



October 25 and November 1, 2016

Thank you for attending the public information open house for the proposed US 441 Improvements from the Madison Bypass to the Watkinsville Bypass Project, P.I. Nos. 0013613 and 0013617. Our goal at this meeting is to listen to your input on the issues, needs, and resources in the corridor. In this handout package, you will find a description of the project, a location map, a list of frequently asked questions about the US 441 Improvements, and a comment form.

As you enter the room, you will notice a series of stations that invite your comment. Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) representatives, wearing nametags, are available to discuss the project development process 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 30 days of the close of the comment period. 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 **Tuesday, November 15, 2016** by using any of the following methods:

- Online at www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Public/PublicOutreach.
 - From the menu, select the county (Oconee or Morgan) where the proposed project is located and click *Go*;
 - Then select *10/25 & 11/1/16-US 441/SR 24 Widening (Units 42 & 43)*
 - Lastly, click *Comment* and follow the instructions to leave your comments.
- 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 project website, www.dot.ga.gov/BS/Projects/US441. Hard copies will be available at the GDOT District 1 Area 2 Office located at 450 Old Hull Road, Athens, GA and at the GDOT District 2 Area 5 Office located at 1570 Bethany Road, Madison, GA. 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 and for giving us your comments. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact the project manager Bruce Anderson at 478-538-8595 or via email at branderson@dot.ga.gov or David Borchart, NEPA Planner with the Office of Environmental Services at 404-631-1184 or via email at dborchart@dot.ga.gov

Sincerely,

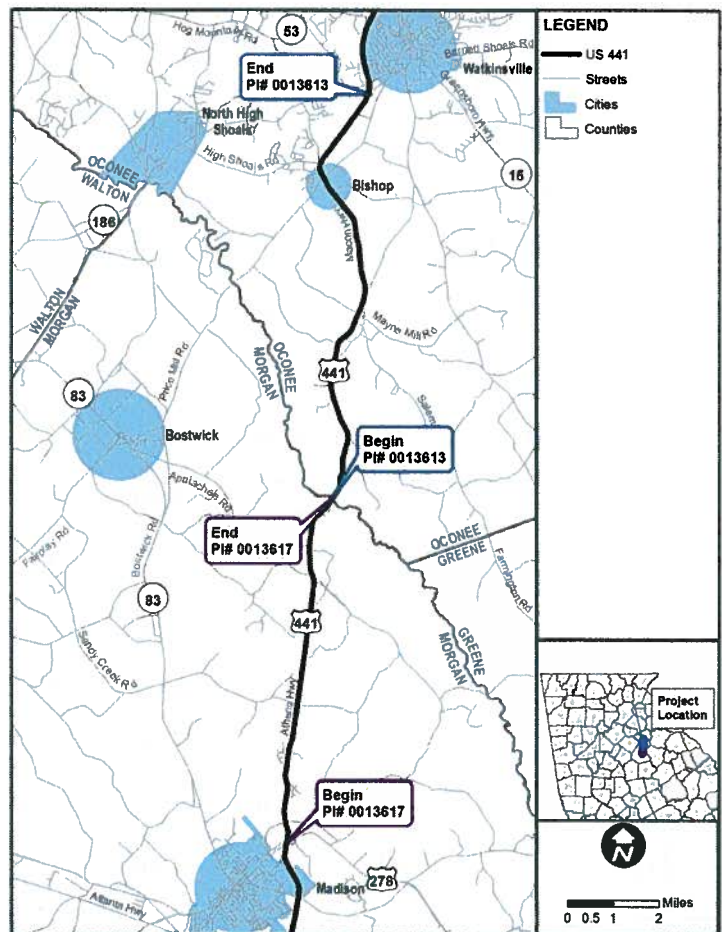
Eric Duff
Office of Environmental Services
Georgia Department of Transportation

Why We Are Here: At tonight’s Public Information Open House, no formal presentation will be given and no alignments for the proposed improvements will be presented. The goal is to gather your input regarding the needs, issues and resources in the US 441 corridor. This information will aid in designing improvements to the US 441 corridor that reflect local priorities.

Project Description: The need for improvements to the US 441 corridor in Oconee and Morgan Counties was identified in the 1980s. The projects were initially programmed as part of the Governor’s Road Improvement Program (GRIP) when it was adopted by the Georgia General Assembly in 1989. US 441 was among the 12 original corridors included in the GRIP network, a system of proposed economic developmental highways in Georgia. When the GRIP network is complete, it will connect 95 percent of Georgia cities with populations of 2,500 or more to the Interstate Highway System. It will also place 98 percent of Georgia’s population within 20 miles of a four-lane road.

The project is needed to alleviate truck congestion on the corridor to better accommodate current and future demand due to the route’s inclusion in both the GRIP System and Freight Corridor Network. The two-lane facility carries high volumes of truck traffic. Approximately 20 percent of traffic on US 441 in Morgan County – or one out of every five vehicles – is a truck. In addition, congestion on the corridor is projected to increase over time.

The project is programmed for construction with state funding. The project has renewed environmental inquiry and public involvement to support the identification of new alternative alignments that address the need for improved safety and mobility along the US 441 corridor.



It is envisioned that Morgan County project (PI #0013617) will have its southern end at the US 441 intersection with SR 12/US 278, where it will tie in with the existing four-lane divided facility (Madison Bypass) located south of this point, and that the Oconee County project (PI 0013613) will tie in with the existing four-lane divided facility (Watkinsville Bypass) located north of this point.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is included in the US 441 Improvements?

