

Georgia Department of Transportation



Dear Friends:

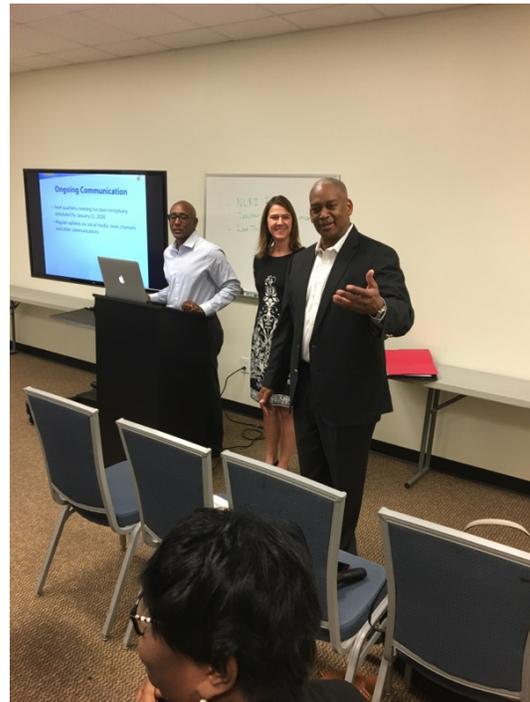
The second Flat Shoals at I-285 Bridge Reconstruction Project community meeting was held on Monday, October 3, 2017 at New Life Church and Community Center, hosted by Pastor Marlin Harris. Approximately 30 residents, businesses owners and other interested individuals attended the meeting to hear updates about the project, to ask questions and voice comments.

Georgia State Senator Emanuel Jones and DeKalb County Commissioner Larry Johnson were in attendance and prefaced the presentation by GDOT staff members by acknowledging that much progress had been made since the first Town Hall in June. Both Sen. Jones and Commissioner Johnson echoed attendees' consensus that the appearance of the project area had improved, and that GDOT had addressed their pedestrian safety and access concerns by adding sidewalks, crosswalks, signage and pavement markings to assist pedestrians.



GDOT Board member Stacey Key then made opening remarks. Kathy Zahul, metro Atlanta district engineer and Shun Pringle, metro Atlanta construction manager, presented a project update and look-ahead. Since the June Town Hall:

- Traffic switched onto the entrance ramp from Flat Shoals Road to I-285 eastbound.
- Traffic switched onto the exit ramp from I-285 eastbound to Flat Shoals Road.
- Traffic switched to new section of Flat Shoals Bridge over I-285; the new section was completed two months ahead of schedule.
- Installation of new traffic signal heads on Flat Shoals Road.
- 40% of the demolition of the original Flat Shoals Bridge over I-285 has been completed.
- Contractors are installing sound barrier wall posts on the exit ramp from I-285 westbound onto Flat Shoals Road in preparation for installation of the walls.
- Traffic switched on the entrance ramp from Flat Shoals onto I-285 westbound.
- Contractors are currently prepping the area on the entrance ramp from Flat Shoals Road onto I-285 westbound behind the concrete barrier wall for waterline installation under I-285.
- Crosswalks were extended at the top of the I-285 westbound exit ramp.



In the project look-ahead, Kathy indicated that she and her staff are encouraging the contractor to fast-track their activities, when possible, to move up the February 2019 scheduled completion. In brief, contractors will continue work:

- Between now and summer 2018, crews will be working on various small projects on and around the Flat Shoals Bridge;
- By summer 2018, the westbound to northbound right turn lane will reopen to traffic, and the deceleration lane for the eastbound off-ramp will open;
- In December 2018, medians will be installed; and
- In February 2019, the project is scheduled to be completed and open to traffic.



After the presentation, staff responded to attendees' questions and the list that follows are the action items for the next Town Hall meeting:

- During discussion of two burned out buildings and two motels adjacent to the project right-of-way, Ms. Key suggested that she, Sen. Jones and Commissioner Johnson schedule a time for a conversation on GDOT's ability to purchase or demolish the buildings.
- Residents asked for more lighting at the work site at night.
- The owner of a day care center in the area raised concerns about pedestrian access to her building, and in response, Ms. Key indicated that GDOT would carefully review locations of pedestrian crosswalks vs. daily pedestrian behavior, particularly near the day care center, to improve safety.
- Attendees requested GDOT's review of the location of a traffic signal installed on Flat Shoals, indicating that the stop bar may be located too close to the signal for drivers to easily see the signal.
- As part of her discussion about signal timing to improve traffic flow on Flat Shoals, Kathy stated that there would be close coordination with the Church after project completion, to allow good traffic flow into and from the Church parking area onto Flat Shoals on Sundays.

Responses to the issues raised will be addressed at the next Town Hall meeting on January 22, 2018. Please know that GDOT appreciates your continuing support and patience as we strive to deliver better traffic flow and safety with a reconstructed and improved Flat Shoals and I-285 interchange.

Best regards,

Tori Brown
Metro Atlanta District Communications Officer
Georgia DOT
