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October 19, 2006

Thank you for attending the public hearing open house for STP-030-2(31)(28)(30)(29), P.I. Nos. 322760, 322770, 322775, 422470, the proposed widening and reconstruction of US 280/SR 30 from Felder Street, east of Americus to SR 300 Connector, west of Cordele. In this handout package you will find a need and purpose statement, project description, location map, environmental statement, right-of-way statement and comment card.

As you enter the room, you will notice displays of the proposed project. Department of Transportation (DOT) 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 will be 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 Thursday, November 2, 2006. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environment/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 on **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 Engineer's Office, located at 1557 E. Lamar St (SR 27), Americus, Georgia 31709, and the Area Engineer's Office at 231 Bower's Mill Hwy, Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750. 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, GA 30336-1593, as soon as the compilation is completed.

Again, thank you for attending this public hearing open house and for giving us your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Long / SBK".

Todd Long, P.E.
Director of Preconstruction

TL/pc

Attachments

Project STP-030-2(31)(28)(30)(29)
Sumter and Crisp Counties
P.I. Nos. 322760, 322770, 322775 and 422470

NEED AND PURPOSE

The US 280/SR 30 route is a primary east-west corridor in southern Georgia and is part of the Governor's Road Improvement Program (GRIP). GRIP consists of 19 corridors (economic development highways and truck routes) that include 3,184 miles of roadways. GRIP was initiated in 1989 by a resolution of the State Legislature and the Governor to connect 95% of Georgia cities with a population of 2,500 or more to the interstate system. The GRIP system would place 98% of the state's population within 20 miles of a four-lane highway. GRIP would also provide access for oversized trucks to cities having populations of 5,000 or more and to most cities having populations between 2,000 and 5,000. Among the many benefits of such a system, areas lagging in growth would be provided greater opportunities to attract industry, business and jobs. Commodity and raw material movements would be enhanced. In addition, tourism industries would benefit, as would accessibility to recreation and historic sites.

The proposed project is located in a part of Georgia that lags behind the state and the nation in per capita income. Table 1 summarizes per capita income in Crisp and Sumter Counties. The counties trail Georgia's 2001 average per capita income of \$28,523 and the 2001 national average per capita income of \$30,413.

Table 1 2001 Per Capita Personal Income

County	2001	% of State Average	% of Nat'l Average
Crisp	\$19,634	69	65
Sumter	\$21,438	75	70
State	\$28,523	N/A	94
National	\$30,413	N/A	N/A

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, www.bea.gov

The counties lagged behind the Georgia population growth rate of 26.4% from 1990 to 2000. Population growth in Crisp County was 9.9% over this same period, while population growth for Sumter County was 9.8%.

The widening of US 280/SR 30 is also viewed as a critical component of the Power Alley Initiative, an infrastructure development project designed to facilitate growth in a 43-county area of

