

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS TABLE

LET Sponsor: GDOT LET PI#s: 0013767, 0013768, 0013769 County: Oconee

Date Updated: 3/27/2024 | Stage: CE Approval  
Transmittal Date for Plans Reviewed by OES (if applicable):  
10/5/2023 (0013767) & 9/22/2023 (0013768/0013769)

**Review**  
If no  
commitments,  
NEPA may  
approve for all.

The GDOT project manager (PM) and their manager asserts that these commitments are feasible.

GDOT PM (Name & Initials): 'Achor Njoku/ IN

GDOT PM's Manager (Name): 'Achor Njoku

GDOT PM's Manager (Signature/Date):

03/28/2024

The engineer of record (EOR) asserts that plans incorporate or will incorporate commitments if applicable.

EOR

Signature/Date 3/28/24

Air/Noise: S.P. – 11/22/23 Arch: D.H. – 11/22/23

Eco: D.A. – 11/29/23 Hist: S.R. – 11/22/23

NEPA: A.N. – 3/28/24

## A. Resources to be Delineated on the Plans and/or Listed in the Environmental Resource Impact Table (ERIT)

Resource Name		PI#(s)	Permitted Construction Activity	Refer to	Name and Date of Report or Transmittal	Correctly Shown?	
						Plan Sheet	ERIT
A-1	Open Water (OW) 1	0013767	No activity	-	0013767 Ecology Resources Survey Report and Assessment of Effects Report (ERSR/AOE) 10/26/2023	Yes	Yes
A-2	OW 1 Buffer	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-3	Perennial Stream (PS) 2	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-4	PS 2 Buffer	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-5	Ephemeral Channel (EC) 3	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-6	Intermittent Stream (IS) 4	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-7	IS 4 Buffer	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-8	PS 5	"	590 feet (0.10 acre) of permanent discharge of fill	-	"	"	"
A-9	PS 5 Buffer	"	Non-exempt impacts: side slope fill, placement of riprap, and channel relocation  Exempt impacts: culvert extension and culvert replacement	-	"	"	"
A-10	Wetland (WL) 6	"	0.02 acre of permanent discharge of fill	-	"	"	"
A-11	WL 7	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-12	WL 8	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-13	PS 9	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-14	PS 9 Buffer	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-15	PS 10	"	148 feet (0.02 acre) of permanent discharge of fill & 34 feet (0.01 acre) of temporary hydrological alteration diversion impact <60 days	-	"	"	"

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A-16	PS 10 Buffer	“	Non-exempt impacts: lateral and longitudinal encroachment from side slope fill  Exempt impacts also occurring	-	“	“	“
A-17	IS 11	“	No activity	-	“	“	“
A-18	IS 11 Buffer	“	No activity	-	“	“	“
A-19	OW 12	0013768/ 0013769	No activity	-	0013768/0013769 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	“	“
A-20	OW 12	0013767	No activity	-	0013767 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	“	“
A-21	OW 12 Buffer	0013768/ 0013769	No activity	-	0013768/0013769 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	“	“
A-22	OW 12 Buffer	0013767	No activity	-	0013767 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	“	“
A-23	IS 12a	0013768/ 0013769	No activity	-	0013768/0013769 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	“	“
A-24	IS 12a	0013767	61 ft (0.01 ac) of permanent discharge of fill	-	0013767 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	“	“
A-25	IS 12a Buffer	“	Exempt impacts for culvert extension	-	“	“	“
A-26	IS 12a Buffer	0013768/ 0013769	No activity	-	0013768/0013769 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	“	“
A-27	PS 12b	“	165 feet (0.050 acre) of permanent fill	-	“	“	“
A-28	PS 12b	0013767	No activity	-	0013767 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	“	“
A-29	PS 12b Buffer	0013768/ 0013769	Non-exempt impacts: construction of fill slopes and clearing and grubbing for construction access  Exempt impacts: culvert extensions	-	0013768/0013769 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	“	“
A-30	PS 12b Buffer	0013767	No activity	-	0013767 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	“	“
A-31	IS 12c	“	No activity	-	“	“	“
A-32	IS 12c	0013768/ 0013769	No activity	-	0013768/0013769 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	“	“
A-33	IS 12c Buffer	“	Non-exempt impacts for construction of fill slopes and clearing and grubbing for construction access	-	“	“	“



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A-34	IS 12c Buffer	0013767	No activity	-	0013767 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	"	"
A-35	IS 12d	0013768/ 0013769	55 feet (0.004 acre) of permanent fill	-	0013768/0013769 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	"	"
A-36	IS 12d	0013767	No activity	-	0013767 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	"	"
A-37	IS 12d Buffer	0013768/ 0013769	Non-exempt impacts: construction of fill slopes and clearing and grubbing for construction access  Exempt impacts: culvert extensions	-	0013768/0013769 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	"	"
A-38	IS 12d Buffer	0013767	No activity	-	0013767 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	"	"
A-39	WL 13	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-40	WL 13	0013768/ 0013769	0.09 ac of permanent fill	-	0013768/0013769 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	"	"
A-41	WL 14	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-42	OW 15	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-43	OW 15 Buffer	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-44	PS 16	"	310 feet (0.040 acre) of permanent fill	-	"	"	"
A-45	PS 16 Buffer	"	Non-exempt impacts: construction of fill slopes and clearing and grubbing for construction access  Exempt impacts: culvert extensions	-	"	"	"
A-46	IS 17	"	544 feet (0.037) acre of permanent fill	-	"	"	"
A-47	IS 17 Buffer	"	Non-exempt impacts for construction of fill slopes and clearing and grubbing for construction access	-	"	"	"
A-48	WL 18	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-49	PS 19	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-50	PS 19 Buffer	"	No activity	-	"	"	"
A-51	Listed Species	All	Construction such that harm to listed species is minimized or avoided	B-1 & E-1	0013767 & 0013768/0013769 ERSR/AOE 10/26/2023	Not Req'd	"

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10/5/2023 (0013767) & 9/22/2023 (0013768/0013769)**B. Special Provisions (Attach all special provisions with transmittal letters to the commitments table, if available)**

	<i>Special Provision</i>	<i>PI#(s)</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Est. Cost</i>	<i>SP's Latest Date</i>
B-1	SP 107.23.H	All	For the protection of the Tricolored Bat	Negligible	10.4.2023 (0013768/0013769) & 4.14.2023 (0013767)

**C. ERIT Comments and Design Features (Description: For ERIT Comments, provide exact wording for the comments section of the ERIT)**

	<i>ERIT Comment or Design Feature</i>	<i>PI#(s)</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Est. Cost</i>	<i>Correctly Shown?</i>
-	None	-	-	-	-

**D. Necessary Permits, Buffer Variances and Mitigation Credits**

	<i>Permit, Variance, etc.</i>	<i>PI#(s)</i>	<i>Add'l Info (permit expiration date, number of credits needed, etc...)</i>	<i>Est. Cost</i>	<i>Acquired?</i>
D-1	Notice of Intent (NOI) for NPDES	All	The Office of Bidding Administration and Construction Contractor will submit a NOI to the NPDES General Permit following award of the contract but prior to construction.	Negligible	No – will be acquired prior to construction
D-2	Section 404 Regional Permit (RP) 34	“	Expires TBD	TBD	No – will be acquired by Design Build (DB) Team prior to construction
D-3	Stream Mitigation Credits	0013768/ 0013769	805.5 2018 credits (365.25 perennial stream less than 3 square miles and 449.24 non-perennial stream) or 7,509.6 Legacy credits	TBD	No – will be acquired by DB Team prior to construction
D-4	Stream Mitigation Credits	0013767	553.50 perennial stream less than 3 square miles and 45.75 non-perennial stream 2018 credits or 6,971.40 Legacy credits	TBD	No – will be acquired by DB Team prior to construction
D-5	Wetland Mitigation Credits	0013768/ 0013769	0.07 2018 credits (Riverine/Lacustrine Fringe Wetland) / 0.56 Legacy credits	TBD	No – will be acquired by DB Team prior to construction
D-6	Wetland Mitigation Credits	0013767	0.02 2018 credits (Riverine) / 0.16 Legacy Credits	TBD	No – will be acquired by DB Team prior to construction
D-7	Buffer Variance	All	Required under Criterion 2(a) and Criterion 2(h); Expires TBD	Negligible	No – will be acquired by DB Team prior to construction

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D-8	Buffer Mitigation Credits	0013768/ 0013769	Required for buffer impacts, TBD amount	TBD	No – will be acquired by DB Team prior to construction
D-9	Buffer Mitigation Credits	0013767	Required for buffer impacts, TBD amount	TBD	No – will be acquired by DB Team prior to construction

