



October 14, 2014

Thank you for attending the public hearing open house for STP00-9108-00(005) and STP00-9108-00(004), P.I. No. 751775, 751770, and 0012603, the proposed widening of Valley Hill Road, Battle Creek Road and Mt. Zion Boulevard, and the replacement of the Valley Hill River bridge over the Flint River. 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. Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) 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 GDOT 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 October 28, 2014. Written comments should be sent to Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., State Environmental Administrator, Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30308. Comments can also be made via the web at www.dot.ga.gov:

- Click on *Information Center* at the top right side of the page;
- Click on *Public Outreach* in the Press Room block;
- From the menu, *select the county* in which the proposed project is located and click *Go*;
- *Select the appropriate project* you wish to comment on;
- Lastly, click *Comment* at the top of the page and follow the instructions to leave your comment.

All comments will be made a part of the project record. We hope you will take advantage of one of these opportunities to let GDOT know your view of the proposal.

The displays and plans will be available for review for ten days after the public hearing open house at the Clayton County Department of Transportation and Development Engineering Services Office located at 7960 North McDonough Street, Jonesboro, GA 30236 and at the Georgia Department of Transportation District 7 Area 3 Office, 4125 Roosevelt Highway, College Park, Georgia 30349. A copy of all comments received will be available for public review at this same location and at the Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Environment Services, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30308, as soon as compilation is completed.

Again, thank you for attending this public hearing 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 Darrell DeJean at 404-631-1567 or Richard O'Hara at 404-631-1169 of the Office of Environmental Services.

Sincerely,

Hiral Patel, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator

BH/jjn
Attachments

**STP00-9108-00(005) and STP00-9108-00(004), P.I. 751775, 751770, and 0012603
Clayton County**

Proposed Battle Creek Road from Valley Hill Road to Southlake Parkway; Battle Creek Road/Mt. Zion Boulevard from Southlake Parkway to Somerton Drive; Bridge on Valley Hill Road over the Flint River; Valley Hill Road from Upper Riverdale Road to Battle Creek Road; and Mt. Zion Boulevard from Somerton Drive to Rex Road

Need and Purpose

The road improvements and widening of Valley Hill Road, the replacement of the bridge on Valley Hill Road over the Flint River, the widening of Battle Creek Road (CR 1342), and Mt. Zion Boulevard (CR 28) in Clayton County, Georgia consist of five individual projects. Two of the five projects are to be funded by Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) monies. The remaining three projects are to receive federal funding. It was requested by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in November 2007 that in order to fulfill the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and to provide full disclosure for the projects which would receive federal funding, the five individual projects will be considered as one cohesive unit in the Environmental Assessment and for the related special studies. The total project length is 8.48 miles. Valley Hill Road is classified as an urban minor arterial. Battle Creek Road and Mt. Zion Boulevard are both classified as urban collectors.

The widening projects are proposed by Clayton County and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to improve the traffic flow along Valley Hill Road, Battle Creek Road, and Mt. Zion Boulevard, and to enhance east-west connectivity in central Clayton County. The projects would widen the existing facilities, create sidewalks for pedestrians, and reconfigure the Battle Creek Road / Valley Hill Road and Battle Creek Road / Mt. Zion Boulevard intersections. The project would also add additional turn lanes at major intersections and improve vertical sight distances. The project would meet local goals of improving safety and pedestrian access.

The projected population growth in Clayton County presents a challenge for the County to provide transportation infrastructure for the anticipated increase of vehicles on the road. The central area of Clayton County along I-75 experiences traffic congestion. The Valley Hill Road / Battle Creek Road / Mt. Zion Boulevard corridor currently has steady volumes of traffic, and increasing traffic volumes will continue to strain the existing roadway, especially during peak commuting hours. East-west travel patterns are constrained, and the proposed projects, including realigning seven (7) intersections, would enable Valley Hill Road, Battle Creek Road, and Mt. Zion Boulevard to serve as a thoroughfare for projected east-west traffic. The area is already developed, though redevelopment and revitalization are anticipated eventually.

The proposed project also would fulfill the goal of the 2005-2025 Clayton County Comprehensive Plan to improve the roadway and intersection Level-of-Service (LOS). The Comprehensive Plan includes an objective to “promulgate standards, programs, and actions that promote the creation of a multimodal transportation network which includes bicycle and pedestrian facilities.” By including sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, the project fulfills that County objective. Segment 2 is currently listed in the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), PLAN 2040, and its Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The ARC project numbers are CL-017 and CL-019. The projects would be funded through a combination of the federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) for construction and Clayton County’s SPLOST program.

