



Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree NW
Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

September 24, 2019

Thank you for attending the Public Information Open House for the proposed widening of Lake Park Bellville Road from I 75 to State Route (SR) 7/US 41, PI Number 0013987. 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. 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. Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) 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 the GDOT 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 **Tuesday, October 8, 2019** by using any of the following methods:

- Online at <http://www.dot.ga.gov/AboutGDOT/PublicOutreach>.
 1. Scroll down to "Upcoming Public Meetings" or "Recently Held Public Meetings." Then select "View Info" for *Bellville Lake Park Rd Widening*;
 2. Lastly, click *Comment* at the top of the screen and follow the instructions to leave your comments.
- 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 GDOT Valdosta Area 1 Office located at 1411 Madison Hwy Valdosta, GA 31601. 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, Cherral Dempsey, at 404-631-1154 or the environmental analyst, Aaron Caldwell at 678-808-8940 representing the Office of Environmental Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Duff / SB".

Eric Duff
State Environmental Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation

Why We Are Here:

The Valdosta-Lowndes County MPO's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan recommended a project to improve the capacity on Lake Park Bellville Road from I-75 to State Route 7 (SR 7)/US 41, a major north-south 4 lane facility in the City of Lake Park. The corridor provides access to I-75; a 229-acre Lake Park Industrial Park with 3 industrial sites (Home Depot, Snap Rite Manufacturing, and YRC Freight); several commercial sites, and a large recreational complex. The current average annual daily traffic (AADT) along the corridor is 2,250 vehicles with a truck percentage of 41%. The corridor currently operates at a level of service (LOS) B which is favorable. However, by the year 2043, design level traffic indicates the AADT is anticipated to increase to approximately 4,650 vehicles and operate at an unacceptable LOS D.

Although the current traffic volumes are fairly low, the freight movement is relatively high. Freight movement is expected to increase since Lowndes County and the Development Authority have designated the project area as an economic investment area. According to Lowndes County's current comprehensive plan, the land parcels adjacent to the corridor are zoned for heavy commercial, residential agriculture, planned development, and light and heavy manufacturing. Since most of the land is currently undeveloped, there are opportunities for the existing industrial developments to expand and for future industrial developments.

Project Description:

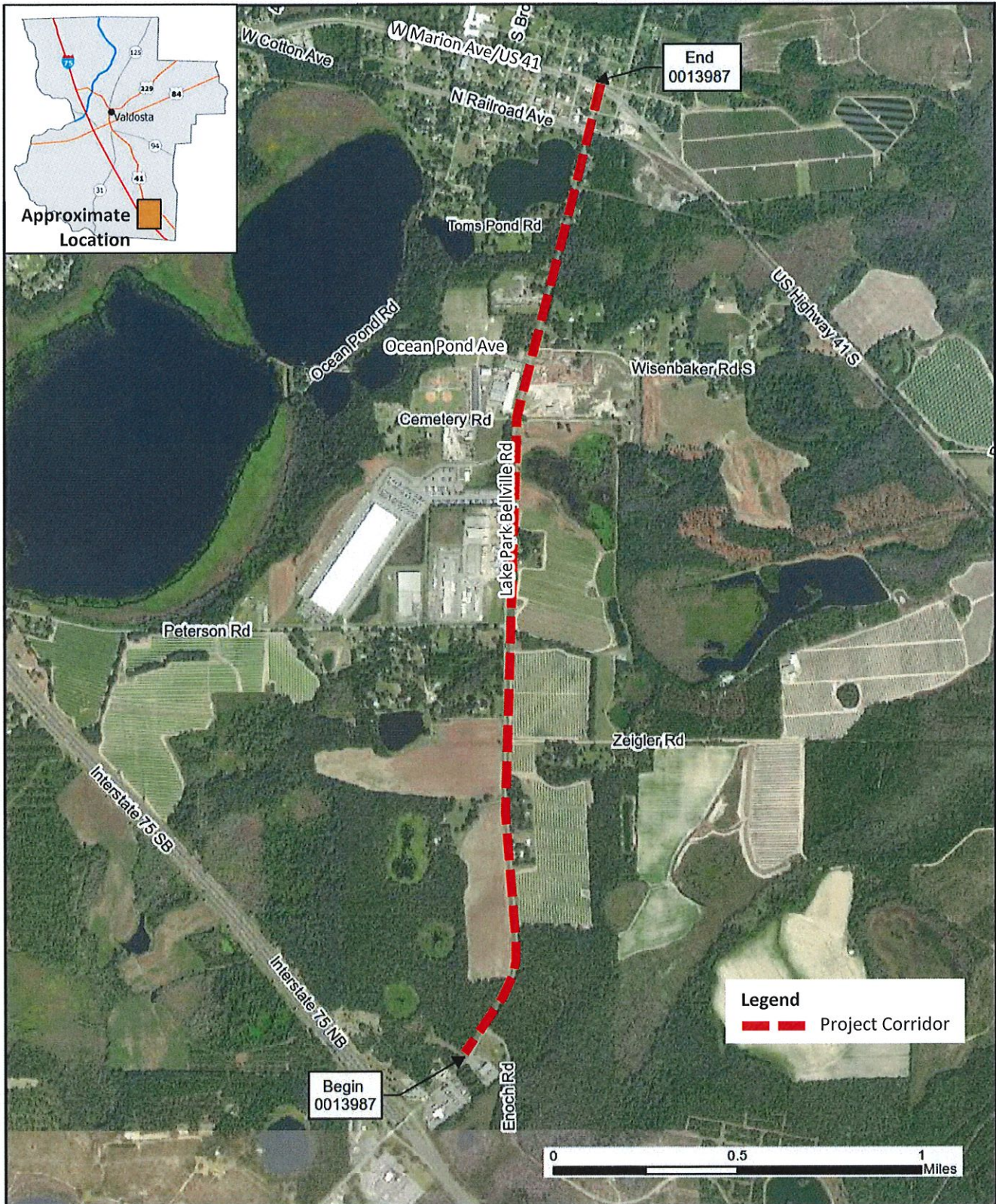
The proposal is a roadway widening project at Lake Park Bellville Road from north of the I-75 interchange to State Route (SR) 7/US 41 in Lake Park, Georgia. Lake Park Bellville Road is classified as a rural major collector road for the length of the project. The existing typical section consists of two 12-foot lanes with rural shoulders. All side roads within the project limits are stop controlled two lane rural roads. The only major intersection is at the northern end of the project where it ties into SR 7/US 41.

The project proposes to widen and reconstruct the existing two-lane road to a four-lane road with a 14-foot flush median and rural shoulders from the southern terminus to approximately Ocean Pond Avenue. It then transitions to a two-lane section with a flush median and urban shoulders. The center turn lane drops at Lane Drive until south of South Railroad Avenue where a left turn lane is added, and the two-way center turn lane continues through the remainder of the project. The section of the project inside of the City of Lake Park includes five-foot sidewalks. The length of the project is approximately 2.7 miles. The proposed right of way (ROW) varies. It is about 170 feet wide along the four-lane section. It is about 130 feet in the urban section running along the lake. The project will make operational improvements at the intersections throughout the proposed corridor and upgrade the existing at-grade railroad crossing.

Detour Description:

Construction of the proposed project will involve a temporary road closure to allow work along the railroad crossing at the north end of the project. Lake Park Bellville Road will be closed at the railroad crossing for **no more than seven days**. For travelers approaching Lake Park from the south, the proposed detour route redirects traffic south along Lake Park Bellville Road to the I-75 interchange. The detour continues north along I-75 to the Lakes Boulevard Exit (Exit 5). The detour takes a right on to Lakes Boulevard/SR 376 and then another right on to West Marion Ave/US 41/SR 7 and ends with a right on to Lake Park Bellville Road (South Main Street). Access to local streets, including South Railroad Avenue and South Essa Street, will not be affected by the road closure or the signed detour route. The total length of the detour is approximately 9 miles.