**E. Other Commitments or Requirements (Status: Pre- and Post – Complete or Incomplete; During – Signature Req'd)**

<i>Pre-, During, or Post</i>		<i>PI#(s)</i>	<i>Commitment</i>	<i>Responsible party</i>	<i>Est. Cost</i>	<i>Status</i>
E-1	Preconstruction	All	A winter survey will be conducted for tri-colored bat prior to let.	GDOT OES Ecology	Negligible	Incomplete – will be completed prior to construction
E-2	During Construction	All	For the temporary detour of Jimmy Daniell Road westbound access to SR 316 and for the temporary detour of SR 316 eastbound access to Oconee Connector, the Design Build Team will follow technical provisions (TPs) to ensure local Governmental Entities, local Emergency Services, and the local schools are provided notice at least 30 days in advance of the accepted date of closures.	Design Build Team/GEC	Negligible	Incomplete
E-3	During Construction	All	For additional detours proposed during construction, the Design Build Team will follow TPs to conduct early coordination with local Governmental Entities, local Emergency Services, school board and the District Office by use of detour letter for review and feedback on the proposed detour.	Design Build Team/GEC	Negligible	Incomplete

<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>\$TBD</b>
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If Project is Complete or Under Construction, Area or Construction Engineer affirms that all Special Provisions, Plan Notes and During Construction Commitments were or are being adhered to during the project's construction.

Please Print Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Please provide an explanation if unable to sign.

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# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE OF GEORGIA

## SPECIAL PROVISION

PI Nos. 0013768 & 0013769  
Oconee County

### Section 107—Legal Regulations and Responsibility to the Public

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*Add the following to Subsection 107.23:*

#### H. Protection of Ecological Resources

The following conditions are intended as a minimum to protect ecological resources.

1. All project personnel shall be advised about the potential presence and appearance of the proposed federally protected tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*). All personnel shall be advised that there are civil and criminal penalties for harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, capturing, or collecting of the above species in knowing violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Pictures and habitat information shall be posted in a conspicuous location in the Project field office until such time that Project activity has been completed and time charges have stopped. In addition, the Contractor shall be responsible for maintaining one set of pictures and habitat information on the Project site that is easily accessible at all times. If a Project field office is not present, a copy of the pictures and habitat information shall be supplied to the Project personnel to be kept on the Project during construction activities.
2. For the Perennial Stream (PS) 12b and PS 16 culvert extensions, an ecologist prequalified in Area Class 1.06(h) shall be employed to conduct a full culvert inspection prior to the start of demolition activities. If project changes require impacts to the PS 19 culvert or GA 316 Bridge over Paul Brown Parkway (Structure ID 219-0020-0) in the future, the same requirements below shall apply to these structures.
  - a. The contract ecologist shall inspect the entirety of the culverts and complete the emergence survey no more than fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled start of construction activities.
  - b. For these structures, if the contract ecologist observes roosting bats or signs of bat roosting on the structure, then he/she shall notify the Engineer immediately, who in turn will notify the State Environmental Administrator, Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental Services at (404) 631-1101. All activities on that culvert or bridge shall be stopped until a site visit has been conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or Georgia Department of Natural Resources and/or their designated representative. Pending the outcome of the site visit, the work may need to be delayed until after October 15 or, if necessary, until after consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is completed.
  - c. For these structures, if the contract ecologist does not observe roosting bats or signs of bat roosting on the structure, then construction activities on that culvert or bridge may proceed.

**SP 107.23H – Protection of Ecological Resources**

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- d. For these structures, the contract ecologist shall document the findings of his/her inspection by completing a Georgia Bats in Bridges Datasheet inspection form. Within two (2) business days of completing each inspection, the contract ecologist shall submit a copy of the inspection form to the State Environmental Administrator via the Ecology Submittals Inbox (Ecology\_submittals@dot.ga.gov). The email shall be formatted with the title "Inspection Report: PI Nos. 0013768 & 0013769". The State Environmental Administrator in turn will provide the inspection form to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the lead Federal Agency within five (5) business days of receipt.
3. When working on the culverts, sightings of roosting bat species shall be reported immediately to the Engineer who in turn will notify the State Environmental Administrator, Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental Services at (404) 631-1100. All construction activity, with the exception of traffic control and erosion control, shall cease pending consultation by the Department with the lead federal agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The Department will inform the contractor of any changes to the project.
4. For tricolored bat, no tree clearing shall occur from May 1-July 31 or December 1 – February 28.
5. In the event any incident occurs that causes injury to the above species along the Project corridor, the Contractor shall report the incident immediately to the Engineer who in turn will notify the State Environmental Administrator, Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental Services at (404) 631-1101. With the exception of traffic control and erosion control, all activity shall cease pending consultation by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division and the Federal Highway Administration.
6. The Contractor shall keep a log detailing any incidents that cause harm or injury to the above species or adjacent to the Project until such time that construction is complete and time charges have stopped. Following Project completion, the log and a report summarizing any incidents that caused harm to this species shall be submitted by the Contractor to the Engineer, and via email to the GDOT Office of Environmental Services (ecology\_submittals@dot.ga.gov). This email shall be formatted with the title "Incident Log: PI Nos. 0013768 & 0013769." GDOT in turn will provide copies of the report to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division and the Federal Highway Administration.
7. All costs pertaining to any requirement contained herein shall be included in the overall bid submitted unless such requirement is designated as a separate Pay Item in the Proposal.

# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE OF GEORGIA

## SPECIAL PROVISION

Oconee County  
PI # 0013767

### Section 107—Legal Regulations and Responsibility to the Public

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*Add the following to Subsection 107.23:*

#### H. Protection of Ecological Resources

The following conditions are intended as a minimum to protect these species and their habitat during any activities that are in close proximity to the known location(s) of these species.

1. All Project personnel shall be advised about the potential presence and appearance of the federal protected tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*). Suitable foraging and roosting habitat for the tricolored bat is present in the mixed pine-hardwood forest, bottomland forest, and within box culverts at Perennial Stream (PS) 2, PS5, PS10, and PS12b. Pictures and habitat information shall be posted in a conspicuous location in the Project field office until such time that Project construction activities have been completed and time charges have stopped. In addition, the Contractor shall be responsible for maintaining one set of pictures and habitat information on the Project site that is easily accessible at all times. If a Project field office is not present, a copy of the pictures and habitat information shall be supplied to the Project personnel to be kept on the Project during construction activities. All personnel shall be advised that there are civil and criminal penalties for harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, capturing, or collecting of the above species in knowing violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Georgia Endangered Wildlife Act of 1973.
2. All clearing of woody vegetation shall occur outside of the non-volant pup season (May 1 – July 31) and winter hibernation season (December 1 – February 28) for tricolored bat.
3. A winter culvert survey shall be conducted within the PS2, PS5, PS10, and PS12b culverts, prior to Let.
4. In the event any incident occurs that causes injury to the above species along the Project corridor, the Contractor shall report the incident immediately to the Engineer who in turn will notify the State Environmental Administrator, GDOT Office of Environmental Services at (404) 631-1101. All activities, other than erosion control and traffic control, shall cease pending consultation by GDOT with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Division (GADNR) and the Lead Federal Agency.
5. The Contractor shall keep a log detailing any incidents that cause harm or injury to the above species within the project until such time that project construction has been completed and time charges have stopped. Within 30 days of project completion, the log and a report summarizing any incidents that caused harm or injury to this species shall be submitted to the Engineer and the State Environmental Administrator, GDOT Office of Environmental Services via the Ecology Submittals Inbox (Ecology\_submittals@dot.ga.gov). The email shall be

**SP 107.23H – Protection of State Protected Species**

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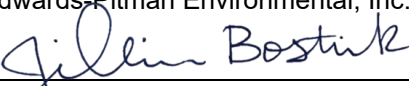

formatted with the title "Incident Log: PI# 0013767". GDOT in turn will provide copies of the report to the GADNR and the Lead Federal Agency.

6. All costs pertaining to any requirement contained herein shall be included in the overall bid submitted unless such requirement is designated as a separate Pay Item in the Proposal.

PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

## I. General Information

Project Name: PI 00013767: SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 55/Jimmy Daniell Road; PI 00013768: SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road; PI 00013769: SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 929/Oconee Connector		
Project Number: N/A		
GDOT District #: 1	STIP/TIP #: MTP P-77 (0013767); N/A (0013769)	
Funded Years	Right of Way: 2024 (all PI Nos.)	Construction: 2025-2027 (0013767 & 0013769); 2025 (0013768)
Project Limits: State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/United States (US) 29 (SR 316) at County Road (CR) 55/Jimmy Daniell Road (0013767); SR 316 at CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road (SR 316 at Virgil Langford Road) (0013768); SR 316 at CR 929/Oconee Connector (SR 316 at Oconee Connector) (0013769)		
Project is on the C list: N/A or Project is on the D list: (d)(13) Actions described in paragraphs (c)(26), (c)(27) and (c)(28) of this section that do not meet the constraints in 23 CFR 771.117(e).		

Prepared By:		3/14/2024
	Natalie Glazer NEPA Planner Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.	Date
Reviewed By:		3/15/2024
	Jillian Bostwick P3 Support Services NEPA Lead Georgia Department of Transportation	Date
Concurred By:		3/22/2024
	Eric Duff State Environmental Administrator Georgia Department of Transportation	Date
Approved By:		4/11/2024
-for-	Sabrina David, AICP Division Administrator Federal Highway Administration	Date

**II. Need and Purpose:** See Attachment 1 – Effects Evaluation

**III. Project Description:** See Attachment 1 – Effects Evaluation



PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

#### IV. Class of Action – Categorical Exclusion (CE)

<b>A. Actions Requiring Concurrences Prior to CE Approval (See Attachment 2 for concurrences, if applicable)</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>If yes, date of concurrence*</b>
Section 106/Assessment of Effects (SHPO Concurrence)	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Section 106/Memorandum of Agreement (Agencies' Concurrence)	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Draft Individual Section 4(f) Evaluation (Final submitted with CE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
<i>De Minimis</i> Acknowledgement/Requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Protected Species/No Effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Protected Species/Section 7 Consultation with USFWS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11/20/2023
Protected Species/Section 7 Consultation with NMFS	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Essential Fish Habitat Coordination with NMFS	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
FWCA/USFWS Coordination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11/20/2023
USCG Navigable Water Determination	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

<b>B. Public Involvement</b>
A virtual public information open house was held from May 17, 2022 through June 10, 2022 for PI No. 0013767 and from June 16, 2022 through July 13, 2022 for PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769. Additional detour coordination outreach occurred for PI No. 0013767 beginning on October 25, 2023 through November 15, 2023. See Attachment 1 for a discussion and Attachment 3 for the open house materials.

#### V. Effects Evaluation

Effects Evaluation categories are defined as follows: (1) *Involvement*: a resource is affected by the proposed project (e.g., the project impacts a wetland); (2) *No Involvement*: A resource is within the Area of Potential Effect, but the project would not affect the resource (e.g., a wetland is located in the project area but is not impacted by the project). (2) *None*: The resource does not exist within the Area of Potential Effect (e.g., no wetlands are located in the project area).

Please note that the Effects Evaluation provided in this Categorical Exclusion is intended to be a summary document. Most of the resource and impact information is taken from more detailed specialist reports that can be obtained by contacting the Georgia Department of Transportation Office Environmental Services at (404) 631-1100.

<b>A. Social Environment</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Attachments</b>
1. Land Use Changes	Involvement	1
2. Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898, E.O. 14096) /Populations	No Involvement	1,2
3. Relocation Potential	Involvement	1,2
4. Churches, Cemeteries, and Institutions	None	-
5. Parks, Recreation Areas, and Wildlife Refuges	None	-
6. Public Controversy Potential	No Involvement	1,3
7. Public Involvement	Involvement	1,3
8. Economic Impacts	None	-
9. Other	None	-

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<b>B. Cultural Environment</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Attachments</b>
1. Historic Sites	None	1,2
2. Archaeological Sites	None	1,2
3. Other	None	-

<b>C. Natural Environment</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Attachments</b>
1. Waters of the US/State Waters	Involvement	1,2
2. Water Quality/303(d) List	None	1
3. Wild and Scenic Rivers	None	-
4. Essential Fish Habitat	None	-
5. Floodplains	None	2
6. Farmland	None	2
7. Protected Species	Involvement	1,2
8. Invasive Species	No Involvement	1,2
9. Wildlife and Habitat	Involvement	1,2
10. Other	None	-

<b>D. Physical Environment</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Attachments</b>
1. Noise Assessment	No Involvement	1,2
2. Air Assessment	No Involvement	1,2
3. Energy/Mineral Resources	None	-
4. Underground Storage Tanks/Hazardous Waste	No Involvement	1,2
5. Other	None	-

<b>E. Permits/Variations/Commitments Required</b>	<b>Required?</b>	<b>Attachments</b>
1. CWA USACE Section 404 Permit	Yes, See C.1.	1,2
2. GEPD Buffer Variance	Yes, See C.1.	1,2
3. 404 and/or Buffer Mitigation Needed	Yes, See C.1.	1,2
4. Tennessee Valley Authority Permit	No	-
5. Coastal Zone Management Coordination	No	-
6. Cemetery Permit	No	-
7. NPDES	Yes	1,2
8. U.S. Coast Guard	No	-
9. Forest Service/USACE Land (Section 408)	No	-
10. Other	No	-

<b>F. Section 4(f) Applicability</b>	<b>Applicable?</b>	<b>Attachments</b>
1. <i>De Minimis</i>	No	-
2. Programmatic	No	-
3. Individual	No	-
4. Historic Bridge Applicability and Marketing	NA	-
5. Section 6(f) Applicability	No	-

PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

See the **Environmental Commitments Table** that accompanies this document for a list of the environmental commitments resulting from the evaluation listed above.

Attachments appear in the following order:

1. Effects Evaluation
2. Correspondence
3. Public Involvement Materials

PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

## Attachment 1 Effects Evaluation

## Attachment 1 – Effects Evaluation

### II. Need and Purpose:

#### PI 0013767: SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and CR 55/Jimmy Daniell Road

The proposed project is needed to improve mobility, reduce the potential for crashes, and improve traffic flow conditions along approximately 1.2 miles of State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/United States (US) 29 (SR 316) and the current at-grade, signalized intersection with County Road (CR) 55/Jimmy Daniell Road (Jimmy Daniell Road) in Oconee County. The existing (2020) annual average daily traffic (AADT) for SR 316 is 42,750 vehicles and the existing AADT for Jimmy Daniell Road is 7,800 vehicles. In the design year (2048), vehicle delays would continue to increase for the intersection of SR 316 and Jimmy Daniell Road. At the intersection, the average peak hour delay in the design year (2048) is expected to be approximately 223.2 seconds per vehicle in the AM peak hour and approximately 319.0 seconds per vehicle in the PM peak hour. Because traffic volumes are expected to increase in the future, the number of crashes and delays occurring in the future are also likely to increase. Table 1 below describes the existing and anticipated traffic delays, level of service (LOS), as well as crash data. LOS is a term used to qualitatively describe the operating conditions of a roadway based on factors such as speed, travel time, maneuverability, delay, and safety. LOS is defined as A – F, with A being the best operating condition and F being the worst.

**Table 1: 0013767 Existing and Anticipated Traffic Delays and Crash Data**

Level of Service (LOS) and Delays			
	Existing (2020)	No Build Design Year (2048)	Build Design Year (2048) EB Ramp / WB Ramp
Delay (AM)	30.9 seconds (sec)/vehicle (veh)	223.3 sec/veh	7.2 sec/veh / 7.9 sec/veh
LOS (AM)	C	F	A / A
Delay (PM)	50.0 sec/veh	319.0 sec/veh	10.4 sec/veh / 25.3 sec/veh
LOS (PM)	D	F	B / D

Crash Data (2019-2023)							
Project Location / Functional Classification	Crash Severity	Crash Rates by Year (Crashes Per 100 MVM)					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Statewide 5-Year Average*
SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and CR 55/Jimmy Daniell Road	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide Rural Principal Arterial		2	1	2	-	-	2
SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and CR 55/Jimmy Daniell Road	Injury (Non-Fatal)	46	51	75	62	79	63
Statewide Rural Principal Arterial		32	32	41	-	-	35
SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and CR 55/Jimmy Daniell Road	All	228	173	277	253	297	246
Statewide Rural Principal Arterial		116	119	133	-	-	123

PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

Total Crashes	196
Rear End Crash	140 (71.4% of total crashes)
Angle Crash	21 (10.7% of total crashes)
Non-vehicle Collision	20 (10.2% of total crashes)
Sideswipe-Same Collision	14 (7.2% of total crashes)
Head-On Crash	1 (0.5% of total crashes)

Source: Traffic Report: "SR 316 Design Build Project: Bundle 2" dated 4/28/2022.

Note: Per the approved Concept Report dated November 2022, PI No. 0013767 design year is 2048 and PI Nos. 0013768/0013769 design year is 2046.

