



Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner
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June 3, 2020

In keeping with Governor Brian Kemp's directive to keep state government agencies functioning as Georgia combats the COVID-19 pandemic, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is moving forward by placing project information and coordination into a web-based platform so that there will be no need for direct face-to-face contact. We appreciate your participation in this process.

This Environmental Justice (EJ) virtual outreach is conducted to ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected EJ communities in the transportation decision-making process, and to avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on these communities.

In this handout, you will find (1) a description of the transportation issue we are attempting to solve, (2) a proposed solution for the issue, (3) the location map of the project, and (4) a comment card for you to provide additional feedback for the project team.

Your feedback is very important to us. Please provide your feedback by **Friday, July 10, 2020**, using any of the following methods:

- Fill out and mail the comment card included in this handout to Mr. Eric Duff at GDOT, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30308.
- Fill out the form at <http://www.dot.ga.gov/AboutGDOT/PublicOutreach>.
 - On the webpage go to "Upcoming Public Meetings" or "Recently Held Public Meetings."
 - Select "View Info" for US 84 Connector.
 - Once on the project page click on the links and comment.

The project displays and plans will also be available for review on the above website from **Wednesday, June 10, 2020, to Friday, July 10, 2020**, for thirty days. All feedbacks will become part of the project's official records and will be responded to by **Monday, August 10, 2020**.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact the project manager, Brent Blocker, at (912) 318-3138 (cblocker@got.ga.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eric Duff' followed by a stylized initial 'RP'.

Eric Duff
State Environmental Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation

What is the issue we are seeking to address within your community?

GDOT is seeking feedback about a proposed US 84 connector, which would (1) improve regional travel through Liberty County and (2) accommodate local traffic in Hinesville. A traffic study completed in 2010 identified the need to shift regional traffic away from the section of US 84/State Route (SR) 38 that travels through the center of Hinesville. According to the travel demand model, approximately 35% of the traffic on US 84/SR 38 in Hinesville is regional traffic. Commercial development and a large number of driveways in Hinesville (1) diminish the roadway's functionality as a regional thoroughfare, and (2) increases congestion within the City.

The purpose of this EJ virtual outreach is to ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected EJ communities in the transportation decision-making process, and to avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on these communities.

Without this Project (No Build):

- The lack of turn lanes would not be corrected.
- Congestion on existing SR 119 or safety improvement for local traffic would not be addressed.
- No capacity improvements would be made on SR 119 at local intersections to alleviate choke points as traffic on SR 119 would continue to grow, nor would there be any relief for delay caused by the CSX railroad at-grade crossing.
- A more efficient route for thru traffic would not be provided.
- Traffic congestion would continue to bring adverse impacts to the quality of life in Walthourville, and truck traffic delay would continue to impose costs on the regional economy.

Proposed solution: (Also See Project Location Map attached)

To reduce crashes and improve traffic flow, GDOT proposes to construct the US 84 Connector, a two-lane new location roadway, in southern Liberty County, partially inside the city limits of Walthourville. The project would begin at US 84/Oglethorpe Highway approximately 0.5 miles southwest of SR 119/Talmadge Road and end at SR 119/Talmadge Road just east of Tibet Highway. The project would be designated as Freight 119 and carry the SR 119 designation, offering a stop-free roadway for thru truck traffic. This improves safety and traffic operations on the existing SR 119/Talmadge Road by removing thru truck traffic.

Benefits of Project Implementation:

- **Reassign commercial truck traffic** to the 84 Connector. (Projected – up to 43% total traffic diverted to Connector).
- **Relieve congestion** on existing Talmadge Road (existing SR 119) for local traffic/neighborhoods.
- **Improve safety** for local traffic while providing an efficient alternative for local and thru traffic
- Provide a more efficient east-west route with turn-lanes and wide shoulders.
- **Improve accessibility** to jobs and public transportation while incorporating socioeconomic and environmental justice factors into the design process.

How Can You Assist?

Please provide feedback about our proposed solution as well as information about any resources important to you or your community. Are there events that future construction may affect once it begins?

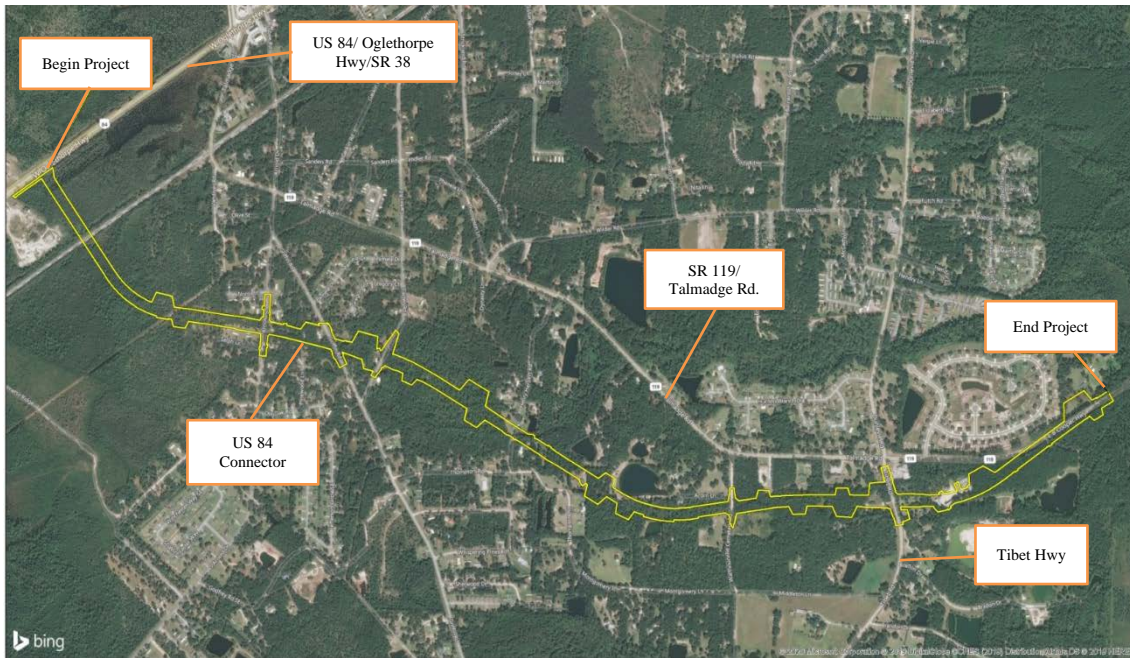
Where is this project in the process?

This project is currently in the Preliminary Engineering phase. Preliminary engineering is the location, design, and related work preparatory to the advancement of a project to physical construction.

What are the Next Steps?

After the public involvement is held, feedbacks will be assessed, revisions may occur to the proposed plan initially brought to the public, or the no-build alternative will be selected. If major changes occur to what was previously shown to the community, additional public outreach would occur. If no major changes are proposed, the project would advance to right-of-way acquisition and into a final design. After all right-of-way acquisition occurs, project design is finalized, and the project would advance to construction.

Project Location Map



Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name _____

Address _____

Do you support the project? (check your response)

- For** **Against** **Conditional (I would support this project if... describe below)**
- Uncommitted**

Comments: _____

Help GDOT Improve Future Public Involvements:

Do you understand the project? Yes No (If answer is no please provide a suggestion/comment)

Were Materials understandable? Yes No (If answer is no please provide a suggestion/comment)

Please share your suggestions on improving the ways GDOT conducts or advertises Public Involvements:

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