

FACTSHEET

STATE ROAD 3/NORTHSIDE DRIVE CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Date: June 10, 2015

Project Location: The project is located in Fulton County, City of Atlanta, on the State Road (SR) 3/ Northside Drive corridor from I-20 to I-75. The Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) project identification number is PI # 0007557.

Project Description: The Georgia DOT is evaluating the State Road 3/Northside Drive corridor from I-20 to I-75 (approximately five miles) for potential improvements for mobility, safety, bicycle and pedestrian use and access/connectivity to local and regional public transportation services. The set of solutions being explored includes intersection improvements and a potential connection of Northside Drive to I-20 on the southern end of the corridor.

Northside Drive (SR 3) is a vital transportation corridor for a variety of users, including freight vehicles, commuters, students, local residents and business owners. In recent years, there has been substantial development and re-development along the corridor, along with increasing traffic volumes. This has posed challenges to safety and mobility. The purpose of the Northside Drive Corridor Improvement Project is to evaluate which transportation improvements can enhance traffic flow and create a safer environment for motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders, while supporting redevelopment and preserving community character.

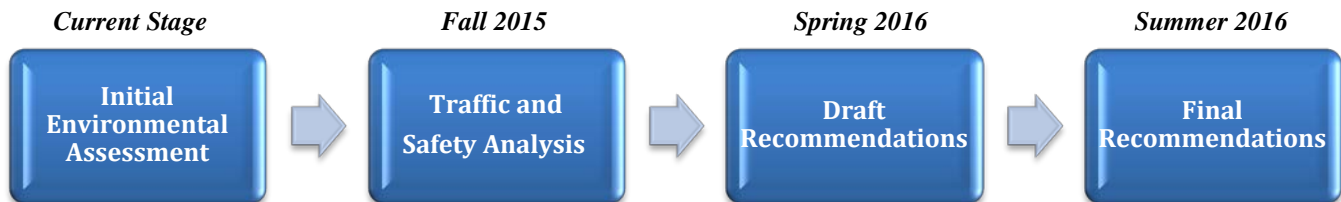
Current Activity: The study/planning phase of this project involves three major components:

1. Initial environmental resource assessment along the corridor, including:
 - Ecology – identify streams and wetlands along the corridor,
 - History – identify historic resources (i.e. buildings, properties, communities, etc.), and
 - Other potential environmental resources.
2. Seeking and compiling stakeholder comments, prior and on-going studies and master plans, etc. via an inclusive stakeholder outreach effort to include local elected officials, regional planning partners, faith-based organizations, business and community leaders, educational institutions, and neighborhood planning groups along and in close proximity to the corridor.
3. Consideration of traffic analysis for potential design concepts for key improvements, including:
 - A connection of Northside Drive to I-20 via Whitehall Street or another alternative route(s) that are compatible with nearby development, and
 - Improvements to address traffic capacity and functionality of the Northside Drive corridor.

Each of these components, individually and collectively, are focused on building community and technical consensus on a package of potential improvements to Northside Drive, including improved intersections, better transit services, improved sidewalks and bicycle lanes, and additional road lanes in selected locations to help travel conditions for all users of the corridor.

Project Schedule:

The first phase of this project started in September 2014. The insights gained from this planning phase and general consensus on the type of improvements needed will determine the project budget, feasibility and the detailed project schedule. More refined schedules for construction activities will be developed during this project and made available at that time. The figure below shows the major steps in the planning phase of the project.



Additional Information

Our project team is also reviewing several transportation and community planning studies that have previously been completed that relate to the corridor, including the most recent one completed in 2012-2013 by Georgia Tech's School of Urban and Regional Planning. In addition, over the past several years, major land use, development, and redevelopment initiatives have been launched and are underway in the corridor. These include, but are not limited to: new residential and commercial developments in the City's Westside; the siting and construction of the new Atlanta Falcons Stadium; planning for the Downtown Atlanta Multimodal Passenger Terminal (MMPT); master planning work for the Atlanta University Center; and the Beltline and Atlanta Streetcar routes, among others. These changes, along with growth in vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle travel in the corridor, have led to the need to re-examine how the Northside Drive corridor between Whitehall Street/ I-20 and I-75 can be improved to best serve local and regional mobility needs.

Community Outreach Activities To-Date:

- City of Atlanta (Atlanta Beltline, Departments of Public Works, Planning, Watershed Management, Parks and Recreation, etc.) – January 7, 2015
- Atlanta University Center (Morehouse and Spelman Colleges and AU Center) – January 28, 2015
- Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) - March 4, 2015
- Stakeholder group meetings planned for May 5 and 12, 2015

Upcoming Stakeholder Group Meetings:

- Stakeholder group meetings planned for Fall 2015

Background Information:

The Northside Drive corridor is an important north-south route within the City, carrying an average of 23,700 vehicles each day to a dense mix of residential, commercial and industrial properties along and adjacent to the corridor. With interstate interchanges at both ends of the project, Northside Drive has several job centers and educational institutions along its five-mile route. Traffic analysis shows that incidents along the corridor have increased by 52% over the last two years. Georgia DOT hopes to improve the corridor's traffic operations and mobility, reduce traffic incidents and delays, and improve safety.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Merishia Robinson or Erick Fry at northsidecorridor@dot.ga.gov