

SR 52/Morrison Moore Parkway Subarea Study

The SR 52/Morrison Moore Parkway (SR52/MMP) Subarea Study Team has recently completed the assessment of baseline conditions in the subarea. The major findings, which are highlighted below, will serve as indicators for needed safety and traffic operational improvements.

MAJOR FINDINGS FROM BASELINE CONDITIONS

Demographics

- Because of its developed nature, much of the future growth is anticipated to occur in the county outside Dahlonega.
- North Georgia College and State University (NGCSU) is among the top ten regional employers and is expected to be the primary source of population growth in the City of Dahlonega.
- Only half of Lumpkin County's employed residents work in the county, and therefore, this study considers trips throughout the region as well as local trips.

Community, Cultural and Natural Resources

- NGCSU expansion plans will likely have significant impact in the study area. With an expected increase of 2,500 students, more emphasis on enhancements to accommodate pedestrian traffic will be needed.
- Parks, greenspaces, and historical resources must be preserved as transportation improvements are implemented.

Land Use and Development

- Public and Institutional land uses such as the NGCSU, Judicial Complex, and Chestatee Regional Hospital are prominent in the study area.
- The City intends to promote commercial development over the next twenty years, which will translate into increased auto trips associated with more businesses in the study area.

Transportation

- The narrow, two-lane roadways in the study area may not have the capacity to support future growth.
- By 2035, approximately 150,000 auto trips are projected within the study area, an increase of 73 percent. This growth will have significant impact on SR52/MMP as the most traveled corridor within the study area.
- Top three intersections with highest crash frequencies are along SR52/MMP at S. Chestatee Street, East Main Street and Crown Mountain Place.
- Portions of SR 52/MMP north of SR 60/S. Chestatee Street are highly congested. By 2035 there is a need for capacity and operational improvements at all major intersections and roadways in the study area, as shown in the graphic on the reverse page.
- Parking and supporting pedestrian facilities for downtown visitors and NGCSU students will need to be preserved and/or enhanced to accommodate growth.



What is the SR 52/Morrison Moore Parkway Subarea Study

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), in partnership with the City of Dahlonega, is conducting the study to identify safety and operational improvements along the SR 52/MMP Corridor and other major facilities in the subarea. The study will consider traffic impacts of major activity centers and expansion plans of NGCSU and the new Judicial Complex.

Outreach Activities

- Conducted 18 stakeholder briefings/interviews
- Briefed four organizations
- Distributed 500 copies of Fact Sheet #1 and several hundred project business cards
- Responded to comments/questions sent to project email

What Happens Next?

- Identification and evaluation of alternatives, including cost estimates
- Preliminary Implementation Plan
- Continued public outreach

