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January 26, 2006

Thank you for attending the public information open house for the improvement of United States Highway 1 / State Route 4 (U.S. 1 / S.R. 4) in Toombs and Emanuel Counties, projects EDS-545 (14), (17), and (18), P.I. Nos. 522130, 221900, and 221910, the proposed widening of U.S. 1 / S.R. 4 from S.R. 130 to Interstate Highway 16 (I-16). In this handout package you will find a project description, location map 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 name tags 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 February 9, 2006. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Harvey D. Keepler, 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 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 public information open house at the Georgia Department of Transportation District 2 Swainsboro Area office located at 685 Kite Road, Swainsboro, Georgia 30401 or the Georgia Department of Transportation District 5 office located at 204 North Highway 301, Jesup, Georgia 31598. A copy of all comments received will be available for public review at this same locations and at the Office of Environment/Location, 3993 Aviation Circle, Atlanta, GA, 30336 as soon as compilation is completed.

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

Sincerely,

Buddy Gratton, P.E.
Director of Preconstruction

BG/AP/JM

Attachments

PROJECTS EDS-545 (14), (17), and (18)
TOOMBS AND EMANUEL COUNTIES,
P.I. NOS. 522130, 221900, AND 221910
U.S. 1/S.R. 4 WIDENING FROM S.R. 130 TO I-16

Need and Purpose

The proposed improvement is to reconstruct United States Highway 1 / State Road 4 (U.S. 1/S.R. 4) from S.R. 130 in Toombs County to Interstate Highway 16 (I-16) in Emanuel County from an existing two lane roadway to a four lane divided roadway with a grass median. The purpose of the proposed improvement is to improve access into the Toombs and Emanuel County area to promote economic growth and also to provide a safe facility with adequate capacity to accommodate future traffic volumes.

U.S. 1/S.R. 4 from Folkston to Augusta, Georgia has been designated as part of the Governor's Road Improvement Program (GRIP). GRIP is Georgia's system of proposed economic developmental highways that was initiated in 1989 to provide multi-lane access to areas of the state not served by the Interstate highway system. Governor Joe Frank Harris indicated that many communities that are not served by a four-lane highway are at a disadvantage when competing for economic growth. Multi-lane highways are needed to maintain the state's competitive position in the southeast.

The proposed improvement would increase access between I-16 and the cities of Lyons and Vidalia. The cities of Lyons and Vidalia are located just to the south and southeast of the southern terminus of this project. Vidalia is the largest city in Toombs County and Lyons is the second largest city. Approximately 56 percent of the population of Toombs County resides in Lyons and Vidalia.

The proposed U.S. 1/S.R. 4 improvement is in conformance with the comprehensive plans for Toombs and Emanuel Counties. Manufacturing has historically been the largest employment sector in both Toombs and Emanuel Counties, but manufacturing jobs decreased in both counties in recent years. The comprehensive plans of each county contain goals to attract manufacturing and other high paying employment sectors. In order to achieve this goal, transportation access to the county would need to be improved and the proposed U.S. 1/S.R. 4 improvement would provide the increased accessibility.

The accident rates on this section of U.S. 1/S.R. 4 are below the state average for a rural principal arterial. However, the accident rates and injury rates have been rising in recent years and the 2002 injury rate exceeded the state average for rural principal arterials. The proposed project would help alleviate this problem.

