

# SR 316 Planning Study

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

### What are the known concerns with State Route (SR) 316?

SR 316 is a major east-west transportation artery that experiences high crash rates and congestion.

### What is the purpose of the study?

The study is examining SR 316 holistically to identify, analyze, and put forward recommended potential improvements that best benefit mobility and safety.

### What are study limits?

The study spans 40 miles, from Interstate 85 (I-85) in Gwinnett County to SR 10 in Oconee County.

### When did the study begin? When is it expected to be completed?

The study began in mid-2022. Study recommendations are expected to be finalized in the summer of 2024, and the study will be completed in the fall of 2024.

### What are the components of the study?

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is completing a comprehensive Origin-Destination (O-D) analysis; analyzing existing and future traffic growth and land use data; conducting stakeholder and public outreach activities; and evaluating alternatives and providing recommendations for improvements.

### Isn't GDOT already making improvements on SR 316?

In addition to the SR 316 Planning Study, GDOT is currently completing a series of reconstruction projects that will upgrade sections of SR 316 in Gwinnett, Barrow, and Oconee counties into more of a free-flow facility. These improvements aim to reduce the severity and frequency of crashes, reduce congestion and improve mobility, and accommodate growth and economic development. For more information about the individual SR 316 reconstruction projects, visit <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>

### How does the study relate to these existing and future projects along SR 316?

The purpose of the study is **not** to duplicate the efforts of the SR 316 reconstruction projects; rather, the study is focusing on **additional** improvement needs along SR 316.

### Would the study undo work underway or completed along SR 316?

No, the study is not intended to undo existing work along SR 316. The study is meant to identify **additional** needs for SR 316 beyond those included in the SR 316 reconstruction projects.

### What are some initial insights from the study's analysis?

- **Growth and development:** Over the next several decades, 17 developments of regional impact will add 29 million square feet of development to the corridor, creating more traffic congestion.
- **Travel delay:** If no additional improvements are made beyond the programmed SR 316 reconstruction projects, commuters by 2030 will face an average delay of **6 minutes** in traveling one to two intersections during the late-afternoon (PM) peak period. By 2050, the average delay during the PM peak period will be **8 minutes**.
- **Crash rate:** Approximately **65%** of the SR 316 corridor – specifically near I-85, Winder, Statham, and SR 10 – has a higher crash rate than the Average Statewide Crash Rate.
- **Crash types:** Approximately **62%** of the crashes along the corridor are rear-end crashes that correlate to high congestion.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://bit.ly/sr316planningstudy>

[@ sr316project@dot.ga.gov](mailto:sr316project@dot.ga.gov) (678) 597-9850 (English); 678-812-0246 (Spanish)



### What are the types of improvements under consideration?

- **Interchange:** SR 316 traverses over or under the side road with entrance and exit ramps providing access to and from the side road.
- **Grade Separation:** The side road is bridged over SR 316, with SR 316 maintaining its existing elevation. Access between SR 316 and the side road is closed and is accessible via alternative routes.
- **Right-In, Right-Out:** Access between SR 316 and the side road is achieved via entrance and exit ramps. The side road terminates at SR 316.
- **Traffic Reroute/Cul-De-Sac:** Access between SR 316 and the side road is closed. The side road terminates at SR 316. The side road will be accessed via alternative routes.

### Who are the study's key stakeholders?

GDOT identified nearly 400 stakeholders who represent or have a vested interest in the SR 316 corridor. These stakeholders include local elected and appointed officials, state legislators, school leaders, regional agency representatives, and emergency services personnel.

### How did GDOT inform these stakeholders about the study? Did GDOT meet with any of these stakeholders?

GDOT emailed information about and ways to participate in the study to stakeholders in early 2023. Also in early 2023, GDOT held a series of meetings, virtual and in-person, with a cross-section of stakeholders within the following groups:

- Elected and appointed leaders in Gwinnett, Barrow, and Oconee counties
- Elected and appointed leaders in the cities of Lawrenceville, Auburn, Dacula, Winder, Bethlehem, Carl, Statham, and Bogart
- Business organizations, including chambers of commerce and community improvement districts (CIDs) within the study corridor
- Homeowners associations (HOAs) as well as a select group of commuters, residents, and members of disadvantaged groups within the study corridor

### Has the public had an opportunity to learn more about and provide initial feedback on the study?

Yes. GDOT hosted a series of meetings at the following dates, locations, and times to provide information about and collect initial feedback on the study:

- **Gwinnett County:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023, from 4 pm-6 pm at Dacula Park Activity Building
- **Oconee County:** Thursday, May 25, 2023, from 4 pm-6 pm at City of Bogart Community Center
- **Barrow County:** Tuesday, June 6, 2023, from 4 pm-6 pm at City of Winder Public Library

### What were the general themes of the feedback received at the study's meetings?

Most of the feedback received concerned individual SR 316 reconstruction projects. The SR 316 Planning Study Team documented the feedback (**a summary of themes is shown below**), and the team will relay any feedback specific to the SR 316 reconstruction projects to the appropriate project manager. You can also visit <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/> to learn more about specific projects.

- **Safety (e.g., left turns onto SR 316)**
- **Accessibility to businesses**
- **Managed lanes (e.g., HOV, express)**
- **Traffic congestion**
- **Access for emergency vehicles**
- **Roundabouts**
- **Property acquisition schedule**
- **Noise walls**
- **Construction duration**
- **Alternative commute options (e.g., transit)**

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### What other ways can stakeholders and the public provide feedback about the study?

- Email comments to [sr316project@dot.ga.gov](mailto:sr316project@dot.ga.gov)
- Call **678-597-9850** (English) or **678-812-0246** (Spanish) to leave a voicemail
- Submit written comments to the following address:  
SR 316 Planning Feedback  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
Office of Planning, 5th Floor  
600 West Peachtree Street NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308


### Will there be additional opportunities to provide feedback as the study progresses?

Yes. GDOT will conduct additional stakeholder and public engagement activities and release a second survey in 2024. In addition, interested parties can provide feedback throughout the study's duration by contacting us via email, mail, or voicemail. For details, visit <https://bit.ly/sr316planningstudy>

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