington. This confirms, at least until the DOT's new proposal of August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005, the view that the highway would simply be widened approximately in its current position. With even a small shift of the road to the west, the impact of the proposed highway location on noise levels, business viability, houses in the way etc. will be equal or worse than staying on the existing route.

QUESTIONS:

1. I respectfully request the specific details of why it is impossible to make Hwy 441 into a four lane highway more or less in the space available surrounding the current road?
2. Is the Ga. DOT willing to consider other alternatives in the re-routing of the road at Farmington?

Sincerely,

*G. Pickett* *Lisa Pickett*  
Geoff and Lisa Pickett

---

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Constance Booth

Address 968 Lakeview Dr.  
Madison, GA 30650

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments The amount of traffic on 441 is increasing  
day by day. I generally allow 45 minutes to get  
to Athens. The project really needs to be done.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

**Mail To:**

Mr. Harvey D. Keeper, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Kay W. House

Address 1800 Astorale Rd  
Bishop GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments This is going right through our farm which is in the Farmland Protection Program. This will completely destroy our farm.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

all the answers the DOT personnel could give was "I don't know" you will have to talk to some one else. That some one else should have been at the meeting!

Mail To:

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Carolyn Pritchett

Address PO BOX 245 - Macon Hwy  
BISHOP GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments for the Bishop By Pass -  
Against the Farmington section -

Should use the existing 441 as per the  
original plan - more time + money saved -

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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.

location was ok -

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. should be longer  
later

Were your questions answered by the DOT personnel? not really  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

There should be a speaker outlining the project  
via slides or some medium as Power Point.

→ There seems to be nothing gained by by-passing  
Farmington. Please reconsider -

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

over

<sup>Bishop</sup>  
The bypass seems ok -  
but what can be

---

gained from all of  
the work at Farmington??

This just seems to be such a waste  
there are only 4 horses affected - it  
will be less expensive to use the  
existing 441 as per the other plan,  
and it probably will take less  
time, be more convenient, and  
more user-friendly -

58

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Kelly Branch Tyre

Address 3991 Macon Highway  
Watkinsville, Georgia 30677

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments See Attached

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

**Mail To:**

Mr. Harvey D. Kepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

August 23, 2005

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

RE: Project EDS 441 – Widening and Realignment of US 441

---

My name is Kelly Branch Tyre. Oconee County, Georgia has been my home my entire life. I have witnessed many changes in this “small town community” over the past 30 years. Some of these changes have been beneficial, while others seem unnecessary. Many individuals seek the rural, small town atmosphere that Oconee County has been able to provide. However, this sought after quality is quickly becoming obsolete.

The Branch family settled in the Bishop area of Oconee County in the early 1800's. Although some sacrifices have been made, every generation has managed to hold on to this historic family farm that we all value so much. Family farms that have been maintained in the original family name are a rare find in our society today, but it is part of what makes Oconee County so appealing.

The proposed 441 Bypass cuts right through our Branch family farm. We realize that roadways are important for infrastructure, but there is a better way to position the 441 Bypass in order for us to be able to preserve our family farm a little longer. Our farm is one of the most impacted land areas as far as land mass that the new bypass will effect. A large amount of property will be absorbed by the bypass. The portion of the farm located on the west side of the existing 441 highway is deemed “historic” and cannot be disturbed. The entire 400 acre farm, on both sides of the existing highway, was acquired at the same time. Why, then, is the property on the east side of the road not deemed “historic” as well? It seems as though the existing highway is the dividing point; however, it is all a part of the original Branch family farm. Therefore, should the entire farm not be considered “historic”?

The Branch family farm is currently in operation by my father, Thomas McRee Branch. The farm is used for raising beef cattle, hay production and forestry. The proposed bypass will alienate a large portion of the pasture that holds the cattle and make access to the adjoining pasture virtually impossible. The proposed bypass will be splitting one large field in two; therefore, it will also cut off the water supply to much of the cattle. Much of the pine forest will have to be cut down as a result of the proposed bypass. This may possibly affect the future livelihood of the farm operations.

We are asking that you reposition this portion of the 441 Bypass. By moving it farther east, the bypass would be closer to the property line rather than cutting right through the middle of the farm. Although the impact would still exist, it would not be as great.



I feel extremely fortunate to know my family's original homeplace and to realize all of the wonderful things that generations before me did to improve our home and our farm. It would truly be shameful if a bypass was the cause of splitting this farm in two. Future generations of the Branch family would not be able to witness the beauty of this farm and realize all of the hard work and sacrifices that went into trying to preserve it.

Please take my comments into consideration when positioning the 441 Bypass between Bishop and Farmington.

---

Sincerely,

*Kelly Branch Tyre*

**Kelly Branch Tyre**

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name John Tyre

Address 3991 Macon Hwy.

Watkinsville, GA 30677

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments See Attached

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

August 23, 2005

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

RE: Project EDS 441 – Realignment of US 441

The Branch farm, which consists of approximately 400 acres located on Highway 441 between Bishop and Farmington, is slated as one of the sites for the 441 Bypass to run through. The Branch farm has been in my wife, Kelly Branch Tyre's, family for almost 200 years. The family still actively operates this farm. My father in law, Thomas Branch, raises cattle, produces hay and grows pine trees. The effect that this new roadway will have on the farm operations will be tremendous. The livestock pastures will be cut up with no access between them, cattle will be without access to water, hay fields will be greatly decreased in size and much of the pine tree forest will be destroyed. As a member of the Branch family, I realize how important this farm is to the entire family. It is one of only a few that still exist in this area. This type of farming operation is one of the characteristics that makes this area so appealing.

The historic designation of the farm is also a concern. The Branch farm was given this designation on the proposed location maps. However, only a small portion of the approximately 400 acres was included. The property on the west side of the existing highway was shown as historic, but the same farmland on the east side of the existing highway was not. My wife's family established this entire farm in the early 1800's, all the farmland was acquired at the same time. Therefore, it seems that all of the 400 acres should be considered historic, not just a very small part of it.

As a tax payer, I am concerned with the appropriation of funds for this project as well. Is there another route that possibly would not have to cross the railroad tracks that would be more cost effective and not so unsightly? Also, this project is slated to occur because of the GRIP program which was established over 10 years ago. Should the program not be analyzed again, 10 years later, before something of this magnitude is constructed? It was designed to improve economic conditions in south Georgia; therefore, is this appropriate for the Bishop area?

I ask that you take my comments into consideration when determining the route for the 441 Bypass. Also, please consider the farmer. Farming is extremely important in our economy today, but it often is forced to take a back seat to large roadways, such as the proposed 441 Bypass. If we can avoid this we will all be much better off, because where would we be without the farmer?

Sincerely,



John Tyre

**Rickey D. House, Sr.**

1800 Astondale Road  
Bishop, Georgia 30621  
Home Phone 706-769-7122

August 23, 2005

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental / Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, Georgia 30336-1593

---

Dear Mr. Keepler,

This letter is being written to you because I and my family is concerned about the route of the US 441 bypass around Bishop, Ga.

My family had been trying to get our family farm of 5 generations into the NRCS Farm Land Protection Program. We finally got it put in using county, state, and federal tax payers money. The state NRCS and the federal government seen this farm significant enough to be protected forever, only to have the state D.O.T. using tax payers money to destroy this farm . There are 3 Or 4 other family farms on this route trying to get their farms into this program as funds come available.

Hopefully the D.O.T. will look at this and see what the tax payers are wanting. There are people on 441 wanting it to stay or they will loose their businesses, If the road comes through these family farms they will be put out of business forever.

Please look at this again and see what the tax payers are wanting..

Sincerely,

House Family

P.S.

53.6 acres was put into the Farm Land Protection. Out of that 53.6 acres 14 acres was donated to protect the creeks.

1311 Old Farmington Road  
Watkinsville, GA 30677

22 August 2005

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler  
State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

---

Dear Mr. Keepler:

This letter is in response to Project EDS-441(43) for Oconee County.

I am a resident of Old Farmington Road in Oconee County. I was happy to read in the local newspaper about my neighbor's farm being accepted into a farm land conservation program. Having grown-up in semi-rural Florida, much like South Oconee County is today, I know firsthand how suburbia can overrun everything.

One day America will need its farmland, so it is a very big disappointment to see the Bishop 441 Bypass come through the middle of his farm and several of my other neighbors' farms. And from an environmental angle it seems that the original by-pass alignment would impact the Greenbrier Creek less.

If there were any way to reconsider the current route and return to the original bypass alignment it would be in the long run better for all of us.

Sincerely,



William G. Perry

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Gail Kallins

Address 1311 Old Farmington Rd  
Watkinsville, GA 30677

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments I do not support it but have a compromise  
suggestion - please see attached letter

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

---

---

---

---

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

1311 Old Farmington Road  
Watkinsville, GA 30677

22 August 2005

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler  
State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

---

Dear Mr. Keepler:

I would like to voice my objections to the current bypass alignment around Bishop as a part of Projects EDS-441 (43) for Oconee County and make a suggestion for an alternate route that is a compromise between two plans.

My first concern is for the environmental impact of the current bypass alignment. As stated in Alternatives Studied to Bypass Bishop for EDS-441 (43), the original bypass alignment was designed to minimize impacts to streams and wetlands. In the original plan, the widening of US 441 crosses Briercreek only once; whereas, with the current plan it crosses the creek six times. I think there should be a greater concern for the environment when Georgia is wrestling with "long-term water woes and potential solutions for dealing with them," according to Chris DeVinney, ACCG Policy Development Director and Nolton Johnson, Branch Chief, Water Resources, Georgia EPD.

Second, the current bypass plan bisects many neighbors' working farms, including one who has placed his land in a farm land conservation program. With the rural nature of Oconee County rapidly declining, such divisions of large parcels of open space are a huge loss for the county. Especially at a time when the rapid growth of subdivisions, master planned developments and strip malls have many citizens concerned about quality of life issues.

According to the alternatives studied, a negative aspect of the original alignment is that it impacts sites that may be eligible for the national historic register. As an art historian, I understand the value of protecting historic sites, but I am also a citizen who would like to continue to have clean and plentiful drinking water and open spaces upon which to gaze. Therefore, I would like to suggest a compromise.

The original road alignment comes closest to the possible historic resources in Farmington. Why not choose the current by-pass plan just through Farmington and then revert to the original plan where it bisects the current one? Greenbrier Creek would be crossed once, working farms will remain intact and a majority of possible historic sites would not be jeopardized.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Gail Kallins

Katie Godwin  
1010 Apalachee Road  
Madison GA 30650  
August 22,2005

Dear Mr. Harvey D. Keelper

I am writing in regards to the widening of 441 Highway in Apalachee.

---

First of all, the widening of 441 Highway is going to spilt my land up again. I also own land on the east side of 441 that is separated from my farm I own the land at 1011 Apalachee Road that is separated by Apalachee Road. And now with the widening of 441 Highway and moving Apalachee Road, my land will be separated two possibly three more times.

With 441 Highway going on the other side of my house it is going to be dangerous for me to go to my farm and check on my cows. It is also going to be dangerous crossing the road on tractor to get to the farm.

I am in my seventies. It is to dangerous for me to drive on the highway. So I go to the dairy barn (which you want to take) and drive though the pasture to get to the rest of my land. So that I check on my cows and farm.

Would like you to consider taking my house at 1011 Apalachee Road. I have been informed the house is in a historic area. I didn't give my consent for it To be there. I also have been informed that my farm was once in the historic area. But was took out so that the widening of 441 Highway could go though my farm. If you take my house at 1011 Apalachee Road and my houses at 1010 Apalachee

Road and leave the road where it is. First of all it will allow me to still get to my Farm. This farm is my only income. And the only pleasure I have is going to to check on my cows. If you buy these houses I can go rebuild these houses and barns where I will not have to get on the roads and endanger my live and the lives of the people who will be traveling on the highway. And I still can enjoy my farm.

---

If you consider buying my houses and leave the road where it is some of my neighbors will be benefiting from this. This will help the farmer next to me and will help the man that own Rainbow Store.

Also I am in a program where I can't sell my land. What will happen With me in this program I am in will Uncle Sam?

If you wont consider taking the land at 1011 Apalachee road, would you consider waiting about eight years before you dig up my land. I will be able to rebuild on my land in seven years. I am in a government program that enables me to sell or build on the land for ten years. All I can do is farm my land. The program will end in seven or eight years.

Thank you for your time and listening to me.

Thank You,

Katie Godwin

*Katie L Godwin*

# Athens Land Trust, Inc.



2109 West Broad Street • Athens, Georgia 30606-3545

Telephone: 706.613.0122 • Fax: 706.613.0143

[www.athenslandtrust.org](http://www.athenslandtrust.org)

24 August

Mr. Harvey Keepler  
State Environment/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, Georgia 30336-1593

Dear Mr. Keepler:

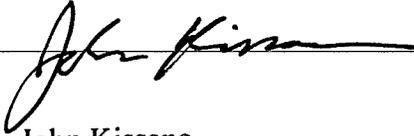
I am writing with regard to project EDS-441(42)(43), the proposed widening, reconstruction, and partial realignment of US 441/SR 24 from the Madison Bypass in Morgan County to the Watkinsville Bypass in Oconee County. Specifically, the Athens Land Trust (ALT) has concerns about the proposed Bishop Bypass. The Current Bypass Alignment, as presented at the public information open house on 15 August 2005, passes through an area of productive family farms that together constitute the agricultural heart of Oconee County. Several of these farms have been in the same family for generations. While we would not like to see any important agricultural land compromised by a road project, we believe this particular area is especially ill-suited to such an undertaking.

Of particular concern to the Athens Land Trust is the fact that the proposed Bishop Bypass passes directly through the farm owned by Rickey and Kay House (tax parcel B-08 009). ALT has signed a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to place a conservation easement on the western side of the House Farm and is presently negotiating details of the easement. USDA has determined that this farm is of such importance that a Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program grant in the amount of \$173,400.00 has been awarded for purchase of the conservation easement. Furthermore, the Oconee County Commission has allocated \$75,000.00 to go toward the easement purchase and local citizens have donated some \$7,750.00 to supplement public funds. The Houses themselves are donating twenty-five percent of the total easement cost. All parties, including ALT, are in agreement that this farm has important conservation values and should be protected as productive agricultural land.

Please also note that a historic tenant house, believed to date from c.1875, is located on the House Farm within the construction zone for an intersection at Astondale Road. In addition, a small historic cemetery is located further east on the property.

We wanted to make your office aware of the conservation easement and historic properties at this early date, before the planning process goes any further. Please give serious consideration to these factors, and we will appreciate it if you would keep the Athens Land Trust informed about this undertaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kissane", written over a horizontal line.

John Kissane  
Conservation Director

cc: Governor Sonny Perdue  
Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin  
Senator Brian Kemp  
David Lamm, USDA  
Rickey and Kay House

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Gerald Scoggins  
Address 1553 Old Farmington Rd. Watkinsville Ga.  
30677

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Gerald Scoggins  
Address 1553 Old Farmington Rd. Watkinsville Ga.  
30677

Do you support the project?     For     Against     Conditional     Uncommitted

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this meeting?     Radio     Newspaper     Signs     Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?     Yes     No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?     Yes     No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

**Mail To:**  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Jerry Scoggins

Address 1551 Old Farmington Rd  
Wadkinsville, GA 30167

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler  
State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, Georgia 30336-1593

August 23, 2005

Dear Mr. Keepler,

In attending the meeting on August 15, 2005 at the public information open house for the proposed widening reconstruction, and partial realignment of US 441/SR 24 from the Madison Bypass in Morgan County to the Watkinsville Bypass in Oconee County we saw the proposed drawing does not have a 'pass through' lane for the private road leading to our poultry/cattle farm.

We live on the west side of the proposed US 441/SR24 bypass, in Morgan County. Our property is joined onto that of Charles Bone (OUR PROPERTY IS LISTED AS PART OF CHARLES BONE'S ON YOUR DRAWING THAT WE SAW AT THE OCONEE COUNTY CIVIC CENTER). Our address is 2250 Athens Hwy. Madison. We have resided here since 1983. We want to give you a brief statement voicing our concerns about this road. On the county map this road looks like a simple driveway, but it is far from this. We are listing below our concerns for this road.

