



For Immediate Release:
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Public Encouraged to Attend Meeting

GEORGIA DOT WANTS YOUR TWO CENTS IN THE VILLA RICA BYPASS IN CARROLL COUNTY

CARROLLTON, Ga. - A public hearing open house to discuss the Georgia DOT proposed project to construct the Villa Rica Bypass is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2015 from 5 until 8 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Gymnasium at Gold Dust Park, located at 646 Industrial Boulevard in Villa Rica, Georgia.

Carroll County's residents interested in learning more about the proposed project are encouraged to attend the meeting and express their thoughts and preferences.

"We would like to hear the viewpoints and concerns of all area residents," says DeWayne Comer, district engineer at the Georgia DOT office in Cartersville. "The Georgia DOT strongly believes that since this project is intended to serve the people of Carroll County, the ideas and preferences of these people are important and can make a difference in our planning process," Comer explains. "This meeting will provide the public with an opportunity to review the proposed project, ask questions, and express their preferences as well as their concerns."

The proposed plans call for the construction of the Villa Rica Bypass in two segments. The first segment can be described as the northern portion of the bypass and will begin 2500 feet south of the intersection of Industrial Boulevard and Rockmart Road and proceed along State Route (SR) 101. This portion will cross the intersection and proceed on new location east crossing McCurdy Road, then Herrell Road and ending at SR 61. The length of this portion of the Villa Rica Bypass is 1.92 miles. The proposed typical section will consist of two 12 foot lanes with 10 foot shoulders and roadside ditches.

The second segment of the Villa Rica Bypass will begin on SR 61 at a point 700 feet east of the intersection of SR 61 and Pumpkintown Road. This location is also the terminal point of the northern segment of the Villa Rica Bypass. This eastern segment will widen SR 61 from the intersection of Pumpkintown Road and Old Stone Road to the Douglas County Line. The proposed typical section will consist of two 12 lanes with 10 foot rural shoulders. The two lane road will have 300 feet of right of way for future widening. The total combined project length is approximately 3.03 miles.

The Villa Rica area has been experiencing increased development pressures. As a result of growth, there is an urgent need to improve access for commuters to I-20. Currently, vehicles traveling southbound on SR 61 towards I-20 must navigate through the city of Villa Rica making several 90° turns within a short distance, and crossing the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks. SR 61 currently carries 11,000 vehicles per day (VPD), with 9% heavy vehicles. This heavy traffic on SR 61 is projected to increase to 19,000 VPD by 2035. The traffic volumes for the proposed Villa Rica Bypass are 5,600 VPD in 2015 and 10,000 in 2035. Without the bypass, these volumes would be added to the volumes on SR 61 navigating through the city of Villa Rica.

The Open House will be informal and the public is invited to attend anytime between 5 and 8 p.m. The meeting site is accessible to persons with disabilities. Accommodations for people with disabilities can be arranged with advance notice by calling Cherie Marsh at (678) 721-5257.

PRESS RELEASE

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Written statements will be accepted concerning this project until Tuesday, November 24, 2015. Written statements may be submitted to:

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

Copies of the project's environmental document will be available for review at the Open House and are available to the public at any time by sending a request to the address listed above.

The environmental document will also be available for review 15 days before the date of the Open House at the Georgia Department of Transportation Area Three Office, located at 4323 US Highway 27, Buchanan, Georgia 30113, and at the Villa Rica City Hall, located at 571 W. Bankhead Hwy, Villa Rica, Georgia 30180.

DriveAlert ArriveAlive calls attention to an alarming increase in roadway fatalities across Georgia, many resulting from preventable crashes and distracted driving. ***DriveAlert ArriveAlive*** implores motorists to buckle up; stay off the phone and no texting; and drive alert. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA. #ArriveAliveGA For information on the Department of Transportation, visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov>. You also may follow us on (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT-Northwest) and *Twitter* (<https://twitter.com/GDOTNW>).

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