



September 28, 2017

Thank you for attending the Public Information and Detour Open House for the proposed installation of a single lane roundabout at Dixie Highway/US 41/SR 3 and CR 381/Graysville Road, PI Number 0003948. 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, which includes a proposed traffic detour route that would be used during construction. In this handout package, you will find a description of the project, a location map, a map of the proposed detour, and a comment card.

As you enter the room, please take a look at the project display and the proposed detour map. 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 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 Thursday, October 12, 2017** by using any of the following methods:


- Online at www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Public/PublicOutreach.
 - From the menu, select the county in which the proposed project is located and click *Go*;
 - Then select *Roundabout at SR 3/US 41 and Graysville Road*;
 - Lastly, click *Comment* and follow the instructions to leave your comments.
- Scan QR code to the right with your smart phone's QR reader.
- 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 website noted above. Hardcopies will also be available at the Georgia DOT District 6 Area 2 Office located at 1313 North Tibbs Road, Dalton, GA 30720. 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, Cedric Clark, at 770-312-6551 or the environmental analyst, Elizabeth Messick, at 404-347-0556 of the Office of Environmental Services.

Sincerely,

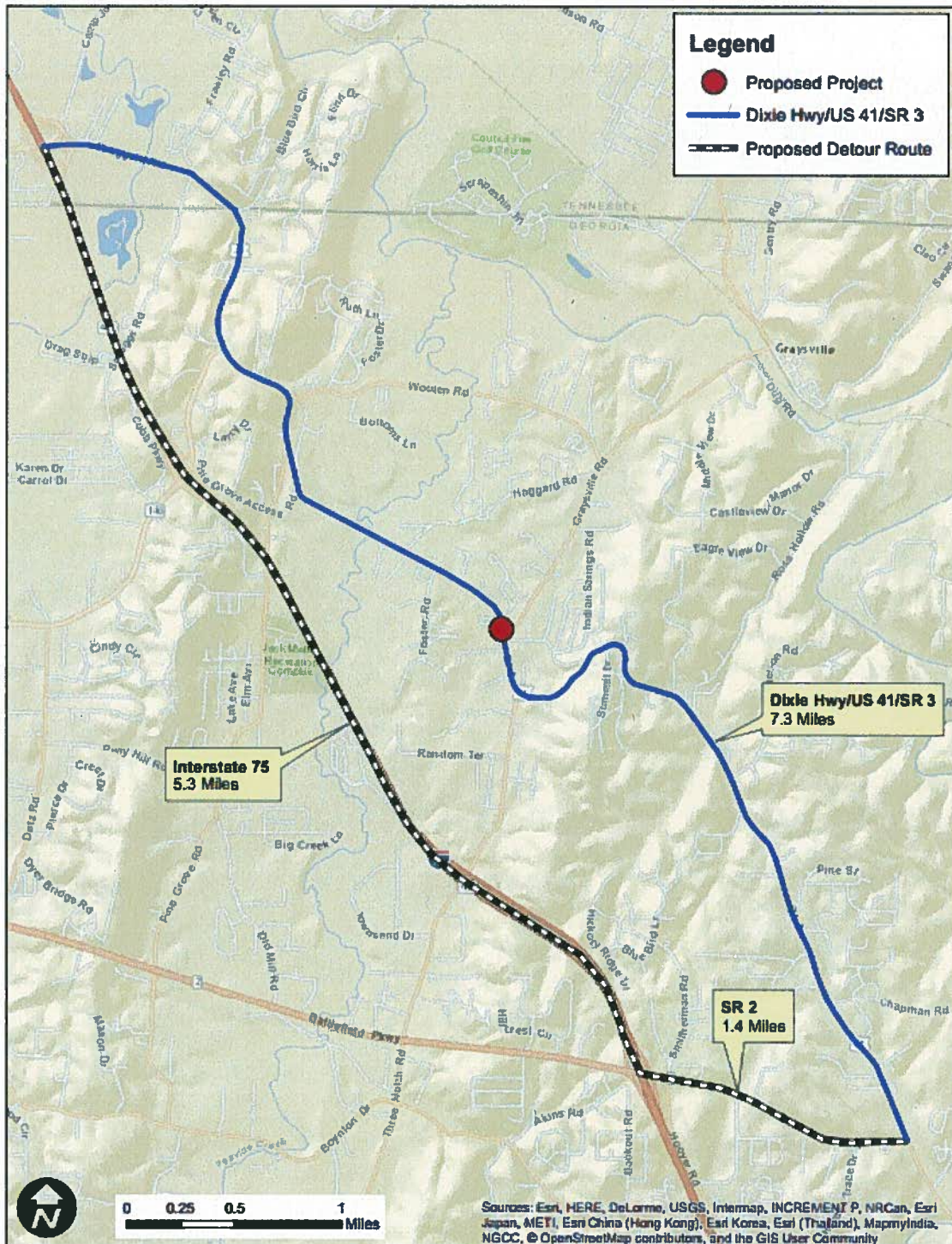

Eric Duff
State Environmental Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation

Why We Are Here: The existing T-intersection at Dixie Highway/US 41/SR 3 and CR 381/Graysville Road suffers from traffic congestion and extreme conflict points, resulting in delayed travel times and crash rates higher than the statewide average. Results of a roundabout feasibility analysis that was conducted for the project showed that a roundabout would perform at acceptable traffic levels and would also provide the greatest reduction in crash rate within the project limits; which is the intent of this project.