1. We have poultry houses in which we have grown broiler chickens for the last 22 years. This income is where we make the majority of our living. Raising chickens consists of having at least one tractor trailer per day and averages three per day to enter and exit our farm. Most of these tractor trailers are from Pilgrim's Pride and they have informed us that if they cannot access our farm from both the north and south that they cannot allow us to continue to grow chickens for them (we are inclosing a letter from Pilgrim's Pride to this effect). Their reasoning is that for a tractor trailer to have to go south, then make a 'U' turn to go back north toward Athens, the liability on their company would be too great. We hope that you can agree with us that not being able to continue to grow chickens would greatly affect our household income and finances.
2. This road serves six families that have driveways from this road. Some of the families work in Athens and some in Madison. (There is an average of about thirty vehicles entering and exiting this road daily going both north and south.
3. There is also a horse farm on this road that has multiple trucks with trailers going in and out on a daily basis.
4. Please note that this is the only in and out for all of

We hope that you agree that this is not a simple driveway, but a *road* that serves multiple families.

We would greatly appreciate any help you can give on letting us have a 'pass through' road in front of our driveway so that we may continue making our living.

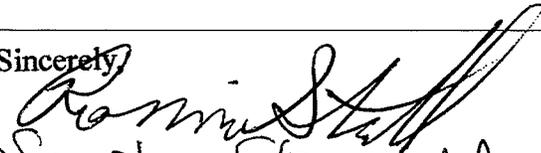
You make contact us at any time by phone at: 706-342-2316

Email: [rstovall@madisonga.com](mailto:rstovall@madisonga.com)

Postal: Ronnie & Sandra Stovall  
2250 Athens Hwy.  
Madison Ga. 30650

---

Sincerely,

  
  
Ronnie & Sandra Stovall

August 23, 2005



Sandra Stovall  
2250 Athens Hwy.  
Madison, GA 30650

---

Dear Sandra,

I wanted to take a minute to follow-up with you on our recent phone conversation concerning the future widening of Highway 441. You stated that the proposal for widening the road, as presented by the Georgia Department of Transportation, would make it a four-lane highway with a median of some type. As we discussed, my concern would be that without a crossing to allow access to both the north and south bound lanes, our ability to continue contracting with you as an independent poultry grower may be in jeopardy. Accessing your farm from Athens would not be an issue as it is now. However, returning to Athens from your farm in eighteen wheel live haul and feed trucks would require a 180° turn, at some point back toward Madison, if a crossover is not located directly in front of your driveway.

I hope this issue can be resolved and we can continue contracting with you for many more years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Bellamy". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark Bellamy  
Broiler Program Manager  
Pilgrim's Pride of Athens, GA

Pilgrim's Pride Corporation  
P.O. Box 1668  
Athens, Georgia 30603-1668  
706 425 7500

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Delmar R. Finco

Address 1720 Old Farmington R  
Watkinsville, GA 30677

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments See attached letter

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

Staff with people having knowledge about the  
project. The meeting was a waste of taxpayer's  
money

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

1720 Old Farmington Rd  
Watkinsville, Ga 30677  
August 19, 2005

Mr Harvey Keeper  
State Environmental /Location Engineer  
3993 Aviation Circle,  
Atlanta, Ga 30336

Dear Mr Keeper,

This letter is in regard to the route planned for EDS-441(43) east of Greenbriar Creek, Oconee County and supplements the enclosed questionnaire distributed at the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Open House held in Oconee County on August 15.

On January 21, 2003 I requested information concerning the above project, and received a reply on March 11, 2003.

Unfortunately, the questions which I raised were not adequately answered. Since the GDOT has recently expressed an intent to pursue this questionable route east of Green Briar Creek, it is apparent that my questions stirred no concerns on your part. Therefore, I must ask again that certain concerns be addressed.

1. You have failed to address the issue of variance in results from different firms doing archeologic surveys, and the fact that this variance may result in erroneous decisions on your part concerning the choice of the most benign route for creating archaeological disturbances. I have already cited examples of such variance concerning EDS-441(42) in my previous letter, when O'Steen et al identified 3 sites potentially qualifying for NRHP, but Brockington and Associates judged the same sites unqualified.

Since opposite conclusions were drawn by the 2 parties examining the same sites in Morgan County, a logical question to ask is whether any sites in Oconee County deemed potentially eligible by O'Steen et al likewise would have been found ineligible had they been evaluated by Brockington and Associates.

**My first question is:** Did the GDOT request that sites identified by O'Steen et al along the West Greenbriar Creek route as potentially qualifying for NRHP be re-evaluated by Brockington and Associates to confirm or refute O'Steen's preliminary findings? If such archaeological studies by Brockington and Associates or any other firm were conducted, please so indicate, so that I may request access to the results as allowed by the Georgia Open Records Act.

**My second question is:** Assuming that no archaeological study other than O'Steen et al exists for the West Greenbriar Creek EDS-441(43) route, what is the basis for the GDOT's assumption that O'Steen et al Oconee County findings (potential NRHP sites) would be validated, when in fact their Morgan County findings were not?

On the East Greenbriar Creek route proposed for EDS-441(43), you shifted the route 30 meters to avoid archaeological site 9OC295. According to my archaeological consultant, the description of archaeological findings at site 9OC295 exceed those of any site described along at the West Greenbriar Creek route in potential significance and the likelihood of human remains. The map provided by GDOT at the Open House shows only 1 site on the West Greenbriar Creek Route as eligible for the National Historic Register. It also fails to identify site 9OC295, despite its immediate proximity to the East Greenbriar Creek route. Considering the preceding,

---

**My third question is:** Why wasn't the West Greenbriar Creek route shifted slightly, as done on the East Greenbriar Creek route, to attain an acceptable route? I am advised that the added archaeological and ecologic studies are minuscule compared to construction costs such as a bridge over Greenbriar Creek, which is needed on the East Greenbriar Creek route, but not on the West route (discussed subsequently).

**My fourth question is:** Why wasn't site 9OC 295 depicted on the map?

2. I am aware that Earth Tech Inc, Raleigh, NC performed an ecologic survey of the East Greenbriar Creek route for EDS-4341(43).

**My fifth question is:** Did the same company perform the same type study on the West Greenbriar Creek route in order to compare the 2 routes for environmental impact?\* My sources indicate that the cost of the East Greenbriar Creek ecologic survey was approximately \$18,000, again negligible compared to highway construction costs. The map of proposed routes which you provided at the Open House at the Oconee County Civic Center confirms information provided on other maps, indicating that the East Greenbriar Creek route impacts 5 branches of Greenbriar Creek, while the West Greenbriar Creek route impacts none.\*\* Greenbriar Creek drains a very narrow basin in the area of EDS-441(43) making any drainage perturbations, such as highways, extremely detrimental because of runoff from paved surfaces.

**My sixth question is:** Considering ecologic factors, do you agree or disagree that it is highly likely (and probably would be proven were surveys done) that the West Greenbriar Creek route for EDS-441(43) would be less invasive and more environmentally friendly than the East Greenbriar Creek route?

3. The maps shown of the East Greenbriar Route at the Civic Center meeting failed to show a bridge over Greenbriar Creek. Obviously, a bridge would not be required with the West Greenbriar Creek route with a saving of manifold the dollars required for aforementioned archaeological and environmental surveys. Considering the cost of a bridge, I would presume that sufficient interaction between your division and engineering/construction divisions would at this stage already have ascertained whether an expensive bridge is or is not planned.

**My seventh and eighth questions are:** Is or is not a bridge over Greenbriar Creek planned for the East Greenbriar Creek route? Is the expense of such an item considered in choosing a route for a highway?

I am aware, from your letter of that January 21, 2003 that you believe that you have fulfilled your task of finding a route for EDS-441(43) that meets minimal federal and state requirements. However, I believe that issues which I have raised cast doubt on the objectivity of choosing the East Greenbriar Creek route, and opens the door to the question of whether factors not divulged to the public were instrumental in the decision. It also raises the question of whether the modus operandi used in decisions on EDS-441(43) have operated across Georgia, and whether there is need for a more general query into the past decisions, and processes used in making future route decisions about highway routes. I have raised several questions in this letter and I look forward to receiving a response in a timely manner.

---

Sincerely,



Dr Delmar R Finco

\* If such a comparison was made, please notify me and consider this letter a request to obtain the documents, as allowed under the George Open records Act.

\*\*Incidentally, my archeologic consultant indicates that the native Americans of the Mississippian period favored homesites on ridges near streams, making the East side more likely to contain relevant archaeological sites

cc. Harold Linnenkol  
Sonny Perdue  
Brian Kemp  
Sue Burmeister

**John, Alexis**

---

**From:** Hood, Greg  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2005 3:45 PM  
**To:** John, Alexis  
**Subject:** FW: US 441 WIDENING

Greg Hood  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
Office of Environment/Location  
Community Involvement Section Chief  
404-699-4404

---

-----Original Message-----  
**From:** Pope, Teri  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2005 2:00 PM  
**To:** 'hilljiv@gmail.com'; Hood, Greg  
**Subject:** Re: US 441 WIDENING

Mr Hill,  
Thanks for sharing your insight and professional opinions with us on the proposed widening of US 441.

I have forwarded your comments to Greg Hood with our office of environment and location. Your comments will be reviewed and included in our project.

Thank you for taking the time to share this information with us.  
Teri Pope  
Teri Pope  
GDOT - NEGA Communications  
770-718-3914 office  
404-382-8062 pager

-----Original Message-----  
**From:** James Hill <hilljiv@gmail.com>  
**To:** Pope, Teri <Teri.Pope@dot.state.ga.us>  
**Sent:** Thu Aug 25 13:49:10 2005  
**Subject:** US 441 WIDENING

MY NAME IS DR. JAMES HILL IV. I OWN TWO ADJACENT PIECES OF PROPERTY IN FARMINGTON GA. ONE IS ON THE N.W. CORNER OF US 441 AND FREEMAN CREEK RD. THE SECOND IS CONNECTED TO THE FIRST ON ITS WESTERN BOUNDARY. MY QUALIFICATIONS: I HAVE DOCTORATE IN ECOLOGY, A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING, AND I WAS EMPLOYED BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR THIRTY YEARS. FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS WITH THE WIDENING OF US 441 THAT WAS PRESENTED AT THE OCONEE COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER 15AUG05. A DETAILED DESCUSSION OF EACH PROBLEM OR CONCERN WILL BE FOUND FOLLOWING THE LIST.

1. THE PROPOSED ROAD GOES THROUGH A CLASSIFIED TOXIC WASTE SITE.
2. THE PROPOSED ROAD MAY DISRUPT AN 85 GAL/MIN SPRING.
3. THE PROPOSED ROAD MAY DISTURB A WETLAND HABITAT.
4. THE PROPOSED ROAD MAY DISTURB TWO RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES.
5. THE PROPOSED ROAD DIVIDES MY PROPERTY IN HALF DOWN THE MIDDLE.
6. THE PROPOSED ROAD WILL ELIMINATE MY WELL, WATER, ELECTRIC, AND PHONE LINES.
7. INCREASED RUN-OFF FROM THE PROPOSED ROAD COULD DESTROY MY HOUSE.

8. QUESTION: WHY NOT ELIMINATE MOST OF THE PROBLEMS, CONCERNS, AND QUESTIONS BY WIDENING THE EXISTING US 441?

1. TOXIC WASTE SITE: IN THEIR "HARAZDOUS SITE INDEX" THE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION LISTS A WASTE-HOLDING POND ON THE WESTERN END OF BUDDY MURROW'S PROPERTY WHICH IS CONNECTED TO MY PROPERTY ON THE NORTHERN EDGE IN FARMINGTON. THE POND IS IN THE DIRRECT PATH OF THE PROPOSED ROAD. FOR MANY YEARS THE POND RECEIVED CARBON TETRACHLORIDE WHICH WAS USED FOR DE-LINTING COTTON SEEDS.

ALTHO CARBON TETRACHLORIDE IS QUITE VOLATILE, IT ATTACHES TO THE CLAY-MINERAL PARTICLES IN THE SOIL MATRIX AND IT CAN REMAIN IN THE GROUND FOR DECADES OR LONGER, DEPENDING ON SITE CONDITIONS. THE HEALTH PROBLEMS ATTRIBUTED TO CARBON TETRACHLORIDE INCLUDE: HUMAN CANCER, HEART ARRHYTHMIA, LIVER DAMAGE, KIDNEY DAMAGE, ASTHMA AND OTHER RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS, HEADACHES, FATIGUE, NAUSEA, DIARRHEA, VOMITING, AND MENSTRUAL IRREGULARITIES.

---

The following solvents can cause human cancer, based on animal tests: methylene chloride, carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, dioxane, formaldehyde, perchloroethylene and trichloroethylene.

Overexposure to trichloroethane, or to other chlorinated solvents, has sometimes caused arrhythmia also.

Liver and kidney damage. Some solvents are much more potent than others in causing chemical hepatitis, kidney failure, or glomerulonephritis (a kidney disease). They include carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, dimethylformamide, d-limonene, formaldehyde, methyl chloride, perchloroethylene, styrene, toluene, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, trichloroethylene, xylene.

THE CHEMICAL DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS OF CARBON TETRACHLORIDE INCLUDE FORMALDEHYDE AND CHLOROFORM; BOTH OF WHICH CAN REMAIN IN THE SOIL AND HAVE A HEALTH-PROBLEM LIST SIMILAR TO THAT OF CARBON TETRACHLORIDE, EXCEPT THERE IS MORE EVIDENCE INDICATING THAT FORMALDEHYDE IS ALSO A CARCINOGEN.

2,3,4 SPRING, WETLAND, RARE SPECIES: THE LAKE ON MY PROPERTY IS FED BY A CONTINUOUS (NOT SEASONAL OR INTERMITTANT) SPRING AT 85 GAL/MIN ALL YEAR. DISRUPTING OR 'CHANNELIZING' THE SPRING'S FLOW WOULD ELIMINATE THE SMALL (ABOUT 1/2 ACRE) MARSH THAT LIES BETWEEN THE SPRING AND THE EASTERN END OF MY LAKE. IT WOULD ALSO RUIN SOME EXCELLENT BASS/BLUEGILL FISHING. FOR 35 YEARS THE MARSH HAS HAD 'Trillium persistens' (Persistent Trillium) AND 'Cypripedium acaule' (Pink Ladyslipper Orchid) BOTH OF WHICH ARE LISTED AS RARE, ENDANGERED, OR UNUSUAL DEPENDING ON WHOSE LIST YOU CONSULT.

5. DIVIDED PROPERTY: IT APPEARS THAT AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO ROUTE THE WIDENED US 441 ALONG PROPERTY LINES INSTEAD OF CUTTING PROPERTIES IN TWO. ON THE D.O.T MAP #24 (FARMINGTON) MY TWO HOLDINGS LOOK LIKE SEPARATE PROPERTIES, UNLESS SOMEONE NOTICES THAT THEY ARE BOTH OWNED BY JAMES HILL IV AND THUS THEY ARE A SINGLE CONTIGUOUS PIECE OF PROPERTY. THE PROPOSED ROAD WOULD SEPARATE MY HOUSE FROM MY LAKE AND PASTURE.

6. WELL AND UTILITIES: MY WELL WOULD BE DESTROYED BY THE PROPOSED ROAD. MY BURIED WATER, ELECTRIC, AND PHONE LINES WOULD ALSO BE DESTROYED. THESE ARE NOT UTILITY COMPANY LINES, I BURIED THEM MYSELF 30 YEARS WHEN I BEGAN BUILDING MY HOUSE.

7. INCREASED RUN-OFF: THE STREAM FROM MY LAKE FLOWS ABOUT 20 FEET FROM MY HOUSE, THE INCREASED RUN-OFF FROM THE PROPOSED ROAD IS LIKELY TO UNDERCUT THE FOUNDATION OF MY HOUSE. (MY SPECIAL INTEREST FOR MY MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING WAS FLOOD ROUTEING.)

[SIGNED] James Hill IV

60

August 24, 2005

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler  
State Environmental/Location Engineer  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1563

---

In Re: Project EDS-441 (42)(43 and BR-0001-00(200)  
P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660 and 0001222

Dear Mr. Keepler:

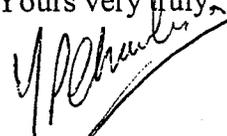
Please be advised that I am Yash Paul Chawla and I live at 1121A Micha Way, Madison, Georgia 30650. My business address is 4001 Athens Highway, Madison, Georgia 30650.

I attended the Public Information Open House on August 15, 2005, at the Oconee County Civic Center, 2661 Hog Mountain Road, Watkinsville, Georgia. I listened and observed the presentation and I have reviewed the proposed U.S. 441/SR 24 Widening Project. From my observation and understanding of the project, I object strenuously to the proposed route in the area where U.S. 441/SR 24 intersect with the Apalachee to Bostwick Highway.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May, 2005, I purchased the gas station and convenience store known as Rainbow Food Store, located on and fronting on U.S. Highway 441/SR 24. This is the only retail business in the Apalachee Community. Approximately 20% of my business comes from the residents and homeowners in the town of Apalachee. The other 80% of my business is derived from the U.S. Highway 441/SR 24 traffic. The proposal as I understand it from the presentation on August 15, 2005, if approved, would completely destroy my business.

