

Vance C. Smith, Jr., Commissioner



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

One Georgia Center, 600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Telephone: (404) 631-1000

August 6, 2009

Thank you for attending the public hearing open house for Projects STP00-0002-00(392), BRST0-0054-01(063), & MSL00-0004-00(430); P.I. Nos. 0002392, 132985, & 0004430, that collectively are a project to widen SR 20 from Samples Road to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Forsyth and Gwinnett Counties, Georgia. In this handout package you will find a project description, location map, need and purpose statement, environmental summary, PM 2.5 advertisement and comment card.

As you enter the room, you will notice displays of the proposed project. The 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. Copies of the draft Environmental Assessment are available for review.

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 August 17, 2009. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., 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.ga.gov. Click on **Public Outreach** from the **Information Center** dropdown menu at the top right side of the page. 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, environmental assessment and plans will be available for review for ten days after the public hearing open house at the Gwinnett County DOT, Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30045; the Forsyth County Engineering Department, 110 East Main Street, Suite 120, Cumming, Georgia 30045; the Georgia DOT Lawrenceville Office, 145 Hurricane Shoals Road NW, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30045; and the Gainesville District Office, 2505 Athens Highway, Gainesville, Georgia 30507. A copy of all comments received and the Department's responses will be available for public review at these same locations and at the Office of Environment/Location, 3993 Aviation Circle, Atlanta, GA 30336-1593, as soon as their 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 Brad McManus at (404) 631-1630 or Philip P. Alimia at (404) 699-4448 of the Office of Environment/Location.

Sincerely,


Russell R. McMurry, P.E.
District Engineer

RM/PA/km

Attachments

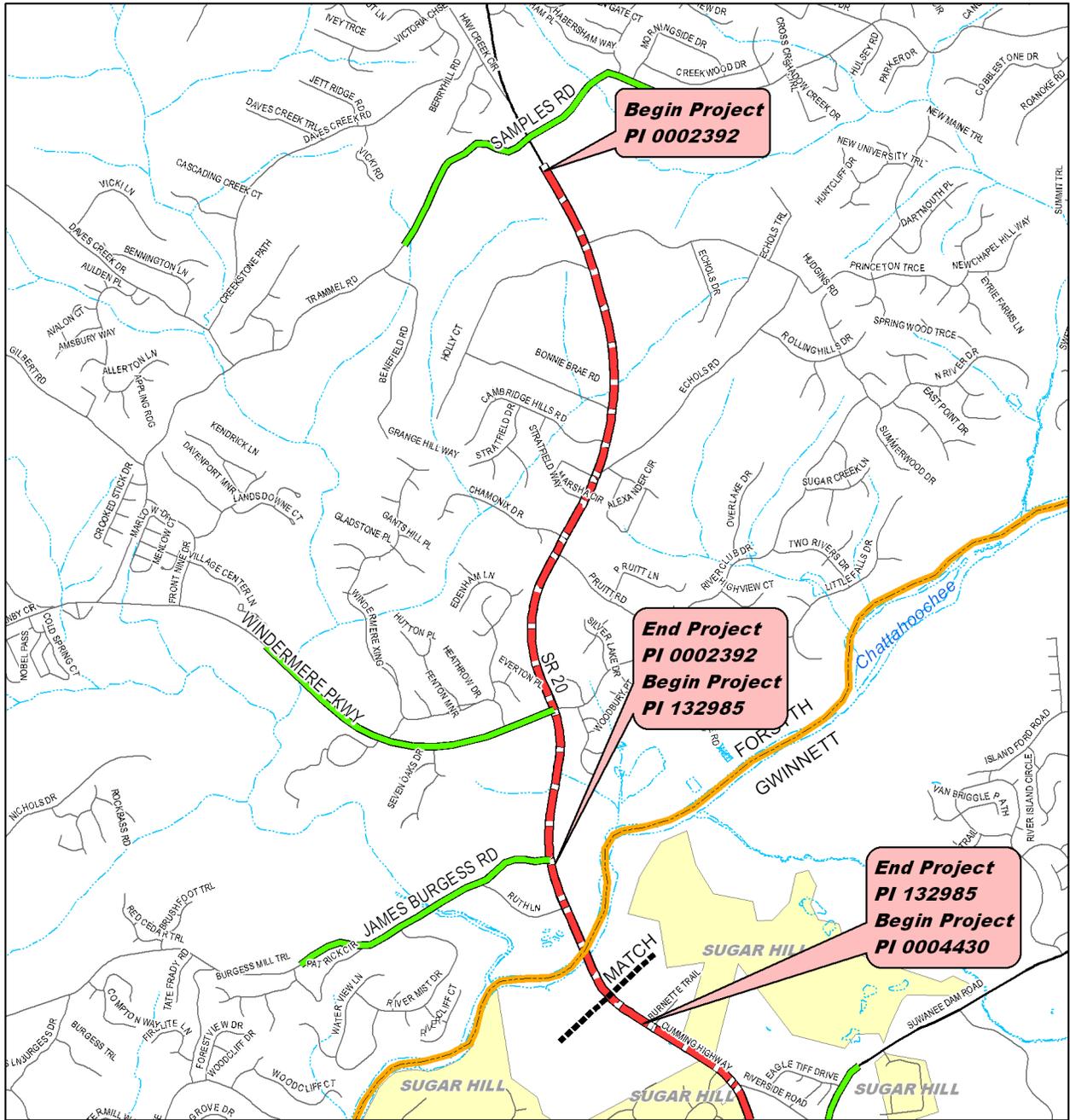
Project Description
Georgia Department of Transportation
Projects STP00-0002-00(392), BRST0-0054-01(063), and MSL00-0004-00(430)
P.I. Numbers: 0002392, 132985, & 0004430

