



December 3, 2015

Thank you for attending the Public Information, Section 4(f) and Detour Open House for the proposed State Route 52 Alternate bridge replacement over Town Branch, PI Number 0007047. 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 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 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 Monday, December 14, 2015** by using any of the following methods:

- Online at [www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Public/PublicOutreach](http://www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Public/PublicOutreach).
  1. From the menu, select the county in which the proposed project is located and click *Go*;
  2. Then select *SR 52 Alt Bridge Replacement over Town Branch*;
  3. 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, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.
- Email your comment to: [ProjectComments@dot.ga.gov](mailto:ProjectComments@dot.ga.gov). This is a general mailbox so be sure to include the County, PI Number 0007047 and meeting date in the Subject line so that the email gets to the right project team.

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 GDOT District 6 Office at 500 Joe Frank Harris Pkwy, Cartersville, GA 30120 or at the Georgia DOT District 6 - Area Office 2 located at 1313 North Tibbs Road, Dalton, Georgia 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, Nicole Law, at 404-631-1723 or the environmental analyst, Elliott Robertson, at 404-631-1190 of the Office of Environmental Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hiral Patel / m".

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

**Why We Are Here:** The bridge (Structure ID 213-007-0) on Alternative State Route 52 over Town Branch in Murray County was built in 1935 and widened in 1970. The bridge was designed using an H-15 vehicle loading, which is below the current design standards. An H-15 loading is represented by a two-axle single unit truck weighing 30,000 pounds (15 tons) with 6,000 pounds on its steering axle and 24,000 pounds on its drive axle. While the overall condition of this bridge would be classified as fair, due to the structural integrity of the bridge, replacement has been recommended.

**Project Description:** The existing Alternate State Route 52 is a two lane rural road with six foot shoulders. This project proposes to replace the bridge on Alternate State Route 52 and widen the shoulders of the roadway within the project limits to 10 feet. The project begins just east of State Route 225 and extends 0.4 mile eastward ending just west of Treadwell Road. The existing right-of-way is 60 feet while the proposed right-of-way varies from approximately 60-130 feet. The existing bridge will be demolished and the new bridge built in its location. This type of construction will require the use of an offsite detour along SR 52 / US 76 (see attached map). An offsite detour is proposed due to the environmental impacts, as well as the higher construction duration and higher cost of other alternatives.

**What is a Section 4(f) Property?** Section 4(f)<sup>1</sup> protects the following basic types of properties: publicly owned park and recreation areas that are open to the general public, publicly owned wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and public or privately owned historic sites. The term historic sites includes prehistoric and historic districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects listed in, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places. This may also include places of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria.

Although the project is in the early planning stages, there are several identified/proposed historic resources within the proposed project study area that would qualify for Section 4(f) protection. Every effort will be made to avoid adversely impacting the following sites, Chief Vann House Historic Site, and Spring Place Historic District.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 4(f) refers to the original section within the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 which provided for consideration of park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites during transportation project development. The law, now codified in 49 U.S.C. §303 and 23 U.S.C. §138, applies only to the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) and is implemented by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration through the regulation [23 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 774](#).



### Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you support the project and the 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to:

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

Email to: [ProjectComments@dot.ga.gov](mailto:ProjectComments@dot.ga.gov)