

# Georgia Department of Transportation



Dear Friends:

On Monday, January 22, 2018, Pastor Marlin Harris graciously hosted the third Town Hall meeting at New Life Baptist Church and Community Center to discuss the I-285 at Flat Shoals Interchange Reconstruction Project.

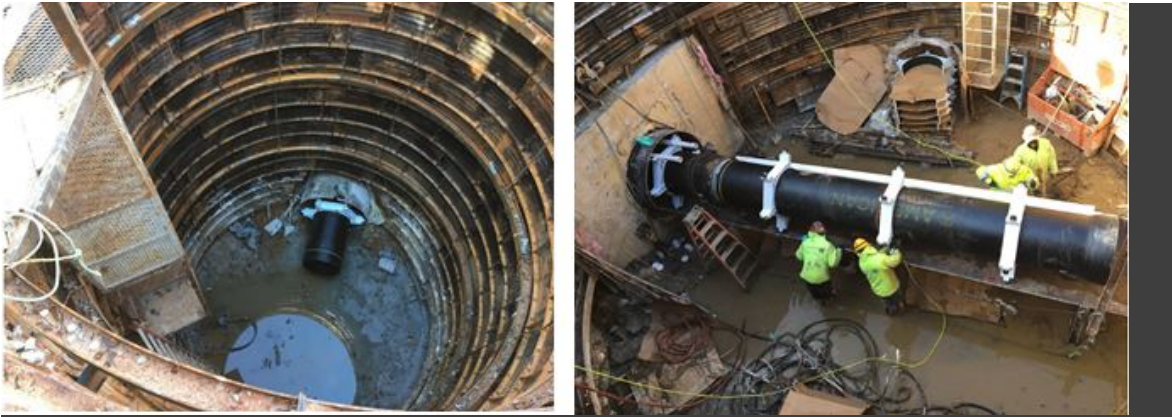
Senator Emanuel Jones and DeKalb Commissioner Larry Johnson joined GDOT State Transportation Board member Stacey Key and GDOT staff to present progress on the project and to answer questions and discuss concerns with approximately 30 residents and businesses in attendance.

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The third Town Hall meeting began with GDOT Metro District Engineer Kathy Zahul and Metro District Construction Manager Shun Pringle presenting the project updates that have occurred over the past four months:

- The project is now 75% complete! At the last Town Hall, we committed to work with the contractor to accelerate the work as much as possible, within industry and safety standards, and we are making great progress.
  - Most of the significant progress was made on the waterline; the micro-milling through dense rock was a tedious but necessary process. By early February, work crews should be able to continue installation of the replacement 30-inch water main.
  - The old bridge has been completely removed and work has begun on the new superstructure.
  - Three of the on-and off-ramps are now complete, including guardrail installation. The ramp from I-285 westbound to Flat Shoals is now paved and will soon get PCC/concrete paving.
  - Additional reinforced walls have been installed, and weather permitting, more walls will be erected over the next two weeks.
  - Pedestrian safety continues to be addressed: a portion of the Flat Shoals median with its pedestrian “refuge area” is complete; and additional signal equipment, signage and pavement markings will also provide improved pedestrian safety in the project area.
  - Paving has been going on throughout the project area and is complete on Flat Shoals southbound.
  - We still anticipate project completion in February 2019, but barring any unforeseen circumstances, we fully expect to be open to traffic in December 2018.
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30 Inch Water Main Installed and seen from the East end of the Interstate (Left)  
30 Inch Water Main Installed and seen from the West End of the Interstate (Right)

During the Q&A part of the meeting, the following issues were discussed:

- General acknowledgement that work crews had improved the appearance of the project area with more regular clean-ups of debris; however, attendees called attention to specific areas that still needed removal of debris and rocks as well as mowing. GDOT staff agreed to bring this to the attention of the contractor, and we would monitor more closely.
- After discussion about mowing and other enhancements in the project area, including decorative enhancements for the new bridge, Commissioner Johnson stated that the area Community Improvement District (CID) might assist with these efforts.
- At the last meeting, we were asked to consider additional lighting of the project area at night. Generally, this lighting is one of the final items on construction projects, but in response to this community's concerns, GDOT expedited ordering and installing the high-mast lighting. They should be fully operational within the next several weeks, following a 30-day test period.
- There were concerns about a new traffic signal installed at Flat Shoals; after review of the location of the signal, GDOT agreed to adjust the location of the signal and the striped stop bar to increase visibility of the cross traffic.
- There was discussion on when asphalt paving would be complete and the location of potholes in the area. GDOT staff explained that final paving operations would tie-in to existing paving work when temperatures were conducive (April-October), but agreed to get the contractor to address the larger potholes in the area in the meantime.
- In response to questions about the unfinished sound barrier wall at I-285 southbound, GDOT staff explained that the owner of the hotel at that site expressed concerns about the wall height. As a result, GDOT agreed to review and redo the federally-mandated noise studies, revised the wall design and secure the new wall design materials. As soon

as the new materials arrive, work on this sound barrier wall will continue.

- In follow-up to questions from the last Town Hall, there was short discussion about the disposition of an abandoned property in the project area, the legal limits of the state's right-of-way acquisition process, and coordination efforts with the county and the property owner.
- Additional questions were raised about locations where water run-off has been spotted, and where new and/or improved signage would enhance visibility (I-285 exit sign) and mobility (as residents exit the Westbury Apartments). GDOT staff agreed to review these location and made improvements as needed.



Thank you again for your patience during this construction and related traffic impacts, and remind you that the area is a work zone 24/7, and extreme caution when driving through the area is required. We thank all who attended this Town Hall and look forward to reporting additional progress at the next meeting in April 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., and to completing this \$33 million mega-project for DeKalb County and the metro area.

Best regards,

Tori Brown  
Metro Atlanta District Communications Officer  
Georgia DOT

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