The proposed project would widen SR 20, beginning from Samples Road in Forsyth County to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Gwinnett County. Beginning approximately 520 feet east of Samples Road to just north of Windermere Parkway, SR 20 would be widened from an existing three-lane rural section to a four-lane urban section with a 44-foot median. From Windermere Parkway to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, SR 20 would be widened from a two-lane rural section to a four-lane urban section with a 44-foot median. The proposed project's typical section for SR 20 consists of four 12-foot wide travel lanes (two in each direction) separated by a 44-foot, depressed, grassed median with 16-foot outside shoulders on both sides. The 16-foot shoulders would include a 2.5 foot wide curb and gutter section, a 6-foot grassed strip buffer between the curb and gutter and sidewalk, a 5-foot wide sidewalk and a 2.5-foot graded strip from the outside edge of the sidewalk to the proposed edge of right-of-way. The existing right-of-way varies from 80 feet to 150 feet, and the proposed right-of-way would vary between 140 feet and 165 feet.

The proposed typical section for the bridge section over the Chattahoochee River consists of two parallel bridge structures within 160 feet of right-of-way. Each bridge typical section would include 10-foot wide paved inside shoulder, two (2) 12-foot wide travel lanes, and 8-foot wide outside shoulders. Within the outside shoulders, there will be a 2-foot paved separation from the outside travel lane and 6-foot wide, raised concrete sidewalk.

The total length of the project would be approximately 7.03 miles.

Project Location Map (1 of 2)