Project Description

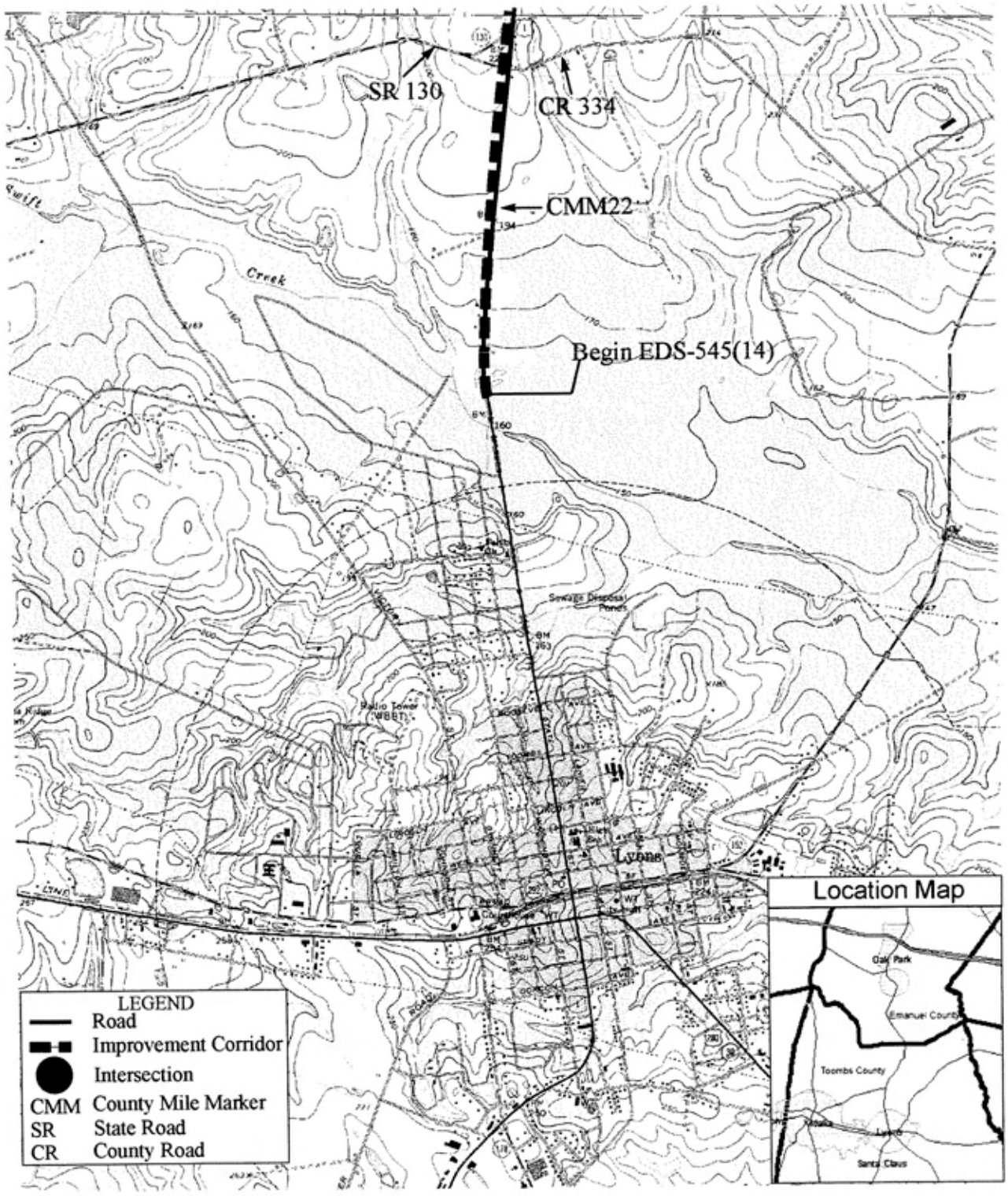
The preferred alternative consists of the widening of U. S. l/S. R. 4 in Toombs and Emanuel Counties. The proposed improvement would reconstruct the existing two lane roadway to a four lane divided roadway with a grass median. The southern terminus of this project is located at S.R. 130 just north of Lyons in Toombs County, and the northern terminus of the project is I-16 in Emanuel County. Construction would be extended approximately 6,700 feet to the south of S.R. 130 to accommodate projected traffic from the proposed Toombs Corporate Center. The

total length of this project is approximately 12.4 miles. The preferred alternative is comprised of three individual adjacent projects; EDS-545 (14), (17), and (18).