\*Georgia Statewide crash rate is not available for 2022 and 2023.

### PI 0013768: SR 316 and CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road

The proposed project is needed to improve mobility, potentially reduce crashes, and improve traffic flow conditions along approximately 0.4 miles of SR 316 and the current at-grade intersection with CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road (Virgil Langford Road) in Oconee County. The existing (2020) AADT for SR 316 is 42,750 vehicles and the existing AADT on Virgil Langford Road is 3,500 vehicles. The AADT on SR 316 is expected to be 47,500 in 2026 and 68,350 in 2046. The AADT on Virgil Langford Road is expected to be 3,925 in 2026 and 5,700 in the design year (2046). Because traffic volumes are expected to increase, the number of crashes and delays occurring in the future are also likely to increase. Table 2 below describes the existing and anticipated traffic delays, LOS, as well as crash data.

**Table 2: 0013768 Existing and Anticipated Traffic Delays and Crash Data**

Level of Service (LOS) and Delays			
	Existing (2020)	No Build Design Year (2046)	Build Design Year (2046)
Delay (AM)	30.3 sec/veh	413.9 sec/veh	0 sec/veh*
LOS (AM)	D	F	A*
Delay (PM)	508.6 sec/veh	> 1000 sec/veh	0 sec/veh*
LOS (PM)	F	F	A*

Crash Data (2019-2023)							
Project Location / Functional Classification	Crash Severity	Crash Rates by Year (Crashes Per 100 MVM)					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	5-Year Average**
SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide Rural Principal Arterial		2	1	2	-	-	2
SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road	Injury (Non-Fatal)	264	227	191	282	339	261
Statewide Rural Principal Arterial		32	32	41	-	-	35
SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road	All	1419	908	1499	1630	1911	1473
Statewide Rural Principal Arterial		116	119	133	-	-	123

PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

Total Crashes	232
Rear End Crash	218 (94.0% of total crashes)
Sideswipe-Same Collision	7 (3.0% of total crashes)
Non-vehicle Collision	5 (2.2% of total crashes)
Sideswipe-Opposite Collision	1 (0.4% of total crashes)
Angle Crash	1 (0.4% of total crashes)

\*Intersection is proposed to be replaced with a grade separate bridge with no access to and from SR 316. Therefore, delay is expected to be 0 seconds with a level of service "A".

Source: "SR 316 Design Build Project: Bundle 2 Traffic Analysis Report" dated 3/2022.

Note: Per the approved Concept Report dated November 2022, PI No. 0013767 design year is 2048 and PI Nos. 0013768/0013769 design year is 2046.

\*\*Georgia Statewide crash rate is not available for 2022 and 2023.

### PI 0013769: SR 316 and Oconee Connector

The proposed project is needed to improve mobility, potentially reduce crashes, and improve traffic flow conditions along approximately 1.6 miles of SR 316 and the current at-grade intersection with CR 929/Oconee Connector (Oconee Connector) in Oconee County. The existing (2020) AADT on SR 316 is 41,700 vehicles and the existing AADT on Oconee Connector is 26,500 vehicles. The AADT on SR 316 is expected to be 46,100 vehicles per day (VPD) in 2026 and 66,275 VPD in 2046. The AADT on Oconee Connector is expected to be 29,625 VPD in 2026 and 42,750 VPD in the design year (2046). Because traffic volumes are expected to increase, the number of crashes and delays occurring in the future are also likely to increase.

Table 3 below describes the existing and anticipated traffic delays, LOS, as well as crash data.

**Table 3: 0013769 Existing and Anticipated Traffic Delays and Crash Data**

Level of Service (LOS) and Delays			
	Existing (2020)	No Build Design Year (2046)	Build Design Year (2046) EB Off Ramp / WB Off Ramp
Delay (AM)	56.3 sec/veh	142.5 sec/veh	23.8 sec/veh / 20.1 sec/veh
LOS (AM)	E	F	C / C
Delay (PM)	75.6 sec/veh	221.3 sec/veh	20.7 sec/veh / 39.5 sec/veh
LOS (PM)	E	F	C / D

Crash Data (2019 - 2023)							
Project Location / Functional Classification	Crash Severity	Crash Rates by Year (Crashes Per 100 MVM)					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	5-Year Average*
SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and Oconee Connector	Fatal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide Rural Principal Arterial		2	1	2	-	-	2
SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and Oconee Connector	Injury (Non-Fatal)	210	275	371	216	163	247
Statewide Rural Principal Arterial		32	32	41	-	-	35
SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and Oconee Connector	All	1449	1116	1520	1578	1176	1368
Statewide Rural Principal Arterial		116	119	133	-	-	123

Total Crashes	405
Rear End Crash	341 (84.2% of total crashes)
Sideswipe-Same Collision	33 (8.2% of total crashes)
Angle Crash	20 (4.9% of total crashes)
Non-vehicle Collision	11 (2.7% of total crashes)

Source: "SR 316 Design Build Project: Bundle 2 Traffic Analysis Report" dated 3/2022.

Note: Per the approved Concept Report dated November 2022, PI No. 0013767 design year is 2048 and PI Nos. 0013768/0013769 design year is 2046.

\*Georgia Statewide crash rate is not available for 2022 and 2023.

### III. Project Description:

#### *Existing Facility:*

#### **PI 0013767: SR 316 and CR 55/Jimmy Daniell Road**

SR 316 is an east-west running divided highway consisting of four, 12-foot concrete travel lanes (two lanes in each direction), a 44-foot depressed (grassed) median, 10-foot outside shoulders (4-foot paved), 8-foot inside shoulders (4-foot paved), rumble strips, and eastbound and westbound left and right turn lanes. There is currently one, at-grade intersection within the project limits which consists of SR 316 at Jimmy Daniell Road. Jimmy Daniell Road is a two-lane undivided minor arterial with 12-foot lanes and a paved shoulder on the southbound approach. There are left turn lanes and channelized right turns on both approaches. The intersection of Jimmy Daniell Road and SR 316 is signalized with protected, permissive left turn phasing on SR 316. There are crosswalks and pedestrian signal heads, but no sidewalks within one-half mile of the intersection. The existing right-of-way (ROW) width varies between 200 and 1,000 feet along SR 316 and 75 and 140 feet along Jimmy Daniell Road. The spelling of the roadway name is "Jimmy Daniel Road" on some of the existing roadway signage and "Jimmy Daniell Road" on other signage. The Georgia DOT has determined that "Jimmy Daniell Road" will be the spelling used in future documentation and roadway signage.

#### **PI 0013768: SR 316 and Virgil Langford Road**

SR 316 is a four-lane lane rural divided highway with four, 12-foot concrete/asphalt travel lanes (two lanes in each direction), 44-foot depressed (grassed) median, 10-foot outside shoulders (4 feet paved), and 6-foot inside shoulders (4 feet paved). There is currently one at-grade, unsignalized intersection within the project limits. This intersection consists of SR 316 at Virgil Langford Road. South of SR 316, Virgil Langford Road consists of two, 11-foot travel lanes (one lane in each direction) with narrow grass shoulders. North of SR 316, Virgil Langford Road consists of two, 12-foot travel lanes with sidewalk and bike lanes. The current intersection consists of two right-in/right-outs (RIRO) with no through movements located on either side of SR 316. The existing ROW along Virgil Langford Road is 80-feet.



PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

**PI 0013769: SR 316 and Oconee Connector**

SR 316 is a four-lane rural divided highway with four, 12-foot concrete/asphalt travel lanes (two lanes in each direction), a 44-foot depressed (grassed) median west of Oconee Connector and a raised median east of Oconee Connector, 10-foot outside shoulders (4 feet paved), and 6-foot inside shoulders (4 feet paved). There is currently one at-grade, signalized intersection within the project limits. This intersection consists of SR 316 at Oconee Connector. Oconee Connector is a four-lane roadway with 12-foot lanes (two in each direction), a 20-foot to 32-foot raised median, bike lanes, and sidewalk. In the area of SR 316 and Oconee Connector, the existing ROW varies between 180 feet and 1,385 feet along SR 316 and is 150 feet along Oconee Connector.

