

# DADE COUNTY MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY



MEETING NO. 3  
PROJECT ADVISORY PANEL  
MAY 17, 2011



# Today's Agenda

2

- Welcome
- Activities since March 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting
- Stakeholder and Public Involvement
  - Summary from March 3<sup>rd</sup> Advisory Panel Meeting
  - Public Outreach
- Draft MTS Recommendations
  - Project Identification Methodology
  - Draft Project Recommendations
  - Draft Policy Recommendations
- Next Steps



# Activities Since Previous Meeting

3

- Public Workshop
- Needs Further Analyzed with Fieldwork and Technical Analyses
- Developed Project Recommendations



# DADE COUNTY MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY



## *STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT*

# Advisory Panel Meeting Overview

## March 3

5

- **Overview Presentation**
  - Activities since Previous Meeting
  - Finalized Issues and Opportunities
  - Travel Demand Model
  - Planned and Programmed Projects
  - Preliminary Recommendations
  - Current and Future Outreach
- **Group Interactive Activity**  
“Dade Bucks” Exercise



# March 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting – “Dade Bucks” Results

At the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Advisory Panel meeting, participants were asked to spend “play” money on transportation improvements. The highest priority improvements by dollars spent were:



Project Type	“ Dade Bucks” Spent by Participants
Add New Interstate Interchanges	\$11.1 M
Improve Intersections	\$8.8 M
Widen Existing Roads	\$8.3 M
Roadway Paving / Roadway Repair	\$5.7 M
Construct / Improve Sidewalks	\$5.7 M
Construct New Roadways	\$5.4 M
Trails / Greenways	\$3.0 M
Bridge Replacement / Rehabilitation	\$0.3 M
Improve Transit	\$ 0

# Public Outreach – Media Coverage

7

- Media Coverage
  - Dade Sentinel
  - Mountain-Valley Independent
  - Chattanooga.com
  - The Chattanooga Times Free Press



**Public Meeting For Dade County Multimodal Transportation Study Will Be March 3**  
posted February 21, 2011

A public meeting for the Dade County Multimodal Transportation Study will be Thursday, March 3, at 6 p.m. at the Dade County Commission Building.

In June 2010, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Dade County initiated work to develop the County's first Multimodal Transportation Study (MTS). The study is being completed in coordination with the city of Trenton and is intended to address the transportation needs of Dade County for the next 30 years.

The study is focusing on improving connectivity, access, and safety to important locations throughout the County, including the city of Trenton, schools, commerce centers, the industrial areas, colleges, parks, and other important locations. The study is considering the movement of people as well as goods (freight). This effort is being conducted collaboratively with other local, regional and state agencies.

The consulting firm of RS&H was selected to provide services to support these planning efforts. The study is planned for completion in the Spring/Summer of 2011.

Since the project was initiated

**Chattanooga.com**  
Chattanooga's source for breaking local news  
News | Opinion | Sports | Happenings | Dining | Obituaries | Classifieds

**March 2, 2011**

**CHIROPRACTIC CARE**  
Dr. Chad McMill

**New Office Hours**  
Open Monday 5-8 PM  
Tue/Thurs/Fri. 8:30 AM - 12 PM, 2-6:30 PM  
Saturday 9 AM - 2 PM  
706/657-4777 • Cell 423/667-9928  
4500 West Hwy. 3.55 • Trenton, GA

**D.C. HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING LLC**

**Multimodal Transportation Study Looks At How To Improve Dade's Traffic Flow**  
3/9/2011

By: Robin Ford Wallace, Reporter

Consultants working on the Multimodal Transportation Study sponsored by the Georgia Department of Transportation set up tables outside Thursday's Dade County Commission meeting to solicit citizens' opinions of local traffic problems.