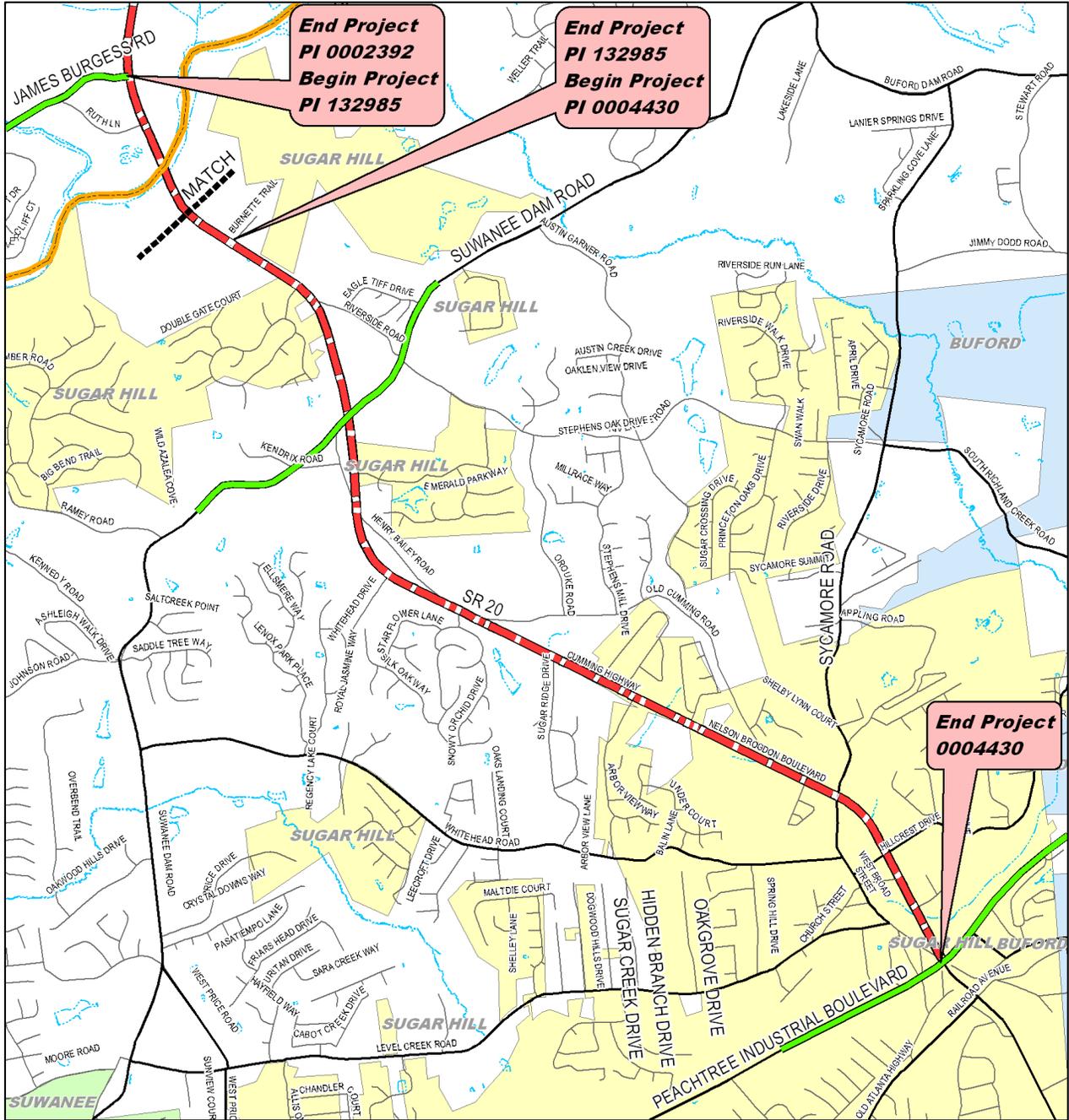
USGS TOPO QUADS SUWNEE & BUFORD DAM

SOURCE - FORSYTH AND GWINNETT COUNTY GIS DEPARTMENTS

7-22-09

	<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Boundary Project Alignment Major Existing Roadway Facilities <p>0 2,500 5,000 Feet</p>	<p>STP00-0002-00(392), BRST0-0054-01(063), & MSL00-0004-00(430) P.I. Numbers 0002392, 132985, & 0004430</p> <p>SR 20 - Samples Road to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard Forsyth & Gwinnett Counties</p> <p style="text-align: right;">N</p>
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Project Location Map (2 of 2)