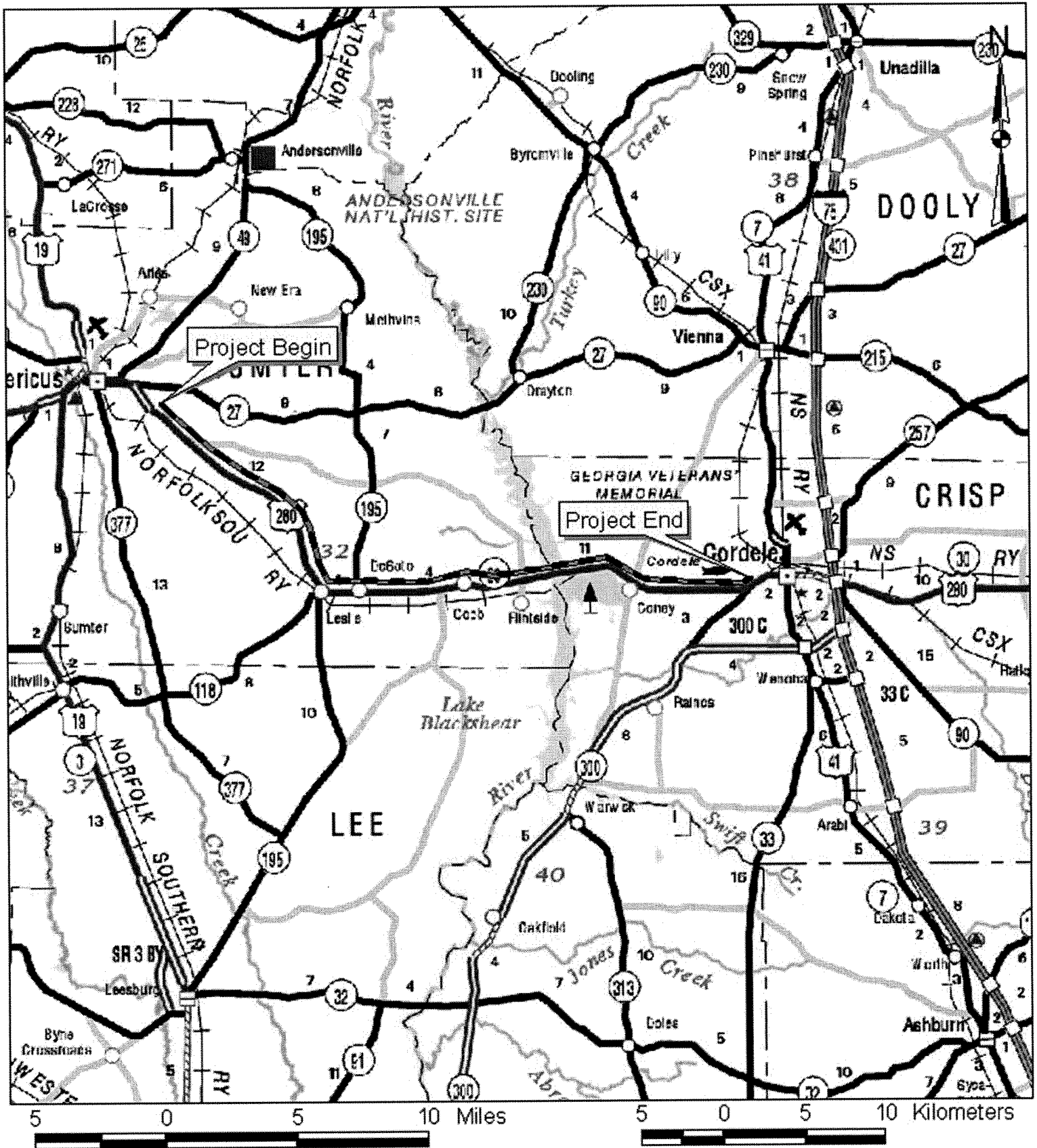
southern Georgia that lags the state in economic and population growth. Major components of the initiative include highway improvements, rail upgrades, installation of fiber optic cable throughout the region, and a natural gas pipeline. The expansion of US 280/SR 30 is expected to reduce transportation costs for a large number of businesses in the target area, to enhance the region's competitiveness in attracting new business development, and to boost the economy of the region through in-region spending during planning and construction.

While the project is primarily for the purpose of economic development, traffic and safety concerns would also be addressed by implementing the project. Substandard intersections and road alignments would be improved, increasing safety and efficiency along the project.

Project STP-030-2(31)(28)(30)(29)
Sumter and Crisp Counties
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project STP-030-2(31)(28)(30)(29) would consist of the widening and reconstruction of US 280/SR 30 from Felder Street in Americus, Georgia to SR 300 Connector Spur in Cordele, Georgia (Figure 1). The proposed project would widen the existing two and three-lane roadway to a four-lane divided highway with a 44-foot depressed grass median and 10-foot shoulders. Some sections would be built with a 14-foot flush median, a 10-foot flush median or a 12-foot center turn lane. The total project length would be approximately 27.0 miles.



SOURCE: GDOT GENERAL STATE HIGHWAY MAP

U.S 280 Road Widening
STP-030-2(28), (29), (30), and (31)
Sumter and Crisp Counties
P.I. Nos. 322770, 422470, 322775, 322760
Project Location Map

Date: Nov 2003
Scale: 1" = 5 miles
Figure 1

Project STP-030-2(31)(28)(30)(29)
Sumter and Crisp Counties
P.I. Nos. 322760, 322770, 322775 and 422470

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

In compliance with the 1991 Georgia Environmental Policy Act, the Georgia Department of Transportation has conducted an assessment of the social, economic and environmental effects for the proposed construction of the US 280/SR 30 Widening and Reconstruction Project. The following information gives a summary of the environmental document.