Project Description

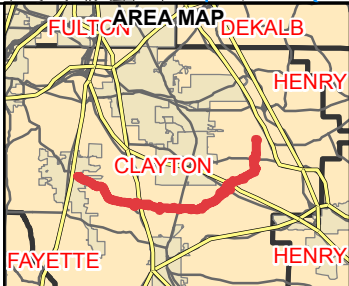
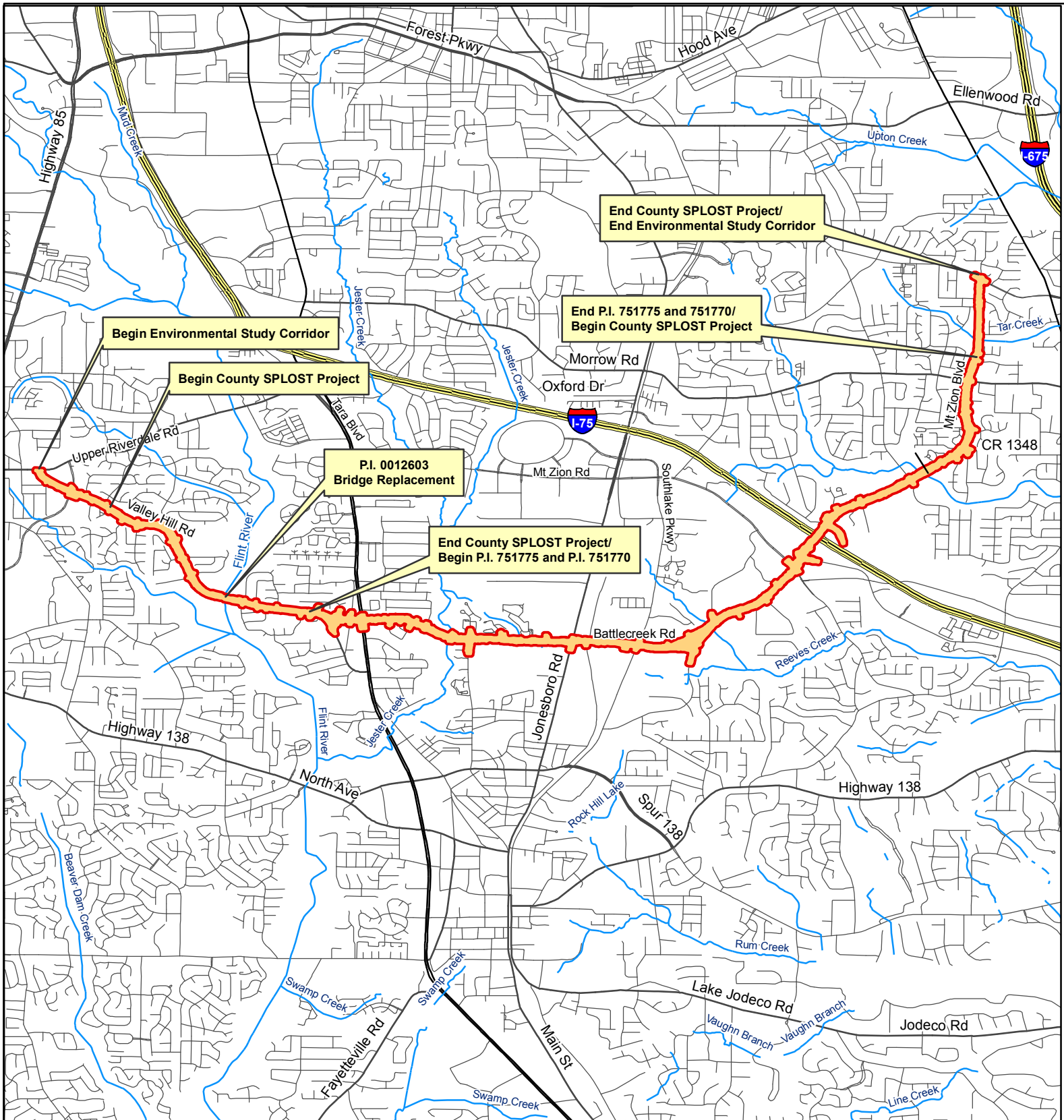
The overall project has been broken into three segments referred to as Segments 1 through 3. The first project segment incorporates one of the SPLOST projects as well as project P.I. 0012603. Segment 1 proposes to widen Valley Hill Road from Upper Riverdale Road to Battle Creek Road (a distance of 2.36 miles). The existing roadway has two travel lanes, rural grassed shoulders, and a variable ROW width. The proposed typical section would widen the roadway to four 12-foot travel lanes separated by a 20-foot raised median with curb-and-gutter, with a 45 miles per hour (mph) design speed. The proposed urban shoulders would be 12 feet wide with a 2.5-foot curb-and-gutter, a two-foot grassed strip, and five-foot sidewalks. The proposed ROW would vary between 96 to 220 feet. The improvements would require approximately 7.9 acres of new ROW. Additionally, the existing two-lane bridge over the Flint River would be replaced with a four-lane bridge with sidewalks (P.I. 0012603). Traffic would be maintained on the existing roadway during most of the construction. Although no detour currently is specified, a detour may potentially be required for construction. Any detours needed for this segment will be presented to the public and at a subsequent standard pre-detour meeting prior to construction.

