

US 441 IMPROVEMENTS

MADISON BYPASS TO WATKINSVILLE BYPASS

Project Newsletter

June 2018

Project Update

Conceptual Design

GDOT has prepared a draft concept design for a truck bypass on US 441 in Oconee County (see figure below) based on updated technical studies and concerns from stakeholders and the public about truck traffic and safety issues in and around Bishop, GA.

The proposed concept is a two-lane localized bypass to the east of existing US 441 from a new roundabout at Astondale Road to a new roundabout at SR 186 (High Shoals Road). Astondale Road would be modified to create a T-intersection with the localized bypass. Old Bishop Road would intersect with the proposed bypass; motorists on Old Bishop Road would have a stop sign at this location.

Ongoing Local and Public Engagement

GDOT presented the draft concept design at two meetings in March 2018. On March 12, GDOT presented the draft proposed alignment of US 441 at the Bishop Town Council Meeting. The following week, GDOT led a discussion about the proposed alignment at the March 19 Oconee County Citizens Advisory Committee meeting.

Once complete, draft proposed alignments for the US 441 Improvements projects in Morgan and Oconee Counties will be presented to the public at open houses for review and comment.

Public Information Open Houses are tentatively planned for Summer 2018.

Proposed Concept for US 441 near Bishop



Larger image available at: <http://www.dot.ga.gov/BuildSmart/Projects/Documents/US441/BishopDraftLayout.pdf>

Field Studies

The project team has completed environmental field studies for ecological and historical resources. Archaeology field surveys continue to advance in the project area. Survey personnel are easily identifiable and make every effort to reduce the inconvenience to area property owners. The timing and location of these surveys do not indicate any final decision about project alignments or preclude changes to the current concept; rather, the gathered data is utilized to make engineering decisions and keeps the project moving forward.

Benefits of Roundabouts

Roundabouts are currently proposed at the ends of the new bypass. The use of roundabouts for intersection control is becoming increasingly popular in Georgia and across the US because of the following benefits:

- Fewer conflict points, thereby reducing the number and severity of crashes
- Traffic calming and moderation
- Reduced fuel consumption and air pollution due to continuous traffic flow in certain cases
- Opportunity for beautification such as landscaping and signage, creating a “gateway” and placemaking

For more information, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-uSBnosoc&feature=youtu.be>

Project Next Steps

Up-to-date project information — including current project schedule and minutes from Citizen Advisory Committee meetings — can be found at the project website: www.dot.ga.gov/BS/Projects/SpecialProjects/US441. Once the design teams have completed the preliminary design layouts, GDOT will hold two Public Information Open Houses (PIOHs), one in Morgan County and one in Oconee County. All members of the public are encouraged to attend. At the meetings, the public will have the opportunity to review and comment on the roadway plans before any decisions are finalized. Please look for meeting details in the coming months.

Roundabouts in Georgia



Douglas County— SR 5 at SR 166



Colquitt County—SR 33 at US 319

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: **Bruce Anderson, GDOT Project Manager**, 478-538-8595,

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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**