One of them, Steve Cote reported that public response had not been good as hoped but that a dozen or so Dade denizens

# Public Outreach – Survey Results

8

Survey Question	Survey Responses
<i>When do you travel within Dade County?</i>	Weekends and Weekdays
<i>On average, how long does your one-way trips within the County take?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Less than 10 minutes</li><li>• 10 – 20 minutes</li></ul>
<i>Your one-way trips outside of the County?</i>	Greater than 30 minutes
<i>What are the major problems you encounter when traveling within Dade County?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Road Design Issues</li><li>• Traffic (twice)</li><li>• Lack of Signs/Improper Signs</li><li>• Poorly Timed Traffic Signals</li><li>• <i>Other:</i> I-24/I-59 signs from Chattanooga to Dade County are not illuminated and create hazardous conditions</li></ul>
<i>Where do you encounter these problems?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I-24 and I-59 merge</li><li>• SR 136 and SR 301 crossing on Sand Mountain</li><li>• Ingles/CVS Intersection</li></ul>

# Public Outreach – Survey Results

9

Survey Question	Survey Responses
<p><i>What types of transportation improvements would you like to see in place within Dade County in the next 10 years?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Turn lanes, widen US 11 to allow for turn lane</li><li>• Lighted sign or a sign electronically controlled on I-24 before the I-59 split.</li><li>• Better merge onto I-24 off I-59.</li><li>• Traffic light on SR 136 and SR 301 crossing</li><li>• Better timed lights over I-59 at SR 136</li><li>• Another exit located on I-59 North of Trenton to remove tractor trailer traffic from town.</li></ul>
<p><i>Would you like to see improvements to the existing on-demand transit system or additional transit service in Dade County? If so, please specify.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support increasing number of vehicles as needed and up keep for current vehicles and replace as needed with better vehicles to transport disabled people.</li></ul>

# Public Outreach – Survey Results

10

Survey Question	Survey Responses
<i>Would you like to see more bicycle, pedestrian, and/or trail facilities within Dade County? If so, please specify.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All are needed to attract people to Dade County</li><li>• Yes, more bicycle, pedestrian and trail facilities in Dade County</li></ul>
<i>What concerns do you have about the long-term future of transportation in Dade County?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continued review for long term improvements to road conditions, updated signs and signals</li><li>• Better traffic condition and safer conditions for SR 136/SR 301 crossing and for I-24 and I-59 split both ways.</li></ul>
<i>In the space below, please provide any additional comments you have about the Dade County MTS?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Need additional parking for public library and post office.</li></ul>

# DADE COUNTY MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY



## *PROJECT RECOMMENDATION PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY*

# Safety Improvements

## Project Development Methodology

12

- Identified Safety Concerns based on comments from:

- Dade County and Trenton Staff
- Elected Officials
- Advisory Panel
- General Public

General comments include:

- Lanes shift at SR 136 and US 11
- Foggy conditions on several roads
- Safety concerns around Covenant College and
- Safety concerns around the schools

- GDOT Recommendations
- Study Team Assessments
- Crash History (2005-2008)

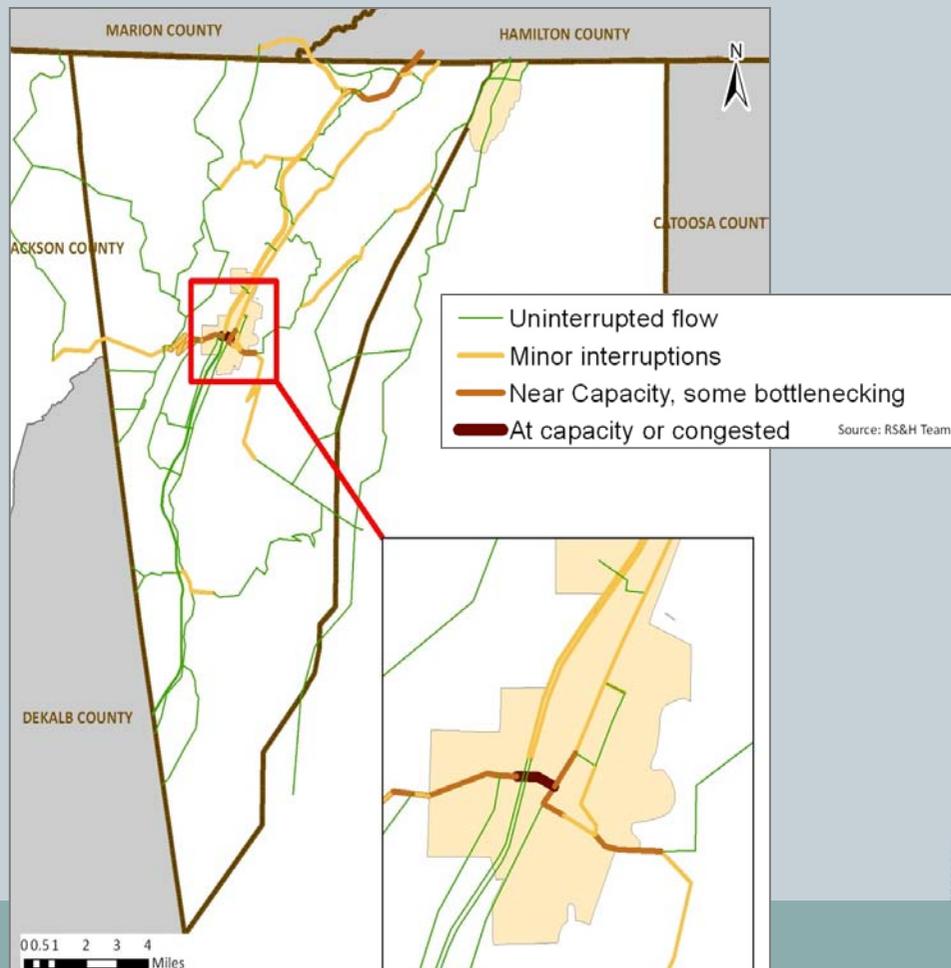
- SR 136 and SR 301  
*( 31 Crashes )*
- SR 136, in front of Dade County High School  
*(39 Crashes )*
- I-24 / I-59 –  
*(63 Crashes)*
- SR 136 and US 11  
*(74 Crashes )*

