



April 2013

Thank you for attending the public hearing open house for CSNHS-0009-00(156) AND CSNHS-0009-00(157), P.I. No. 0009156 AND 0009157, the proposed I-75 Express Lanes project in Henry and Clayton Counties. This handout package includes a need and purpose statement, project fact sheet, proposed detour map, environmental statement, right-of-way statement, newsletter and comment card.

As you enter the room, there will be displays of the proposed project. Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) representatives, who can be identified by the nametags they are wearing, are available to discuss the project and answer your questions. Please take this opportunity to discuss the project with a GDOT representative. There will be no formal presentation.

A court reporter will be available for those persons who would like to make a verbal statement about the project. You may also complete a comment card and deposit it into the box provided here, or send in written comments about the project until May 9, 2013. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator, Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atlanta, GA 30308. Comments can also be made via the web at [www.i75express.com](http://www.i75express.com). We hope you will take advantage of one of these opportunities to let GDOT know your view of the proposal.

The displays and plans will be available for review for ten days after the public hearing open house at the GDOT District 3 Area Office located at 1001 Highway 19 South, Griffin, GA and the District 7 Office located at 5025 New Peachtree Road, Chamblee, GA.. A copy of all comments received will be available for public review at this same location and at GDOT, Office of Environment Services, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Atlanta, GA 30308, as soon as compilation is completed.

Again, thank you for attending this public hearing open house and for giving us your comments. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact the project manager Loren Bartlett at [lbartlett@dot.ga.gov](mailto:lbartlett@dot.ga.gov) or Michael Murdoch at [mmurdoch@dot.ga.gov](mailto:mmurdoch@dot.ga.gov) of the Office of Environmental Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn Bowman/mm".

Glenn Bowman, P.E.  
State Environmental Administrator

GB/lv

Attachments

# I75Express

## NEED AND PURPOSE SUMMARY

The project is needed to reduce travel time and increase mobility, expand travel choices, include congestion pricing to expedite project delivery, relieve congestion, to conform with local and regional planning and accommodate regional growth and accessibility.

The proposed project is consistent with both regional and local planning efforts. Data on travel time and level of service indicate that travel times have become unpredictable and congestion occurs now and would worsen in the future. The general purpose lanes are currently the only travel choice for users of I-75, including express buses and vanpools/carpools. Higher reliability of travel times could provide inducements to greater usage of these alternative modes of travel. The implementation of a tolled project would ensure free flow of travel on the managed lanes as well as expedite its construction based on the limited transportation funding available in the foreseeable future. Henry and Clayton Counties have experienced considerable population and employment growth, both of which generate pressure on the transportation network. The proposed project would address these needs.

In addition to the alternative displayed at the Public Hearing Open Houses, a No Build Alternative is also being considered, meaning no improvements addressing the project purpose and need would be constructed.

## PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Spring 2013

### Project Description

This project begins along I-75 south of Atlanta at SR 155 / McDonough Road and ends at SR 138 / Stockbridge Hwy, extending approximately 15 miles. The proposed project consists of the addition of two reversible express lanes located within the median of I-75, to be managed by a variable priced tolling system.

Identified as a Tier 1 project in the Atlanta Regional Managed Lane System Plan.

### Alternatives Considered

- ETL (Express Toll Lanes)
- HOT 3+ (High Occupancy Toll lanes) free for 3 or more passengers
- No-Build