My request is to change the location and follow the existing right of way of the present U.S. 442/SR24. If there is some historical structure or other impediment on the route, I will be happy to work with a group of local citizens to help with a relocation so that my business will not be destroyed.

Your careful consideration to this request will be appreciated. I definitely would like to discuss this matter with a D.O.T. representative.

Yours very truly,  
  
Yash Paul Chawla

August 23, 2005

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

RE: Project EDS- 441(43) – Widening and Realignment of US 441

Mr. Keepler:

Thank you and your department for the long-awaited opportunity to provide input regarding this project.

Following are my comments and questions concerning the proposed widening and relocation of U.S. Highway 441 in the area south of Bishop, Ga.:

1. Historical designation was given to the Branch farm on the proposed location map reviewed at the public open house on 8/15/05. Approximately 400 acres remain of the original Branch farm which was established by William Scott Branch in 1820. These 400 acres are owned and farmed by me, his great-great-great-grandson, Thomas M. Branch. Why was only a small portion (less than 10 %) of this farm designated as historical? It appears to me that the break line between the historical and non-historical portions of this contiguous and operating farm is a roadway which was constructed in the 1930's, approximately 110 years after the farm was established. This roadway, while an inconvenience, does not form any type of boundary as far as farming operations are concerned. Why should it form a boundary as far as historical aspects are concerned? The portion of the farm across the roadway is no less historical and is no less important in farm operations.
2. Approximately 30 acres of this farm will be lost to the new roadway.
3. The current proposed routing of the Bishop Bypass crosses and bisects four fields or pastures of this farm. These areas are currently used to raise beef cattle. There is no access to water for livestock in the cut off areas.
4. The current proposed routing separates three tracts of land from the remainder of the farm. There is one tract of approximately 1.5 acres, one tract of approximately 2.5 acres, and one tract of approximately 7.5 acres. The 7.5 acre tract is approximately 2000 feet long and varies from 0 to 180 feet in width, leaving it virtually unusable.
5. It is my understanding that this new roadway will be limited access. Unless accessibility is addressed, moving farm equipment from one side to the other side of an existing field which has been bisected by the new roadway will be nearly impossible.
6. The Original Bypass Alignment purposely avoided a wetlands area on the southern end of this farm. The Current Bypass Alignment goes directly through this wetlands area.

7. Moving this section of the new roadway to the east, paralleling an existing county road (Old Farmington Road) and placing the new roadway on the perimeter of the farm should be considered. While this will still impact the farm and require the loss of approximately the same acreage, existing fields will not be divided such that portions are virtually unusable, as is the case with current road alignment.
  8. The routing of the new roadway in this area appears to be designed with an economical location to cross the existing railroad right-of-way as the deciding factor. The railroad, which is inactive and has not been maintained for 12 years, was evidently given precedent over landowners in the area. Regarding this railroad, it is my understanding that it has been designated "historic". The Branch farm, located on both sides of this railroad, was established approximately 100 years before the railroad, but this portion of the farm is not considered "historic".
- 

The above comments address some of the concerns that I have on technical and operational issues regarding this new roadway. My real concern however is on a much more personal level. As I have stated, this tract of land has been in my family since 1820. My ancestors are buried here. Generations of my family have made tough decisions through the years, many of which caused hardships for family members, in order to assure that as much of the farm as possible remains intact. My grandfather used to say that he didn't actually own this land, it was just his turn to take care of it. Now it is my turn.

My concern is not only the present, but also the future decisions which will be made based on what is done now. A case in point is the railroad that I have mentioned previously. If this railroad had not been located as it was, I would probably not be writing this letter to you now, as most of my present concerns are a direct result of this location decision made in the past.

I realize that change is inevitable. I feel, however, that it my duty and responsibility to do whatever I can to preserve as much of this farm as possible, considering its importance to my family.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of the above issues with you or your staff.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Branch

THOMAS M BRANCH  
DIANE M BRANCH  
4150 GREENSBORO HWY.  
WATKINSVILLE, GA. 30677

Mr. Harvey D. Keeper  
State Environmental/Location Engineer  
State Environmental/Location Engineer  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

August 23, 2005

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

RE: Project EDS- 441(43) – Widening and Realignment of US 441

Mr. Keepler:

---

Please take into consideration the historical significance of the entire Branch farm when determining the final alignment of this new roadway. It appears to me that the railroad, which is inactive and has been so for years, has precedence over the Branch farm, which was established on this site 100 years before the railroad.

The proposed route cuts through pastures and fields, making some areas inaccessible and virtually useless. There will be problems moving farm equipment and cattle will not have access to water.

If our family must give up land for this project, please consider locating the new roadway along the perimeter of the farm and crossing the railroad along the southern end of the farm.

I am the 8<sup>th</sup> generation on this farm and have helped my father, Thomas M. Branch, with its operation since the time I was old enough to do so. I am currently a freshman in college. My hope is to preserve as much of this farm as possible for the 9<sup>th</sup> generation. Your help in doing so would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



John Thomas Branch

John T. Branch  
4150 Greensboro Hwy.  
Watkinsville, GA 30677

Mr. Harvey D. Keeper  
State Environmental/Location Engineer  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

August 25, 2005

Memo to: Department of Transportation  
Attention: Mr. Harry D. Keepler  
State Environmental / Location Engineer

From: Diane M. Branch

Reference: Widening of Highway 441 between Bishop and Farmington, Georgia  
Thomas McRee Branch Property

---

The current proposed route cuts thru the property on both sides of Highway 441 taking approximately 30 or more acres of the 400 still owned by Thomas McRee Branch. This property has been owned by the Branch family since the 1820's. The property which includes a 5000 sq. ft. antebellum home, a barn, a mule barn, a seed barn, a chicken house, a smoke house, an outhouse, a tenant house and a pay house ( where actual farm workers were paid ) is declared historical. This property is on the west side of Highway 441 south. The portion of the property on the east side of Highway 441 where the road will cut thru and a bridge will be built over the railroad is also a part of the original farm. I would like to know why this is not declared historic property also. The land belonged to the Branch family long before the current highway and railroad cut thru the property forming a border.

Thomas McRee Branch stills farms this land. He raises cattle, has hay fields and planted pine trees. The way the proposed road bisects the property, pastures and fields will not be accessible and cattle will be cut from their water supply. It also cuts thru the planted pine trees. These are all major concerns for our family.

As Georgia and Federal taxpayers we are concerned that the project to widen the road and build bridges over the railroad is necessary and a good use of the taxpayer's money. According to information I was given at the open house, this is being done because of the GRIP program which was conceived nearly 10 years ago to improve economic conditions in south Georgia and not because of the amount of traffic on the highway. What does it do to the economic conditions in the small towns that are being bypassed?

The land has been owned by the Branch family for nearly 200 years. We still have 400 acres of the original farm and our hopes are that we can preserve this for future generations. It's rare that a home place and farm remain in a family for this many years. If a road cuts thru the property, the family request that it be as far east and south on the property as possible. We feel this would be less obtrusive to the farm.

The Thomas McRee Branch family feels that we are stewards of the land in our life time. Our job is to protect and preserve it as best we can.

Sincerely,



Diane M. Branch

( married Thomas McRee Branch March 1, 1975)

THOMAS M BRANCH  
DIANE M BRANCH  
4150 GREENSBORO HWY.  
WATKINSVILLE, GA. 30677

Mr. Harvey D. Keeper  
State Environmental/Location Engineer  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Bethany Ravan

Address 5040 macon Hwy 441  
Bishop GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments I am the manager of a business on 441 in Bishop GA. If this road goes around Bishop I will loose my job. There is already 3 lanes through Bishop, we what you have + widen from there. I strongly object to the use or rather waste of my tax dollars to buy up land not needed when you already

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth on bus

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

have an existing roadbed to work with  
I am sure there are several others who  
object to the waste of their tax dollars as well.  
This road is supposed to be for economic development.  
Well if you move the road around it will  
kill the already existing economics. It will also  
put Bishop out of commission. No one will even  
know that Bishop exists if you pull the road around.  
So I don't understand the big fuss about its historical  
status. No one will know it is historical if they  
don't drive through it to know it is here.

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name MATTIE BELLE MILLER

Address 4741 MACON HW.  
BISHOP, GA. 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments LET THE ROAD COME THROUGH  
BISHOP

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

**Mail To:**

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name CHARLES E. BROOKS, JR

Address P.O. Box 167, 4841 MAIN ST  
BISHOP, GA. 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments I HAVE HAD A TOURIST BUSINESS HERE IN BISHOP,  
FOR 30 years. You are going to put me out of business  
Why would I be happy about it? How will I be AB.  
to sell my commercial property?

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

DOT DOESNT NEED PUBLIC COMMENTS. THE PUBL.  
CANT CHANGE THE ROUTE DOT CHOOSES.

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Philip Coult

Address 6602 Hwy 29 South  
Hull GA 30646  
706 540 5414

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments The road is already wide enough to  
expand a five lane highway through Bishop  
(also from A7ked to Madison) without destroying  
Nature

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

---

---

---

---

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Stephanie Venable

Address 4931 S. Macon Hwy.  
Bishop, GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments I feel like the town of Bishop will suffer  
if this road bypasses it. Many businesses  
will be put out of business and that  
will hurt the town the most.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Mildred HAMMOND

Address P.O. Box 126  
Bishop GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments I would like for the road to come through Bishop IF it goes around we will lose our business. And that will hurt the town also. The road is all ready wide enough to expand.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Verner HAMMOND

Address P.O. Box 126  
Bishop GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments I WANT THE ROAD TO COME THROUGH BISHOP.  
IT IS ONLY A MILE THROUGH BISHOP. WHY SPEND ALL THIS MONEY  
TO BY PASS. IT WILL ALSO KILL ALL OF THE BUSINESS HERE IN  
HIS TOWN.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

---

---

---

---

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name David S. Ivey

Address 5040 Mason Hwy  
Bishop Gb 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments The proposed by-pass disrupts lives, and land that need not be bothered. Some of the land is in Federal Agriculture Land Protection programs. A road could be routed in the current by of the highway. The compromise would be in having a section of road from Farmington about one mile from the current divide south to be non-divided. (See Att.)

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
 Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
 Georgia Department of Transportation  
 3993 Aviation Circle  
 Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Traveling north from the Oconee / Morgan county line at about the three mile point, there is a flat straight stretch of road. This is where the divided highway would change to a non-divided highway. Minimal land purchases would have to be made instead of the huge amount required to by-pass Bishop. Farmington would hardly notice as the road widened on the west side of the existing lanes. Right of way could be purchases on the inside of curves, softening the bends. Bishop would require a more involved plan, as the road would widen from the current three lane road bed to a four lane, taking the east side of the road.

There are six structures in the area that would need to be removed, only two of these are houses. Only one, which was moved to this location from its original site is currently occupied by residents, the other is being used as the city Town Hall. Currently land behind the houses is available, and is for sale. The houses could be moved farther back off the road if they were deemed "Historic".

The intersection of Price Mill, Old Bishop Road & Hwy 441 is where a shift of one lane could begin moving to the west of the road. Setting a transition to the existing curve, the road could come to the east across a corner of the property owned by my company (Garden Village Ent., Inc.).

There is right of way available on one side or the other of the road that would allow the effect of the road to be minimal to homes & businesses, about one mile from the existing divided highway. There is a straight section of road where it could widen to a divided highway.

The issue of Historic status is questionable; not that there is no history in this area, but the value of that history has to be weighed against the value of the lives, environmental, & wildlife impacts that the by-pass would cause.

I feel that the historical value of a place should be quantified and verified to determine if it could be someone's sentimental attachment or real history.

I got the feeling at the meeting, that No one would consider looking at Bishop or Farmington as a route for the road because of their "Historical" significance.

The residents living along 441 knew there was a major road there when they moved there. That was their choice. Those whose lives and homes will be disrupted if the road goes around Bishop & Farmington, chose to live in the country and NOT on a major highway, will be most affected.

---

My business, and others in the area rely on the traffic to stay in business. A by-pass would put all of us out of business. So much for economic development.

In the plan I have laid out, huge savings of resources, human suffering, and financial could be realized, without impacting historical assets. Bishop has allowed a subdivision of new homes to be built, old houses to rot and be torn down. I don't see a lot of effort being expended to save Bishop's history by local, state, or Federal agencies.

If no one cares enough to do something about saving history, why should we let is jeopardize our future.

My Proposed plan for the widening of hwy 441 to go through Bishop and Farmington instead of around it  
for your consideration

Starting at a point approximately 3 miles north of the Oconee / Morgan County line the proposed divided highway could merge into a non-divided 4 lane highway.

This road would proceed into Farmington along the existing road path.

The additional right of way in Farmington would be west of the existing lanes.

No structures would be effected.

Right of way could be procured on the inside of curves, allowing for softening of the curves.

Ample land is available for right of way through out the proposed corridor.

In Bishop, there is paved road bed equivalent to three lanes, therefore only one lane needs to be added to accommodate four lanes.

This expansion would be on the east side of the highway from Astondale road to Old Bishop road.

At the intersection of Old Bishop road, Price Mill road, and hwy 441, the expansion would shift to the west side of the road, setting up for the existing curve.

In the curve, the expansion would come to the east side again to a point beyond the deceleration lanes of the Golden Pantry.

Proceeding to a point approximately one mile from the existing divided four lane by passing Watkinsville, the road would expand from non-divided to divided highway.

In Bishop, between Astondale road and Old Bishop road, there are six structures.

Among these (1) may have historical value. The others are merely old buildings, one of which has been relocated to this site from its original site. There is property behind some of these sites, which could allow for minimal relocation.

The expansion required in the curve in Bishop will take some of the property belonging to my business, Garden Village Ent., Inc.

I am fully willing to allow for this expansion, as I see it as insuring the future of Bishop.

---

*This is solely my opinion, and any statements made here in are mine alone, and do not reflect the facts or opinions of Garden Village Ent., Inc. or other family members.*

Sincerely,

  
David S. Ivey

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Sharon S. Ivey

Address Business - 5040 Macon Hwy  
Bishop, GA 30621

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments See attached

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

See attached

**Mail To:**

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta GA 30336-1593

I have great concerns about the 441 project going around Bishop and Farmington.

At the meeting on August 15, we spoke to several representatives from the DOT. We had many questions for the representatives. What we were able to attain from these people is that the project will begin in approximately 2 to 13 years, no one seemed sure. There were two main things I learned from these representatives.

- 1) The project will receive 80% funding from federal sources, and that the reason they are considering going around Bishop, is because of its historic merit. We were told the DOT has guidelines that must be upheld and one is historical standings, and that there is basically no way any thing, any one, or any reason can change this.
- 2) This project was originally started, for economic growth and development.

***There are going to be a lot of peoples lives dramatically affected by this "So called" PROGRESS***

**History:**

Just what in Bishop is actually on the National Historical Registry? My husband has been trying to propose a plan in which only 7 structures would have to be removed or relocated in Bishop for the road to be able to come straight through Bishop instead of going around. There is a book called "Bishop, Georgia" by Celestea Gentry Sharp. It lists the history and buildings of Bishop.

1) The 3 sectioned blue -brick building complex - was originally built to replace a wooden store which burned down. Later on it became the location of Southeastern Testing labs which has since relocated to a new facility on Astondale road. My husband, David Ivey spoke to Toby Hardigree one of the owners of the complex building, and he is agreeable for the building to be torn down, the building is not in real good condition. We have been unable to get in touch with the other owner (Jerry Thomas' Grandmother) at this time.

2) Public well - a sealed over well

3) Mason & Son Building - It was built about 1972 - it sits on the approximate site of the Central of GA Railway Depot which burned down in 1953.

4) Times Past Antiques - a two story metal building built in 1920 -

( seldom open - We have not had time yet to get in touch with this owner to get her views on the proposed plan)-

\*) Vacant lot - the site of where a griss mill use to be - that was moved

5) The past Bishop City Hall - Built in 1940 - in my opinion could possibly be relocated behind the "new" City Hall

- 6) Yellow house - Not its original location - it was moved to that site.
- 7) White house on corner - existing City Hall - could possibly be moved back off the road more
- \*) Brenda's white house on corner would not be affected except for the front corner of the lot
- \*) Alan & Diane Hardigree's house would not have to be moved
- \*) Garden Village - My husband David Ivey and I own this business. We purchased this property in 2001. Part of parking lot and front yard would have to be taken. We would be agreeable to this for the road to come through Bishop.