# Roadway Widening / Capacity-Adding Project Development Methodology

13

- Travel Demand Model (Level-of-Service)

- Planned and Programmed Projects

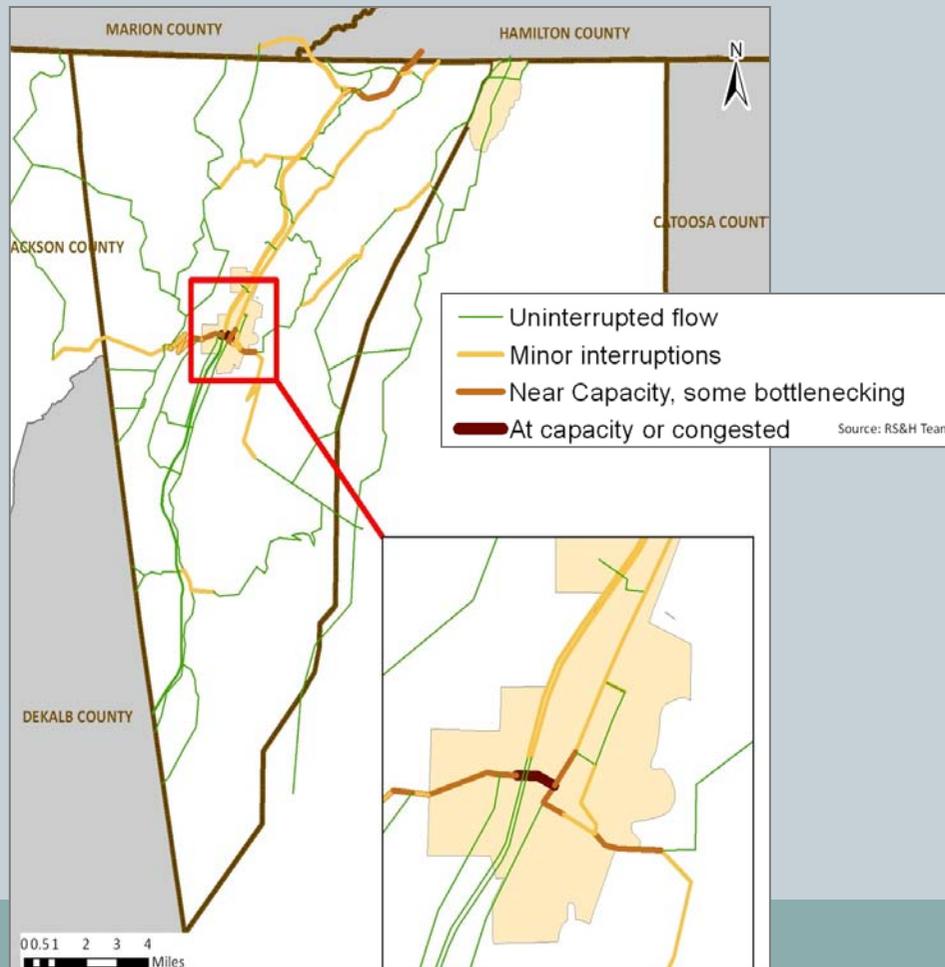


Project Description	GDOT PI #
SR 136 Widening	621230
I-24 Widening	611020

# New Roadway Construction Project Development Methodology

14

- Travel Demand Model (Level-of-Service)