### Current Phase

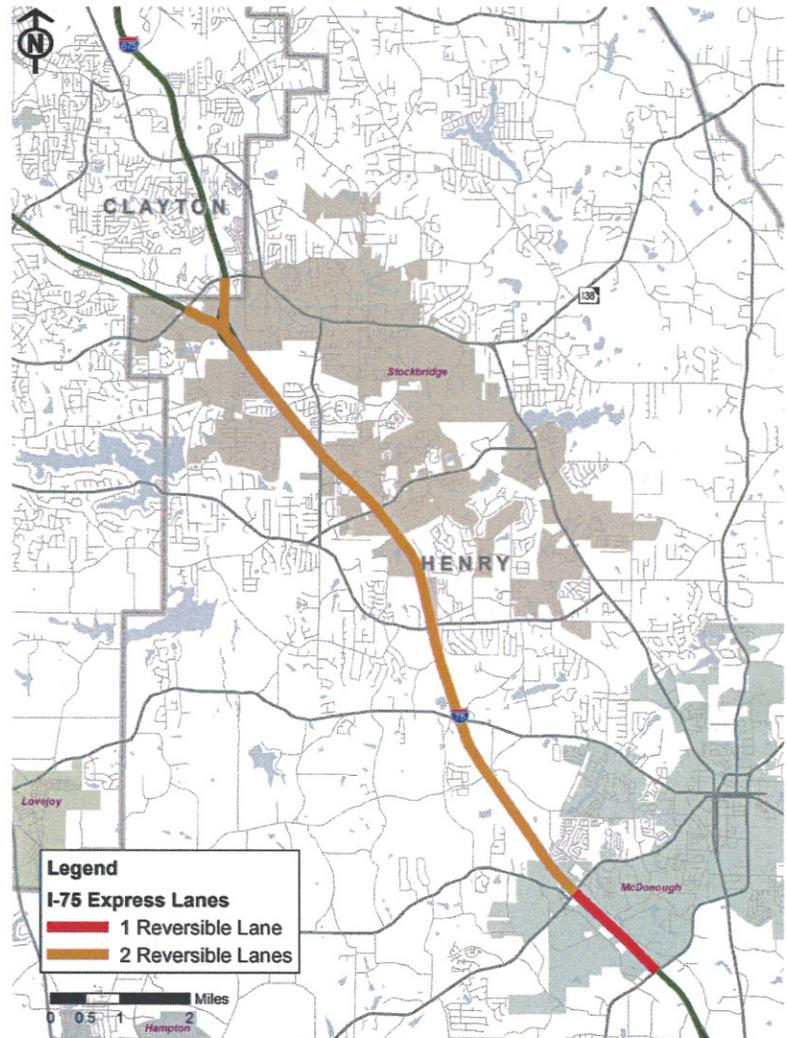
Environmental / Design

### Ongoing Activities

- Draft Environmental Assessment
- Draft Interchange Modification Report/Interchange Justification Report Package Preparation
- PHOH Preparation



### Project Area



### Corridor Details

- Two reversible lanes proposed from SR 138 to north of SR 20 and one reversible lane from north of SR 20 to SR 155.
- Open to northbound traffic in the morning peak period and to southbound traffic in midday period, afternoon peak period and nighttime period.
- Access points have been studied at SR 138, ramps to I-675, Jonesboro Road, north of SR 20 and SR 155.
- Project delivery method: Design Build
- Potential funding sources: Toll Revenue Bonds and Federal Funds
- Anticipated cost: Approximately \$150M
- ETL is the preferred alternative

## Recently Completed Activities

### Public Involvement Activities

Public Meetings were held in April 2011 and December 2011, followed by a series of kiosk events and engagements with local stakeholders and the community.

Visit [www.I75Express.com](http://www.I75Express.com) for more information.

### Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)

The draft EA was approved on March 12, 2013.

## Upcoming Activities

**Finalize Environmental Documents**

**Finalize Tolling Plans**

**Ongoing Coordination with Partner Agencies**

**Public Hearing Open House**

## Project Schedule

- ➔ **November 2012** Draft Environmental Document Complete
- ➔ **December 2012** Preliminary Design Complete
- ➔ **March 2013** Draft Environmental Document Approval
- ➔ **April 23 & 25, 2013** Public Hearing Open House
- ➔ **June 2013** Letting
- ➔ **September 2013** Anticipated Environmental Document Approval/Preliminary Design
- ➔ **February 2014** Final Design
- ➔ **July 2014** Construction Begins
- ➔ **December 2016** Open to Traffic

Milestones	2012	2013												2014
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Draft Environmental Document														
Public Hearing Open House					◆									
Preliminary Design														
Environmental Document Approval										◆				
Project Let for Design-Build							◆							
Construction														◆

\*Many project elements are dependent upon the review and approvals of State and Federal partner agencies and may be subject to change based on their feedback.

## Contact

### Loren Bartlett

I-75 South Express Lanes Project Manager  
 Georgia Department of Transportation  
 One Georgia Center  
 600 West Peachtree Street  
 Atlanta, GA 30308  
 404.347.0185 (Managed Lanes Hotline)  
[managedlaneinfo@dot.ga.gov](mailto:managedlaneinfo@dot.ga.gov)