After looking at the history and conditions of these 7 existing structures, that would be affected, it appears that some of the structures are not that old, some were moved there from different original sites, and some are not the original buildings that had the historical significance. They were built on the *sites* of the historical building. One of the representatives at the meeting told me that sometimes it is not just the structures themselves that have the historical significance, but also changing the historical look of the town. The officials of Bishop have already allowed changes to be made to many of the historical sites. There have been new structures built on historical sites. For example, the block building which now houses the trucking company, the old house next to it which was recently torn down to build a new one, the old J.J. Johns home, was torn down and they are now building a subdivision of new homes. So, just how much of Bishop is really left to be considered so much of a historical town. Yes, there were some significant historical events, and sites here, but several of these have already been changed, with newer structures or developments.

I truly don't understand how some can believe that it would be more beneficial to devastate so many peoples lives, homes, and property - to go 16 miles out of the way when it is only one mile through Bishop, instead of moving a few structures back a little.

---

### Economic Growth and Development

If I understand correctly, the proposed plan for widening 441 and going around Bishop and Farmington was originated for economic growth and development. If the plan for the 441 by pass goes through, several Bishop business will cease to exist. Is this about large companies VS small Mom & Pop businesses?

- \* Charlie Brooks business - depends a lot on tourist from hwy 441
- \* Vern & Mildred Hammonds Antiques & produce stand - they say most of their business is tourist and not locals

\* **Shops of a Garden Village** - home & garden gifts & accessories, and fountains - This is the business we own. A lot of our customers are tourist traveling on Hwy 441. We have sold fountains to travelers living as far away as South Carolina, Florida, Minnesota, and many others out of state, and a large number of our fountains have been sold to people from south Georgia traveling on 441.

\* **Golden Pantry** - tourists on 441

\* **Apex** - (formerly Kilpatricks) - tourists on 441

\* **The antiques & flea market behind Kilpatricks** - tourists on 441

\* **Reeds odds & Ends** - tourists on 441

\* **The front of the property of the new subdivision** - In some of the first plans of the subdivision, they had said that there may be businesses going in at the front of the property.

If this road goes around Bishop several businesses will be destroyed and many people will loose their job. This will eliminate the economic development already established here.

### **Residents concerns about living so close to a busy highway**

Highway 441 was an established road when the residents of Bishop chose to move here. That was their choice.

The people who live on the land on the outskirts of Bishop and Farmington chose to live in the country, and NOT on a busy highway. That was their choice. If this road goes around Bishop and Farmington, those who live in the country with the land will have NO choice. Their lives, property, and homes may be devastated. They chose the land - NOT the road. If they had wanted to live in the middle of a highway with economic development - they could have moved to Atlanta.

### **Agriculture**

What about all of the land, animals, and agriculture that will be affected by this road taking the land around Bishop & Farmington. What about the land owners whose property is zoned for farming and agriculture. What about preserving "Greenspace"?

---

### **Artifacts**

What about the artifacts which have been found in the area? We have found some pieces of old pottery and possible signs of Indian rock piles, and other signs of Indian culture, on our property (approximately 16 acres). Our personal home property backs up to Farmington. I have heard from others that other Indian relics have been found in the area. My family is from Indian decent, and it upsets me that you may consider the new buildings of Bishop, which were built on historical sites

as History, but you do not consider the History of Indian culture which you may be building 16 miles of roadbed over, as well as the possible "economic" development over.

**Financial**

As a state and Federal Tax payer, I do not appreciate our tax dollars being spent to go 16 miles around a town, buying up all that property, and peoples' homes, when there is already an existing road bed which goes one mile through town. Just how much more is going around Bishop and Farmington going to cost verses going through town?

---

I appreciated the representatives from the DOT coming to speak to us. I believe they truly were trying to help. What I felt was that each represented their own department, knew basically what the general plan was, but personally, had no say or control over what was going to be done. What I understood was that the plan was to go around Bishop & Farmington because of historical records, and that was it; but we could write letters and they would be read.

The location for the meeting was good.

The time was good.

The representatives tried to be helpful. But I feel they were mainly there to pacify us.

Name tags, and matching shirts, would have helped to set them apart from the rest of the crowd.

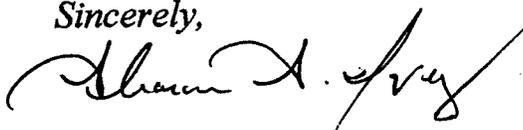
---

The History of the structures in this letter was obtained from the book "Bishop, Georgia" , by Celestea Gentry Sharp

---

*This letter is solely my opinion, and any statements made here in are mine alone, and do not reflect the facts or opinions of Garden Village Ent., Inc. or other family members.*

Sincerely,



Sharon S. Ivey

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Richard J. Vella

Address 863 Park Ave. Apt. 4E  
New York, NY 10021

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments

I am glad to see these plans for the  
improvements to Highway 441.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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.

The meeting time & location was convenient for my partner  
to attend.

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

I am half owner of 260 acres on the southwest  
side of Marshall Stone Road near the intersection of  
Hayne Mill Road.

Mail To:

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta GA 30336-1593

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name Marian Hope Finco

Address 1720 Old Farmington Rd  
Watkinsville, Ga 30677

email Mhfinco@aol.com

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments I do not feel the East Greenbriar Route  
is the best choice - I do not feel the potential  
archaeological site along the east route have been  
carefully evaluated and the route will have a  
significant affect on the farm land + green space.

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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. 7pm - 9pm

Were your questions answered by the DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

This meeting was a waste of time  
+ tax payers money. My questions were  
not answered due to presentors not knowing  
or being willing to give our information

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

(5)

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler  
State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Dept. of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Dear Mr. Keepler,

My name is Mary Mellein I am a citizen of Oconee County and I was unable to come to your August meeting in Bishop, GA on the bypass around Bishop. I have concerns and objections to the current plans for the bypass. The current plans have it cutting in half three productive family farms. Family farms are essential to the security and future of our country. I was one of a group of citizens in Oconee County that actively worked to start a farmland trust program in the county. The farms in question are on the county's list to preserve. Loosing these farms would be devastating. I have read and do concur with Mr. Russ Page's letter to you concerning this issue. Because of the completeness and my concurrence I herein have included its contents.

Georgia Code 41-1-7 states "It is the declared policy of the state to conserve, protect, and encourage the development and improvement of its agriculture and forest land and facilities for the production or distribution of food and other agricultural products." Yet this proposed realignment to the East of Bishop would obliterate at least 7 functioning Family Farms. These families have owned these farms for generations (average time in the family is over 65 years, with most 80 ? 100 years). Some may look at farmland as just open land waiting to be developed. These farm owners did not buy their land as an investment, to make a fast buck. They farm this land, as a way of life; it is their life. They produce food for their fellow Americans, even those who see farmland as open land waiting to be developed. When all our high quality farmland is gone?who will feed us?..the oil cartels?

Furthermore, one of these farms (Ricky House Family) has been earmarked for protection by the purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) utilizing funding from Oconee County general fund (taxes), Citizen's donations, Farmer Donations, and the USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. This PACE program has already been approved by all parties, and should be completed within 3 months. This Agricultural Conservation Easement prohibits the development of this land in perpetuity, and insures that it will remain available for farming forever. Also, three (3) of the other farms which will be wiped out are also on the list for future PACE protection in the next few years, as more funding becomes available. These farmers have proved their commitment to continue farming by offering to sell their development rights, giving up the potential for more money in the future, to guarantee that this land will be available for farming for generations to come. Oconee County recently made farmland protection a budget line item, so future funding from the County is already approved. The USDA program has 2 more years remaining at the current (or higher) funding level. The Governor's Land Conservation Initiative will come on board with more funding later this year (September application date is projected on their web site). All indicating, that more Oconee farmland will be protected in the future.

The Oconee Partnership for Farmland Protection (of which I am a member) has been active for over 7 years in protecting farmland in Oconee County. Oconee County was one of the first (if not the first) in the state to combine Georgia Greenspace funding, farmer donations, and USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection funding, to protect farmland with PACE. Governor Perdue's Land Conservation Initiative has developed parts of its program after the model provided by Oconee County. This state program will also supply money in the future to aid in the purchase of agricultural conservation easements on Georgia Farmland. The stated goal of the Land Conservation Act is to "encourage long-term conservation and protection of the state's natural resources." The legislation encourages partnerships between local governments, DNR, other state and federal agencies and the private sector with the intent of preserving Georgia's most valuable resources."

It appears hypocritical to me that the state would fund farmland protection on the one hand and take active farmland with the other. Each using Georgia residents taxes.

A viable alternative to this Eastward realignment around Bishop would appear to be a Westward realignment around Bishop. Farmers who have recently decided to sell their land for development have created a less agriculturally devastating alternative for this realignment. Several pieces of farmland have recently been rezoned for development, yet no homes have been built so far. Taking farmland which has already been given up for farming purposes seems to me to be more in line with the stated purpose of the Georgia Code, the previous Greenspace Program and the recently developed Land Conservation Act, and would help to protect farmland for the future.

A Westward realignment would appear to add no more mileage to the road, and may even eliminate the apparent radical curve (PI) shown on the map adjacent to the End EDS 441(43), and allow a more gentle curve in the new road. At the same time a Westward realignment would help to protect at least 7 active family farms.

Thank you for your consideration of one of Georgia's most valuable resources ? Agriculture?and the ability to feed ourselves.

Sincerely,





RECEIVED  
SEP 01 2005

*H. John*

\*  
Mrs. Mary Mellein  
1320 Summit Dr.  
Watkinsville, GA 30677

*Mr Harvey Kessler*  
*St. Environmental/Location Eng.*  
*GA Dept. of Transportation*  
*3903 Aviation Circle*  
*GA 30336-1693*



3022 Colham Ferry Road  
Watkinsville, GA 30677

25 August 2005

Mr. Harvey Keepler  
State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

RE: Proposed Bishop, GA By Pass

Dear Mr. Keepler:

I am writing to object to the current bypass alignment around Bishop as a part of Projects EDS=441 (43) for Oconee County.

The environmental impact of the current bypass alignment is a major concern. By contrast, the original bypass plan is one that minimizes impacts to streams and wetlands. It has the widening of US 441 cross Briercreek one time; the current plan crosses the creek six times, as well as substantially impacting wetlands. With Georgia's growing population and limited water supplies, the environmental consequences of any plan should be paramount.

Next, a negative effect of the proposed bypass plan is that it bisects working farms. These losses add to the already declining rural spaces in Oconee County, which is rapidly succumbing to developers' whims.

Last, the current proposal is by far the most expensive. It's the longest with many more bridges needed than in other proposals.

The original alignment was rejected, in part, because it impacts sites that may be eligible for the national historic register. I have been a very active historic preservationist and value protecting historic sites; however, the buildings in Bishop that would be effected, while old, dilapidated and mainly vacant, are certainly not historic.

Because of my concerns for the problematic nature of the current plan, I would like you to consider the following alternatives:

1. Three-lane US 441 for the one mile through Bishop with adequate ingress-egress lanes. With a 45-50 MPH speed limit there would be little to no impact on regional or interstate traffic, no additional environmental impact, and the cost savings to the taxpayers would be tremendous.
2. Divide US 441 having the present route through Bishop as the southbound two lanes and construct a two-lane road for northern bound traffic directly east of the railroad in Bishop on present city streets. This plan would require no condemnation of buildings, have no environmental impact and would be relatively inexpensive.
3. Use the current by-pass plan just through Farmington and then revert to the original plan where it bisects the current one. Greenbrier Creek would be crossed once, working farms will remain intact, a majority of possible historic sites would not be jeopardized, and the costs would be less.

Any of these alternatives would be far superior to the proposed plan in terms of disturbing fewer farms, businesses and historic sites and lessening the overall costs.

Sincerely,



Clay Bryant

77

2 Sep 2005

To: State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Attn: Ken Thompson  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30366-1593  
404.699.4400

From: Col Joseph L. Price Jr, USAF Ret  
1130 Apalachee Road  
Madison, GA 30650-2900  
706.342.2273

---

Mr. Thompson,

I have drafted this letter to you following a telecon with Mr. Otis Clark this week concerning public input to the expansion of US Hwy 441, Project EDS-441(42). My input to you is beyond the requested 25 Aug NLT date since I did not receive notification that this project would impact my property in any way. According to Mr. Clark, this omission was due to the use of property/plat maps that did not correctly identify me as the property owner.

My property, which has been in the family since 1907, is affected by the new connection of CR 244 (Apalachee Rd.) and proposed US-441 just inside the Apalachee City Limits. My property is in the aerial photograph labeled Map 5 (portion attached).

Here is my concern: the new 120 foot right of way and/or road as proposed would require the removal of a Historically Significant 200 year old well just to the west of my entrance off CR 244. This well was hand dug and originally used by at least three local residents. I have maintained the well, which I still use and is fully functional. The water line is over 33 feet deep and the dirt bottom measures 44 feet 6 inches.

It appears that two minor changes could save my well. First, either reduce the width and/or shift of the right-of-way slightly to the east. Or second, change the arc of the road a couple of degrees which would maintain the 90 degree intersection of CR244 into US-441.

I know the environmental impact assessments are near and I believe this "new" information is significant and should be considered. Additionally, I would like for you to consider the impact of the road design on the historical terrace system on my property. I have maintained these terraces to the maximum extent possible.

  
Joseph L. Price, Jr.  
Landowner

Attach: 1. Segment of Aerial Photo (Map 5) of proposed US-441  
2. Open House Comment Card

cc: District 2, Tennille Office (Attn: Christa Mckinney)

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name

JOSEPH L. PRICE, JR.

Address

1130 Apalachee Rd.

Madison, GA 30650

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments PROVIDED minor modifications in the proposed  
connector (US 441 & CR 244) are made to avoid a  
Historically Significant Hand Dog Well. (See attached letter)

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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.

I DID NOT receive notification that my property was affected

Was the time of the meeting convenient for you to attend?  Yes  No N/A

If no, please suggest a time frame that is more convenient for you.

Were your questions answered by the DOT personnel?  Yes  No N/A

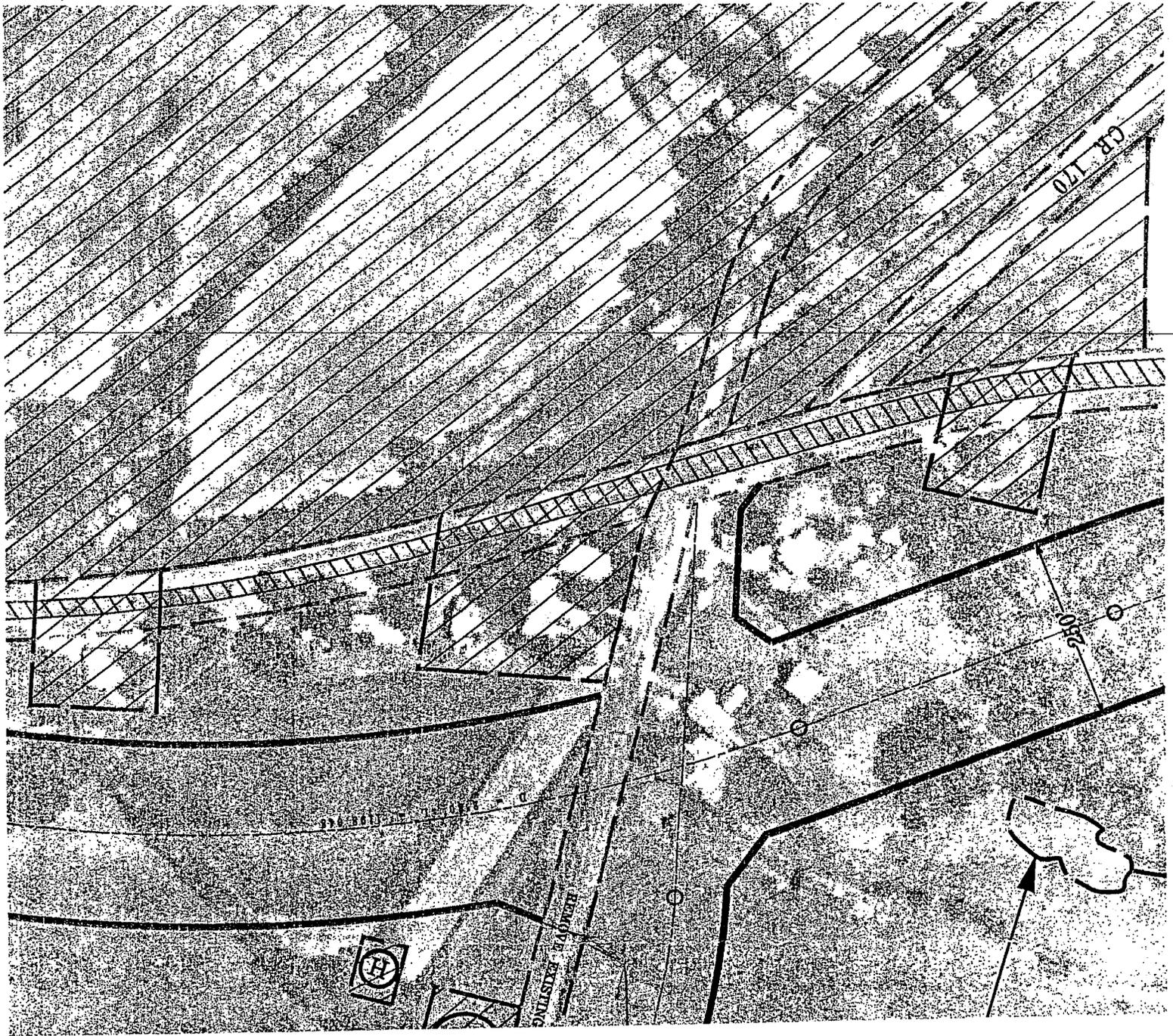
Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

Update your property owner database - my property has been  
in the family since 1907, and in my name for 30 years.