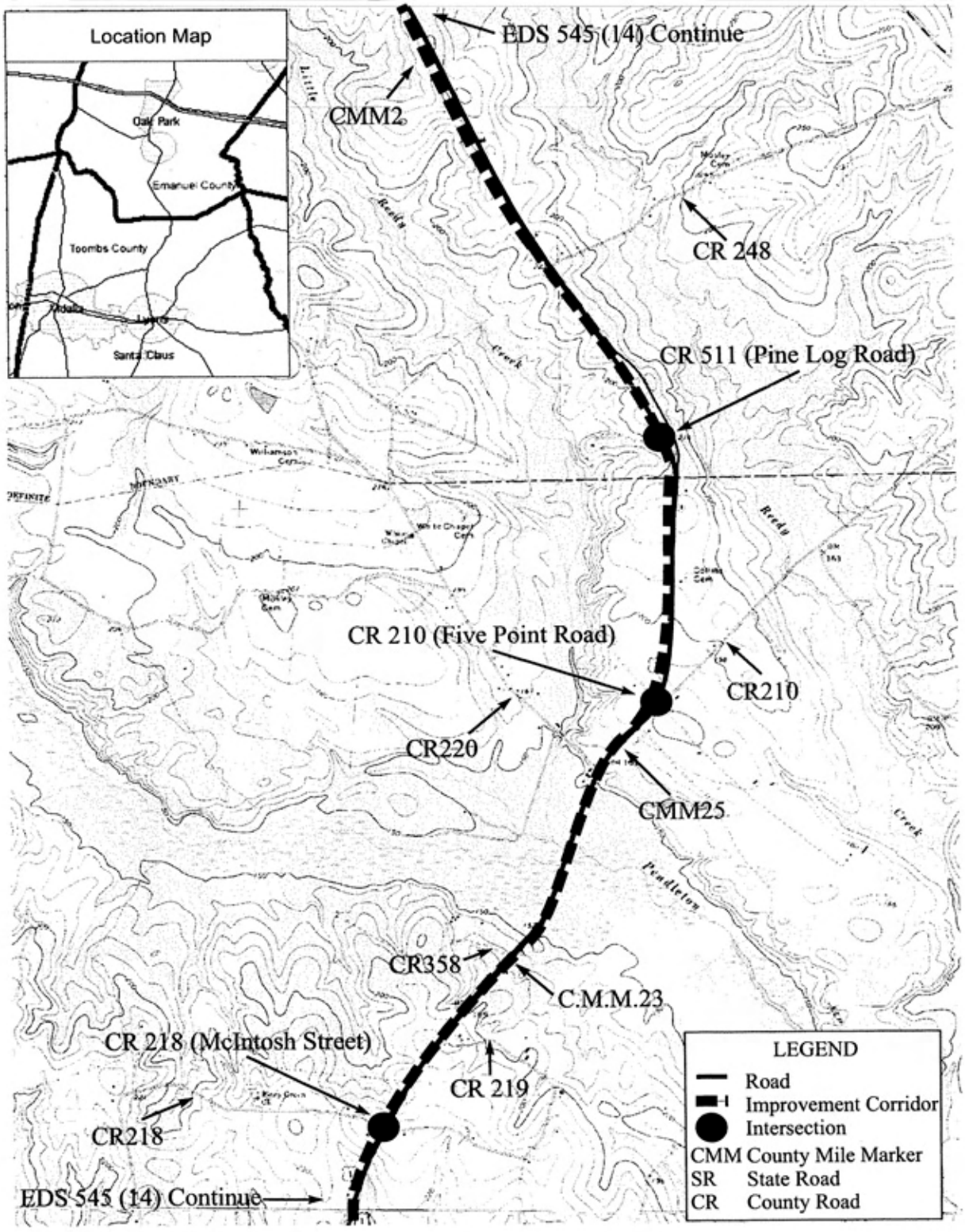
EDS-545 (14) consists of widening the segment of U.S. 1/S.R. 4 between S.R. 130/C.R. 334 (Resmondo Road) located north of Lyons in Toombs County to the southern town limits of Oak Park at Emanuel County mile post 3.88. The roadway would be reconstructed from a two lane facility to a four lane divided facility with a design speed and posted speed of 65 miles per hour. The roadway would consist of 2-12 foot lanes in each direction divided by a median (approximate dimensions). The proposed median would be approximately 32 feet wide from Resmondo Road to County Road (C.R.) 210 / Five Point Road and from approximately 0.1 miles north of C.R. 249 / Harold Road to the southern town limits of Oak Park. From C.R. 210 / Five Point Road to approximately 0.1 miles north of C.R. 249 / Harold Road the median is proposed to be approximately 44 feet wide. Paved shoulders would be 6-1/2 feet on the outside and 2 feet on the inside of the roadway facility (approximate dimensions). Drainage is via open swale. Intersections at C.R 210, C.R 218, C.R. 511, and C.R. 249 would be relocated as part of the proposed project. The improvement would generally occur on the west side of the existing alignment, with the exception of approximately 4,000 feet of facility near C.R. 356 that would shift to the east side of the roadway to avoid a historic property. The intersection with C.R. 356 would also shift to the east as a result of this alignment shift. The bridge at Pendleton Creek would be replaced and a parallel bridge would be constructed to accommodate northbound traffic.