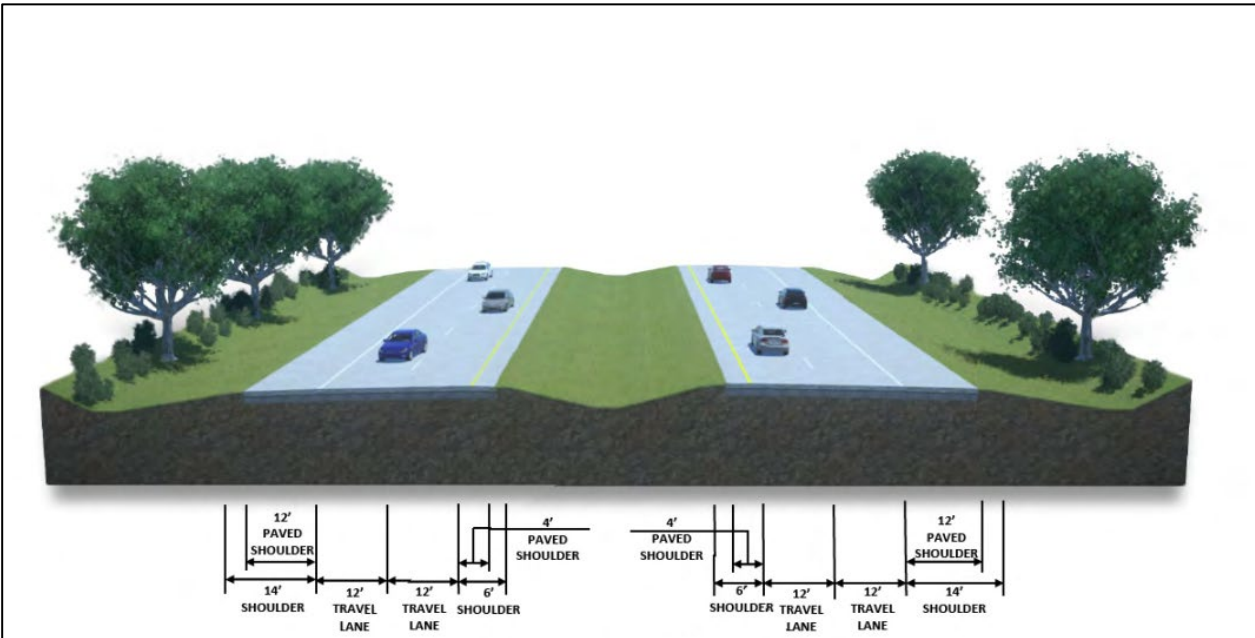
*Proposed Project:*

Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769 propose to grade separate the existing at-grade intersections of SR 316 at Jimmy Daniell Road, SR 316 at Virgil Langford Road, and SR 316 at Oconee Connector, respectively. The projects are located approximately 6.7 miles west of downtown Athens, Georgia in Oconee County.

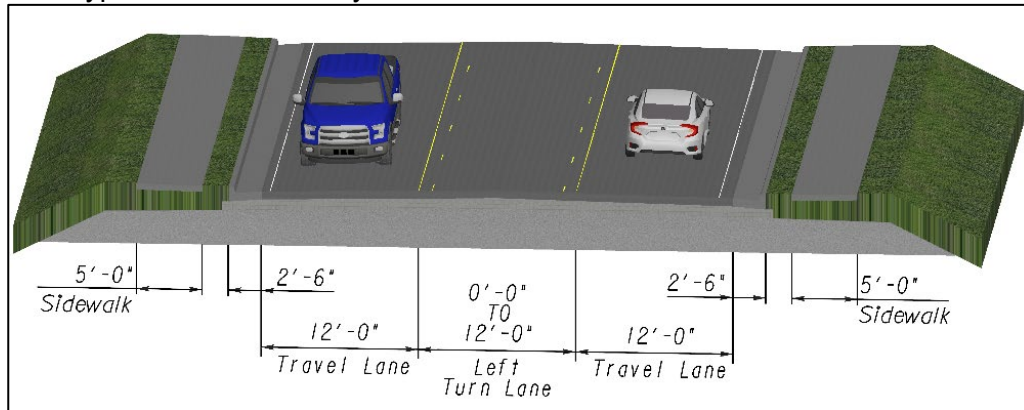
**PI 0013767: SR 316 and CR 55/Jimmy Daniell Road**

PI No. 0013767 proposes to convert the existing at-grade intersection of SR 316 and Jimmy Daniell Road to a grade separated diamond interchange with single lane roundabouts at each ramp terminal. At the proposed Jimmy Daniell Road and SR 316 interchange, the proposed typical section of SR 316 would consist of four 12-foot travel lanes with 4-foot paved inside and 12-foot paved outside shoulders, inside rumble strips, and an auxiliary lane in both the eastbound and westbound directions. The proposed typical section of Jimmy Daniell Road would include two 12-foot lanes with a 16-foot urban shoulder and 5-foot sidewalk. An 8-foot raised median would also be constructed at the roundabout approaches. The proposed project length is approximately 5,808 feet (1.1 miles) along SR 316 and 2,640 feet (0.5 mile) along Jimmy Daniell Road. The proposed typical sections of SR 316 and Jimmy Daniell Road can be found below.

Typical Section: SR 316 Four-Lane Rural Freeway with Depressed Median



Typical Section: Jimmy Daniell Road Two-Lane Rural Minor Arterial

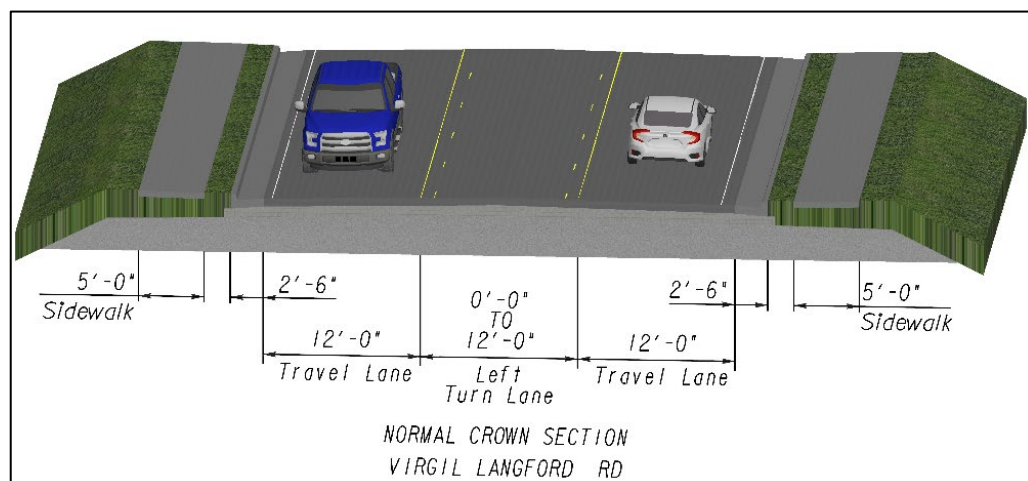
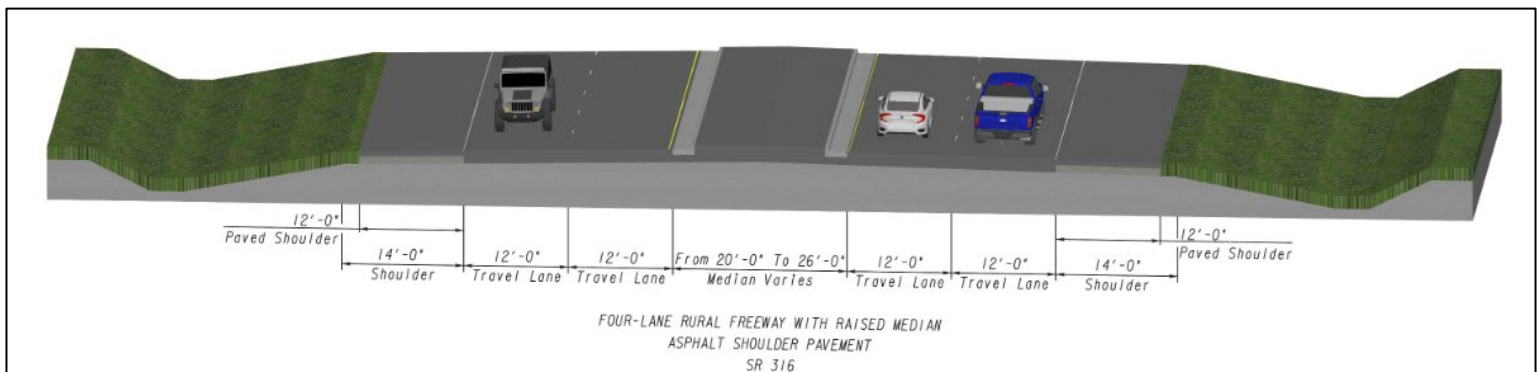
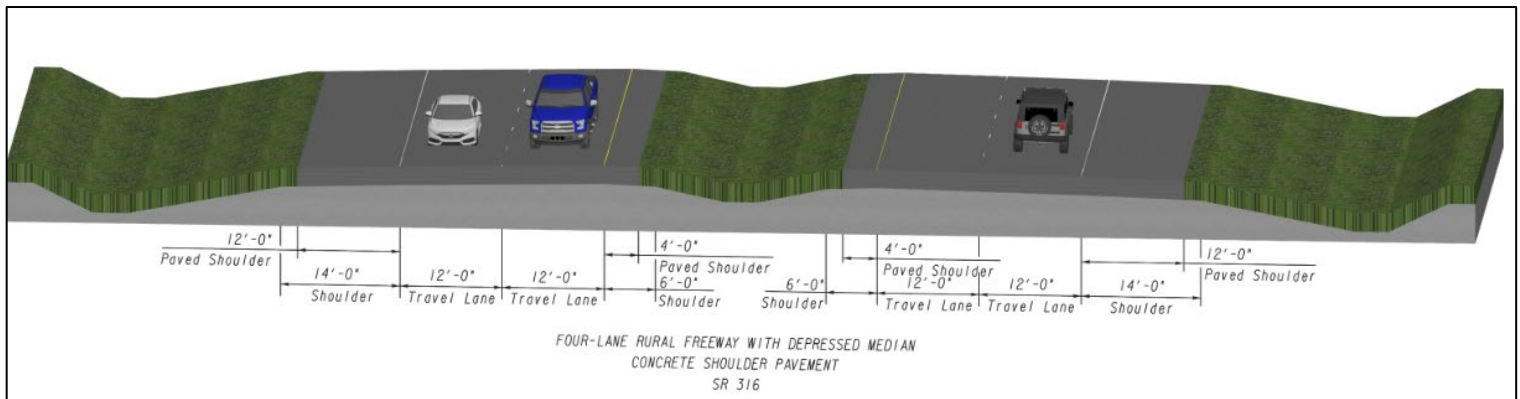