- Stakeholder/Public Comment
- Planned and Programmed Projects

Needs Analyzed	GDOT PI # (If Applicable)
New I-59 Interchange	611080
Additional North-South Route (Slygo Rd to SR 136)	—
SR 560 / East-West Highway	0004295
Bridge to Middle School	—

# Existing Roadway Improvements Project Development Methodology

15

- Used comments from Stakeholders and Publics
- Fieldwork Analysis



# Multimodal Transportation System Project Development Methodology

16

- Evaluated existing systems (Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities, Transit Service)
- Planned and Programmed Projects
- Incorporated comments from Stakeholders and public on where sidewalks and transit services are needed



# Miscellaneous Improvements

## Project Development Methodology

17

- Planned and Programmed Projects
- Comments from Stakeholders and Public

Location	Need / Issue
I-59 Interchange Lighting	Request for improved lighting
Industrial Park Area	Request for better signage around Industrial Park
Railroad Tracks in Industrial Park	Request solution to Norfolk Southern train cars parking on tracks in Industrial Park



# DADE COUNTY MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY



## *DRAFT PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS*

# Safety Improvements

## Draft Project Recommendations

19

ID	Location	Need / Issue	Recommended Project or Action
S-1	SR 189	RPMs were inadvertently removed during snow/ice storm	GDOT is evaluating schedule to replace
S-2	SR 157	RPMs were inadvertently removed during snow/ice storm	GDOT is evaluating schedule to replace
S-3	SR 136	RPMs were inadvertently removed during snow/ice storm	GDOT is evaluating schedule to replace
S-4	Guardrails- No specific locations identified	Many areas in County need guardrails.	As needed to meet AASHTO Guidelines (any side slope that is 2:1 or greater)
S-6	SR 136 and US 11	Lane shifts at intersection	1) Restripe Travel Lanes or 2) Improve SR 136 at US 11 Intersection
S-7	SR 301	Request for side road reflectors on SR 301	GDOT is evaluating needs
S-8	SR 136 – Earth Sliding West Side of Lookout Mountain	Request to address earth sliding on SR 136	GDOT is evaluating needs
S-9	SR 189 at Burkhalter Gap Rd	County requested light at this location	GDOT approves of the installation of flashing beacon for northbound traffic on SR 189

*RPM = Raised Pavement Markers*

# Safety Improvement

## Draft Project Recommendations (Con't)

20

ID	Location	Need / Issues	Recommended Project or Action
S-11	SR 189 near Covenant College	Safety concerns associated with existing pedestrian crossing near Covenant College	1) Move crosswalk 2) Add sidewalks along SR 157 and 2) Improve signing and crosswalk marking
S-12	I-59 / I-24 split	Request for better signage or split.	Recommend installation of changeable message sign
S-14	SR 157 at Yankee Road	Request for flashing light or reflectors because of fog.	GDOT is evaluating needs
S-15	Dade County High School Entrance	Request for full-time signal for Dade County High School	GDOT approves of the installation of part-time signal at the Dade County High School entrance
S-16	Lighting around schools	Request for lighting around schools	Install lighting around proposed sidewalks (project BP-2) within one mile of schools
S-17	One-way in and out of Middle School	Request for safety options since school driveway is one-way in and one-way out	Two proposed Recommendations: Option 1: new 2 lane road west of Pace Dr Option 2: Circulation Study; Pace Dr widening / intersection improvements
S-18	Old State Road at Yankee Road	Request for flashing light due to fog.	GDOT approves the installation of a flashing light.

