



Dixie Highway Context Study Fact Sheet

General Facts

- The Dixie Highway is an historic tourist highway that was first planned in 1914 to connect the Midwest and Southeastern states, and which was a part of the National Auto Trail systems of highway.
- Within Georgia, the highway begins at the Tennessee state line and extends intrastate to the Florida state line, generally following the alignment of SR 3/US 41. Due to campaigning by various towns and cities in Georgia, secondary branches of the highway were also promoted as a part of the Dixie Highway.
- The Dixie Highway Context Study was initiated by Georgia Department of Transportation as a way to provide a methodology and process for handling this linear resource for future GDOT projects.
 - In 2012, it was documented that GDOT had over 150 programmed projects along the main branch of the Dixie Highway.
 - This number of projects has likely increased due to the identification of additional routes (as a result of the context study's research efforts) of the Dixie Highway across Georgia.
- Although the significance of the Dixie Highway is generally agreed upon between Georgia DOT and the Georgia Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), past projects were required each time to have an independent evaluation of National Register (NR) eligibility within the specific area of potential effects (APE) in order to determine whether the segment contributes to the overall eligibility of the highway.
 - If a segment was considered contributing, GDOT also completed Section 106 mitigation efforts, as well as 4(f) analysis, for each project.
 - The Dixie Highway in Georgia includes the development of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) that will help streamline Section 106 clearance on future projects along the historic highway.
- There are three main objectives to the Dixie Highway Context Study:
 - 1) Provide a developmental history of the Dixie Highway, which includes mapping each alignment using GIS. This will enable GDOT to easily identify the location of a project near the historic highway.
 - 2) Establish the criteria for evaluation of NR eligibility of the Dixie Highway, as well as identify the contributing and noncontributing sections. The NR criteria for evaluation could then be applied to other important historic highways in Georgia.
 - 3) The final objective is to provide public outreach initiatives, to share the history of the Dixie Highway with the public, agencies and interested parties to enhance the understanding of the Dixie Highway as it relates to the history of Georgia, as well as to the communities and towns that helped influence its route.
- The "Down the Dixie Highway" one hour documentary is a public outreach initiative created through a partnership between Georgia Public Broadcasting and New South Associates (the consultant for the context study).
 - The documentary was showcased at the *Preserving the Historic Road* conference, held September 2014 in Savannah, Georgia.
 - It is available for viewing via the "The Dixie Highway in Georgia" Facebook page (another public outreach initiative). Visit <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Dixie-Highway-in-Georgia/350040005075562>.
 - GDOT has received positive reviews for the documentary and has seen increased interest in the context study in general.
- --Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) will air "Down the Dixie Highway" on April 7 at 8 pm.