EDS-545(17) consists of the widening and relocation of an approximately 2.2 mile segment of U.S. 1/S.R. 4 around the town of Oak Park downtown area in Emanuel County. The approved concept would begin at the south town limits of Oak Park. The existing two lane facility would be widened to a four lane divided highway to a point approximately 1,400 feet north of the south town limits of Oak Park. From this point, the four lane divided alignment would extend onto new location, paralleling existing U.S. 1/S.R. 4 approximately 1,100 to 1,500 feet west of existing U.S. 1/S.R.4. The preferred alignment would continue on new location to the intersection of U.S. 1/S.R. 4 and S.R. 46/S.R. 86 near the north Oak Park city limits. Access would be by permit along the existing roadway and would be partially controlled on new location. Intersections would be provided with old U.S. 1/S.R. 4, County Road (C.R.) 703, C.R. 235, C.R. 216, and S.R. 46/S.R. 86. The proposed typical section would be 4-12 foot lanes with a 32 foot grass median (approximate dimensions). Paved shoulders would be 6-1/2 feet on the outside and 2 feet on the inside of the roadway facility (approximate dimensions). Drainage is via open swale. The proposed design speed is 65 miles per hour. A bridge culvert would be constructed to accommodate the flow of Reedy Creek under U.S. 1 / S.R. 4.

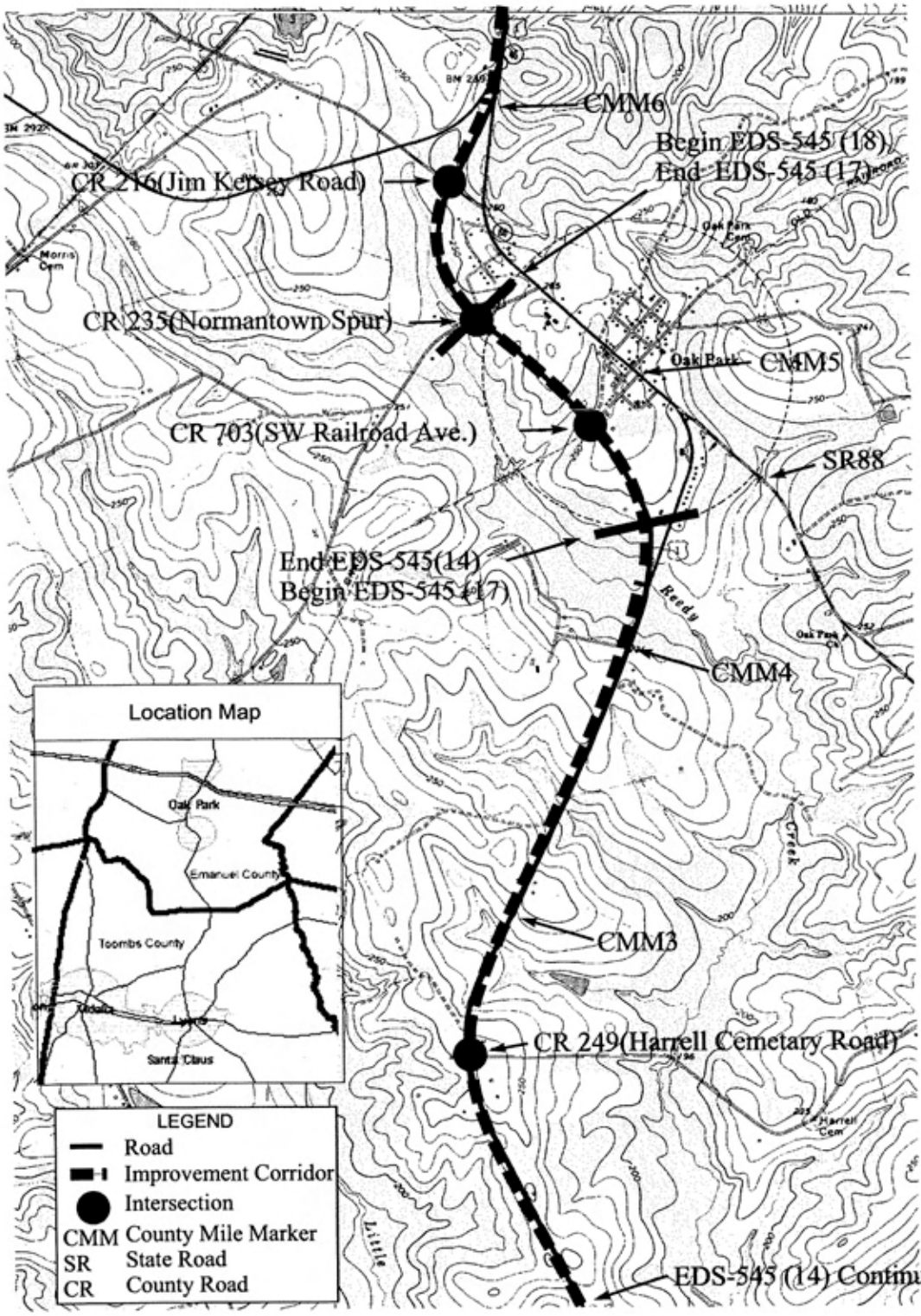
EDS-545 (18) consists of the widening of the segment of U.S. 1/S.R. 4 in Emanuel County between S.R. 46/S.R. 86 (mile post 6.12) near the north city limits of Oak Park and C.R. 527 (mile post 7.94), located just to the south of I-16. The proposed typical section would consist of 4-12 foot lanes with a 32 foot grassed median (approximate dimensions). The intersection with C.R. 527 would be modified. Paved shoulders would be 6-1/2 feet on the outside and 2 feet on the inside of the roadway facility (approximate dimensions). Drainage is via open swale. All widening would be east of the existing roadway. The design speed of the roadway is 65 miles per hour. New bridges would be constructed at the Ohoopee River and its overflows.