The second project segment, Segment 2, includes two federally funded sections. Segment 2 is programmed for Construction in 2017. The first, Project STP00-9108-00(005), would widen Battle Creek Road from Valley Hill Road to Southlake Parkway (a distance of 2.38 miles). The second, Project STP00-9108-00(004), extends along Mt. Zion Boulevard from its intersection with Battle Creek Road to Somerton Drive (a distance of approximately 3.1 miles). The existing roadways (Battle Creek Road and Mt. Zion Boulevard) vary between two travel lanes with variable width rural grassed shoulders and four travel lanes (two in each direction) separated by a 20-foot raised median with curb-and-gutter and variable width urban shoulders. The existing ROW varies between 60 to 220 feet and has intermittent pedestrian facilities. The proposed typical section would widen the entire roadway to four 11-foot travel

lanes (two in each direction) separated by a 20-foot raised median with curb-and-gutter. The proposed urban shoulders would be 12 feet with a 2.5-foot curb-and-gutter, a two-foot grassed strip, and 5-foot sidewalks. The proposed ROW would vary between 96 and 220 feet. Throughout construction there will be occasions when traffic would need to be temporarily detoured to ensure continuous traffic operation. In the vicinity of Battle Creek Road and Wilson Road (from Valley Hill Road to Tara Boulevard) traffic would temporarily be rerouted along Tara Boulevard and Valley Hill Road. To avoid construction at the Tara Road intersection with Battle Creek Road, the traffic will be temporarily detoured along O'Hara Road and SR 54. During construction at the intersection of Green Meadows Lane and Mt. Zion Boulevard, the Green Meadows Lane traffic will be detoured temporarily along Vesta Brook Lane. In turn, Green Meadows Lane will be the temporary detour for Vesta Brook Lane traffic during construction at the intersection of Vesta Brook Lane and Mt. Zion Boulevard. Prior to reconstruction of the bridge over Jester's Creek, a temporary connection to the northeast side of the bridge will be created to accommodate Jester's Creek Trail users while a portion of the trail (275 linear feet) is closed during construction on the bridge. The temporary connection will be created during project construction along the south side of Battle Creek Road at Tara Road. This will allow for sidewalk along Tara Road and Battle Creek Road from the library, and crosswalks for a safe road crossing to the temporary trail connection. The proposed detours will be presented to the public at the PHOH and at a subsequent standard pre-detour meeting prior to construction. In this segment noise walls are proposed in three locations along Mt. Zion Boulevard:

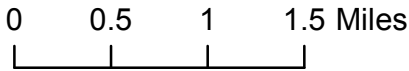
1. North of Sandlewood Drive just south of West Meyer Drive on the west side of Mt. Zion Boulevard;
2. From East Meyer Drive to 344 feet south on the east side of Mt. Zion Boulevard;
3. From East Meyer Drive to 390 feet north on the east side of Mt. Zion Boulevard.

The last project segment, Segment 3 (a SPLOST project), would widen Mt. Zion Boulevard from Somerton Drive to Rex Road (a distance of approximately 0.64 mile). The existing typical section consists of two 12-foot travel lanes with both rural grassed shoulders and urban curb-and-gutters with a variable ROW between 80 to 100 feet. The proposed typical section would widen the existing roadway to two 12-foot travel lanes, and one 14-foot two-way turn lane with 12-foot urban shoulders that includes a 2.5-foot curb-and-gutter and a two-foot grassed strip. Along each side would be a five-foot sidewalk. The proposed ROW would vary between 96 to 220 feet. Traffic would be maintained on the existing roadway during construction. This SPLOST project was LET to Construction in April 2013.



LEGEND

- Roadways
- Interstates
- Streams
- Environmental Study Corridor



Project Location

Project Number STP00-9108-00(005) and STP00-9108-00(004)
 P.I. Nos. 751775, 751770, and 0012603
 Clayton County, Georgia

The Proposed Widening of Valley Hill Road, Battle Creek Road, and Mt. Zion Boulevard, and the proposed Valley Hill Road bridge replacement over the Flint River.



SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY
STP00-9108-00(005) and STP00-9108-00(004), CLAYTON COUNTY

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 widening of Valley Hill Road, Battle Creek Road and Mt. Zion Boulevard. The following information gives a summary of the environmental document.