# Safety Improvement

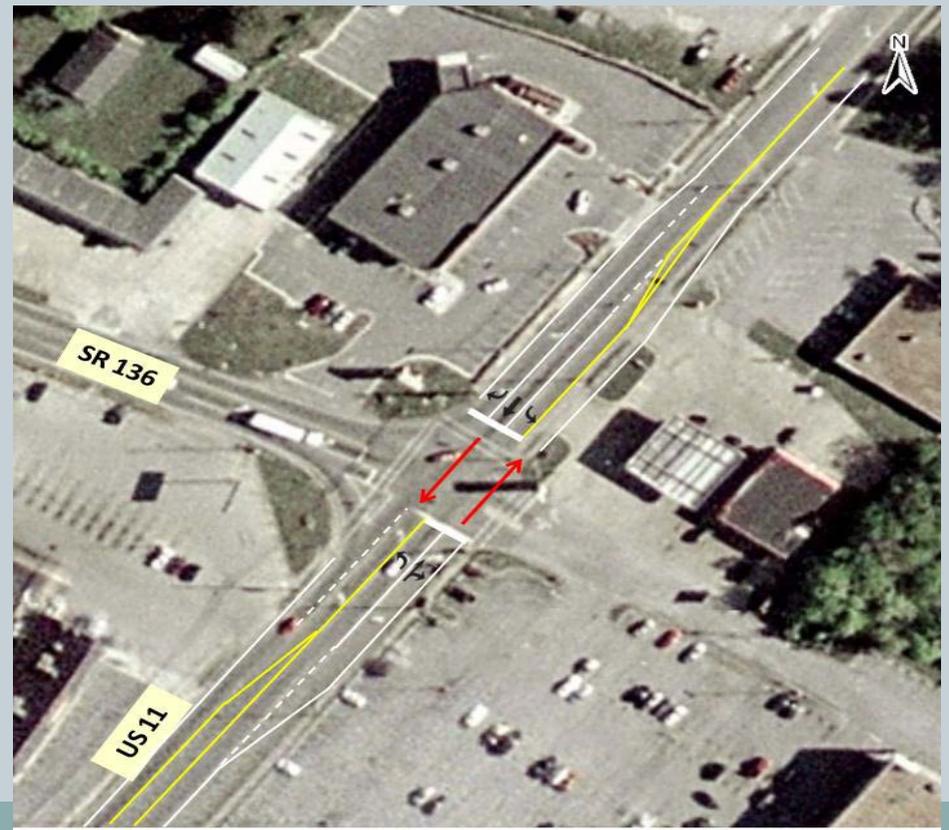
## Recommended Improvement – S-6 (SR 136 and US 11)

21

### Potential Solutions :

**1. Restripe Travel Lanes:** Lowest-cost option to eliminate lane shift.

**2. Widen US 11 at Intersection :** Widen to the east in the northeast quadrant of intersection toward existing gas station. Existing parcel data shows 30 ft ROW.



*Note: Tapers not drawn to scale*

# Safety Improvement

## Recommended Improvement – Covenant College at SR 157

22

### Recommended Solutions :

1. Relocate Crosswalk
2. Improve Signing : better warn drivers about pedestrian crossing ahead.
3. Add Sidewalks along SR 157: provide safe walking conditions that meet ADA regulations and safe access to pedestrian crossing.



# Roadway Widening / Capacity-Adding

## Draft Project Recommendations

23



ID	Location	Need/Issue	Recommended Project
W-1	SR 136 from CR 52 to SR 58	SR 136 experiences congestion	Evaluate need for widening after intersection of SR 136 and US 11 is improved
W-2	I-24 from I-59 to Tennessee Line	I-24 experiences congestion	Widen in Long Range / Work with TPO

# New Construction

## Draft Project Recommendations

24

ID	Description	Need/Issue	Recommended Project
N-1	Request for new I-59 Interchange, South of Hicks Hollow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrial Park plans to expand</li> <li>• Request for alternative route for trucks to avoid Trenton</li> </ul>	Complete an Interchange Justification Report (IJR) when Dade County experiences more growth
N-2	SR 560 / East-West Highway	Limited East-West Connectivity in Dade County	Long Range project to improve connectivity
N-4	Additional North-South Route Connecting Slygo Rd to SR 136	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited North-South connectivity in Dade County</li> <li>• Alignment recommended by Commission to connect existing roads</li> </ul>	Long Range project to improve connectivity
N-6 (S-17)	Bridge to Middle School	Add a second entrance to school	Two Options proposed: Option 1: New 2 lane road west of Pace Dr Option 2: Circulation Study; Pace widening / intersection improvements

# Existing Roadway Improvements

## Draft Project Recommendations

25

ID	Location	Need/Issue	Recommended Project
R-1	Creek Road	Creek Road floods causing school buses to be rerouted	Further Study to determine flooding location and develop solution to mitigate problem.
R-3	Curve at Bethune Garden Center	Difficult curve to maneuver	Improve Signage



