



April 11, 2017

Thank you for attending the Public Hearing Open House for the proposed State Road 400 interchange at McGinnis Ferry Road project located in Forsyth County, Georgia, PI Number 0007526. Our goal is two-fold: 1) to provide you with information on the proposed project and 2) to provide an opportunity for you to give us your comments on the proposed project. In this handout package, you will find a description of the project, a location map, summary of environmental study statement, right-of-way acquisition statement, and a comment card.

As you enter the room, please take a look at the project displays. Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) representatives, wearing nametags, are available to discuss the project and answer your questions. There will be no formal presentation.

We hope you will take the opportunity to tell Georgia DOT what you think. Listed below are several ways to comment on the project. Your comments are important to us and, should you provide comments by one of the methods noted below, we will respond to you in writing usually within the next 45 days. All comments will become part of the project's official record.

While you are attending the open house, you can **provide your comments today** by filling out the comment card provided with this handout and dropping it in the comment box, or you may choose to provide your verbal comments to the court reporter who will transcribe your comments.

You can also **provide your comments by Friday, April 21, 2017** by using either of the following methods:

- Online at www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Public/PublicOutreach.
 1. From the menu, select the county in which the proposed project is located and click *Go*;
 2. Then select *SR400@MCGinnis Ferry Interchange*;
 3. Lastly, click *Comment* and follow the instructions to leave your comments.
- Scan QR code to the right with your smart phone's QR reader
- Mail in your comment card to Mr. Eric Duff, Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.



The project displays and plans will be available for review for ten days after this open house at the website noted above. Hardcopies will also be available at the Georgia DOT District 1 Office located at 2505 Athens Highway, S.E., Gainesville, Georgia 30507 and at the GDOT District 7 Office located at 5025 New Peachtree Road, Chamblee, Georgia 30341. Following the ten-day public comment period, a copy of all comments received will be available by request at the Atlanta address listed above.

Again, thank you for attending this open house. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact the project manager, Iheanachor Njoku, at 404-631-1550 or the environmental analyst, Ashley Finch, at 404-347-0549 of the Office of Environmental Services.