USGS TOPO QUIADS SUWANE & BUFORD DAM

SOURCE - FORSYTH AND GWINNETT COUNTY GIS DEPARTMENTS

7.22.09

	<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Boundary Project Alignment Major Roadway Facilities <p>0 2,500 5,000 Feet</p>	<p>STP00-0002-00(392), BRST0-0054-01(063), & MSL00-0004-00(430) P.I. Numbers 0002392, 132985, & 0004430</p> <p>SR 20 - Samples Road to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard Forsyth & Gwinnett Counties</p>
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Project Need and Purpose
Georgia Department of Transportation
Projects STP00-0002-00(392), BRST0-0054-01(063), and MSL00-0004-00(430)
P.I. Numbers: 0002392, 132985, & 0004430

The purpose of the project is to improve east-west mobility along SR 20, which is classified as an urban principal arterial; and as of June 23, 2005, it has been designated by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as part of the National Highway System from Interstate 75 (I-75) near Cartersville in Bartow County to State Route 316 (SR 316) in Gwinnett County. With SR 20 currently experiencing high traffic volumes and high accident rates, the widening of this roadway would enhance traffic movement and improve vehicle and pedestrian safety on this important east-west arterial.

The widening and reconstruction of State Route 20 (SR 20) from Samples Road to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard is identified in the Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC's) Mobility 2030 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as a necessary project to provide transportation capacity, safety, and operational improvements as a result of rapid growth in the eastern portion of Forsyth County and the western portion of Gwinnett County in the State of Georgia. The overall limits of the project have been divided into three (3) distinct sections for roadway design purposes: (1) the section of SR 20 from 520 feet east of Samples Road to James Burgess Road in Forsyth County, (2) from James Burgess Road to 500 feet east of Burnette Trail including the bridge over the Chattahoochee River in both Forsyth and Gwinnett Counties, and (3) from 500 feet east of Burnette Trail to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Gwinnett County. For environmental planning purposes, all three units are evaluated as one project.

Deficiencies in the System

The current deficiencies in the system are traffic congestion and above average accident rates. The proposed project corridor will require capacity and operational improvements to accommodate the growth that is occurring along the SR 20 project corridor in Forsyth and Gwinnett Counties. Currently, severe traffic congestion and operational safety problems are occurring at intersections along the project corridor. With a posted speed of 45 mph, heavy peak hour traffic volumes conflict with multiple left and right turning movements into driveways, side streets, and cross streets, all creating extreme delays and unsafe traffic conditions. These conditions are exacerbated by insufficient left-turn storage at the few intersections that are signalized. Installation of traffic signals and the construction of additional turn lanes at intersections would help to improve safety and would provide traffic congestion relief at those locations. However, signalization of intersections alone would not improve safety for mid-block locations.

The population growth rates noted above demonstrate significant growth and development in these two counties and the ARC forecasts that this trend will continue. Intense residential and commercial development along the SR 20 corridor has driven a steady increase in traffic volumes over the past decade. With expected continued growth, the transportation infrastructure will need to continue to grow and expand in order to provide the mobility necessary to maintain a healthy economy and a safe and efficient roadway facility.

Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Hearing Open House Comment Card

Project STP00-0002-00(392), BRST0-0054-01(063), & MSL00-0004-00(430), Forsyth and Gwinnett Counties, P.I. Nos. 0002392, 132985, & 0004430

August 6, 2009

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 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:

Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental/Location Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, GA 30336-1593

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

STP00-0002-00(392), BRST0-0054-01(063). & MSL00-0004-00(430), PI Nos. 0002392,132985, & 0004430
 FORSYTH AND GWINNETT COUNTIES

In compliance with the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has conducted an assessment of the social, economic and environmental effects for the proposed Widening of SR 20 from Samples Road to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. The following information gives a summary of the draft Environmental Assessment (DEA).

☒	Approximately 30 residential units and 16 businesses would be displaced by the proposed project. The roadway would be placed closer to remaining residences, and loss of yard area will occur.
☒	The proposed project would result in the loss of both residential and business frontage as well as some business parking.