# Sidewalks Improvements

## Draft Project Recommendations

26

ID	Location	Need/Issue	Recommended Project
BP-1	Downtown Trenton	Request for sidewalks in Downtown Trenton	Complete Streetscape Project
BP-2	Sidewalks around Schools	Request for sidewalks around schools	Install Sidewalks within one mile of schools



# Transit System Improvements

## Draft Project Recommendations

27

ID	Description	Need/Issue	Recommended Project
T-1	Park and Ride	Need for Park and Ride	Work with CARTA to identify needs; identify shared parking opportunity (i.e. church) for designated park and ride lot



# Maintenance Improvements

## Draft Project Recommendations

28

ID	Description	Need/Issue	Recommended Project
M-1	SR 299, from SR 58 to Tennessee Line	Deteriorating road conditions	Implement programmed project
M-2	I-59, Alabama State Line to 0.06 mile west of SR 136	Deteriorating road conditions	Implement programmed project



# Miscellaneous Transportation Improvements

## Draft Project Recommendations

ID	Description	Need/Issue	Recommended Project
O-1	I-59 Interchange Lighting	Request for improved lighting at interchange	Implement Programmed Project
O-2	Increased Signage Around Industrial Park	Request for better signage around Industrial Park for trucks	Install Improved signage
O-3	Railroad Tracks in Industrial Park	Request solution to Norfolk Southern train cars parking on railroad tracks in Industrial Park, which blocks access to Industrial Park.	Recommend City/County meeting with and/or formal correspondence with Railroad

# DADE COUNTY MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY



## *TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT 2010*

# Transportation Investment Act (TIA) of 2010

31

- Bill Signed into law June 2010
- Creates 12 Special tax districts based on Regional Commission (RC) boundaries; Dade County is part of Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (NWGRC)
- Each District can levy 1% sales tax for 10 years
- All money raised in the region, stays in the region.
- Criteria set by GDOT Director of Planning
- Roundtables for each district develop list of projects
- Georgians will vote on the tax in 2012 primary elections
- Funds start flowing in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2013
- 25 % of all funds will go directly to local jurisdictions to use on transportation projects as defined in the Act.

# Transportation Investment Act (TIA) of 2010

32

- Preliminary Estimate\* of 1<sup>st</sup> year (2013) sales tax for NWGRC = **\$120,672,000**
- Preliminary Estimate\* of 1<sup>st</sup> year (2013) – Local Proceeds (25%) for NWGRC = **\$30,168,000**
- Preliminary Estimate \*of 1<sup>st</sup> year (2013) – Local Proceeds (25%) to Dade County = **\$748,331**

\* Numbers will change based upon final projections to be provided by State Economist

# Transportation Investment Act of 2010

## Projects that Could be Submitted as Regional

33

ID	Project Type	Description	Recommended Project
N-2	New Construction	SR 560 / East-West Highway	Long Range project to improve connectivity
W-1	Widening	SR 136 (CR 52 to SR 58)	Evaluate need for widening after intersection of SR 136 and US 11 is improved
W-2	Widening	I-24 (Tennessee Line to I-59)	Widen in Long Range / Work with TPO
S-1, S-2, S-3	Safety Improvements	SR 189, SR 157, SR 136	New Raised Pavement Markers
S-6	Safety Improvements	Intersection of SR 136 and US 11	1) Restripe Travel Lanes or 2) Widen US 11 at intersection
S-8	Safety Improvements	SR 136 – West Side of Lookout Mountain (earth sliding)	GDOT is evaluating needs
S-12	Safety Improvements	I-59 / I-24 split – better signage	Request installation of changeable message sign
T-1	Transit	Park and Ride	Work with CARTA to identify needs; identify shared parking opportunity (i.e. church) for designated park and ride lot

# Final Input Opportunity

34

**Given what you have heard today or in previous meetings, are the Draft Plan Recommendations on target for the Countywide Transportation Plan?**

# DADE COUNTY MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY



## *NEXT STEPS*

# Next Steps

36

- Take input from the Advisory Panel and incorporate, where appropriate.
- Present Recommendations to General Public at Dade Heritage Festival, May 21, 2011
- Finalize Plan Recommendations.
- Finalize Plan documents and submit to GDOT for approval by early June 2011.
- Post final Plan on GDOT and Dade County websites.

***Thank you for your participation!***



***Your input has been very helpful and important  
to this planning effort.***

***Please feel free to discuss any questions with  
members of the project team.***