



For Immediate Release:
Monday, November 10, 2014

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Public Encouraged to Attend Meeting

GEORGIA DOT WANTS YOUR TWO CENTS IN WIDENING AND IMPROVING STATE ROUTE 53 BUSINESS IN PICKENS COUNTY

JASPER, Ga. - A public information open house to discuss the Georgia DOT's proposed improvements to State Route (SR) 53 Business in Pickens County is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2014 from 5 until 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Pickens County Administrative Offices, located at 1266 East Church Street in the city of Jasper, Georgia.

Pickens County's residents interested in learning more about the proposed project are encouraged to attend the meeting and express their thoughts and preferences.

"We would like to hear the viewpoints and concerns of all area residents," says DeWayne Comer, district engineer at the Georgia DOT office in Cartersville. "The Georgia DOT strongly believes that since this project is intended to serve the people of Pickens County, the ideas and preferences of these people are important and can make a difference in our planning process," Comer explains. "This meeting will provide the public with an opportunity to review the proposed project, ask questions, and express their preferences as well as their concerns."

The proposed plans call for widening and reconstructing SR53 Business in Pickens County, beginning at the intersection of SR 515 and SR 53 Business and extending to the intersection of Industrial Boulevard and Burnt Mountain Road for a distance of 2.6 miles. The project will widen the highway from two to four lanes with a raised median. It will also include a split into one-way pairs on the eastern end with one portion following the existing alignment, and the other section on a new location from Summit Street to the intersection of Industrial Boulevard and Burnt Mountain Road. The one-way pair sections are proposed as two 12-foot lanes in each direction with urban shoulders.

The need for the proposed project is driven by the amount of current traffic -26,475 vehicles per day- and projected volumes 20 years down the road - approximately 37, 725 vehicles per day. The purpose of the project is to relieve congestion in the city of Jasper by widening SR 53 Business, and institute operational improvements at signalized intersections, which would also enhance safety.

The Open House will be informal and the public is invited to attend anytime between 5 and 7 p.m. The meeting site is accessible to persons with disabilities. Accommodations for people with disabilities can be arranged with advance notice by calling Cherie Marsh at (678) 721-5257.

Written statements will be accepted concerning this project until December 1, 2014. Written statements may be submitted to:

Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E.
Georgia Department of Transportation
Office of Environmental Services
600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. Georgia is among the fastest growing states in the nation yet lags near the bottom in per capita spending on transportation. Additional transportation revenues are

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