Thanks for the input!

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) would like to thank everyone who participated in last fall’s outreach for the US 441 Improvement projects. The GDOT requested community assistance in identifying environmental and community resources as well as any information to support the development of alternative alignments. To facilitate this public input, the GDOT held two Public Information Open Houses, one in Oconee County on October 25 and one in Morgan County on November 1, 2016, and hosted an online survey from October 13 through November 17, 2016. Your comments are invaluable to our roadway design teams as we determine the appropriate improvements to US 441 from the Madison Bypass to the Watkinsville Bypass (PI Nos. 0013613 in Oconee County and 0013617 in Morgan County).

Continued Public Engagement in 2017

The GDOT has also identified members of its Morgan County and Oconee County Citizen Advisory Committees (CACs). The CACs are meeting in March 2017 to discuss findings from the public meetings and survey and to provide input into the roadway design process. Their input will be incorporated into the roadway design concepts.

Later this year, the GDOT will hold two Public Involvement Open Houses (PIOHs), one in Morgan County and one in Oconee County. At the meetings, the public will review and comment on the conceptual roadway alignments for US 441.

We look forward to your continued involvement in this project.
What We Heard

Here’s a few of the top questions—and our answers to them—from the public meetings and online survey.

What are the projects’ alignments?

The GDOT is in the process of developing alternative alignments for improvements along the existing US 441 corridor. Alignment alternatives will be shared with the community and stakeholders later this year.

In preparing roadway design concepts, the design teams consider a number of factors that includes public input, GDOT design guidelines, the roadway context and setting, costs, and environmental survey results regarding features such as historic properties, cemeteries, water resources, protected species, and community resources.

The design teams also consider traffic volumes and crash data to determine areas along the corridor where safety improvements may be necessary. Additional turning lanes, geometric roadway improvements, or traffic control devices are some examples of potential safety improvements that may be considered to address safety needs identified during the design refinement process. Traffic signals or other traffic control devices are included in project design only where studies show that they are warranted.

How will this project affect the rural/agricultural feel of the corridor?

The GDOT understands that local residents value the rural feel of the corridor. While our goal is to provide a transportation facility that meets the needs of the traveling public, we also value how this facility fits into the local community context. The GDOT follows a Context Sensitive Design process to ensure that transportation investments create the greatest value possible and reflect the desires of the community. The community will have continuing opportunities to engage with the design teams as the projects’ alternatives are identified and the projects advance in design.

Why is this project needed?

The US 441 corridor was identified as part of the Governor’s Road Improvement Program (GRIP) in 1989. This program was intended to develop a system of economic development highways in Georgia and connect our state’s city centers with the interstate. US 441 has since become a part of the State’s Designated Freight system. Large trucks now account for approximately 20 percent of the corridor’s traffic. Improvement needs along this segment of US 441 include addressing inadequate passing opportunities, addressing safety concerns, and accommodating existing and future traffic demands.

Context-Sensitive Design is a process for achieving design excellence by developing transportation solutions that require continuous, collaborative communication and consensus between transportation agencies, professionals, and any and all stakeholders. A common goal of [these] projects is to develop a facility that is harmonious with the community, and preserves aesthetics, history and the environmental resources, while integrating these innovative approaches with traditional transportation goals for safety and performance.”

- GDOT Context-Sensitive Design Manual

Stay in Touch

If you have questions regarding the US 441 Improvements projects, or would like to be added to the email distribution list for newsletters like this one, contact:

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The project website hosts a summary of survey results, project updates, meeting materials, and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs):

www.dot.ga.gov/BS/Projects/SpecialProjects/US441