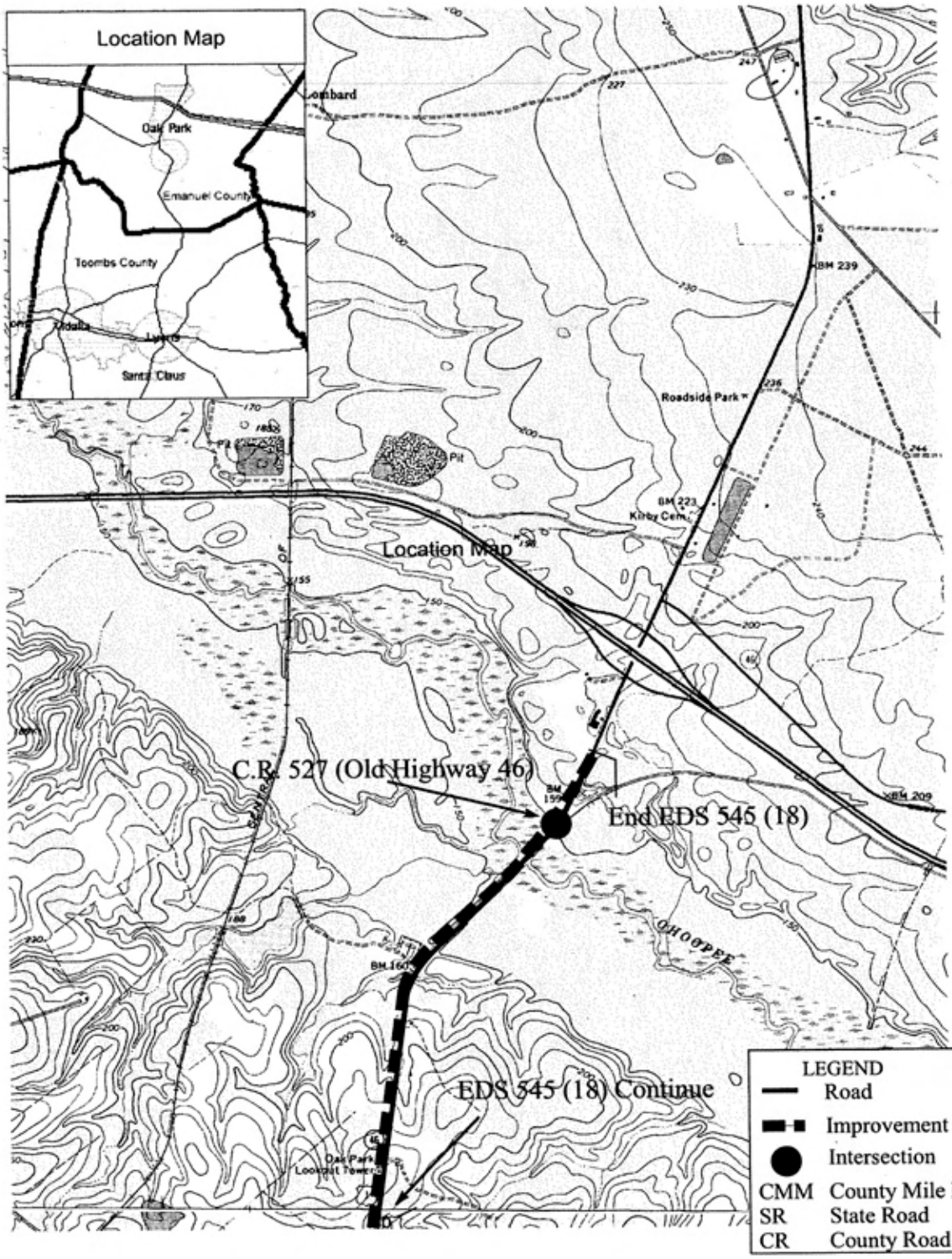
Client: Georgia Department of Transportation	**Figure 1A** Location of U.S. 1/S.R. 4 Highway Improvement Corridor Toombs/Emanuel Counties		N
Project: U.S. 1/S.R. 4 Highway Improvements EDS 545 (14), (17), (18)			
P.I. Nos. 522130, 221900, and 221910	DATE: 5-31-05	Scale: 1" = 2,909 ft	PARSONS



