

## Project Description Example

### **Carroll Entrance Gateways – Highway 27 North**

Carroll County is a vibrant, growing county located in west central Georgia bordering the State of Alabama. Although the county has experienced significant growth in recent years, it has managed to maintain its rural, agricultural lifestyle through its farmland preservation program and green space initiative. Many major state and federal roads traverse the county, including I-20, US 78 and US 27 (GA SR1), bringing the county considerable economic development and helping to maintain a balanced local economy.

In regard to US 27, Carroll County is an active participant in the Hwy 27 Association, a group that is seeking to promote tourism and economic development along the route, from Tennessee to Florida. One objective of this tourism initiative is to get vacationers off of I-75/I-85 as they travel down to the beach or up to the mountains and instead encourage them to enjoy a scenic drive through rural Georgia with stops at local tourist spots along the way. Currently, the average daily traffic county for Hwy 27 and Interstate 20 near the Haralson County line is 16,260, with 8,130 headed southbound into Carroll County. Given the continued effort to 4-lane US 27, the county anticipates that this number will only continue to grow in the future.

The county is therefore seeking funding to improve its 'gateway' along US 27 by sprucing up the entrance to the county. A site was selected on Highway 27 as it parallels Reid Rd., just north of Bowdon Junction Rd. This will enable the county to create a positive first impression with travelers. The conceptual plan calls for the creation of landscaped areas on the southbound side of the highway. As the speed limit is 55 miles per hour, the plantings and signage would be outside of the clear zone. Planted in these areas will be an assortment of ornamental trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses native to the region and typical of Carroll County landscapes. Between the landscaped bed around the sign and the edge of pavement, sweeps of ornamental, native grasses will be planted to add seasonal interest and to anchor the decorative planting into the surrounding vista. The proposed landscaping will meet all setback and spacing requirements of TOPPs 6755-9, Landscaping on Department of Transportation Right-of-Way. In developing the concept plan, the county has worked with a local landscape architect. The site is already relatively cleared and at most, a few scrub pines, brambles and weeds will be removed.

If approved, the county will seek a Special Encroachment permit from the Georgia Department of Transportation. The landscaping will be installed by a professional landscaping company, and signage will be installed by the Carroll County Public Works Department in consultation with the landscape architect, Master Gardeners, Native Plant Society and Keep Carroll Beautiful. Ultimately the landscaping will be maintained by the Carroll County Public Works Department. Plantings will be of a significant caliber that is hardy to the region, and the county will follow best management practices to insure optimal growth, including regular watering the first year or so to allow the plants to become established. The county owns the adjacent parcel, and a portion of the landscaping will be located there. Grant funds are only requested for the right-of-way. The local news media, including newspapers and the radio station, will be sent a press release in the event of the county's award of the grant.

The project should easily fit into the current budget of the Carroll County Public Works Department (\$6,060,773.00), which will follow a Maintenance Plan for the site that includes watering, trimming, and fertilizing, in addition to litter abatement.