Owners would be compensated for these losses in accordance with the policies of the Uniform Relocation Act.

In accordance with Executive Order 11990, the proposed project was surveyed for wetland and stream involvement. No jurisdictional wetlands were identified. There are 15 jurisdictional streams within the project's area of potential effect (APE). It is estimated that zero acres of wetlands and 3,305 linear feet of streams would be impacted by the proposed project.

The following streams (the numbers correspond to the graphics in the DEA), S1, S2A, S3, S4, Ephemeral Channel 4A, Ephemeral Channel 4B, S5, S6, S6A, S7, S8, S9, S10, Ephemeral Channel 10A, and S11 would be impacted for a total of approximately 3,035 linear feet of permanent impact. A total of 13,357.6 stream credits would be withdrawn from an USACE approved mitigation bank to compensate for the perennial and intermittent stream impacts. There would be no impact to wetlands; however, a total of 0.15 wetland credits would be withdrawn from an United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) approved mitigation bank to compensate for the ephemeral channel and river impacts.

In accordance with Executive Order 11988, the proposed project was surveyed for floodplain involvement. Construction of this project would require encroachment into the regulatory floodway for the Chattahoochee River. The project would be designed in such a way that it would have no significant adverse impact on this floodplain and would result in no more than a 1-foot rise in the 100-year flood elevation over the natural valley (i.e. no bridge) condition of the river. An USACE Section 404 permit would be required for this project and a No-Rise Certification would be required.

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. It is also included in the Atlanta Regional Commission's adopted 2030 Regional Transportation Plan.

The construction of this project would result in a decrease of 3.1 to an increase of 7.8 decibels in traffic generated noise by the design year 2034, and 65 houses and 16 businesses would approach or exceed the noise abatement criteria. No feasible noise abatement measures were identified for the 65 houses and 16 businesses.

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. One historic property is located along the project corridor: the Mauldin House. Only a small temporary construction easement would be needed for the Mauldin House property. The State Historic Preservation Office concurred that there would be no adverse effect to this property.

There is one (1) park located within the area of potential effect for this project: the Bowmans Island Park Unit associated with Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA). A minor amount of land, 1.56 acres (0.14 of an acre of permanent easement, 1.15 acres of temporary easement and 0.27 of an acre of right-

of-way), consisting of a triangular shape at the southeast corner of the property would be used to implement the project. In addition, new bridge piers would be built within the Chattahoochee River, replacing the piers supporting the existing bridge.

Section 4(f) refers to the temporary and/or permanent use and constructive use of publically owned land, specifically significant recreational land, parkland and wildlife/waterfowl refuges, and significant historic sites. One (1) National Register eligible historic resource, the Mauldin House and one (1) park, the Bowmans Island Park Unit associated with the CRNRA were located within the project limits. The Mauldin House would incur no adverse effect. The Bowmans Unit of the CRNRA required a full 4(f) Evaluation. Mitigation will be provided for the use of land from the Bowmans Unit of the CRNRA. Mitigation could consist of a parking lot to be constructed at one of the two sites shown on the layouts; however, research has revealed possible problems with either location that could delay construction of the proposed project. Therefore, the Department is exploring other alternatives for mitigation, including but not limited to other parking sites, replacement land or possible payment for the use of park property. Formal comments from the National Park Service have not yet been received and coordination with the National Park Service is not complete at this time.

A vegetative plan will be designed and implemented. Stormwater management will be designed and improved. A biological survey, a vegetation survey, and an archaeological and historic resource survey would or have been conducted. A three year post-construction water quality monitoring plan will be implemented.