GDOT has yet to determine the route, or alignment, of the proposed improvements. There is no predetermined solution to the corridor's needs. GDOT has been considering improvements along this corridor for many years. Now that the project is funded, GDOT is performing technical analysis and gathering public input to identify the issues and opportunities in the corridor, based on current and forecasted conditions. This process incorporates public input in determining appropriate solutions for the corridor.

How much input will the public have into the proposed route?

Lots! Public input is critical to identification of issues, opportunities, and appropriate solutions for the corridor. There will be opportunities for the public to provide feedback throughout the project by participating in public meetings, following materials online, providing feedback through an online survey. Improvement opportunities include public information open houses and an online survey.

How long until there is a proposed route?

GDOT expects to have a revised concept by summer 2017. Project milestones include:

- Technical Analysis / Public Outreach – fall 2016
- Public Information Open House – spring 2017
- Revised Concept – summer 2017
- Preliminary Plans completed – summer 2018
- Right of Way Acquisition beginning – fall 2018
- Let to Construction – spring 2021

Are there advantages to the project being funded with state dollars?

Yes. GDOT can advance the project forward more quickly because there are fewer agencies involved in the approval process. GDOT will still undertake and document environmental studies and coordinate with environmental resource agencies, but are not required to prepare summary documentation for federal review. The shorter project delivery process saves time and taxpayer dollars.

Other Projects in the US 441 Corridor

More information about these projects is available on the GDOT website:

<http://www.dot.ga.gov/BS/Projects/ProjectSearch>

US 441 from Morgan County line to just north of Thomas Farm Road (Oconee County) PI# M005178

Georgia DOT recently began a maintenance project on SR 24/US 441 that will consist of milling, resurfacing, and restriping SR 24/US 441 from the Morgan County line to just north of Thomas Farm Road. The road hasn't been resurfaced since 2004. The project was let to construction in May 2016. Construction is expected to be completed within 12 months following the issuance of the notice to proceed. The typical paving season is from March through November.



US 441 Improvements Public Information Open House Frequently Asked Questions

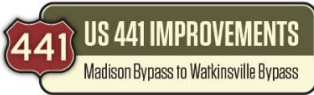


[SR 24/US 441 from Putnam County Line to North of CR 121/Pierce Dairy Road PI# 0013614](#)

GDOT is widening US 441 south of I-20 under this project. It proposes to widen the existing US 441/SR 24 roadway from 2 and 3 lanes to 4 lanes with a 32 foot grassed median and 4 lanes with a 14 foot flush median. The project begins at the Putnam/Morgan County line and ends just north of Pierce Dairy Road. The total project length is approximately 8.1 miles. The project is currently in preliminary engineering and right-of-way acquisition.

[SR 24/US 441 from Eatonton Bypass to Morgan County Line \(Putnam County\) PI# 0013615](#)

Farther south on US 441, in Putnam County, GDOT proposes to widen the existing US 441/SR 24 roadway from 2 and 3 lanes to 4 lanes with a 32 foot grassed median. This project extends from the northern terminus of the Eatonton Bypass to the Putnam-Morgan County line. The total project length is approximately 9.2 miles. The project is currently in preliminary engineering.

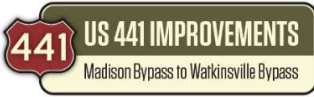


COMMENT FORM

US 441 Improvements Public Information Open House

PI Nos: 0013613 and 0013617, Oconee and Morgan Counties

<u>Support Economic Growth</u>	I want any improvements to the corridor to: <input type="checkbox"/> Increase access to existing businesses <input type="checkbox"/> Support economic development along the corridor <input type="checkbox"/> Provide for pedestrian facilities in downtown areas <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Comments _____ _____ _____
<u>Improve Safety</u>	I am concerned about the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Truck traffic <input type="checkbox"/> Roadway sight distances <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian crossings <input type="checkbox"/> Turnign traffic <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic moving too fast <input type="checkbox"/> Not enough places to pass slow vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty in Accessing or crossing roadway from sidestreets <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Comments _____ _____ _____
<u>Address Truck Traffic</u>	I am concerned about the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Moving goods safely and quickly across the corridor <input type="checkbox"/> The volume of trucks on the corridor <input type="checkbox"/> Truck interactions with passenger vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Comments _____ _____ _____
<u>Minimize Property Impacts</u>	I am concerned about the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Impacs to private property <input type="checkbox"/> Impacts to farmland <input type="checkbox"/> Impacts to residences along US 441 <input type="checkbox"/> Kepping overall project costs down <input type="checkbox"/> Other impacts: _____ Comments _____ _____ _____



COMMENT FORM

US 441 Improvements Public Information Open House

PI Nos: 0013613 and 0013617, Oconee and Morgan Counties

4. Other

Thanks for your input! Please answer the final questions to help us understand your input better.

How do you use US 441? (check all that apply)

- I drive it to get to work I use it frequently I use it occasionally, like for longer trips
 I use it for freight movement Other (please specify) _____

What is your Zip Code? _____

What is your age? _____

How did you hear about this Open House? (check)

- Emailed meeting notice Newspaper Signs Word of Mouth
 Newsletter Other (please specify): _____

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 the DOT personnel? Yes No

Do you understand the project process after attending this Open House? Yes No

Any additional comments about improving US 441 from the Madison Bypass to the Watkinsville Bypass?

Name _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Turn this form into our comments box tonight, email it to US441improvements@dot.ga.gov, or mail to Mr. Eric Duff, P.E., Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308