

# **McDonough Parkway Extension Henry County, GA**

## **Description of the Proposed Project**

The McDonough Parkway Extension project is approximately 1.2 miles in length on new location and will involve the construction of a new bridge over the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The project begins at the northern terminus of the existing McDonough Parkway approximately 1200 feet north of its intersection with Jonesboro Road. The existing McDonough Parkway is an urban three lane roadway with 12-foot lanes. At the point of tie-in with existing McDonough Parkway, the new roadway will taper from the current three lanes to two lanes and then maintain 2 lanes for approximately 4000 feet. Just prior to intersecting Ivey Edwards Lane it tapers to three lanes. From its intersection with Ivey Edwards to the end of the project at US 23/SR 42, the facility will become a 4-lane divided roadway with a 20-foot raised median.

The at-grade crossing of Ivey Edwards Lane with Norfolk Southern Railroad will be closed. Ivey Edwards will be realigned to intersect the new alignment at two locations approximately 750 feet apart. The short segment of Ivey Edwards at its approach to the railroad will be cul-de-saced.

Right-of-way for the proposed project is 120 feet, which allows for the future widening of the two-lane urban section to a four-lane urban section with a 20-foot raised median.

The no-build alternative is also under consideration. This alternative would not provide the benefits described in the Need and Purpose section of this handout (see the next page).

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## **Need and Purpose**

The primary need and purpose for the McDonough Parkway Extension focuses on meeting area growth and travel demand by improving access and connectivity. The project is located in a rapidly developing area of McDonough in Henry County. The existing McDonough Parkway terminates just north of Jonesboro Road. Extending the Parkway northeastward to SR 42 would enable traffic to move between points west of McDonough and points north of McDonough without traveling through the busy downtown McDonough district. The project would thereby reduce congestion in the McDonough Square and provide motorists with shorter travel times and improved connectivity. Average daily traffic on the McDonough Parkway Extension is projected to be 20,468 vehicles in 2025.

A second benefit of the project is the elimination of hazards associated with the at-grade crossing of the Norfolk Southern Railroad on Ivey Edwards Lane. The proposed project would allow this crossing to be closed by constructing a bridge over the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The replacement of the existing at-grade crossing with a grade-separated crossing would improve motorist safety, including the safety of school buses which currently travel Ivey Edwards Lane, as well as enhance the response time of emergency vehicles.

This section of the McDonough Parkway Extension is part of a proposed loop/bypass facility around the City of McDonough and is included in Henry County's current SPLOST transportation plan. The proposed project is included the air quality conformity analysis dated October 23, 2002 for the currently conforming Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).