Mail To:

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle

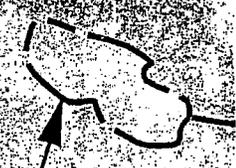


CH 170

0025



EXISTING



*Dr. Rosemary F. Franklin*  
*2601 Snow's Mill Road*  
*Bogart, GA 30622*

Mr. Harvey Keepler  
State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

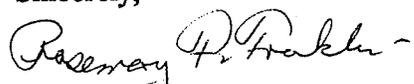
---

Dear Mr. Keepler:

In the planned rerouting of Highway 441 around Bishop, Ga (south of Watkinsville), the project would slice into several family farms, one of which is presently applying for an easement for Farmland Protection. To deprive these people of their proposed transferral of development rights to this property would be a significant monetary loss and the loss of a farm that has been engaged in active farming for many decades. The Governor is supporting all efforts to assure greenspace for the future of the state. This proposed rerouting would seem to clash with Governor Perdue's interests.

441 could be routed on the other side of Bishop on land proposed for development, which has not yet begun.

Please respect people's rights who have owned this farmland for generations. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
  
Rosemary F. Franklin

[franklin@uga.edu](mailto:franklin@uga.edu)

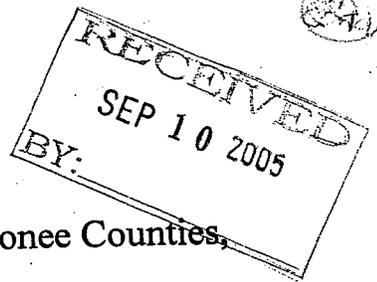
# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005



Please print responses.

Name Mark Freeman  
Address 1510 Old Farmington Rd  
Watkinsville, GA 30677

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments ★ see attached letter & map  
concerning EDS-441(43)  
("Bishop bypass")

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

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

Mail To:  
Mr. Harvey D. Keeper, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

September 7, 2005

Concerning EDS-441(43), the Bishop bypass, I have several comments listed below. I oppose the current route as proposed, and suggest the DOT re-examine the original route as described in below. I am also sending copies of this letter to Governor Perdue, Senators Isakson and Chambliss, Representative Norwood, and State Senator Unterman and State Representative Bob Smith.

1. The GDOT would have to purchase much less land if the original route were modified by reconnecting the bypass with the original 441 roadway, midway between the southern Bishop city limits and the overhead powerlines (ie. at the bend in the road). This alignment would avoid the small historical site shown on the concept map.
2. The explanation given for the change to the current alignment refers to archeological and historic resources. It claims that there are fewer such sites along the current alignment, on the east side of Greenbrier Creek. A GDOT archeologist at the August 15<sup>th</sup> meeting in Oconee County said that several Native American sites were discovered on the west side of the creek but few were found on the east side. This is a highly questionable claim. Anyone even briefly familiar with Native American culture would find it difficult to believe that such peoples would live only on one side of a major source of water. To decide that there is no evidence of Native American culture based on cursory examination is quite a stretch of the imagination. Several property owners affected by the current alignment on the east side of Greenbrier Creek have found evidence of Native American culture on their land, such as arrowpoints and pottery shards. Finally, one of the "archeological sites" found on the west side of the creek that forced the re-alignment over to the east side was actually a modern-day community dumping site. People living in this area for decades have known this locale as an informal dump site, so one cannot be absolutely certain that any item found there was not brought in from another location. If the record shows that fewer archeological samplings were performed on the east side of Greenbrier Creek (along the current alignment route) than were performed on the west side, the claim that the current route is less disruptive is quite faulty. An equal number of samplings must be made on either side of the creek to show the decision to change the alignment was fair and objective. The landowners on the east side of Greenbrier Creek, those being displaced, deserve a *fair and objective* search for any evidence of significant archeological sites on both sides of Greenbrier Creek.
3. Why were two different archeological consultants used to sample the two different sides of Greenbrier Creek, and in two different years? A more fair comparison would be made by having the same consultants checking on both sides of the creek.

4. On a related note, moreso historical than archeological, at least one of the landowners affected by the re-alignment to the current route has a structure on his property that is estimated to have been built in the early 1900s or earlier. Again, this brings to mind the question of whether or not a truly fair examination has been made into the potential sites disrupted by the current route. It seems the GDOT has not been as aggressive in looking for such sites along the current route as compared to along the original route.

---

5. Another reason given for changing from the original route is environmental concerns. This claim is also suspect. Any impartial person simply looking at the aerial photos provided at the meeting can see that the current route would destroy far more mature forested land than the original route. The explanation given for the re-alignment include (1) the statement that the current route will "avoid a significant longitudinal encroachment along Greenbrier Creek" and (2) "stream and wetland impacts have been minimized" in the current route. Both statements are plainly false. The map clearly shows the original route running along the west side of the creek and the current route along the east side of the creek. Further, the map shows there are *five* Greenbrier Creek tributary streams crossed by the current route, as compared to only *two* crossed by the original route. Also, there is a large fresh water wetland just south of the mid-point of Hardigree-Bell Rd (at the double-curves). This wetland would be destroyed by the current re-alignment route. The new route is in no way an improvement in terms of environmental impact, if anything it would offer more harmful impacts than the original route. Most of the land in the original alignment is open pastureland, timberland, and orchard, all of which are monoculture and less environmentally important in terms of watershed quality and tree cover for air quality. It seems that the current route actually has a far worse impact on the environment (more streams and wetlands altered, more forested lands cleared). The current route would destroy mature woodlands that are important to migratory birds. I have personally seen Golden-winged Warblers on the affected properties. This is a species designated by the Georgia DNR as a species of concern and any habitat that provides food and shelter for this species during its biannual migration through our area is important and worth protecting.
6. Along the new re-alignment route, there is one property already approved for Farmland Trust protection, and two other properties that are applying. If the current route is used, federal monies would end up being used to pay a property owner *twice* for the same piece of property, once for the trust arrangement and again in the purchase of the land for the road widening project. This would be either a waste of tax-payer money or a conflict of interest!
7. The properties affected by the current re-alignment are owned by several people who have lived in Oconee County for literally decades. One property owner is a retired veterinarian who has contributed her services to the community for over twenty years, another is a retired UGA veterinarian and researcher that has lived

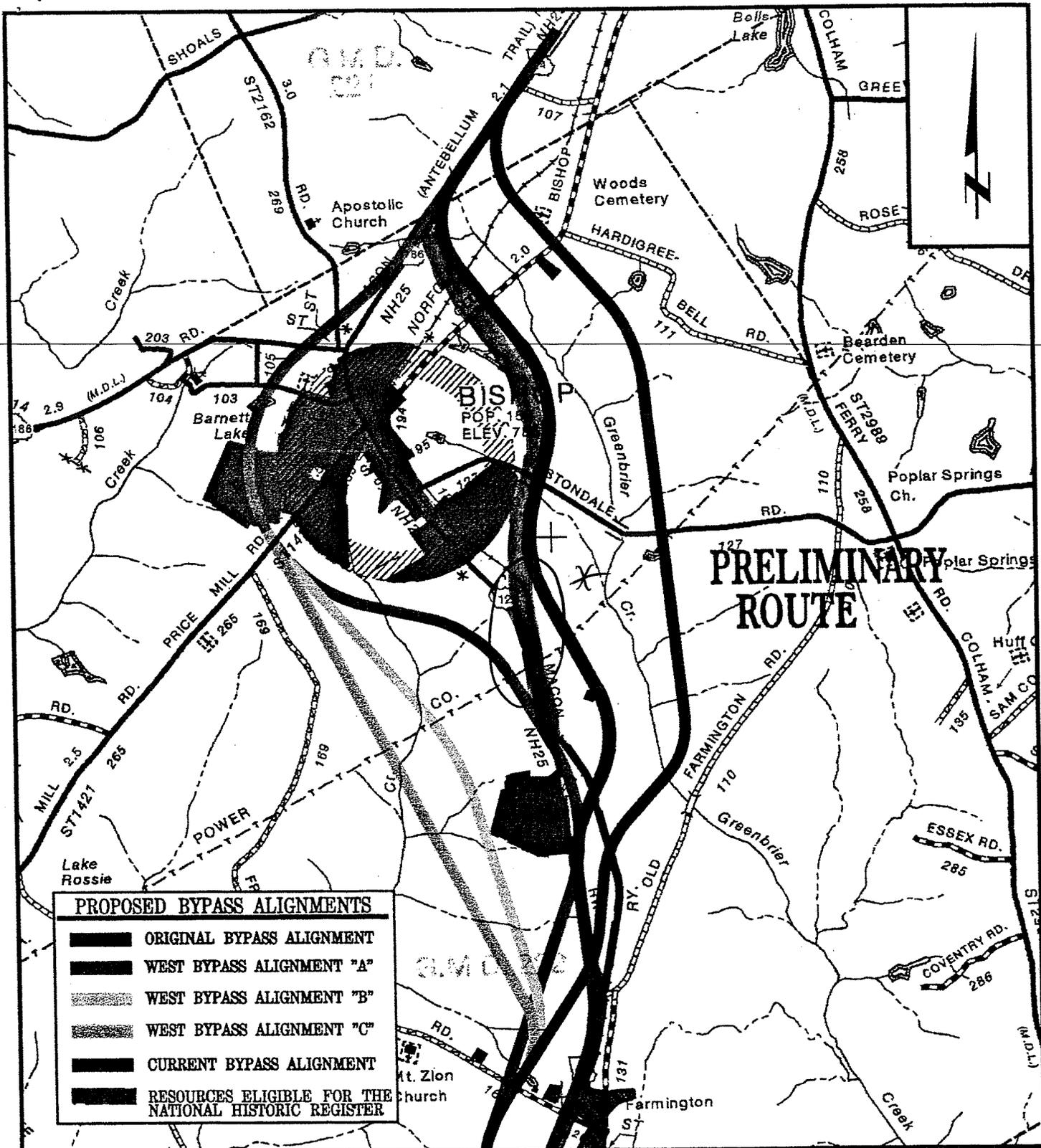
in the area for ten years. There is a farmer who is a second-generation landowner who inherited his land from his father. These people are not recent newcomers to the area, rather they are longstanding Oconee County citizens who have given much to the community over many years. They deserve far better than this. Please re-examine the route. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

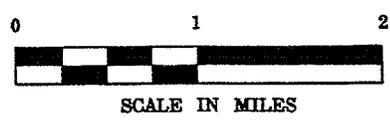
---



Mark Freeman  
1510 Old Farmington Rd.  
Watkinsville, GA 30677



PROPOSED BYPASS ALIGNMENTS	
	ORIGINAL BYPASS ALIGNMENT
	WEST BYPASS ALIGNMENT "A"
	WEST BYPASS ALIGNMENT "B"
	WEST BYPASS ALIGNMENT "C"
	CURRENT BYPASS ALIGNMENT
	RESOURCES ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL HISTORIC REGISTER



LOCATION

**STRIPMAP**  
 EDS-441(43)  
 S.R. 24/U.S. 441 IMPROVEMENTS  
 OCONEE COUNTY  
 P.I.# 122660

SOURCE: GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP, MORGAN CO., GEORGIA  
 PREPARED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, 1962

77205

*why not this route? ☆*

80

LAMBERT AND REITMAN, L.L.C.  
Attorneys At Law  
126 East Washington Street  
Madison, Georgia 30650

E. R. Lambert  
M. Joseph Reitman, Jr.  
Lee M. Abney

Telephone: (706) 342-3566  
Facsimile: (706) 342-9683

FACSIMILE COVER PAGE

DATE: 8/25/05	INITIALS OF SENDER: gwj
FACSIMILE NO. 404-699-6888	NO. OF PAGES: 4
TO: Harvey D. Keepler	
FROM: Joe Reitman	
SUBJECT: Highway 441 Bypass <i>OLIVER</i>	

PLEASE NOTIFY SENDER IMMEDIATELY IF NOT RECEIVED PROPERLY

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

THIS COMMUNICATION AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS CONTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE LAW FIRM OF LAMBERT AND REITMAN, L.L.C. WHICH MAY BE CONFIDENTIAL AND/OR LEGALLY PRIVILEGED. THE INFORMATION IS ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE ADDRESSEE/INTENDED RECIPIENT. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, ANY REVIEW, DISCLOSURE, COPYING, DISTRIBUTION OR ANY ACTION IN RELIANCE UPON THE CONTENTS OF THE INFORMATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. ALL DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THIS FIRM IMMEDIATELY. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, PLEASE NOTIFY US BY TELEPHONE IMMEDIATELY SO THAT WE CAN ARRANGE FOR THE RETURN OF THE DOCUMENTS TO US AT NO COST TO YOU.

**LAMBERT AND REITMAN, L.L.C.**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
126 EAST WASHINGTON STREET  
MADISON, GEORGIA 30650

E. R. LAMBERT  
M. JOSEPH REITMAN, JR.  
LEE M. ABNEY

TELEPHONE (706) 342-3566  
FACSIMILE (706) 342-9683

August 25, 2005

---

**VIA UPS OVERNIGHT DELIVERY AND FACSIMILE 404 699 6888**

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler  
State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Re: DOT PI 122660; Fast Fills Convenience Store currently under construction at US 441/SR 24, Farmington, Georgia, owned by L. H. Irwin and Wesley Irwin

Dear Mr. Keepler:

This firm has been retained to represent Mr. L. H. Irwin and Mr. Wesley Irwin regarding the above. Our Clients are in the process of building a food-gas store at Farmington on the West side of the existing U. S. 441.

Our Clients learned on or about August 15, 2005 that the DOT was planning the proposed bypass of this section of Farmington. It was the original understanding of our clients that the improved highway would be located basically on the existing location of current Highway 441. However, at the August 15 meeting they learned that the project has been designated as a bypass proposed to be re-routed through the back part of our clients' property, west of the convenience store currently under construction.

In addition to the notification that the bypass would run behind our clients' project, our clients were surprised to find that a DOT representative's position was that DOT might not grant a curb cut. As you would imagine, this would significantly and adversely affect the convenience store, if there was no access to the new bypass.

This would be a taking of the right of access per Georgia law. The net effect is the convenience store would not be able to maintain or even approach a profitable situation. We believe the end result is an inverse condemnation that renders our clients' property essentially without practical value. This would also give rise to consequential damages in a condemnation trial.

In order to preserve our clients' rights we are referring to their property rights under law, which

may not be deprived without due process of law. See Georgia Constitution, Article I, Section I, Paragraph I, plus the 5th and 14th amendments of the U. S. Constitution. However, it may be that by accommodating our clients' request for a curb cut and reasonable compensation for any future taking, that our clients' rights can be addressed and protected.

*It is our clients' wish to avoid any dispute with the Department of Transportation.* However, please understand that in order to adequately represent our clients, we must present the language above. It is our sincere hope that our clients and DOT will be able to work together in a cooperative spirit to amicably resolve this matter.

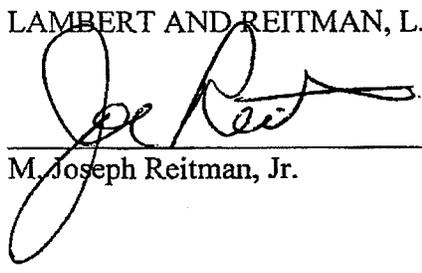
---

Time is of the essence because my clients are three plus months into construction. Please respond as soon as possible. I would be glad to discuss this on the telephone, or set up a meeting at a time and place convenient to you. We also enclose herewith the Comment Card from the recent meeting.