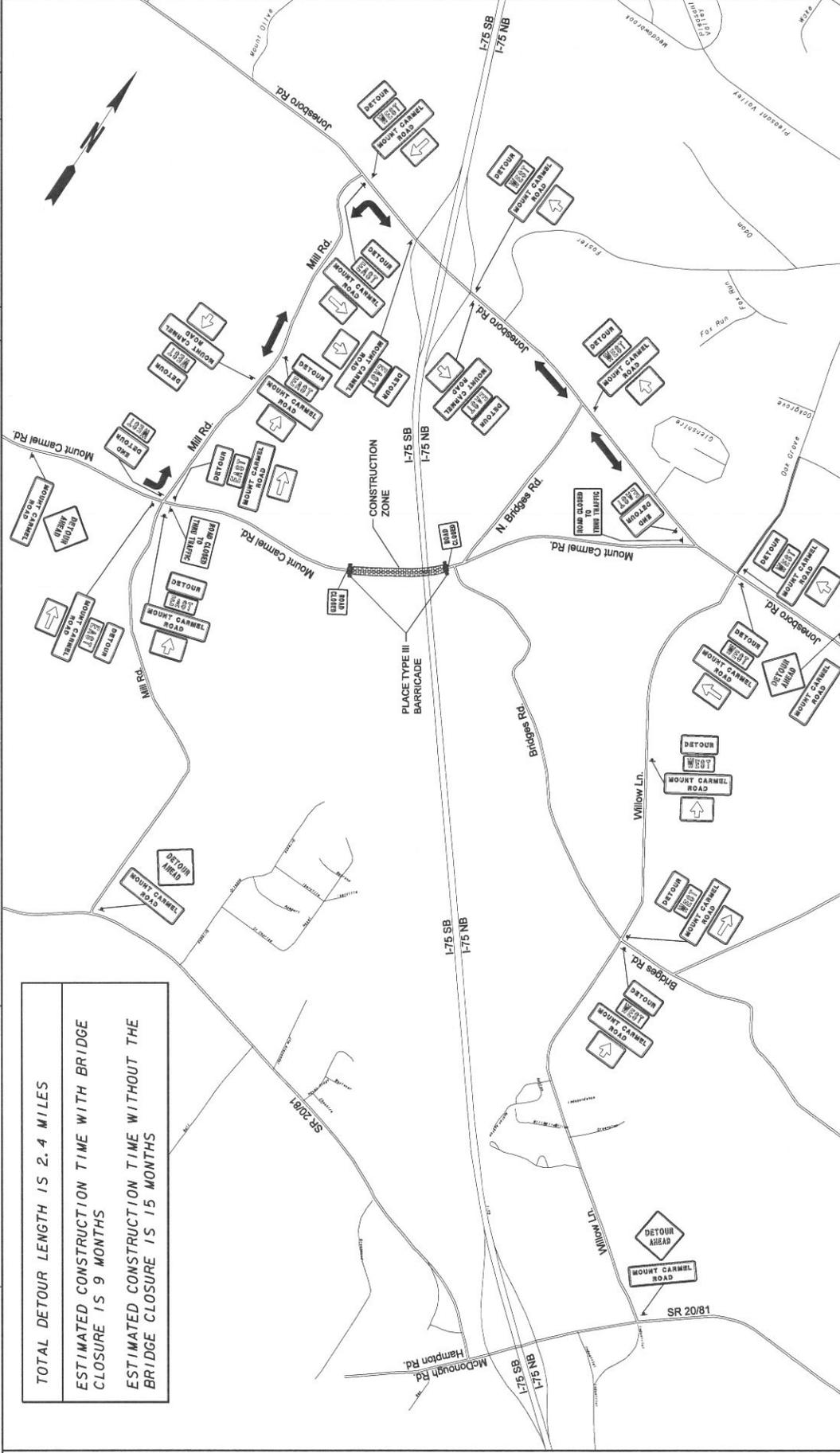
**I75Express**

[www.I75Express.com](http://www.I75Express.com)

# PROPOSED MT. CARMEL ROAD BRIDGE CLOSURE DETOUR MAP

PROJECT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ SHEET NO.: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL SHEETS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL DETOUR LENGTH IS 2.4 MILES  
 ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION TIME WITH BRIDGE CLOSURE IS 9 MONTHS  
 ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION TIME WITHOUT THE BRIDGE CLOSURE IS 15 MONTHS



STATE OF GEORGIA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 OFFICE: INNOVATIVE PROGRAM DELIVERY  
**DETOUR PLAN**  
 MT. CARMEL ROAD

REVISION DATES

**GEORGIA**  
 DEPARTMENT  
 OF  
 TRANSPORTATION

**PARSONS**  
 9577 PARKWAY LANE, SUITE 100  
 NORCROSS, GA 30092

NTS

DRAWING No. \_\_\_\_\_

## SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY

### I-75 EXPRESS LANES GDOT PROJECTS CSNHS-0009-00(156) & CSNHS-0009-00(157), CLAYTON & HENRY COUNTIES, PI NOS. 0009156 & 0009157

In compliance with the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act, the Georgia Department of Transportation has conducted an assessment of the social, economic, and environmental effects for the proposed I-75 Managed Lanes project. The following information gives a summary of the environmental document.

#### **Right of Way Requirements**

- The majority of the proposed project would be constructed with the existing right of way along I-75. However, right of way from six parcels would need to be purchased to accommodate the proposed project.
- No residential units or businesses would be displaced by the proposed project.