### PI 0013768: SR 316 and Virgil Langford Road

PI No. 0013768 would remove the existing at-grade, unsignalized intersection and construct a new bridge and approaches to create a grade separation on Virgil Langford Road over SR 316. The preferred alternative proposes to construct the bridge on shifted alignment to the east that would consist of a 316-foot, 3-span bridge. The bridge would include three lanes (two travel lanes and a left turn lane). The lanes would be 12 feet wide, with a 2-foot outside lateral offset and 6-foot-6-inch-wide sidewalk. The reconstructed portion of Virgil Langford Road would be two lanes with appropriate turning lanes and urban 12-foot-wide shoulders including sidewalk. The proposed ROW would vary between 80 feet and 245

PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

feet. The approximate length of the project would be 2,300 feet (0.43 mile) along Virgil Langford Road. The proposed typical sections of SR 316 and Virgil Langford Road can be found below.



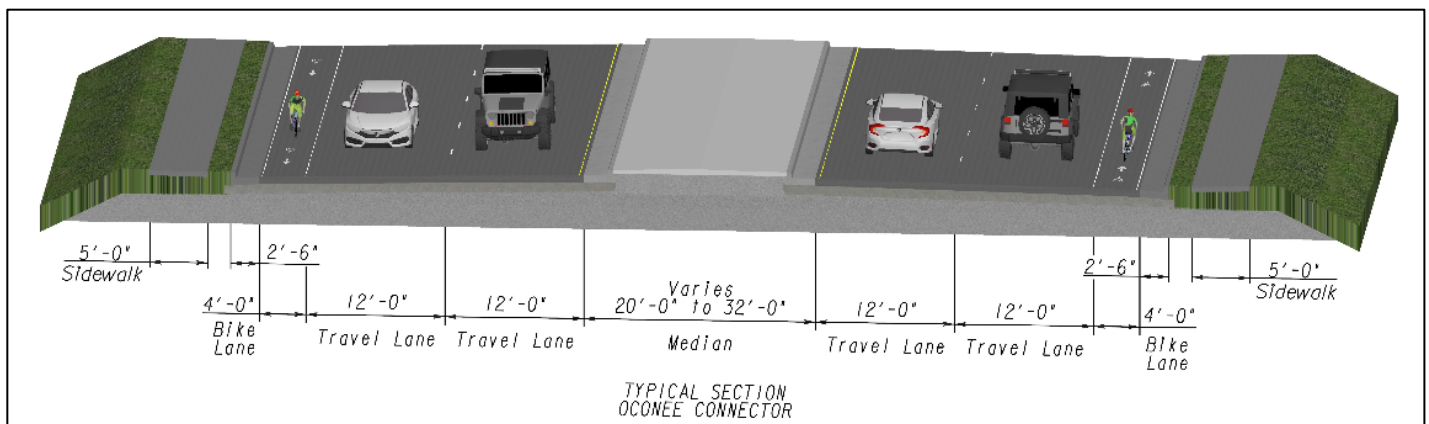
### PI 0013769: SR 316 and Oconee Connector

PI 0013769 proposes to replace the at-grade intersection of SR 316 and the Oconee Connector with a new interchange and new bridge over 316. Additional proposed

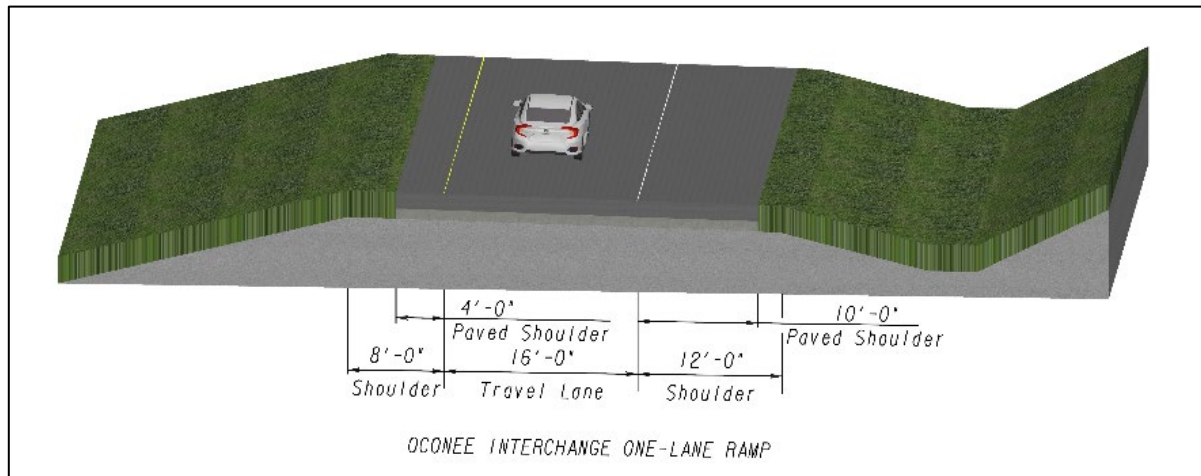
PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

actions include widening the existing outside shoulders on SR 316, the modification of the existing traffic signal-controlled intersection of SR 316 at the southbound SR 10 Loop Ramp to implement a continuous Green Light “T” type intersection<sup>1</sup> for eastbound traffic, and the construction of auxiliary lanes on SR 316 connecting the easterly ramps of PI No. 0013767 with the westerly ramps of PI No. 0013769.

At SR 316, the Oconee Connector would be shifted to the east and a partial cloverleaf interchange would be constructed. The new 224-foot, two span bridge would consist of five lanes (two lanes in each direction with a left turn lane) and raised median. The lanes would be 12 feet wide with 4-foot bike lane, 2-foot lateral offset, and 6-foot-6-inch-wide sidewalk. The reconstructed Oconee Connector would be four lanes with appropriate turning lanes and 16-foot urban shoulders including sidewalk, 4-foot bike lanes, and a variable width raised median. Proposed ramps for the interchange would include a partial cloverleaf configuration for the westbound exit ramp, with the remaining ramps to be in a diamond configuration. Lanes for the ramp would vary in width from 12 feet to 16 feet with rural shoulders that are 8 feet (4-foot paved) to the inside and 12 feet (10-foot paved) to the outside. SR 316 outside shoulders would be widened to 14 feet (12-foot paved). The approximate length of the project is 8,400 feet (1.59 miles) along SR 316 and 3,089 feet (0.58 mile) along the Oconee Connector. The proposed typical sections of Oconee Connector can be found below and the typical sections for SR 316 can be found in the above graphics under PI No. 0013768 (the proposed SR 316 typical sections for these two projects are identical).