Sincerely,

LAMBERT AND REITMAN, L.L.C.

By:

  
M. Joseph Reitman, Jr.

MJRjr:gwj  
Enclosure

cc: L. H. Irwin

Larry Dent, Deputy Commissioner, GA DOT, #2 Capitol Square, SW Atlanta, GA 30334-1001

David Studstill, Chief Engineer, GA DOT, #2 Capitol Square, SW Atlanta, GA 30334-1001

Russell McMurray, District Engineer, GA DOT P. O. Box 1057 Gainesville, GA 30503-1057

G. Melvin Davis, Chairman, Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 145, Watkinsville, GA 30677

Mike Leonas, Oconee County Engineer, P.O. Box 145, Watkinsville, GA 30677

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## Public Information Open House Comment Card

Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00(200), Morgan and Oconee Counties,

P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222

August 15, 2005

Please print responses.

Name L. H. Irwin

Address 1461-B Greensboro Hwy Watkinsville GA 30677

Do you support the project?  For  Against  Conditional  Uncommitted

Comments See attached letter

How did you hear about this meeting?  Radio  Newspaper  Signs  Word of Mouth

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 DOT personnel?  Yes  No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting?  Yes  No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way Georgia DOT conducts public meetings?

Earlier notification.

Mail To:

Mr. Harvey D. Keeper, State Environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

PROJECT EDS-441(42)(43)  
PROJECT BR-0001-00(222)

---

P.I. Nos 222560, 122660, 0001222

August 15, 2005  
Oconee County Civic Center

---

1 Ricky House  
810 Astondale Rd.  
2 Bishop, Georgia

3 Where that road is going to cross Astondale Road going  
4 through our property, the property that's going to be there,  
5 we're in the process and the County is putting up money and  
6 the Federal Government is putting up money for farm land  
7 protection and it's already been done. It's with the lawyers  
8 now. All they got is just signing off on it. So somebody  
9 don't know because that road is going to go right through the  
10 part that is going to be put in the farm land protection.  
11 Everything is done except giving me the money. What am I  
12 supposed to do? I got to pay the appraiser. I got to pay  
13 the surveyors, lawyers. What else am I supposed to do? The  
14 land trust lady is on her way out here to look at this and  
15 talk to us, but the map I got originally from the County says  
16 it wasn't going through there, so and that's the one the land  
17 trust used.

11 Vern Hammonds  
12 4911 Main Street  
13 P.O. Box 126  
14 Bishop, Georgia

14 Main Street of 441, that's where I live. We run the fruit  
15 stand right there on the side of the road, been there 24  
16 years and they're talking about going way back over there in  
17 the country, it just killed my business. When they go around  
18 it, I'm going out. I ain't got no choice. I sure would love  
19 to see it come through there. My Wife feels the same way I  
20 do. My whole family, everybody wants it to come through  
21 Bishop and the fruit stand. All of us are going to be out  
22 of business.

19 Carole Pritchard Ludwig  
20 1510 Old Farmington Road  
21 Watkinsville, Georgia

21 I'm against the project as it's written. It's going right  
22 through my land. It will destroy a pristine, stream feeder  
23 into Greenbrier Creek. It will destroy I think some unique  
24 green space and trees. I've left the trees on the place.  
25 There's no need for it. It leaves several acres on one side  
and several on the other. It's neither here or there. It's  
not about the money. It's about destroying green space that  
we should try to preserve. I'm very upset.

843

1 Cornett Campbell  
2100 Athens Highway  
2 Madison, Georgia

3 They look like they're going to take my church building. I  
4 got a building that got a church in it. That road shifting  
over a little bit and brings that church building, they got  
it docked right on top of the building. That land, it's  
5 Mable and Carter Campbell Erickson. The land is in my Wife's  
name, Mable Campbell. Look like to me they straighten the  
6 road out a little bit and they're shifting away from that  
church building a little bit. I don't like it.

7

8 Mildred Hammonds  
P.O. Box 126  
9 Bishop, Georgia 30621

85

10 We got a business in the middle of town. It goes around,  
we're out of business. And it's just a mile long. Why go  
11 around 16.6 miles and all just to go just a mile through the  
middle of Bishop? Don't make sense. I want it to come right  
12 through the middle of Bishop so we keep our business.  
That's our living. A lot of our family works there.

13

14 James Hill  
P.O. Box 784  
15 1200 Freeman Creek  
Farmington, Georgia

86

16 There's a problem with their map. The road is going right  
17 next to my house. What is not on the map is the road is  
going to take out my well, power pole and phone line. It's  
18 not a utility company thing. I have my own buried water pipe,  
electric line and phone line to my house. So I understand  
19 that they're going to pay me for destroying my property, but  
they don't know that they're also going to take out my well,  
20 power line and phone line. It's on Map #43. I'm James  
Hill IV. I'm destroyed. I've lived there 35 years and I  
21 built that house with my own, two hands. It was my master  
thesis project through civil engineering. And the way this  
22 highway is going, it's going to take half of my two acres  
away and it looks like half of my house. If it doesn't take  
23 half of my house, I couldn't live there with the road. Map 24  
shows that they routed the road one-half through one piece  
24 of property and one-half through another piece of property  
and it's the same owner and it's contiguous land.

25

1 Yash P. Chawla

2 I'm the new owner of Olden Samuel Shockley, corner of 441  
3 and Apalachee Road. It's a convenient store and they're  
4 just curving the 441 right above me and I depend, 80% of my  
5 business is 441. And if they curve the road 441 above me, I'm  
6 going to lose all my business and I might be out of business.  
I wouldn't be able to pay the mortgage and anything, put me  
in debt and I don't know what to do. I'd appreciate it if  
you guys can help me out.

7 James Melvin Sidwell  
8 1311 Apalachee Road  
9 Morgan County

88

10 The way they proposed to come through my land, it's going to  
11 take a lot of my property there that I dairy farm on and I  
12 don't know if it's going to leave enough land for me to make  
13 my living on. I don't understand why we can't let it go in  
14 the old roadbed. Part of the land they're taking I only  
15 got about two acres of woods on my whole farm. That's all  
16 the shade I got for my cows and they're going to take half  
17 of it. I'm going to have to build a \$250,000 structure or  
18 go out of business. What do they propose I do? Are they  
19 going to pay me for this or what is going to happen? I guess  
20 that's it.

21 Alice Pritchett  
22 3521 Macon Highway  
23 Watkinsville, Georgia

89

24 I don't want them to divide my land like they do. Come to  
25 the front where they was going to get it to start with and  
get it instead of going back down and dividing my land,  
part of it on one side and makes you angry. All these years  
and got it. It would be all right if they come up from the  
highway and get another two lanes that wouldn't come up to  
my house. But if it comes too close, I could walk off and  
still have all one place.

26 David Ivey  
27 1231 Coventry Road  
28 Watkinsville, Georgia

90

29 I own a business in Bishop on 441. The address there is 5040  
30 Macon Highway. I oppose the project going around Bishop.  
31 There's supposed historical value in the Town. I own one of

1 the oldest houses in Town and have my business in it. It was  
2 built in 1890 and owned by the first Mayor of Bishop. I've  
3 looked at a possible way of coming through Bishop where only  
4 two houses would be impacted directly and only one of them  
5 has some possible historical value. Other than that, the  
6 Town is completely missed by the effects of this highway  
7 widening. The economical development that supposedly is the  
8 pitch of this project, the economy of Bishop will disappear.  
9 It will cease to exist because most of the businesses in  
10 Bishop rely on tourist traffic that travels 441.

6  
7 Sharon Ivey  
8 1231 Coventry Road  
9 Watkinsville, Georgia

10 Okay. I'm against the road going around Bishop. I'm for  
11 the road coming through Bishop, 441 and I'm a business owner.  
12 The house that our business is in is a historical home built  
13 in 1891. The proposed road if it comes through there I don't  
14 think it would take our house that our business is in. And I  
15 know Bishop is a historical town or supposed to be a  
16 historical town. I feel like there's a way to go around  
17 historical buildings that might take out one or two, but I  
18 don't understand why they would spend so much money to go  
19 around Bishop. Plus it's supposed to be for an economical  
20 building plan. The economics are already there. The small  
21 businesses that are already in Bishop will be destroyed  
22 because a lot of the business that's in Bishop depends on  
23 tourist traffic and traffic where people get off of the  
24 interstate and come through the Town like from going from  
25 Florida up to North Georgia. And most of the businesses  
there depend on that. And so a lot of people are going to be  
put out of work. A lot of people are going to lose their  
businesses and I'm very upset about it. And as a State  
taxpayer and a Federal taxpayer, I don't understand why they  
would spend so much more money going around the Town instead  
of coming straight through it where there's already an  
existing roadbed.

21  
22 My Mother's property, Francis Ponder, 2258 Athens Highway,  
23 Madison, Georgia. The waterline is already rundown on the  
24 left-hand side of the highway going north out of Madison.  
25 If the highway, they take more frontage, they have to dig up  
the waterline and put it down again. Now then, that cost  
money. They tell me that the State and the Federal  
Government is going to pay for it, but we want them to know  
that we pay taxes. And the bottom line, everybody is paying  
for it. They can go a little bit over the other way and not

1 take one of the houses they're going to take and take some  
curve out of the road near the bridge.

2

3 The property owner's name is Edith Blue. The address of the  
property is 2751 Highway 441, P.O. Box 1095, Watkinsville  
4 30677. The existing Highway 441, this is what we have, an  
office on Highway 441 right here. When we get to the office  
5 is a County Road. It comes here. The proposed is to take  
200 feet of my land, the frontage of 441. This also has a  
6 power line, TMC power line going right through here. We're  
set up by the County, by Oconee County as a perpetual pet  
7 cemetery. That means that everything we could do is  
guaranteed to be there. And the current drawing and so forth  
8 does not allow an entrance to our property. We do have an  
entrance now or an entrance to our office building which we  
9 do have an office building there. According to the map up  
here it does not show anything I'm telling you here. The  
10 address, mailing address will be Post Office Box 1095,  
Watkinsville, Georgia 30677. Person to contact is Loran  
11 Myers. Cell phone #706-769-7386, 800-925-6117.

12

James Schmitt  
13 824 Dixie Avenue  
Madison, Georgia



14

On the current map there's a section of land listed as  
15 Jimmy Gay and that's going to be the location of a new  
subdivision called the Harbors of Madison. They need to make  
16 sure that there's a crossover section located near or at the  
entrance to the subdivision with decel lanes so people can  
17 get in and out of the subdivision. There's going to be in  
the neighborhood of 96 homes in the subdivision. Just north  
18 of that is the Morgan County landfill and there needs to be  
a crossover section there so people headed northbound can get  
19 into the landfill or people that live north of the landfill  
can come out to go back home. There's going to be a lot of  
20 people on that side of town going south that do not have  
garbage pick up and that's where they go to take their  
21 garbage.

22

Joyce Hardigree  
23 P.O. Box 265  
1660 Old Bishop Road  
24 Watkinsville, Georgia



25

I think this route is not the best route, the red line  
proposed. The environmental easements when they came on our

1 farm, they found in fact on this as much as they did on  
2 this. I think they have quite a bit of environmental wetlands  
3 and lakes to contend on this much more than if they went  
4 another route. There's at least, seven wetlands that will  
5 be destroyed. I think the best solution would be to go  
6 down the existing 441 on the east side as far as they can go,  
7 swing to the east side of Bishop behind Dr. Payne's farm,  
8 his historical farm. Maybe take another half a mile right  
9 here and come back down either one of your yellow lines,  
10 alternate routes. Less impact on your environment, less  
11 costly, less historical impact. It would service more people.  
12 The growth is going on this side. There's houses and a new  
13 school proposed for this area on that side. It would serve  
14 more people as to way out here in the open where it's not a  
15 whole lot of growth yet. If you're trying to get service to  
16 the most people, that's the best route and I'll be glad if  
17 someone was to come, I'll get in my car at my own expense and  
18 drive them and show them this route. I've been here my whole  
19 life. It would save every taxpayer in the United States  
20 money, less wetlands and environment. It would serve more  
21 people because there's more people up here than here, up  
22 above Bishop. There's three to four houses along the red  
23 route totaling a million dollars that they would have to take  
24 for the red route.

13  
14 Nancy Stangle  
15 245 Three Oaks Drive  
16 Athens, Georgia 30607



17 I'm with the Athens Land Trust. We're a nonprofit. We do  
18 farm land protection and land conservation and we're actually  
19 in the process of trying to protect some farm land that right  
20 now the road is headed right through. We've actually gotten  
21 money from USDA to purchase the development rights on that  
22 piece of property and we're in the process of negotiating the  
23 easement. So we would really like to see that section of the  
24 road moved if at all possible. That whole area, there's  
25 several farmers in that area that are interested in  
participating in the program as money becomes available and  
it hits almost everyone of their farms. So I also see that  
it goes through every pond that's there on that stretch and  
it looks like it was aiming for the ponds. It doesn't seem  
like that's very wise, but the main comment we want to make  
if at all possible is to have the road be moved out of this  
area of farm land that we've been working hard to protect.  
We'd really like to see that.

25

95

1 Charles Brooks  
2 P.O. Box 167  
3 4841 Main Street  
4 Bishop, Georgia

5 I have a business and I have been there 30 years and I'm kind  
6 of a defeatist about the thing because it's not new. We've  
7 known about this for 10 years, so I don't know why anybody  
8 would express shock. But I felt like that I really needed  
9 for my own mind to come here and say that, you know, my  
10 comment would just be a memorial for myself and other people  
11 along the road that are in business. That many years ago we  
12 just had an idea and didn't have a lot of money and we  
13 developed that idea and invested our lives in it and now be  
14 taken away from us. So once we have the bypass I had looked  
15 forward to selling my business because I never did work for  
16 someone else. I don't even have Social Security, so I had  
17 looked forward to selling my business to somebody and they  
18 could continue it on. But nobody in the world is ever going  
19 to try to have a business dedicated pretty much to tourists  
20 like mine is. It ain't going to work. I mean any people  
21 today that wants to start a business, many of them do traffic  
22 studies. You got to have the traffic. If you don't have the  
23 traffic, it's just ridiculous. So the day they cut the  
24 string that would be my day to walk out, but I won't get  
25 anything for it. It's a shame, you know, but I understand  
that on the raw numbers they're probably going to show 100  
people maybe for it and only six or seven against it. You  
know, I started not to come, but anyway, I got my little  
speech. The only question left, there's a lot of speculation  
that I understand here you can't even start to find out when  
we're talking about something happening, but I'm 59. So if  
it took six or seven years, I certainly won't be worried about  
it. If it takes three years, I'll be worried about it.

19 Roy Thrasher  
20 4591 Athens Highway.  
21 Madison, Georgia 30650

96

22 What I want to say, I'm right on 441 and I got a poultry farm.  
23 I have about 15 feed trucks every eight weeks that come in  
24 and out. They come from Athens and got to turn left off of  
25 441 into my driveway. And when they turn out, they go back  
toward Athens. I need that median access where they won't  
have to go all the way down to the next one and turn to come  
back to get back to me. And I have about anywhere from nine  
to 12 trucks when they catch chickens. This happens every  
eight weeks now. If they just give them some way to the turn  
to the left, don't even have to have a left turn lane where

1 they could come across coming from Athens and go back to  
 2 Athens straight across in my driveway right there. That  
 3 fruit stand on the other side has a driveway right straight  
 4 across from mine. My driveway is coming uphill just like  
 5 that. Some way where I don't have to sit there and spin like  
 6 I do now getting out of my driveway. I've been trying to get  
 7 that fixed for 15 years. They patched it twice and added  
 8 that much pavement to it and they wouldn't pave but that far  
 9 off the shoulder of the road. I don't want them to do it.  
 10 I'm against it, but I want it done.

6

7 Joe Jordan  
 8 1090 Apalachee Road



8

9 The way you got it listed over there, it's going right  
 10 through my house and it doesn't indicate that I'm there or  
 11 anything is there other than a little old white area. The  
 12 railroad track is considered historic right. They're saying  
 13 the railroad track is approximately 80 foot wide. That's the  
 14 entire property of a railroad track and there's a house right  
 15 next to theirs that is considered historic. They're only  
 16 making the house historic. How come the property attached  
 17 to the house is not historic? Going up the County road like  
 18 on the County road is jumping up to 120 foot right-of-ways.  
 19 How come? There's going to be a lot of people killed in that  
 20 intersection the way they got it laid out. There's already  
 21 problems there now. We want \$300,000 for the house. All of  
 22 our shade trees, they're going to cut them all down.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

## C E R T I F I C A T E

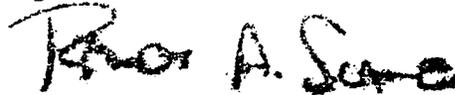
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

G E O R G I A :  
H A L L C O U N T Y :

I hereby certify that the foregoing DOT Public Information Open House was reported, as stated in the caption, and the comments thereto were reduced to the written page under my direction; that the foregoing Pages 1 through 9 represent a true, complete and correct transcript of the comments given.