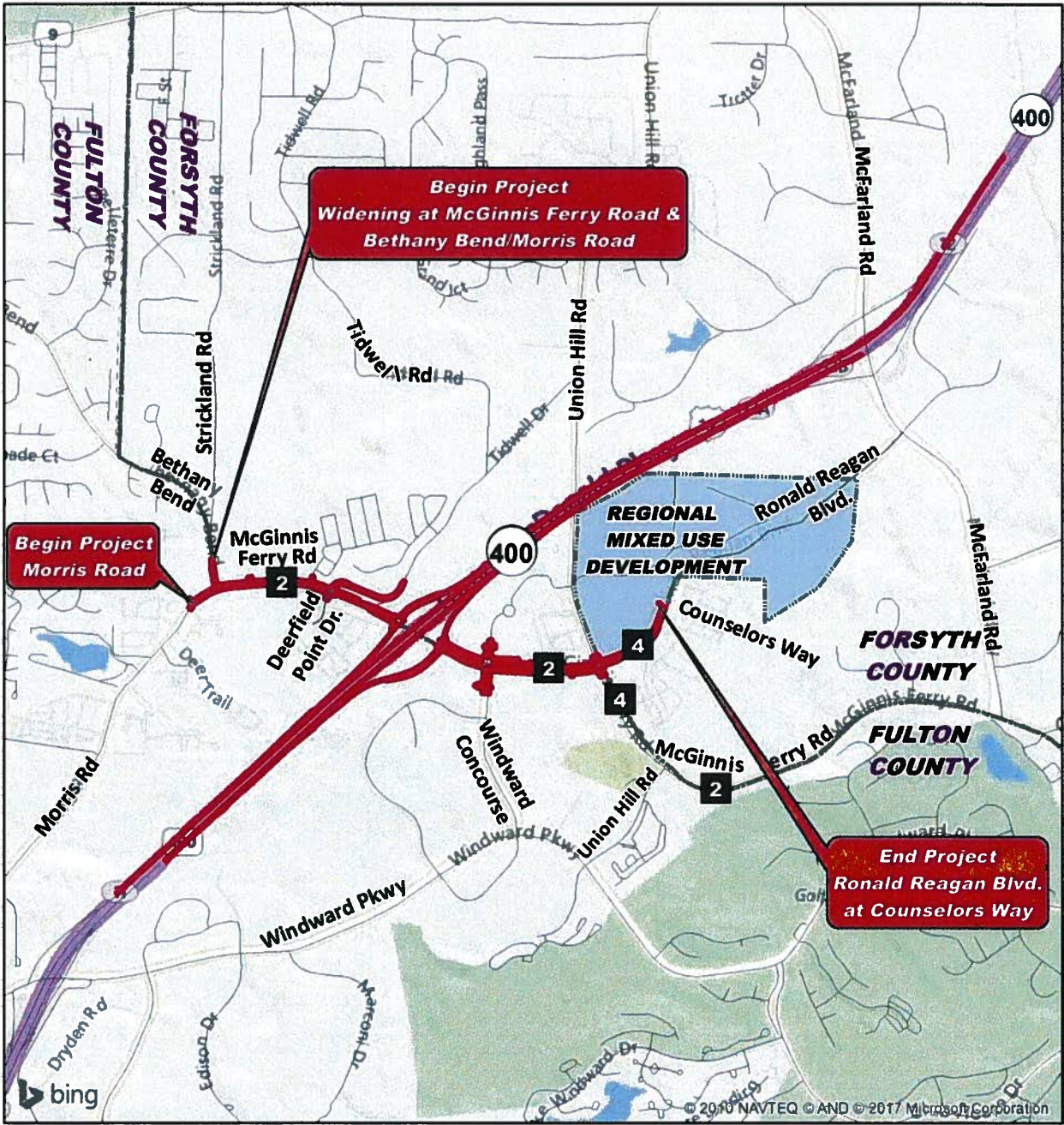
Sincerely,

Eric Duff
State Environmental Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation

PI#(s): 0007526, County: Forsyth and Fulton

Why We Are Here: The existing roadway system in North Fulton County and South Forsyth County and the existing interchanges at SR 400/Windward Parkway and SR 400/McFarland Parkway will no longer efficiently handle future traffic in the year 2020 and will be significantly congested with worsening levels of service by 2040. Forecasted growth in North Fulton and South Forsyth Counties is leading toward congested interchanges and roadways. Even with planned widening improvements to SR 400 and other committed and planned projects, most of the exit and entrance ramp junctions of these two interchanges would still experience high and unacceptable traffic congestion. The GA 400 and McGinnis Ferry Road corridor was studied to determine if placing a new interchange would relieve traffic congestion, provide improved access to planned development in and around North Fulton and South Forsyth counties and to reduce the frequency and severity of traffic crashes within the project area.

Project Description: The proposed project (PI# 0007526) would consist of constructing a full-diamond interchange on State Route (SR) 400 at McGinnis Ferry Road. The project would add a northbound and southbound auxiliary lane on SR 400 between Windward Parkway ramps and the McGinnis Ferry Road ramps and between the McGinnis Ferry Road ramps and the McFarland Parkway ramps. SR 400 southbound would be widened one additional lane from 1,900 feet south of the southbound McFarland Parkway exit ramp to 3,500 feet north of the southbound McFarland Parkway exit ramp. The project would replace the existing bridge over SR 400 and widen McGinnis Ferry Road from Bethany Bend through the intersection of Union Hill Road onto Ronald Reagan Boulevard to Counselors Way. All through lanes would be 11-foot wide and turn lanes would be 12-foot wide. McGinnis Ferry Road would be widened to four lanes with a 14-foot flush median from Bethany Bend to Deerfield Point Drive; four lanes with a 20-foot raised median from Deerfield Point Drive through the SR 400 interchange; and, six lanes with a 20-foot raised median from SR 400 through the intersection of Union Hill Road onto Ronald Reagan Boulevard to Counselors Way. The typical section would include curb and gutter and five-foot sidewalks on the south side and a multi-use path on the north side along the entire length of McGinnis Ferry Road. Additional right-turn lanes and left-turn lanes would be provided along McGinnis Ferry Road at the major intersections of the project. The proposed bridge would be designed to span future managed lanes on SR 400. The overall project length is estimated at 4.98 miles which includes the project length along SR 400 which is 3.28 miles and McGinnis Ferry Road and other minor side road improvements total 1.7 miles in length. The 2008 update to the Forsyth County Bicycle Transportation & Pedestrian Walkways 2025 Plan includes a 10-foot wide multi-use path, which will be incorporated into the project.



Source: Gwinnett County GIS & Bing

1-24-17

	Project Location Map  Project Limits  Number of Existing Lanes 0 2,000 4,000 Feet	GA 400 at McGinnis Ferry Rd Interchange CSHPP-007-00 (526) P.I. No. 0007526 Forsyth & Fulton Counties	
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Summary of Environmental Study

In compliance with the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act, the Georgia Department of Transportation has conducted an assessment of the social, economic and environmental effects for the proposed interchange on State Route (SR) 400 at McGinnis Ferry Road. The following information gives a summary of the environmental document.