Approximately 25 residential units and 15 businesses would be relocated by the proposed project. The roadway would be placed closer to some residences, and loss of yard area and farmland will occur. Owners would be compensated for these losses.

In accordance with Executive Order 11990, the proposed project was surveyed for wetland and stream involvement. The project would result in 30.5 acres of wetland impacts and 8,043 feet of stream impacts.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is in need of providing wetland and stream mitigation for this project. Land for wetland mitigation, in the form of restoring degraded wetlands:

1. **must be** relatively near the project (no greater than ten miles);
2. **must not** be existing wetlands or swamp (potential restoration areas should show signs of being previously ditched or drained or converted to non-wetland use such as agriculture or silvaculture); **and**,
3. **must be** easily accessible by local or state roads.

Anyone who has such property and would be willing to sell it to the state for wetland restoration, should send a letter, with a map (USGS Topographic Quad Sheet, County road map, or detailed drawing) clearly showing the location of the degraded wetland, to the address at the bottom of this summary.

In accordance with Executive Order 11988, the proposed project was surveyed for floodplain involvement. The proposed project would result in a transverse crossing of the 100 year flood plains associated with Mill Creek, Chokey Creek and Lake Blackshear. Base flood elevations have not been determined for any of these systems, nor have regulatory floodways been established. 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.

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. Nineteen eligible historic properties, the Bolin Farm, Coney Historic District, Hill House, Cobb Historic District, Shiloh Church, North Desoto Historic District, 127 US 280 East, Boy Scout Hut, North Leslie Historic District, J.H. Potter House, Leslie Tenant House, J.H. Williams-Perry House, B.H. Harris House, L.W. Hayes House, W.B. Johnson-Daniel House, Pleasant Grove Cemetary, Perry-Daniel-Osborne Historic District, Peacock Family Historic District and the Savannah, Americus and Montgomery Railroad, and no archaeological resources were found to be located within the project's area of potential environmental effect.

Field surveys identified habitat for four federally-listed terrestrial species, one federally-listed plant species, three federally-listed aquatic species, one federal candidate species, two state-listed aquatic species, one state-listed terrestrial species and five state-listed plant species. No federally-listed species were observed along the project. Two state-listed species were observed along the proposed project. Informal Section 7 coordination has been completed.

The project would involve 401 acres of prime farmland as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act, 7 CFR Part 658. The total farmland impact rating of 155 points is less than the 160 point threshold for evaluation of additional impacts based on farmland effects.

The proposed project will be surveyed for potential sites where contaminated soil and/or water from leaking underground storage tanks may exist.

Copies of the environmental document are available at this hearing for your review or by sending your request to:

Mr. Harvey D. Keepler
State Environmental/Location Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, Georgia 30336-1593

Project STP-030-2(31)(28)(30)(29)
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RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION

The Georgia Department of Transportation 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, for the Department's use, 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, our 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 Department purchases property, we will make additional payments to property owners for the cost of transferring ownership to the Georgia Department of Transportation. These costs generally include transfer taxes, deed-recording fees, mortgage pre-payment penalties and the pro-rata share of city or county taxes.

The Department 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, the Department 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 entrance, and 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 Department of Transportation Personnel have revealed that there will be 25 residences and 15 businesses that will be required to relocate.

It is important to remember that the Department is committed to the fact that no one will be required to relocate until housing is available, or, if there is no housing available, until provisions have been made by the Department to provide housing. It is also important to remember that all displacees will be given sufficient advance notice of the Department's intention to purchase any property in order to allow sufficient time in which to relocate.

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Hearing Open House Comment Card

Project STP-030-2(31)(28)(30)(29), Sumter/Crisp Counties

P.I. Nos. 322760, 322770, 322776 and 422470

October 19, 2006

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*

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. Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593*