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November 8, 2007

Thank you for attending the Public Information Open House for Project CSSTP-0006-00(431); P.I. No. 0006431, the proposed SR-56 widening and reconstruction project. In this handout package you will find information about the project description; project location map; and a comment form.

As you enter the room, you will notice displays of the proposed project. Department of Transportation representatives, who can be identified by the nametags they are wearing, are available to discuss the project and answer your questions. Please take this opportunity to discuss the project with a DOT representative. There will be no formal presentation.

A court reporter is also available for those persons who would like to make a verbal statement about the project. You may also complete a comment card and deposit it into the box provided here or send in written comments about the project until November 19, 2007. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental/Location Engineer, Georgia Department of Transportation, 3993 Aviation Circle, Atlanta, Georgia 30336-1593. Comments can also be made via the web at www.dot.state.ga.us. Click **Public Outreach** from the list of Featured Links. All comments will be made a part of the project record. We hope you will take advantage of one of these opportunities to let the Department know your view of the proposal.

The displays and plans will be available for review for ten days after the open house at the Georgia Department of Transportation Area Office located at 4260 Frontage Road, Augusta, Georgia. A copy of all comments received will be available for public review at this same location and at the Office of Environment/Location, 3993 Aviation Circle, Atlanta, as soon as compilation is completed.

Again, thank you for attending this open house and for giving us your comments. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact the project manager Nicoe Alexander at (404) 463-6135 or Melanie Nable of the Office of Environment/Location at (404) 699-4400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Babs Abubakari".

Mohammed (Babs) Abubakari, P.E.
State Program Delivery & Consultant Design Engineer

STATE ROAD 56 Widening and Reconstruction

**From Bennock Mill Rd to Old Waynesboro Rd
Project No. CSSTP-0006-00(431) Richmond County, Georgia
P.I. No. 0006431**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Existing SR-56 (Mike Padgett Highway) is primarily a four-lane roadway with no median from Bennock Mill Rd to a point approximately 2,300 feet north of Brown Rd. From this point north of Brown Rd, SR-56 is a four-lane roadway with a center left-turn lane to Doug Barnard Pkwy. SR-56 is a four-lane undivided roadway with no paved shoulders between Doug Barnard Pkwy and Old Waynesboro Rd. SR-56 transitions from a four-lane roadway to a four-lane roadway with a center left-turn lane at points approaching the intersections of Doug Barnard Pkwy and Old Waynesboro Rd. SR-56 is a four-lane roadway with a center left-turn lane north of Old Waynesboro Rd.

The proposed improvements consist of widening and reconstructing SR-56 to include a raised center median and shoulder improvements for a distance of approximately 4.5 miles from Bennock Mill Rd to Old Waynesboro Rd in Richmond County. The proposed project also involves signal timing, shoulder, and drainage improvements between Old Waynesboro Rd to the project terminus approaching Tobacco Rd

The conceptual alternative is being shown at this open house. It includes widening and reconstruction of the existing roadway with four 12-foot travel lanes (2 in each direction) and 24-foot raised median with 10-foot rural shoulders for approximately 4.5 total miles. The conceptual alternative design was developed to minimize environmental impacts to environmental features identified along the corridor.

- **PROJECT TERMINI**

The proposed beginning or southern terminus for Project CSSTP-0006-00(431) is Bennock Mill Rd and the proposed end or northern terminus of the project is at a point located approximately 930 feet north of Old Waynesboro Rd in Richmond County.

- **PROJECT LENGTH**

Project CSSTP-0006-00(431) begins at the intersection of Bennock Mill Rd and ends at a point located approximately 930 feet north of Old Waynesboro Rd for an approximate distance of 4.5 miles.

- **EXISTING TYPICAL SECTION**

The existing SR-56 typical section consists of four 12-foot lanes (2 in each direction) with no paved shoulders.

- **PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTION**

The proposed improvements include the widening and reconstruction of SR-56 to provide four 12-foot lanes (2 lanes in each direction) with a 24-foot raised concrete

median and 10-foot rural shoulders.

- **PRELIMINARY RIGHT-OF-WAY REQUIREMENTS**

The preliminary right-of-way requirements vary from 70 feet to 95 feet from the proposed centerline of the new SR-56 alignment.

- **MEDIANS AND PROPOSED MEDIAN BREAKS**

The proposed SR-56 is anticipated to have a 24-foot raised concrete median. Median breaks will be provided at major intersections and side roads.

- **BRIDGE WIDENING AND REPLACEMENTS**

The existing bridges over Spirit Creek and Little Spirit Creek will be widened to accommodate the center median. The bridge over Spirit Creek will be widened an additional 12 feet to provide for a dedicated right turn lane onto Brown Rd for southbound travelers on SR 56.

- **ALTERNATIVES**

No-Build Alternative- The No-Build Alternative is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide a baseline against which to measure the effects of build alternatives. The no-build strategy includes all programmed and planned projects in the Augusta-Richmond County Planning Commission's 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan except within the project corridor, where no improvements would be built.