I further certify that I am not in the regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor am I in anyway financially interested in the result of said case.

This, the 25th day of August, 2005.



Randy A. Slane, CCR-B-2281



98

*Comments*

[review](#) [add](#) [update](#) [delete](#)

*CommentReview*

*Comments Pending Responses for Project ID: 222560-  
Open House Date: 08/15/2005*



---

First Name: Warren      Last Name: FEW  
E-Mail: jwfew@negia.net  
Address: 1180 Few Lane  
City: MADISON      State: GA      Zip: 30650  
Category: General  
Comment: This Project should be given a high priority-  
My wife and several friends were involved in  
accidents in that portion of 441 just north of  
the Apalachee river. The curves are very flat  
and one is likely to skid off/or into oncoming  
traffic in bad or wet conditions. there is a very  
large ammount of traffic every day. Thank  
you. Warren Few

[▶ return](#) [▶ edit](#) [▶ respond now](#) [▶ forward](#)

3/contd

*Comments*

**review**   **add**   **update**   **delete**

*CommentReview*

*Comments Pending Responses for Project ID: 222560-  
Open House Date: 08/15/2005*



First Name: Mark      Last Name: Freeman  
E-Mail: roam4birds@yahoo.com  
Address: 1510 Old Farmington Rd  
City: Watkinsville State: GA      Zip: 30677  
Category: General  
Comment: I have several comments regarding the Bishop  
bypass, EDS-441(42)(43), but they exceed the  
1000 character limit. Please let me know who  
specifically I may email my comments to.  
Thank you. Mark Freeman

**return**   **edit**   **respond now**   **forward**

Part 1 of 3 cont'd

*Comments*

**review**   **add**   **update**   **delete**

*CommentReview*

**Comments Pending Responses for Project ID: 222560-  
Open House Date: 08/15/2005**



First Name: Mark                      Last Name: Freeman  
 E-Mail:    roam4birds@yahoo.com  
 Address:   1510 Old Farmington Rd  
 City:        Watkinsville State:        GA        Zip: 30677  
 Category:   General  
 Comment: Part 1 of 7 to be sent Concerning EDS-441 (42)(43), the Bishop bypass, I have several comments listed below. I oppose the current route as proposed, and suggest the DOT re-examine the original route as described in below. I am also sending copies of this letter to Governor Perdue, as well as Representative Norwood, Senators Isakson and Chambliss, as well as State Senator Unterman and State Representative Bob Smith. 1. The GDOT would have to purchase much less land if the original route were modified by reconnecting the bypass with the original 441 roadway, midway between the southern Bishop city limits and the overhead powerlines (ie. at the bend in the road). This alignment would avoid the small historical site shown on the concept map. (continued next part submitted)

**▶ return**   **▶ edit**   **▶ respond now**   **▶ forward**

Public

*Comments*

[review](#) [add](#) [update](#) [delete](#)

*CommentReview*

*Comments Pending Responses for Project ID: 222560-  
Open House Date: 08/15/2005*



First Name: Mark                      Last Name: Freeman  
 E-Mail: roam4birds@yahoo.com  
 Address: 1510 Old Farmington Rd  
 City:            Watkinsville State:            GA            Zip: 30677  
 Category: General  
 Comment: Part 2 of many to be sent 2. The explanation given for the change to the current alignment refers to archeological and historic resources. It claims that there are fewer such sites along the current archeological alignment, on the east side of Greenbrier Creek. A GDOT archeologist at the August 15th meeting in Oconee County said that several Native American sites were discovered on the west side of the creek but few were found on the east side. This is a highly questionable claim. Anyone even briefly familiar with Native American culture would find it difficult to believe that such peoples would live only on one side of a major source of water. To decide that there is no evidence of Native American culture based on cursory examination is quite a stretch of the imagination. Several property owners affected by the current alignment on the east side of Greenbrier Creek have found evidence of Native American culture on their land, such as arrowpoints and pottery shards.  
 (continued)

[return](#) [edit](#) [respond now](#) [forward](#)

*Comments*

**review**   **add**   **update**   **delete**

Part 3 of cont'd

*CommentReview*

*Comments Pending Responses for Project ID: 222560-  
Open House Date: 08/15/2005*



First Name: Mark      Last Name: Freeman  
 E-Mail: roam4birds@yahoo.com  
 Address: 1510 Old Farmington Rd  
 City:      Watkinsville State:      GA      Zip: 30677  
 Category: General  
 Comment: Part 3 of many parts 2. (cont'd) Finally, one of the "archeological sites" found on the west side of the creek that forced the re-alignment over to the east side was actually a modern-day community dumping site. People living in this area for decades have known this locale as an informal dump site, so one cannot be absolutely certain that any item found there was not brought in from another location. If the record shows that fewer archeological samplings were performed on the east side of Greenbrier Creek (along the current alignment route) than were performed on the west side, the claim that the current route is less disruptive is quite faulty. An equal number of samplings must be made on either side of the creek to show the decision to change the alignment was fair and objective. The landowners on the east side of Greenbrier Creek, those being displaced, deserve a fair and objective search for any evidence of significant archeological sites on both sides of Greenbrier Creek.

**return**   **edit**   **respond now**   **forward**



*Comments*

**review**   **add**   **update**   **delete**

*CommentReview*

*Comments Pending Responses for Project ID: 222560-  
Open House Date: 08/15/2005*



First Name: Allan   Last Name: Hardigree  
 E-Mail: allananddiane@earthlink.net  
 Address: 5020 Main St.  
 City: Bishop   State: GA   Zip: 30621  
 Category: Other  
 Comment: I am a lifelong resident of Bishop, Ga. and have followed the 441 hwy. project with great interest. The current project proposal seems to be the best idea I've seen so far. I have always preferred a route that would avoid Bishop and preserve the historic nature of the town. This seems to be the choice of almost all residents in Bishop. You can't please everyone but you have come up with what I believe is the best possible route for everyone. I can't seem to open views of the route from your web site and wonder if the problem is on my end or yours. Please advise me. Thanks, Allan Hardigree

**▶ return**   **▶ edit**   **▶ respond now**   **▶ forward**



*Comments*

[review](#) [add](#) [update](#) [delete](#)

*CommentReview*

*Comments Pending Responses for Project ID: 222560-  
Open House Date: 08/15/2005*



---

First Name: Blake      Last Name: Hardigree  
E-Mail:    hardyho@bellsouth.net  
Address:    1601 Salem Road  
City:        Watkinsville State:      GA      Zip: 30677  
Category:    General  
Comment:    I moved to Farmington Ga. in 1998, since  
                 then the traffic on 441 has doubled, it's time  
                 for an alternative.

[▶ return](#) [▶ edit](#) [▶ respond now](#) [▶ forward](#)



*Comments*

**review**   **add**   **update**   **delete**

*CommentReview*

*Comments Pending Responses for Project ID: 222560-  
Open House Date: 08/15/2005*



First Name: Russ                      Last Name: Page  
 E-Mail: repropro@negia.net  
 Address: 1201 Sunset Ridge  
 City:                      Watkinsville    State:                      GA    Zip: 30677  
 Category: General  
 Comment: I was unable to attend the public information meeting on EDS-441. However, I would like to make some comments on this project. Specifically to realignment around Bishop. Georgia Code 41-1-7 states "It is the declared policy of the state to conserve, protect, and encourage teh development and improvement of its agricultural and forest land and facilities for the production or distribution of food and other agricultural products" Yet this proposed realignment to the East of Bishop will OBLITERATE at least seven (7) FUNCTIONING FAMILY FARMS. Furthermore, one of these farms (Ricky House Family) has been earmarked for protection by the purchase of an Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) utilizing funding from Oconee County General Fund, Oconee Co Citizens Donations, Farmers Donations and USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. This PACE program has already been approved by all parties and will be completed within 3 months.

**▶ return**   **▶ edit**   **▶ respond now**   **▶ forward**



*Comments*

**review**   **add**   **update**   **delete**

*CommentReview*

*Comments Pending Responses for Project ID: 222560-  
Open House Date: 08/15/2005*



---

First Name: Roy                      Last Name: Perkins  
E-Mail:      ed8700@charter.net  
Address:     1250 Coventry Road  
City:         Watkinville   State:         GA         Zip: 30677  
Category:    Environmental  
Comment:    I would like to register my objection to the Bishop bypass portion of the proposal. The routing puts the proposed highway parallel to and very proximate to Greenbriar Creek for the entire distance from Farmington to Bishop, assuring that any chronic highway runoff will enter the creek ecosystem. This also creates a situation where any acute incident such as a Hazmat spill would enter the Greenbriar watershed. Greenbriar Creek feeds substantial wetlands along its length and especially in the Farmington area. The proposed routing will be detrimental to these wetlands and the wildlife dependent upon them.

**▶ return**   **▶ edit**   **▶ respond now**   **▶ forward**

1000-0011

*Comments*

[review](#) [add](#) [update](#) [delete](#)

*CommentReview*

*Comments Pending Responses for Project ID: 222560-  
Open House Date: 08/15/2005*



First Name: Roy                      Last Name: Perkins  
E-Mail: ed8700@charter.net  
Address: 1250 Coventry Road  
City:            Watkinsville State:            GA            Zip: 30677  
Category: General  
Comment: I would like to voice my concern about the proposed route of the Bishop by pass. The proposed routing will bring noise and light pollution closer to residential areas and environmentally sensitive areas along Colham Ferry Road. The proposal seems to simply transfer a problem from one group of citizens to another and is completely out of keeping with the rural nature of the countryside.

[▶ return](#) [▶ edit](#) [▶ respond now](#) [▶ forward](#)



*Comments*

**review**   **add**   **update**   **delete**

*CommentReview*

*Comments Pending Responses for Project ID: 222560-  
Open House Date: 08/15/2005*



First Name: Geoff & Lisa   Last Name: Pickett  
 E-Mail: pickettpottery@hotmail.com  
 Address: P.O. Box 252, 1171 Freeman Creek Rd.  
 City: Farmington   State: GA   Zip: 30638  
 Category: Planning  
 Comment: To Whom it May Concern: We would like to file a formal objection to the proposed re-routing of Hwy 441 through Farmington EDS-441(42)(43)as announced at the public viewing at the Oconee County Civic Center 08/15/2005. I also have some general comments concerning Farmington and specific questions. QUESTIONS: 1. I respectfully request the specific details of why it is impossible to make Hwy 441 into a four lane highway more or less in the space available surrounding the current road? 2. Is the Ga. DOT willing to consider other alternatives in the re-routing of the road at Farmington?

**▶ return**   **▶ edit**   **▶ respond now**   **▶ forward**



*Comments*

**review**   **add**   **update**   **delete**

*CommentReview*

**Comments Pending Responses for Project ID: 222560-  
Open House Date: 08/15/2005**



First Name: Geoff & Lisa   Last Name: Pickett  
E-Mail: pickettpottery@hotmail.com  
Address: P.O. Box 252, 1171 Freeman Creek Rd.  
City: Farmington   State: GA   Zip: 30638  
Category: Planning

Comment: To Whom it May Concern: We would like to file a formal objection to the proposed re-routing of Hwy 441 through Farmington EDS-441(42)(43)as announced at the public viewing at the Oconee County Civic Center 08/15/2005. I also have some general comments concerning Farmington and specific questions. OBJECTION: The proposed route of Hwy. 441 is 600 feet from our residence and 200 feet from my workshop, where I spend my entire working life. Our concern is that an increasingly busy four lane highway, with constant truck traffic, will seriously degrade our quality of life due to the very high noise level. As can be seen from the aerial photograph, my workshop cannot even be provided with a buffer of trees due to its close proximity to the property line. Because of my established home based business and immovable kilns, relocation is not a viable option.

**return**   **edit**   **respond now**   **forward**



*Comments*

**review**   **add**   **update**   **delete**

*CommentReview*

*Comments Pending Responses for Project ID: 222560-  
Open House Date: 08/15/2005*



First Name: Susan and Don Last Name: Wells  
 E-Mail: dtwj1020@aol.com  
 Address: 2971 Macon Highway  
 City: Farmington State: GA Zip: 30638  
 Category: Design  
 Comment: Projects EDS-441(42)(43) and BR-0001-00 (200), P.I. Nos. 222560, 122660, and 0001222 Open House on 8-15-05. We are strongly opposed to the plan. which bisects our land diagonally while destroying our home and pond. We looked in Oconee County for a long time to find a larger tract of land with water (stream, pond), woods, wildlife, and the privacy that results from a home well off the road surrounded by undeveloped land. We have a beautiful piece of property which will have its value to us entirely destroyed by being cut in half like this. Given the scarcity of such parcels, this property may be impossible to replace now in Oconee where we are determined to continue to raise our children. The few parcels that remain are often priced for subdivision development rather than private use. This property was intended to be our final family home and it is difficult to conceive how we will ever duplicate it elsewhere in Oconee.

**return**   **edit**   **respond now**   **forward**



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ROUTING SLIP

September 8,  
2005

DATE

*received  
after comment  
period ended.*

To:		ROOM No.	OUT
1.	HARVEY KEEPLER		
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			

**TO FORWARD, STRIKE YOUR NAME, INITIAL AND DATE.**

- FOR SIGNATURE
- FOR APPROVAL
- FOR INFORMATION
- FOR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
- FOR ACTION
- FOR DISCUSSION ON \_\_\_\_\_ (DATE)

- AS REQUESTED
- PREPARE EARLY
- FILE
- MAIL

PLEASE ANSWER  
 RETURN TO \_\_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_\_ (DATE)

**OTHER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** PETER



#12

STATE OF GEORGIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
ATLANTA 30334-0900

SEP - 1 2005

Sonny Perdue  
GOVERNOR

August 30, 2005

Carol C. Ludwig, D.V.M.  
Greenbriar Creek Farm  
1510 Old Farmington Road  
Watkinsville, Georgia 30677

Dear Dr. Ludwig:

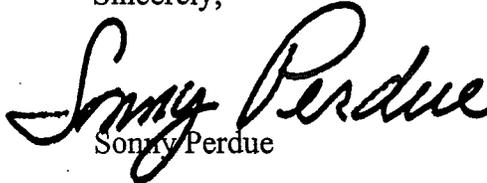
Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts regarding the proposed widening of State Route 441 in Oconee County. Your input is important to all as we work to address the state's transportation needs.

Because the Georgia Department of Transportation is the state agency with the expertise to look into this matter, I am referring your letter to Commissioner Harold Linnenkohl for review and response. If you would like to reach his office directly, the contact information is:

Georgia Department of Transportation  
No. 2 Capitol Square  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
404-656-5206

I always welcome your comments, and I hope for a satisfactory resolution to this situation.

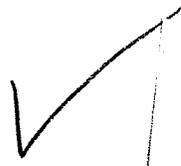
Sincerely,

  
Sonny Perdue

SP:jr

cc: Commissioner Harold Linnenkohl

7205721



received  
after comments  
period ended.



GREENBRIAR CREEK FARM

---

Carole C. Ludwig, DVM  
1510 Old Farmington Road  
Watkinsville, Georgia 30677  
**706-769-7008**

DOT  
Environment

---

Gov. Sonny Perdue  
State Capital  
Atlanta, Ga.

Aug. 16, 2005

Dear Gov. Perdue:

I know you have a special interest in farmland protection, and I want to ask for your help. Like you, I went to vet school (AU '65) and practiced for thirty-seven years. I was the first in my family to attend college, and was the only woman in my class. My life has been charmed in that I had a profession that I loved, I raised two sons, bred some good horses, and had a wonderful marriage. Two years ago I sold my practice and settled into the farm I've lived on for 23 years, mowing grass, fixing fences, chasing grand-children around, just in general enjoying my life even more.

My bubble got popped yesterday at the DOT info forum on the widening of 441 in Oconee County. We found out that the proposed route would go through one property that was already committed to the Farmland Trust, and two others, mine and Dr. Del Finco's that were applying as soon as there was fund money.

Instead of going through the most logical route, the proposed alignment meanders through pristine farm land. I regularly pick up arrowheads on the banks of a Greenbriar Creek feeder that the highway would destroy. My weanlings drink from the same creek where the grand-children and I catch minnows. Oak trees near-by act as a stop-over for warblers during spring migration. All along I worried about development, and felt very relieved when my neighbors, the Powers, put their land in the Trust. Now Ricky House is also committed, and I hoped I would be next. Is there anything you or I can do?