<sup>1</sup> A Continuous Green T intersection is a type of 3-leg intersection in which one direction of mainline traffic does not have to stop. A traffic signal controls the opposite direction of mainline traffic, allowing left turns to occur to and from the side street.

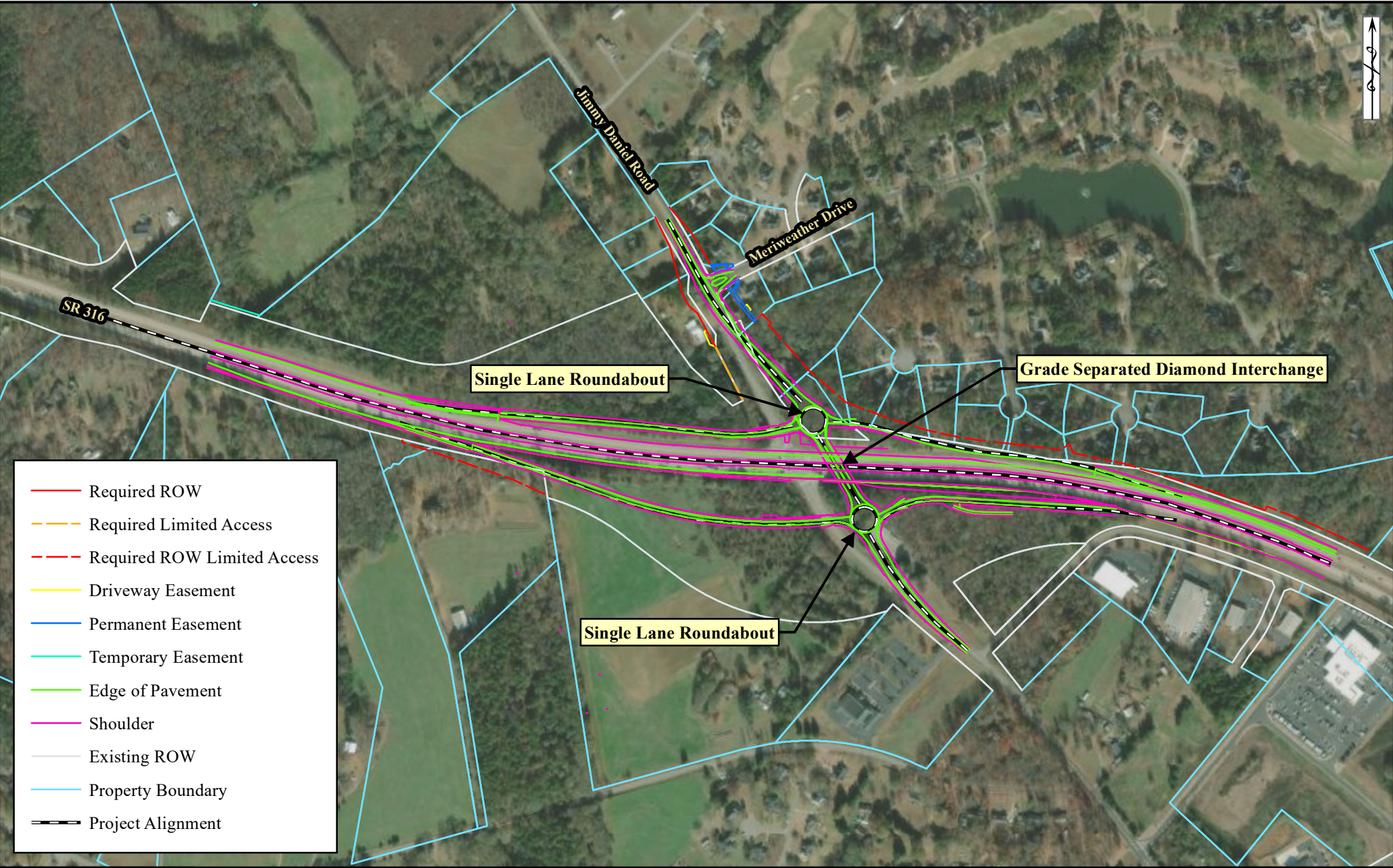


All three projects are part of the Transforming SR 316 program and are also referred to as SR 316 Bundle 2. The SR 316 Bundle 2 projects would be delivered via Design-Build delivery method and would be packaged together for procurement, final design, permitting, and construction. The Technical Studies, which the following Categorical Exclusion (CE) is based on, utilized plans combining PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769. The Technical Studies for PI No. 0013767 were based on a separate plan set, but all three PI Nos. had Technical Study Reports that were packaged together for agency coordination. See Figure 1: SR 316 Bundle 2 Project Location Map and Figures 2 – 3, Proposed Improvements and Acquisition Maps.

Figure 1: SR 316 Bundle 2 Project Location Map

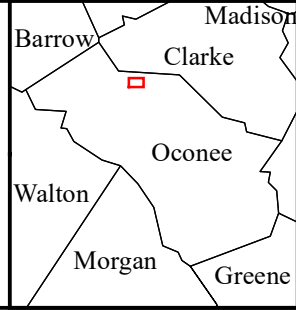
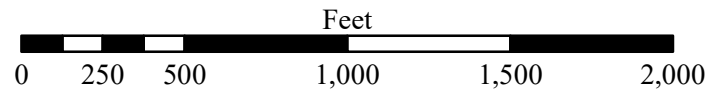




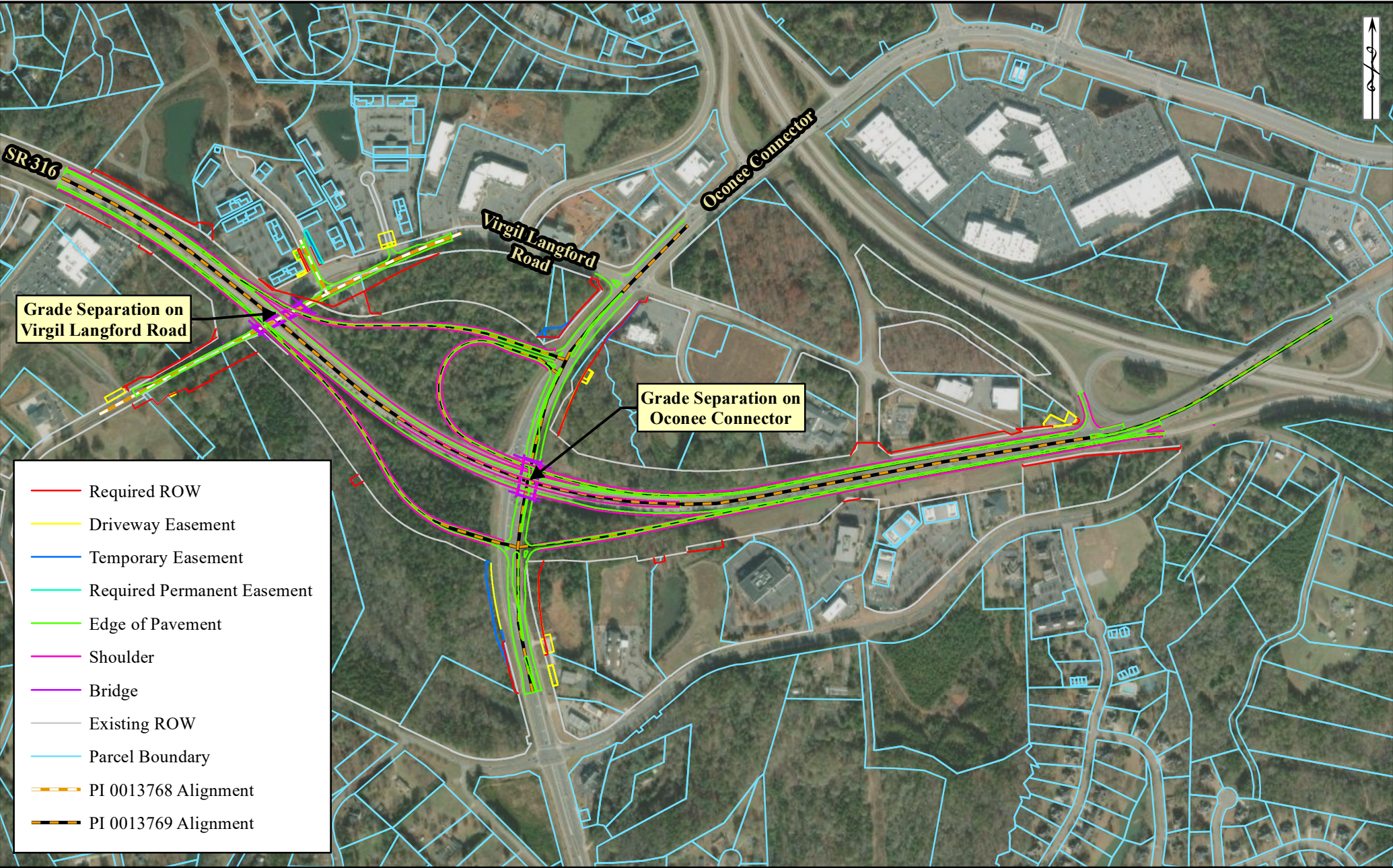


**Figure 2 - Proposed Improvements and Acquisition**

SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 55/Jimmy Daniell Road  
Oconee County  
PI No. 0013767