#### **Community Impacts/Environmental Justice**

- No direct physical effects on communities or environmental justice populations (minority and/or low-income) are expected.
- Implementation of new, tolled capacity is anticipated to generate adverse, but not disproportionately high impacts to the low-income community.

#### **Air Quality**

- The proposed project is not anticipated to exceed state and federal air quality standards, and it is consistent with the State Implementation Plan for the attainment of clean air quality in the state.
- This project will be evaluated for PM<sub>2.5</sub> by an interagency group consisting of FHWA, USEPA, EPD and the ARC prior to the final approval of the environmental document. The results of this evaluation will be documented in the subsequent environmental document.

#### **Noise**

- Traffic-related noise impacts to 237 receivers, representing 606 receptors, along the project corridor by design year 2035 are predicted to be impacted based on exceeding the noise abatement criteria.
- Nine noise walls were found to be feasible and reasonable noise abatement measures along the project corridor.
- The final decision to include the noise walls in the project is dependent on final design of the project and public input.
- The decision to provide abatement will be made in collaboration with the property owner and tenants of a benefited receptor during the final design phase of the project.

#### **Historic and Archaeological Resources**

- In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the project has been surveyed for existing and eligible National Register properties.
- One historic resource (The Horseshoe Farm) was found to be located within the project's area of potential effect (APE). The project would have No Adverse Effect on The Horseshoe Farm.

- No existing or eligible archaeological resources were found to be located within the APE.

### **Wetland and Streams**

- Ten (10) jurisdictional wetlands and 38 jurisdictional streams were identified within the project area.
- Approximately 0.877 acre of wetlands and 525 linear feet of streams would be impacted by the proposed project.
- To mitigate these impacts, GDOT would purchase 1,972 stream mitigation credits and 6.3 wetland mitigation credits from an approved commercial mitigation bank located in the project area.
- A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit would be required for this project.
- A Stream Buffer Variance for encroachment of Stream 24 buffer would be required for this project.

### **Floodplains**

- No crossings of the 100-year floodplain have been identified and, therefore, the project would have no impacts to floodplains.

### **Water Quality**

- The project would not have an adverse effect on water quality within the project corridor.

### **Threatened or Endangered Species**

- The proposed project would not affect any threatened or endangered plant or wildlife species.

### **Farmland**

- The project would not involve any farmland as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act, 7 CFR Part 658, due to the land in this corridor being in or committed to urban development.

### **Hazardous Waste and Underground Storage Tanks**

- The proposed project has been surveyed for potential sites where contaminated soil and/or water from leaking underground storage tanks may exist. No potential sites were identified within the project corridor.

Copies of the environmental document are available at this hearing for your review or by sending your request to:

Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E.  
State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

**I75 Express Lanes Project  
Right-Of-Way Acquisition  
Project 0009156 AND 0009157, Clayton and Henry Counties**

The majority of the proposed I 75 Express Lanes project would be constructed within the existing right of way along I-75. However, right of way from six parcels would need to be purchased to accommodate the proposed project. Results of the field inspection by GDOT personnel have revealed that there will be no residences and no businesses that will be required to relocate.

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has the responsibility, once a project is approved, of appraising, purchasing property and, if required, assisting individuals, families or businesses in relocating. When purchasing property, we desire to pay full market value for the necessary property. This value will be established by using qualified real estate appraisers who will prepare, for GDOT's use, written appraisals using actual sales data in the surrounding community.

In making an appraisal, the appraiser will contact each property owner and arrange a convenient time to make an on-site inspection of the property with him or her. After completion of the appraisal, the right-of-way appraisal staff will review and field check the findings for accuracy to ensure that all things relating to value have been considered in establishing the amount to be offered. When only a part of the property is needed, we will purchase that part plus pay for loss of value, if any, to the remaining property. In all cases, when GDOT purchases property, we will make additional payments to property owners for the cost of transferring ownership to GDOT. These costs generally include transfer taxes, deed-recording fees, mortgage pre-payment penalties and the pro-rata share of city or county taxes.

Georgia DOT is aware of the problems experienced by individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofit organizations when they are required to move. It is our commitment that no family or individual will be required to relocate until comparable decent, safe and sanitary housing is available or is provided for those occupants.

Additionally, GDOT will provide assistance to businesses and nonprofit organizations in relocating to other sites and will encourage them to remain in the community.

The information pamphlet "*What Happens When Your Property is Needed for a Transportation Facility*" is available at the greeter's table at the Public Hearing Open House (PHOH). This pamphlet outlines the services offered and any payments for which you may be eligible, such as moving expenses and replacement housing benefits for owners and tenants. The pamphlet also outlines the eligibility requirements for receiving these payments.

The GDOT District office, located in Thomaston, Georgia, (706) 646-6946 will be in charge of acquiring the necessary right-of-way for this project.