Client: Georgia Department of Transportation	**Figure 1B** Location of U.S. 1/S.R. 4 Highway Improvement Corridor Toombs/Emanuel Counties		N
Project: U.S. 1/S.R. 4 Highway Improvements EDS 545 (14), (17), (18)			
P.I. Nos. 522130, 221900, and 221910	DATE: 5-31-05	Scale: 1" = 3,200 ft	PARSONS



Client: Georgia Department of Transportation	**Figure 1C** Location of U.S. 1/S.R. 4 Highway Improvement Corridor Toombs/Emanuel Counties		N
Project: U.S. 1/S.R. 4 Highway Improvements EDS 545 (14), (17), (18)			
P.I. Nos. 522130, 221900, and 221910	DATE: 5-31-05	Scale: 1" = 2,909 ft	PARSONS



Client: Georgia Department of Transportation	**Figure 1D** Location of U.S. 1/S.R. 4 Highway Improvement Corridor Toombs/Emanuel Counties		N
Project: U.S. 1/S.R. 4 Highway Improvements EDS 545 (14), (17), (18)			
P.I. Nos. 522130, 221900, and 221910	DATE: 5-31-05	Scale: 1" = 2,909 ft	PARSONS

Right-Of-Way Acquisition
Project EDS-545 (14), (17),(18), Toombs and Emanuel Counties

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 7 residential and 2 business(es) that will be required to relocate.

It is important to remember that the Department is committed to the principle 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.

The Department of Transportation District 2 office, located in Tennille, Georgia (telephone (478) 552-4601) and the Georgia Department of Transportation District 5 office, located in Jesup, Georgia (telephone (912) 427-5700) will be in charge of acquiring the necessary right-of-way for this project.

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House Comment Card

Project EDS-545 (14),(17), and (18), Toombs and Emanuel Counties,
P.I. No. 522130, 221900, and 221910
January 26, 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:

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Georgia Department of Transportation
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593