Yours truly,

Carole Pritchard Ludwig, DVM

*John*

**Rickey House**  
1800 Astondale Road  
Bishop, Georgia 30621  
Home Phone 706-769-7122

September 08, 2005

Sharman Southall  
Historian  
Office of Environment Location  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, Georgia 30336-1593

RECEIVED  
SEP 10 2005  
BY:

Dear Ms Southall,

I am writing you this letter about the US 441 bypass around Bishop, Ga..

This latest route will go through our family farm. My family has been on this farm for 5 generations, over 85 years. Also this route will take or come very close to a house on our property on the Astondale Road that has been in the same form I know for 85 years without any changes made to it. My Aunt is 86 years old and she said growing up and living next to this house she has never heard or seen any changes made to it. This part of the farm is in the Farm & Ranch Land Protection Program, which we have been trying to do this for several years now. This year Oconee County put up some money so we was able to put this portion in. We are hoping to put the rest of our property in next go around.

When my parents got married they bought this property and moved in this house in the 1930's. This house was not new when my family bought this property. They seem to think these houses was built around the Civil War or prior to it. This property was owned by the Thomas's which they owned it before the Civil War. If my father was still living he would be 93 years old. In all the times I was growing up I never heard him say anything about any changes done to this house.

This route will destroy our family farm..

It seems mighty injust to the tax payers to use this money to protect land and then use tax payers money to destroy it. There are other routes that could be used that would save tax payers money.

My family hopes and prays you will help us save our family farm and our familys heritage.

Sincerely,

*Rickey House*  
House Family

cc: Mr. Harvey D. Keeper  
State Environmental Location Engineer

Senator Brian Kemp

John Kissane / Athens Land Trust

received  
after comment  
period ended.



# CLARKE-OCONEE CATTLEMEN ASSOCIATION

received after comment period ended.

### 2005-2006 OFFICERS

#### PRESIDENT

**BRIAN SHELNUTT**  
2800 New High Shoals Rd.  
Bishop, GA 30621  
760 713-1322

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> V. PRESIDENT

**CLENN FARRAR**  
1970 Barnett Shoals Rd  
Watkinsville, GA 30677  
706 769-0158

#### 2<sup>ND</sup> V. PRESIDENT

**SIMON GARRETT**  
1441 Dials Mill Rd.  
Statham, GA 30666  
770 725-7266

#### SEC-TREASURER

**CORINNE STIVING**  
4850 High Shoals Rd.  
Watkinsville, GA 30677  
706 769-5592

#### REPORTER

**LARRY RISSE**  
45 Nowhere Lane  
Athens, GA 30601  
706 354-8775

#### BD OF DIRECTORS

**CHARLES CARTER**  
**LARRY YNGVARD**  
**DAVEY EMMETT**  
**BOB LEE**  
**FRANKLIN**  
**STAN MITCHELL**  
**RUSS PAGE**  
**KEN ROBERTS**  
**CLIFF WARD**

Mr. Harvey D Keeper  
State environmental/Location Engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Dear Mr. Keeper:

The Clarke-Oconee Cattlemen's Association would like to voice our concern regarding the 441-widening/realignment proposal. The current plan, to realign this road to the East of Bishop would have a very detrimental effect on at least seven family farms in Oconee County. The average length of ownership of these farms by the families affected is over 67 years. These are long term family farms. In fact some of these farmers are members of our Cattlemen's Association. These are the type of farms that we as cattlemen depend on for our livelihood. We as cattlemen, will do anything possible to help protect these, our fellow farmers. Oconee County has a Farmland Protection Program which we have helped support since its beginning over seven years ago. We join with them in requesting that since there are alternatives to the current road realignment, which do not put farm families in danger, that the GA DOT hold a formal hearing on this road realignment, and that the alternative routes be thoroughly investigated.

The Clarke-Oconee Cattlemen feel that every attempt should be made to avoid jeopardizing functional family farms for road construction, development, or any other reason, especially when other less agriculturally devastating alternatives exist. Much of the farmland on the West side of Bishop has recently been rezoned for development. This land has already been taken out of production agriculture, yet no homes have yet been built. Therefore a realignment around the West side of Bishop would appear to be a much more suitable alternative, which would not jeopardize those farmers and farm families who desire that their farms remain in agriculture. We are asking the Governor, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the state Cattlemen's Association, our local Senators and Representatives, and the GA DOT to please take our farms and our farmers into consideration when decisions regarding road construction and development are being made. Yes, it may seem to some that this land is open land waiting to be developed, but this is our land, these are our farms, this is our livelihood, and this is where your food is produced. Think again, do not put Georgia Agriculture in jeopardy, we all have a stake (or steak) in this decision.

Sincerely,

Clarke/Oconee Cattlemen's Association

*Brian Shelnutt*  
*Cliff A Ward*  
*Lawrence D. Resna*  
*Corinne Stiving*  
*Simon Garrett*  
*Cliff A Ward*  
*Russ Page*

*Walter Lee*  
Walter Lee

received  
after comment  
period ended.

Dear Mr. Ferguson

Thank you so much for  
your interest in our little town  
of Bishop. The bypass will  
provide welcome relief to those  
of us who live on Highway 491.

Again, thank you so much!

Have a good day!

Caryl J. Hill  
PO Box 245  
Bishop, CA  
30601

706-769-7383

P.S. There is no easy  
way to express it now  
that your job is not easy  
I think...

...about a time line???

Sydney Johnson  
P.O. Box 63  
Bishop, GA 30621  
(706) 769-5382  
e-mail: zebadoo@bellsouth.net

received  
after comments  
period ended.

September 21, 2005

Mr. Harvey Keepler  
Department of Transportation  
State Environmental/ Location Engineer  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA  
30336

**RE: U.S. 441 Bypass around Bishop**

Dear Mr. Keepler:

I call to your attention the political campaign that is currently being waged by the Clarke-Oconee Cattlemen's Association and others to get the Department of Transportation (DOT) to relocate its currently preferred route of U.S. 441 around the Town of Bishop in Oconee County. These groups have blitzed the public with letters, articles, appearances on local radio talk shows, and a petition. Like them, I deplore any loss of farmland, but the information being dispensed by farm activist Russ Page and the Cattlemen's Association is incomplete and misleading at best. And, in trying to protect the farms of some of their members, they are advocating the sacrifice of other farms in the area. This is very troubling. The small number of landowners involved on the east side have formed a politically influential organization to speak for them, but the routing of highways should be based on objective studies and not on the political influence of a few.

Soon, you probably will be receiving the petition that they are circulating. They may wind up with many names on this petition, but I doubt most understood what they were signing. As you know, people sign petitions for many reasons, often just as a favor for friends and neighbors. And they often sign petitions without really understanding what they are signing and how it may be used. I believe that to be the case here. Although this petition does mention the route marked as preferred by DOT, it is worded so that anyone who signs it would reasonably believe that they

are in fact just trying to save farmland, without realizing that the aim is to have the bypass route relocated to the west side of Bishop. Any route to the west of town would impact as much, probably more, farmland, as I am sure DOT's environmental studies have already shown.

A letter from eight members of the Cattlemen's Association to the Oconee Enterprise (9/15), which the paper said was also sent to you, says the highway on the east side would "have a very detrimental effect on at least seven farms." Since they are comparing the east side of Bishop with the west, it is fair to ask for their criteria for farmland. Certainly, Rickey House's property (a portion of which has been selected for protection through the Farmland Trust) qualifies as a working farm, and I hope some minor adjustment in the route can be made to avoid this farm or minimize the impact on it. But, only two of the remaining affected properties have a significant portion in open land. Of the other four, one is mostly planted pine (which it might be argued is or is not farmland), another is mostly an abandoned field in weeds that has not been farmed in several years, and the other two consist mostly of unmanaged mixed woodland.

The Cattlemen's Association argues in their letter that an alternate route is available on the west side. In fact, as you know, DOT has looked at three alternate routes on the west side and found them less feasible. The Association letter states that "much of the farmland on the west side of Bishop has recently been rezoned for development." The fact is that the only farmland in the path of the three western alternatives that has been rezoned is a portion of an 86-acre tract north of Bishop that was in pasture.

An article in the Athens Banner-Herald (September 14) and an editorial in the Oconee Enterprise (September 15) give the impression that the planned route for the U.S. 441 bypass around Bishop had been quietly

editorial were no doubt based on what the writers were told by the farm groups. The article in the Banner-Herald quotes Russ Page as saying "Oconee County contributed \$75,000 to (the purchase of an easement) because DOT had not told them that the bypass route had shifted east." As a matter of fact, the likely shift eastward to the current proposed route was made public in October 2000 or earlier when problems were encountered with an eastern bypass route closer in to Bishop. This realignment was discussed at a Bishop City Council meeting in January 2001 (see Banner-Herald, Oconee Section, 1/17/01). At least some of the affected landowners were told of this in letters from DOT in September 2001. In October 2003 a map of the current preferred route was exhibited and discussed at a 3-day planning meeting in Bishop, which was attended by at least four county officials, and several newspaper reporters, as well as citizens (see Banner-Herald 11/5/03). This route was shown on two maps in the resulting report prepared by a landscape architect firm. The report was widely distributed. In early 2004 State Senator Brian Kemp provided the Town of Bishop with a large map of the current preferred route, and it has been posted in the Bishop City Hall continuously since that time. So, anyone who was surprised at the August 15 meeting must not have been interested or paying attention.

The Department of Transportation has studied routes for a Bishop bypass for nearly fifteen years. They examined three preliminary routes on the west side and for various reasons found them less feasible than a route on the east side. These routes would be even less feasible economically now because of the very high-priced real estate associated with recent

  
Sydney Johnson

P. O. Box 245  
Bishop, Georgia 30621  
September 22, 2005

---

Mr. Harvey Keepler  
State Environmental/Location engineer  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

Dear Mr. Keepler,

I am sending you something from today's Oconee Enterprise about the by-pass. The article supports the east side of Bishop for the by-pass.

I have a question I hope you can answer. Will one be able to access the by-pass from Old Bishop Road? I have heard that you can only access from Astondale Road in Bishop, and I was wondering if that was true. Access from Old Bishop Road would be good in that it would further decrease the traffic for down town, and it might be finally safe for children to play in the front yards again.

I hope you will have time to reply.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Pritchett

P.S. Also, Can you answer this --- is the bypass around Farmington completely necessary??? The town of Farmington doesn't even sit on Highway 441, and it seems much more cost-effective to use the existing 441. Only 3 homes will be affected, and these aren't historic or expensive.

# Setting the record straight on the Bishop bypass

Much has appeared recently in The Oconee Enterprise on farmers' concerns about DOT's preferred route for the U.S. 441 bypass around Bishop.

Letters, articles and petitions are being circulated as part of a political effort to have the bypass relocated.

Understandably, landowners are fighting for their own interests.

Like them, I deplore any loss of farmland. But, in trying to save their own farms, they are advocating the sacrifice of their neighbors' farms across town. And, in doing so, they are presenting information that is one-sided and misleading.

First, allow me to address Scott Wilsee's column. If I interpreted it correctly, he is suggesting that the preferred route presented by DOT had been quietly pursued until it was presented at the public information meeting Aug. 15 and that it caught many people by surprise.

In fact, it has been known and well-publicized for over eight years that a route around Bishop on the east side was being given primary consideration.

Large scale aerial photographs were posted for public viewing at the Oconee County Annex in November 1997, and a map of the route was published in The Athens Banner-Herald.

This was the original route proposed by DOT. However, DOT made it known as early as October 2000 that, because of archaeological and environmental concerns, the proposed route had shifted farther to the east.

At least some of the affected landowners were told of this in letters from DOT in September 2001.

In October 2003, the current preferred route

## Sydney Johnson

### Guest Columnist

“...construction not only divides farmland and communities, it divides people.”

was discussed at a planning “charette” in Bishop, which was attended by some county officials and newspaper reporters, as well as citizens.

This route was shown on two maps in the resulting report prepared by landscape architect Bob Smith. The report was widely distributed.

In February 2004, State Senator Brian Kemp provided the Town of Bishop with a large map of the current preferred route, and it has been posted in the Bishop city hall since that time. So, anyone who was surprised at the Aug. 15 meeting must not have been interested or paying attention.

The letter from the Cattlemen's Association conveys much misleading and arguably inaccurate information.

They say the highway would “take” or “have a very detrimental effect” on seven farms. Since they are comparing the east side of Bishop with the west, it is fair to ask for their criteria for farmland.

Certainly, Rickey House's property qualifies as a working farm, and I hope somehow it can be avoided by the highway.

But from aerial photographs, it appears that only two of the remaining properties have a significant portion in open land.

Of the other four, one is mostly planted pine (which it might be argued is or is not farmland), another is mostly an abandoned field in weeds that has not been farmland in several years, and the other two consist mostly of unmanaged woodland.

The Cattlemen's Association argues in its letter that an alternate route is available on the west side.

In fact, DOT has looked at three alternate routes on the west side and found them not feasible.

The Association letter states that “much” of the farmland on the west side of Bishop has recently been rezoned for development.

The fact is that only a few acres behind and just below the Golden Pantry on existing 441 have been rezoned.

Construction has already begun, and purchasing this land at fair market value would be very costly.

Below this area, the remaining 5 to 7 miles to Farmington is essentially all farmland, including what is probably the largest unbroken tract of farmland left in the county, one that has been in the same extended family for 200 years.

I am sure everyone who has read this far will recognize that my small farm (by the criteria used to classify farms on the east side) is on the west side of Bishop.

Unfortunately, highway construction not only divides farmland and communities, it divides people.

*Sydney Johnson is a resident of Bishop. Opinions expressed are those of the writer.*

CF



RECEIVED  
D.O.T. GENERAL FILES

# Department of Transportation

State of Georgia  
#2 Capitol Square, S.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-1002

RECEIVED  
D.O.T. GENERAL FILES

2006 MAY -5 AM 11:43  
LARRY E. DENT  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER  
(404) 656-5212

RECEIVED  
D.O.T. GENERAL FILES

2006 MAY -5  
HAROLD E. LINNENKOHL  
COMMISSIONER  
(404) 656-5206

DAVID E. STUDSTILL, JR., P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER  
(404) 656-5277

EARL L. MAHFUZ  
TREASURER  
(404) 656-5224

March 23, 2006

Dr. Delmar R. Finco  
1720 Old Farmington Road  
Watkinsville, Georgia 30677

Re: Request for Archaeological Information; Georgia Department of Transportation Projects EDS-441(42)(43), Morgan and Oconee Counties, Georgia; P.I. Nos. 122660 and 222560; US 441 Widening and Reconstruction

Dear Dr. Finco:

Per your discussion with staff archaeologist, Eric Duff, the Department appreciates your efforts in sponsoring archaeological studies for the proposed projects. It is our understanding that these investigations have produced new information regarding archaeological sites that are contrary to results from earlier studies that were sponsored by the Department. The Department is committed to ensuring that avoidance and minimization of harm to historic properties are considered, as well as other environmental resource considerations, in the transportation planning process. The Department, in conjunction with Brockington and Associates, Incorporated, (Brockington) has agreed to facilitate the completion of your consultant's (Wildcat Ridge Archaeology) current work at no further expense to you. It is our understanding that this additional work, funded fully by Brockington, would include assisting Ms. Lisa O'Steen in the preparation of the archaeological report that will present the results of her survey (that you funded) for the Bishop Bypass which is being considered as part of the proposed project. It must be stated, that this assistance will include only funding and any assistance Ms. O'Steen requires to complete her independent report of archaeological findings. The Department will ensure that Brockington and Wildcat Ridge Archaeology work together in a cohesive manner, as well as on an expedited schedule, to produce a management summary of her findings for submission to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division for further review and comment by no later than the end of April 2006. A full report of her findings should follow the April deadline within a set timeframe to be determined by the Department, Brockington, and Wildcat Ridge Archaeology. Based on this schedule, the Department feels that these resources can be adequately addressed as the planning process for these projects continues.

By copy of this letter, we are requesting your concurrence in writing on this course of action, as well as permission to use the data gathered by Wildcat Ridge Archaeology to generate a final archaeological report of findings. Should you have any questions concerning the matter, please contact Eric Duff of this office at (404) 699-4406.

Sincerely,  
  
Harvey D. Keepler  
State Environmental/Location Engineer

HDK/EAD

cc: Mr. Robert M. Callan, P.E., FHWA, (ATTN: Michele Lindberg)  
Jeff Gardner, Brockington and Associates, Inc.  
Lisa O'Steen, Wildcat Ridge Archaeology