

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

**FILE:** PI 0007856  
Henry County

**OFFICE:** Planning

**DATE:** September 3, 2014

*Cynthia L. VanDyke*  
**FROM:** Cynthia L. VanDyke, State Transportation Planning Administrator

**TO :** Albert V. Shelby III, State Program Delivery Engineer  
Attn: Kevin VanHouten, Project Manager

**SUBJECT:** Project Justification Statement

The Office of Planning is providing the Project Justification Statement for the above mentioned project as defined in the Plan Development Process Manual. Project-level crash data is currently unavailable. Planning is coordinating with the Safety Office and can provide an updated Project Justification Statement when data becomes available again. As the project progresses and approved traffic data becomes available, the Project Justification Statement can be updated upon request. If you have any questions, please contact Quinton L. Spann at 404-631-1646 or [qspann@dot.ga.gov](mailto:qspann@dot.ga.gov).

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**Project Justification Statement**  
**Henry County PI 0007856**  
**Widening of SR 155 from I-75 to SR 42**

SR 155 in Henry County is classified as an urban principal arterial. It is a two lane north-south facility that connects motorists from SR 42 to I-75. SR 155 has intermittent turn lanes at various locations and has no continuous linear sidewalks. There are a large number of commercial and industrial businesses along the proposed project segment, as well as residential housing and an elementary academy. This project is currently identified in the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Plan 2040, and is included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). SR 155 is also identified on the Atlanta Strategic Truck Route Master Plan (ASTRoMaP) and the Regional Thoroughfare Network (RTN), which are networks adopted by the Atlanta MPO, indicating the regional significance of this route. This project is located within the Atlanta MPO boundary and is listed in the TIP as HE-113.

According to GDOT's Geo Counts 2013 traffic data, the current AADT on SR 155 ranges between 16,530 and 17,810. The corresponding level of service (LOS), as calculated in HCS 2010, is LOS "E". This corridor was also analyzed in the Atlanta region's travel demand model (Year 2040, no build) to project future conditions if no changes are made. The projected 2040 (no build) traffic volumes for this corridor ranges between 17,210 and 35,524 with a corresponding projected LOS "F".

Other major projects in the vicinity of this project include: PI 0008336, which proposes to widen SR 155 from SR 42 to Racetrack Rd; and PI 0009156/0009157, which proposes managed lanes on I-75 from SR 155 to SR 138. Henry County is preparing (with local funding) a feasibility study of a proposed new I-75 interchange between exits 218 & 212, intended to improve access to I-75 for freight traffic. The proposed interchange project is not programmed.

The proposed southern terminus is at the interchange of SR 155 and I-75. Current AADT (GeoCounts, 2013) drops from 17,810 north of the interchange, to 16,530 south of the interchange; future volumes (ARC model, 2040 no build) also drop from 35,524 to 25,306 beyond the southern limit. The proposed northern terminus is at the intersection of SR 155 and SR 42. Current AADT (GeoCounts, 2013) increases from 17,810 south of SR 42, to 18,170 north of SR 42; future volumes (ARC model, 2040 no build) also increase from 17,210 to 20,241 beyond the northern limit. SR 42 is a two-lane, urban minor arterial used by commuters and trucks to access I-75 and is also utilized for long-distance travel between Henry County and Atlanta. Based on the planning-level traffic presented here, future improvements may be needed north of SR 42 but may be satisfied by the project PI 0008336. The logical termini will be determined as part of the NEPA process. This project is aligned with the goals and objectives in the Statewide Transportation Plan and the Atlanta Regional Commission's Plan 2040 by aiming to improve access to jobs, reduce congestion costs, and focus on the region's strategic priority transportation system. The purpose of the project is to reduce congestion, accommodate existing and future projected traffic, and improve access between McDonough and I-75.