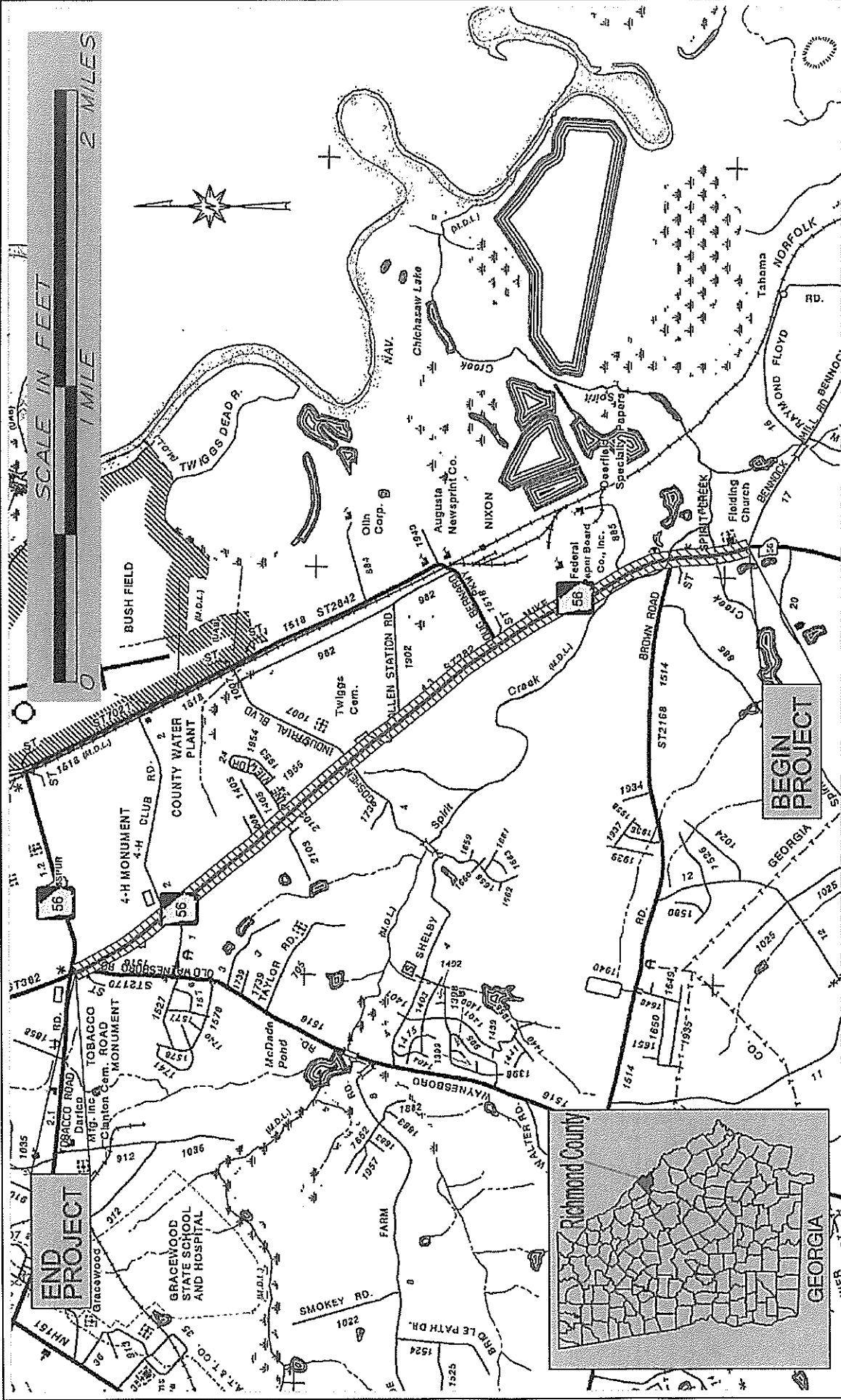
Under the No-Build Alternative, the existing highway width would be retained and the existing four-lane un-divided roadway would not be altered. Congestion is projected to worsen within the project area as development and traffic volumes increase. As traffic volumes increase, it is also anticipated that the number of accidents would also increase. Ongoing maintenance would continue as in the past. However, the purpose and need for the project would not be addressed by this alternative.

Build Alternative- The Build Alternative would add a center median along the project corridor, improving the safety of the highway by providing a new roadway with shoulders and a raised median between Bennock Mill Rd and Old Waynesboro Rd. By constructing the raised median, it is expected that the number of accidents will decrease as a result of the elimination of the four-lane undivided roadway. Congestion will also be alleviated by removing vehicles wishing to make left turns from the through travel lanes.

- **LOGICAL TERMINI**

The proposed southern terminus for the SR-56 project is at the intersection of Bennock Mill Rd and the proposed northern terminus is at the intersection of Old Waynesboro Rd in Richmond County. The begin point or southern terminus is logical because existing SR-56 south of the Bennock Mill Rd intersection consists of a five-lane typical section. The end point or northern terminus is logical because existing SR-56 north of the intersection of Old Waynesboro Rd consists of a five-lane typical section.

SR 56 Widening and Reconstruction



DATE: NOVEMBER 2007

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

RICHMOND COUNTY

SR 56 FROM BENNOCK MILL ROAD

TO OLD WAYNESBORO ROAD

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House Comment Card

Project CSSTP-0006-00(431), Richmond County, P.I. No. 0006431

November 8, 2007

Please print responses.

Name _____

Address _____

Do you support the project? For Against Conditional Uncommitted

Comments _____

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

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. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental/Location Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593