



February 17, 2015

Thank you for attending the Public Information Open House for the proposed widening of State Route (SR) 4/US 1 in both directions in order to create a four-lane roadway between the Wadley Bypass and Wrens, for a distance of approximately 21 miles. PI Number 222120-, 222150-, 222160-, 222170-, and 232265-. 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, and a comment card.

As you enter the room, please take a look at the project display. 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 Tuesday, March 3, 2015** by using either of the following methods:

- Online at www.dot.ga.gov.
 1. Click *Projects* on the upper right side of the page;
 2. Click *Public Outreach*;
 3. From the County menu, select *Jefferson* and click *Go*;
 4. Select *Proposed Widening of SR 4/US 1 from the Wadley Bypass to SR 88*;
 5. Lastly, click *Comment* and follow the instructions to leave your comments.
- Mail in your comment card to Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., 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 Projects tab at www.dot.ga.gov, described above. Hardcopies will also be available at the Georgia DOT Louisville Area Office located at 2971 US HWY 1 North, Louisville 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. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact the project manager, Daniel Chastain, at 706-604-6594 or the environmental analyst, Zach Adriaenssens, at (404) 631-1650, of the Office of Environmental Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hiral Patel" with a circled "13" to the right.

Hiral Patel, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation

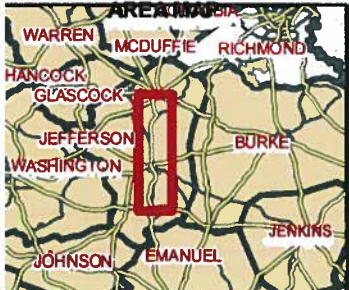
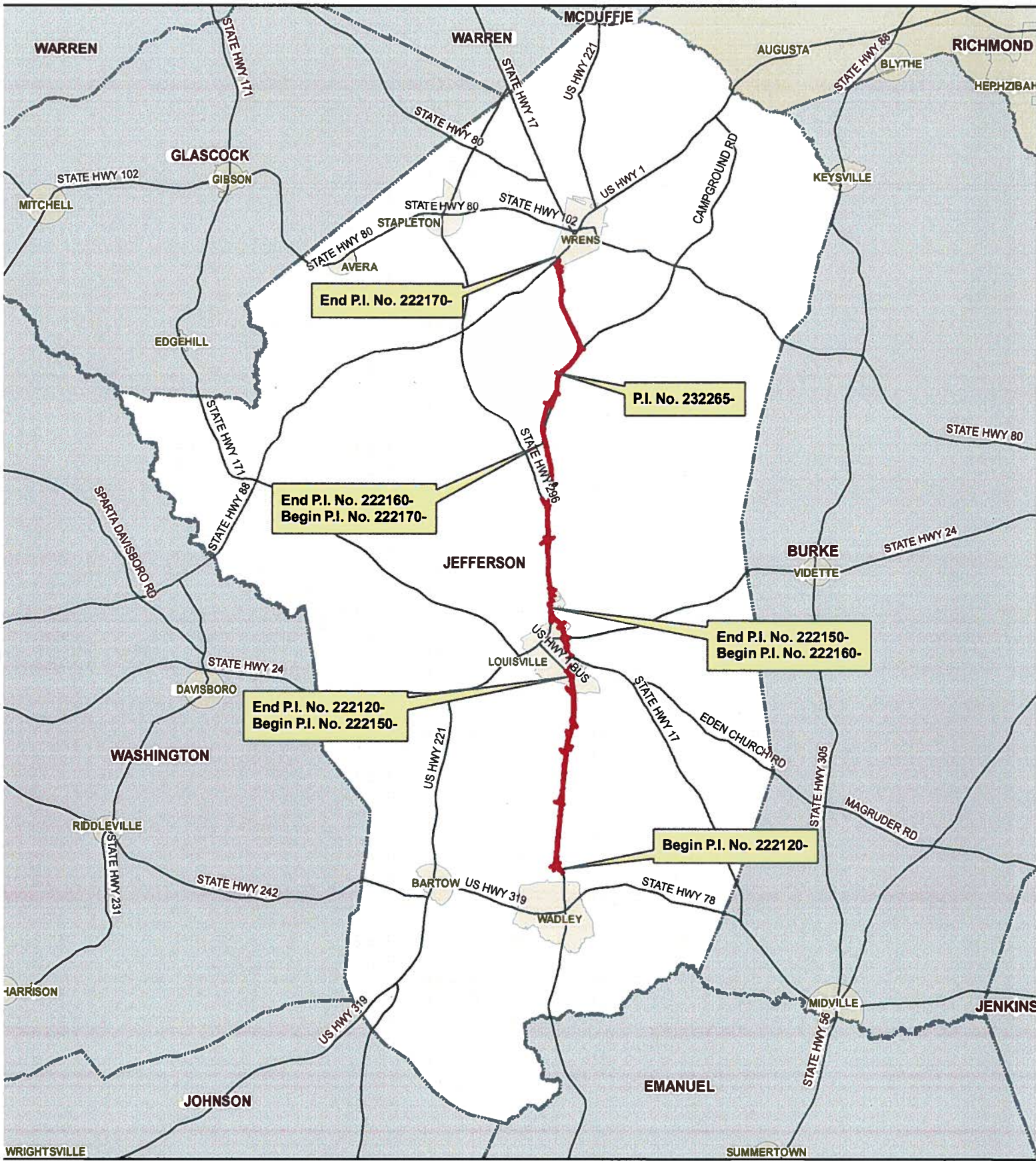
Why We Are Here: The State Route (SR) 4/US1 Widening project has been previously studied and GDOT most recently held a Public Hearing Open House (PHOH) for the project in February 2007. Since that time, GDOT has updated the technical studies and has made minor adjustments to the alignment in order to avoid impacts to environmental resources. Due to these proposed changes, GDOT is seeking public feedback on these changes to the proposed project.