Project Description: The proposed project would improve the existing intersection at Dixie Highway/US 41/SR 3 and CR 381/Graysville Road through the installation of a single lane roundabout. Along Dixie Highway/US 41/SR 3, the proposed project would begin at approximately milepost 10.77 and end at approximately milepost 10.98, for a total proposed project length of approximately 0.21 mile. Along CR 381/Graysville Road, the proposed project would extend from milepost 0.0 to milepost 0.1, for a total length of 0.1 mile.

An off-site detour may be utilized to route traffic from Dixie Highway/US 41/SR 3 onto Interstate 75 and State Route 2 for up to four months. The traveling public wishing to travel north on Dixie Highway/US 41/SR 3 towards Tennessee would be routed west on SR 2 for 1.4 miles before then being routed north on Interstate 75 for 5.3 miles. The traveling public wishing to travel south on Dixie Highway/US 41/SR 3 towards Georgia would be routed south on Interstate 75 for 5.3 miles and then east on SR 2 for 1.4 miles before being able to access Dixie Highway/US 41/SR 3. Please see the attached project location and detour map.

Project Location Map and Detour Map:



Environmental Summary:

In compliance with the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has assessed the social, economic and environmental effects for the proposed installation of a single lane roundabout at Dixie Highway/US 41/SR 3 and CR 381/Graysville Road. The following information provides a summary of the environmental resources in the project area.

Project Background: The proposed project would take place on the "Dixie Highway", which was constructed between 1915 and 1956 during the Good Roads Movement. Focusing on improving the national road network, the Good Roads Movement was the most significant development affecting highway and bridge construction from the late nineteenth century until the 1920s. By the mid-1920s, twelve "Good Roads" crossed the southeast U.S. One of the most traveled was the Dixie Highway, a roadway that linked Sault Sainte Marie at the Canadian border to Miami, Florida. In northwest Georgia, prior to the completion of Interstate 75, the Dixie Highway served as the primary road corridor from Chattanooga to Atlanta.

Ecology: In accordance with Executive Order 11990, the proposed project was surveyed for wetland and stream involvement. There were no jurisdictional wetlands and one jurisdictional stream identified within the projects' area of potential effect (APE). The proposed project would not impact the identified stream.

There are twenty-one federally and state protected species known to occur in Catoosa County. However, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) determined on May 17, 2017, that the proposed project would have no effect on protected species or their habitats.

Air: 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.

Noise: The proposed project required a Type I noise study, due to the proposed project altering the horizontal alignment of Dixie Highway/US 41/SR 3 and CR 381/Graysville Road. Type I noise projects are those projects determined by FHWA to need a full noise model analysis using the GDOT's Traffic Noise Model. The noise assessment determined that the proposed project would result in a 1.1 decibel increase in traffic generated noise by the design year 2040, and no properties would approach or exceed the noise abatement criteria.

Cultural Resources: In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the project has been surveyed for properties currently listed and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). For PI 0003948, three eligible historic resources and no archaeological resources were located within the project's area of potential effect (See the attached resource map). The proposed project would result in an adverse effect on the Dixie Highway, which was determined eligible for the NRHP in 2007, due to alignment shifts and the addition of a roundabout to the historic two lane typical section of the Dixie Highway. However, the proposed project would have no adverse effect on both the Brown House and Talbert's Barber Shop. The Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with these findings on June 1, 2017.

Due to its eligibility for the NRHP and the adverse effect on the resource, the proposed project falls under Section 4(f) of the 1966 U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Act, which refers to the temporary and/or permanent use and constructive use of land from a significant publicly owned park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or any significant historic site. To mitigate for the proposed impacts to the Highway, the existing Highway has been photographed with medium format photography per the standards previously agreed upon by GDOT, SHPO and FHWA, in the Permanent Archival Record manual. This mitigation measure was considered satisfied in a letter from the SHPO dated June 17, 2009.

Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name _____

Address _____

Do you support the project and the proposed detour as presented? (check your response)

- For
- Against
- Conditional
- Uncommitted

General Comments _____

How did you hear about this Open House? (check) Newspaper Signs GDOT Website Radio

Word of Mouth Social Media 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:
 Mr. Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator
 Georgia Department of Transportation
 600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor
 Atlanta, Georgia 30308