Thirty-two (32) residential units and two (2) businesses would be displaced by the proposed project. In accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, relocatees would also be offered decent, safe and sanitary housing within their financial means as well as moving cost reimbursement. Within a reasonable period of time prior to displacement, a comparable replacement dwelling would be made available for displaced individuals and families. In order for businesses to relocate, assistance would be given in the form of moving cost reimbursement, compensation for direct loss of tangible personal property, reimbursement for replacement property searches, and payment of reestablishment expenses not exceeding \$10,000. Every effort would be made to assist in relocation within the same area, rather than relocating to other areas or closing entirely. For those residences that will not be displaced, but will be impacted by the project, there would be a decrease in the setback from the roadway. No more than approximately 28 percent of any one parcel (yards or driveways) will be impacted by the proposed ROW with the majority of the residences experiencing a minimal loss of one to five percent. For those properties where the proposed project would impact a driveway, that access point would be reconstructed so that there is continued accessibility to the roadway.

In accordance with Executive Order 11990, the proposed project was surveyed for wetland and stream involvement. Six (6) wetlands, six (6) perennial streams, six (6) intermittent streams, two (2) non buffered state waters, and one (1) pond, were identified within the project's area of potential effect (APE). It is estimated that there will be less than one (1) acre of permanent impacts to the wetlands and ephemeral channels 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 the floodplains associated with Jester's Creek, Panther Creek and the Flint River, although the project would require placement of fill in Panther Creek and the Flint River floodplain. The project would not have an adverse effect on water quality within the project corridor. Three (3) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permits 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 (SIP) for the attainment of clean air quality in the state. On January 5, 2005, the EPA designated a 20+ county metro-Atlanta nonattainment area for fine particular matter, called PM_{2.5}. This designation became effective on April 5, 2005, 90 days after the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) published action in the Federal Register. Transportation Conformity for the PM_{2.5} standards applies as of April 5, 2006, after the one year grace period provided by the Clean Air Act (CAA). Metropolitan PM_{2.5} nonattainment areas are now required to have a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and long range transportation plan (LRTP) that conforms to the PM_{2.5} standard. This project has been evaluated by an interagency group consisting of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), EPA, Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). They agreed on November 17, 2011 that

this project does not appear to be a "Project of Concern" per the Transportation Conformity Rule and thus meets the statutory and regulatory requirements for PM_{2.5} hotspots without a qualitative analysis.

The construction of this project would result in a 3.2 to 4.5 to decibel increase in traffic generated noise by the design year 2040, and forty-nine (49) dwelling units would approach or exceed the noise abatement criteria. Mitigation is feasible for the 49 impacted properties. Noise barriers are recommended in three (3) locations:

1. North of Sandlewood Drive just south of West Meyer Drive on the west side of Mt. Zion Boulevard;
2. From East Meyer Drive to 344 feet south on the east side of Mt. Zion Boulevard;
3. From East Meyer Drive to 390 feet north on the east side of Mt. Zion Boulevard.

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. Four (4) historic resources and no (0) National Register of Historic Places eligible archaeological resources were identified within the project's area of potential environmental effect. The project would not adversely affect any of the eligible historic resources.

The proposed project would not affect any threatened or endangered plant or wildlife species, as none are located in or frequent the project area.

The project would not involve any farmland as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act, 7 CFR Part 658, due to the land in this corridor being in or committed to urban development. In accordance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act, the criteria of 7 CFR, Part 658 have been applied to determine project effects on farmland. Based on the assessment of these effects, 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. Further subsurface testing is required to determine if any contaminants are leaking into the soil. 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 sending your request to:

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

Right-Of-Way Acquisition Project STP00-9108-00(005) and STP00-9108-00(004), Clayton County

Clayton 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, for the County'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, 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 Clayton County purchases property, we will make additional payments to property owners for the cost of transferring ownership to the County. These costs generally include transfer taxes, deed-recording fees, mortgage pre-payment penalties and the pro-rata share of city or county taxes. The acquisition will occur with Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) oversight, according to the federal standards of purchasing right-of-way.

Clayton 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, Clayton 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 at the Public Hearing Open House (PHOH), 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 Clayton County personnel have revealed that there will be thirty-two (32) residences and two (2) businesses that will be required to relocate.

It is important to remember that Clayton County 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 County to provide housing. It is also important to remember that all displacees will be given sufficient advance notice of Clayton County's intention to purchase any property in order to allow sufficient time in which to relocate.

Clayton County, Georgia, (770) 492-5200 will be in charge of acquiring the necessary right-of-way for this project, with oversight by Georgia Department of Transportation to ensure that federal guidelines are followed.

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Hearing Open House Comment Card

Project STP00-9108-00(005) and STP00-9108-00(004), Clayton County,

P.I. No. 751775, 751770, AND 0012603

October 14, 2014

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

Other _____

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 GDOT/Clayton County personnel? Yes No

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

Please share your suggestions on improving the way GDOT conducts public meetings.

Mail To:

Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., State Environmental Administrator

Georgia Department of Transportation

600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor

Atlanta, Georgia 30308