There is a need in Jefferson County for economic growth where communities struggle with unemployment and/or poverty. The purpose of the widening projects proposed by Jefferson County and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is to create a transportation network conducive to economic growth and to enhance north-south connectivity in the County by widening SR 4/US 1 to four lanes. The projects would add two 12-foot wide lanes with variable width right-of-way in either direction along SR 4/US 1 in order to create a four-lane roadway between the Wadley Bypass and Wrens. The projects would include work on several drainage structures and bridges over streams such as Big Creek, Boggy Gut Creek and the Ogeechee River. Many of the side roads along these projects may be redesigned in order to improve their intersection angles with SR 4/US 1. The projects to widen SR 4/US 1 are currently listed in Central Savannah River Area Regional Development Center's (CSRA RDC) Jefferson County Joint Comprehensive Plan 2004 – 2024 as one of the County's top four economic goals. The four economic goals in the plan are to 1) reduce unemployment, 2) attract new businesses, 3) retain and expand existing businesses, and 4) improve transportation systems. Creating four-lane highways through Jefferson County, and specifically US 1 being widened, is the highest priority within goal #4.

Displays: The displays show a 400-foot study corridor and the locations where intersection relocations, median openings, and new location sections for the road detours are proposed.

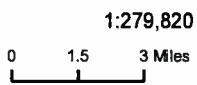
Project Description: The road improvements and widening of State Route (SR) 4/US Highway (US) 1 (see Figure 1, Project Location), beginning at the Wadley Bypass and ending at SR 88 in Wrens in Jefferson County, Georgia consist of five individual projects (PI Numbers 222120-, 222150-, 222160-, 222170-, and 232265-). In order to comply with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regulations for logical termini, all of the projects will be evaluated as one cohesive unit. The total project length of the four individual roadway segments is approximately 21 miles. PI 232265- is a bridge replacement project at Big Creek. SR 4/US 1 is classified as a Rural Principal Arterial.

All of the projects are to be federally funded and are included in the Governor's Road Improvement Program (GRIP). The GRIP was initiated in 1989 by a resolution of the state legislature and the Governor to address the importance of economic stimulation and growth by improving Georgia's transportation network. As a primary north-south corridor in mid-east Georgia, SR 4/US 1 was a viable candidate for GRIP. In addition, Transportation Investment Act (TIA) funds will be used for the state's contribution for PI 222150-. A draft environmental assessment for this project was prepared in November 2006 but was never finalized or approved. Due to subsequent design changes that have occurred to minimize impacts, this environmental assessment has been conducted.



Legend

-  Project Survey Area
-  Major Roads
-  Cities
-  Counties



Project Location

Project Numbers EDS00-0545-00(029), (030), (031), & (032)
 P.I. Nos. 222120-, 222150-, 222160-, 222170-, and 232265-
 Jefferson County, Georgia

Widening and Reconstruction of SR 4/US 1
 from the Wadley Bypass to SR 88



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:
 Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., State Environmental Administrator
 Georgia Department of Transportation
 600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor
 Atlanta, Georgia 30308