Project Location Map:



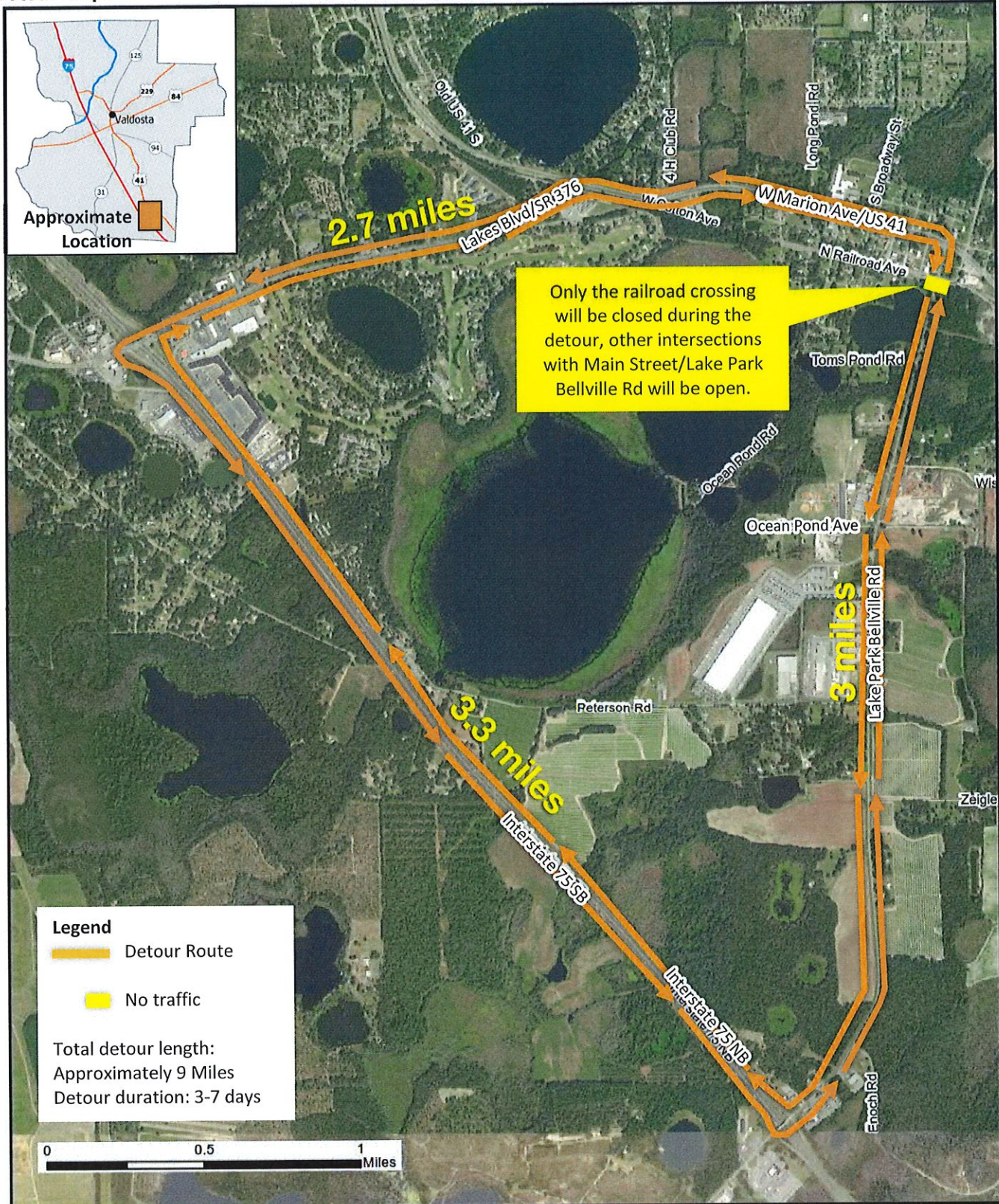
CR 274/CS 1078/Lake Park Bellville Road from SR 7 to I-75
GDOT P.I. No. 0013987
Lowndes County, Georgia



Date:
Sep. 2019

Project Location Map

Detour Map:



Only the railroad crossing will be closed during the detour, other intersections with Main Street/Lake Park Bellville Rd will be open.



CR 274/CS 1078/Lake Park Bellville Road from SR 7 to I-75
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Date:
 Sep. 2019

Detour Map

Source: ESRI USA Topo Maps

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:

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