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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. The eleven potential sites that were identified have been investigated. Seven were found to be contaminated. Three have had their USTs removed. Additional research would be completed prior to construction to determine if the USTs are within right-of-way. If research finds contaminants are present, applicable laws and regulations concerning the removal of toxic or hazardous material will be coordinated with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

Copies of the environmental document are available at this hearing for your review or by sending your request to:

Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E.
State Environmental/Location Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, Georgia 30336-1593

Copies can also be reviewed at the following locations:

- Gwinnett County DOT, Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30045
- Forsyth County Engineering Department, 110 East Main Street, Suite 120, Cumming, Georgia 30040
- Georgia DOT Lawrenceville Area Office, 145 Hurricane Shoals Road NW, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30045
- Sugar Hill City Hall, 4988 West Broad Street, Sugar Hill, Georgia 30518
- Georgia DOT Gainesville District Office, 2505 Athens Highway, Gainesville, Georgia 30507

Georgia Department of Transportation to Seek Public Comment Concerning PM2.5 Air Quality for the proposed widening of SR 20 from Samples Road to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, STP00-0002-00(392), BRST0-0054-01(063), and MSL00-0004-00(430), PI #s 0002392, 132985, & 0004430 Located in Forsyth and Gwinnett Counties

The Clean Air Act section 176 (c) requires that Federal transportation projects are consistent with state air quality goals, found in the State Implementation Plan (SIP). The process to ensure this consistency is called Transportation Conformity. Conformity to the SIP means that transportation activities will not cause new violations of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS), worsen existing violations of the standards, or delay timely attainment of the relevant standard.

Transportation conformity is required for Federal transportation projects in areas that have been designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as not meeting the NAAQS. These areas are called nonattainment areas if they currently do not meet air quality standards or maintenance areas if they have previously violated air quality standards but currently meet them and have an approved maintenance plan. On January 5, 2005, The US EPA designated a 20+ county metro Atlanta nonattainment area (including Bartow County) for fine particulate matter, called PM 2.5. This designation became effective on April 5, 2005, 90 days after EPA's 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. 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.

The project is in the Atlanta Regional Commissions (ARC) conforming Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) identified as TIP numbers **FT-061D, GW-02A2 and GW-020A1**.

This announcement is to comply with the fine particulate (PM2.5) hotspot consideration requirements for the proposed widening of SR 20 from Samples Road to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, STP00-0002-00(392), BRST0-0054-01(063) and MSL00-0004-00(430), P.I. #0002392, 132985, and 0004430 located in Gwinnett and Forsyth Counties, Georgia. The proposed project would widen and reconstruct SR 20 from a 2-lane rural section to a 4-lane, divided urban section separated by a 44-foot depressed, grassed median from Samples Road in Forsyth County to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Gwinnett County. The total length of the proposed project is 7.03 miles.

The Federal Highway Administration and Georgia Department of Transportation have reviewed PM2.5 Hot-Spot Analysis requirements; and determined the **SR 20 Widening from Samples Road to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard** project *is not* considered "a Project of Air Quality Concern" per the Transportation Conformity rule, and as such meets the statutory and regulatory requirements for transportation conformity without a PM2.5 hotspot analysis. Further, it has been determined that this project is in compliance with the Clean Air Act and 40 CFR 93.116 requirements.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is requesting that any member of the public may comment for a period of 15 days after which this advertisement first appears.

Written comments may be submitted to:

Mr. Glenn S. Bowman, P.E.
State Environment/Location Engineer
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, Georgia 30336-1593

Right of Way Acquisition

In the event your property is required in total or in part, a certified appraiser from the Department of Transportation's appraiser prequalification list will make a fair market value appraisal of the area to be required, including any damages to the remainder land, if applicable. The appraisal will also include values for improvements required or damages that may be applicable.

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.

The proposed project will physically impact thirty residential structures and sixteen commercial structures. Of the sixteen commercial structures, one is vacant and one would take the gas pumps but the structures could remain. Of the thirty residential structures, two are vacant. The owners of these homes would receive the appraised fair-market value for their properties.

The responsible entities in charge of acquiring the necessary right-of-way for this project are as follows:

PI 0002392, Samples Road to James Burgess Road, GDOT will acquire.

PI 132985, James Burgess Road to Burnette Trail, Gwinnett County will acquire.

PI 0004430, Burnette Trail to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Gwinnett County will acquire.