No residential units and no businesses would be displaced by the proposed project. Approximately twenty-one (21) parcels would be affected. However, owners would be compensated for these losses. Please see the right-of-way acquisition statement on the next page for more information.

In accordance with Executive Order 11990, the proposed project was surveyed for wetland and stream involvement. Thirteen (13) jurisdictional wetlands and nineteen (19) jurisdictional streams were identified within the project's area of potential effect (APE). It is estimated that 0.55 acre of wetlands and 1,225 linear feet of streams would be impacted by the proposed project.

In accordance with Executive Order 11988, the proposed project was surveyed for floodplain involvement. The proposed project would not significantly encroach upon floodplain or floodways within the project area. The project would not have an adverse effect on water quality within the project corridor. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit would be required for this project.

The proposed project would not exceed state and federal air quality standards, and it is consistent with the State Implementation Plan for the attainment of clean air quality in the state.

The construction of this project would result in a 9.6 decibel increase in traffic generated noise by the design year 2040, and 316 houses would approach or exceed the noise abatement criteria. Feasible noise abatement measures were identified for these houses.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the project has been surveyed for existing and eligible National Register properties. No existing or eligible historic or archaeological resources were found to be located within the project's area of potential environmental effect.

The proposed project would not affect any threatened or endangered plant or wildlife species. Although the Pink ladyslipper, the Northern long-eared bat, the Indiana bat, and Barren strawberry are located in or frequent the project area, it was determined that the project would not adversely affect any of the aforementioned species.

In accordance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act, the criteria of 7 CFR, Part 658 have been applied to determine the project effects on farmland. Based on the assessment of these effects, the project would not involve any farmland and no additional alternates need to be examined.

The proposed project has been surveyed for potential sites where contaminated soil and/or water from leaking underground storage tanks may exist. No potential sites that were identified are being further investigated. If contaminants are found, avoidance alternates may be considered, or applicable laws and regulations concerning the removal of toxic or hazardous material will be coordinated with the Environmental Protection Division.

Copies of the environmental document are available at this hearing for your review or by request to the GDOT Office of Environmental Services, located at One Georgia Center, 600 West Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

Right-Of-Way Acquisition

Forsyth County has the responsibility, once a project is approved, of appraising, purchasing property and, if required, assisting individuals, families or businesses in relocating. When purchasing property, we desire to pay full market value for the necessary property. This value will be established by using qualified real estate appraisers who will prepare written appraisals using actual sales data in the surrounding community.

In making an appraisal, the appraiser will contact each property owner and arrange a convenient time to make an on-site inspection of the property with him or her. After completion of the appraisal, the right-of-way appraisal staff will review and field check the findings for accuracy to ensure that all things relating to value have been considered in establishing the amount to be offered. When only a part of the property is needed, we will purchase that part plus pay for loss of value, if any, to the remaining property. In all cases, when the county purchases property, we will make additional payments to property owners for the cost of transferring ownership to GDOT. These costs generally include transfer taxes, deed-recording fees, mortgage pre-payment penalties and the pro-rata share of city or county taxes.

Forsyth County is aware of the problems experienced by individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofit organizations when they are required to move. It is our commitment that no family or individual will be required to relocate until comparable decent, safe and sanitary housing is available or is provided for those occupants.

Additionally, Forsyth County will provide assistance to businesses and nonprofit organizations in relocating to other sites and will encourage them to remain in the community.

The information pamphlet *"What Happens When Your Property is Needed for a Transportation Facility"* is available at the greeter's table. This booklet outlines the services offered and any payments for which you may be eligible, such as moving expenses and replacement housing benefits for owners and tenants. The brochure also outlines the eligibility requirements for receiving these payments.

Results of the field inspection by Forsyth County personnel have revealed that there will be no residences and no businesses that will be required to relocate.

Forsyth County ROW will be in charge of acquiring the necessary right-of-way for this project.

Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name _____

Address _____

Do you support the project (check your response)

☐ **For** ☐ **Against** ☐ **Conditional** ☐ **Uncommitted**

General Comments _____

How did you hear about this Open House? (check) ☐ **Radio** ☐ **Newspaper** ☐ **Signs** ☐ **Word of Mouth**

☐ **Other** _____

Was the location of the Open House 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 GDOT personnel? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

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

Please share your suggestions on improving the ways GDOT conducts Open Houses:

Mail to:

Mr. Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30308