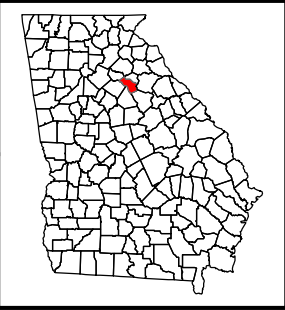




Grade Separation on  
Virgil Langford Road

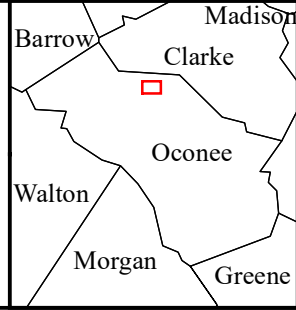
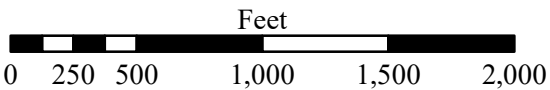
Grade Separation on  
Oconee Connector

- Required ROW
- Driveway Easement
- Temporary Easement
- Required Permanent Easement
- Edge of Pavement
- Shoulder
- Bridge
- Existing ROW
- Parcel Boundary
- PI 0013768 Alignment
- PI 0013769 Alignment



**Figure 3 - Proposed Improvements and Acquisition**

SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector and  
at CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road  
Oconee County  
PI Nos. 0013768 & 0013769



## A. Social Environment

### 1. Land Use Changes

The land use changes consist of grade separating the existing at-grade intersections of SR 316 at Jimmy Daniell Road, SR 316 at Virgil Langford Road, and SR 316 at Oconee Connector. The proposals would require additional ROW, permanent easement, temporary easement, and driveway easement in order to construct the projects. Although additional acquisition would be required, the proposed projects would not alter the existing or future land use of the areas. The existing intersections the proposals are improving would remain intersections that support vehicular use and their construction is not anticipated to induce future land use changes. Rather, these projects are proposed to support increased vehicular capacity and growth that is ongoing and anticipated due to already occurring economic development along SR 316. These proposed intersection improvements are supported by Georgia DOT's "Transforming SR 316 program". All three proposed projects and their associated PI numbers are listed in and consistent with the Oconee County Long-Range Transportation Plan (see Attachment 2, Correspondence). Table 4 below describes the proposed acquisition for each project and Table 5 describes the proposed acquisition for each project by land use type.

**Table 4 – Proposed Acquisition Amounts**

PI No.	Required ROW	Required Permanent Easement	Required Temporary Easement	Required Driveway Easement
0013767	6.61 acres	0.15 acre	0.07 acre	0.04 acre
0013768	2.73 acres	0.02 acre	0.12 acre	0.10 acre
0013769	3.09 acres	0 acres	0.56 acre	0.37 acre

**Table 5 – Proposed Acquisition by Land Use Type**

Land Use	No. of Parcels	ROW (acres)	Permanent Easement (acres)	Temporary Easement (acres)	Driveway Easement (acres)
<b>PI No. 0013767</b>					
Agricultural	5	1.00	0	0.07	0
Commercial	1	0.47	0	0	0
County Transportation ROW	2	0.04	0	0	0
Residential	16	5.10	0.15	0	0.04



Land Use	No. of Parcels	ROW (acres)	Permanent Easement (acres)	Temporary Easement (acres)	Driveway Easement (acres)
<b>PI No. 0013768</b>					
Agricultural	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial	9	0.94	0.02	0.12	0.09
County Transportation ROW	0	0	0	0	0
Residential	2	1.79	0	0	0.01
Land Use	No. of Parcels	ROW (acres)	Permanent Easement (acres)	Temporary Easement (acres)	Driveway Easement (acres)
<b>PI No. 0013769</b>					
Agricultural	1	0.06	0	0.14	0
Commercial	20	3.00	0	0.39	0.37
County Transportation ROW	0	0	0	0	0
Residential	1	0.03	0	0.03	0

## 2. *Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898, E.O. 14096)/Populations*

Directives are included in Executive Order (E.O.) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations<sup>2</sup>. The E.O. directs federal agencies to take appropriate and necessary steps to identify and address disproportionate and adverse effects of Federal projects on the health or environment of minority and low-income populations to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law. The guidance directs the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to:

- Ensure meaningful opportunities for all potentially affected populations in the transportation decision-making process;
- Avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionate and adverse human health or environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority or low-income populations; and
- Fully evaluate the benefits and burdens of transportation programs, policies, and activities on low-income and minority populations.

<sup>2</sup> FHWA Order 6640.23A defines low-income as a person whose household income is at or below the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines and minority is defined a person who is Black, Hispanic or Latino, Asian American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander. Minority Population means any readily identifiable groups of minority persons who live in geographic proximity, and if circumstances warrant, geographically dispersed/transient persons (such as migrant workers or Native Americans) who will be similarly affected by a proposed DOT program, policy, or activity.

A “disproportionate and adverse effect” on minority and low-income populations mean an adverse effect that:

- Is predominately borne by a minority and/or low-income population; or
- Will be suffered by the minority and/or low-income population and is appreciably more severe or greater in magnitude than the adverse effect that will be suffered by the non-minority and/or low-income population.

The E.O. 14096, “Revitalizing Our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All” was enacted on April 21, 2023. E.O. 14096 on environmental justice does not rescind E.O. 12898 – “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,” which has been in effect since February 11, 1994 and is currently implemented through DOT Order 5610.2C. This implementation will continue until further guidance is provided regarding the implementation of the new E.O. 14096 on environmental justice.

In order to assess the corridors and proposed projects for the potential to impact low income and minority populations disproportionately or adversely, the Early Coordination (EC) responses and the PIOH comments received for each project were reviewed, screening of the corridor was conducted, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) EJScreen Community Reports and the FHWA Office of Planning Screening Tool for Equity Analysis of Projects (STEAP) Project Buffer Analysis Profile Reports were referenced.

During EC efforts for PI No. 0013767, no responses were received signifying concern for project impacts on low-income or minority populations. During EC efforts for PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769, a response from the EPA received on March 16, 2021, stated that, “the EPA’s EJScreen mapping tool reported no residents in the 500-foot buffer. Demographic data for the 1,000-foot and one-quarter mile buffers indicate that statistically significant minority or low-income populations or children under five years of age are not present” (see Attachment 2, Correspondence). In addition, there were no PIOH comments received during the comment periods for PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, or 0013769 that revolved around concerns for project related impacts to low-income or minority populations. A screening of the PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769 project corridors noted mostly single-family residences as well as businesses. There were not any readily identifiable low-income residences or populations identified along the project corridors. No primarily minority serving educational or religious institutions or businesses were identified during field survey. Due to the lack of low-income or minority populations identified as a result of EC, public outreach, and corridor screenings for the proposed projects, PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769 are not anticipated to have a disproportionate or adverse effect on these environmental justice (EJ) populations.

The no adverse effect to low-income or minority populations is further supported by a review of the STEAP and EJScreen data, which alluded to generally lower or equivalent levels of minority and populations in poverty within the project areas and surrounding block groups when compared to the state and county levels (see Attachment 2, Correspondence). Tables 6 and 7 below detail the race and ethnicity and poverty makeup of Georgia, Oconee County, the project areas, and the census block groups. Figure 4 identifies the census block group locations within the project area.

**Table 6: Population by Race and Ethnicity**

	Total Population	White	Black	Hispanic of any Origin	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian	Pacific Islander
Georgia*	10,516,579	57%	32%	10%	0%	4%	0%
Oconee County*	39,194	88%	5%	5%	0%	4%	0%
Project Areas + 0.5-mile buffer*	3,038	84%	4%	2%	0%	11%	0%
Block Group 132190301043**	922	67%	0%	0%	0%	30%	0%
Block Group 123190301042**	2,490	98%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Block Group 132190302021**	1,326	97%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%

\*Data derived from STEAP

\*\*Data derived from EJScreen

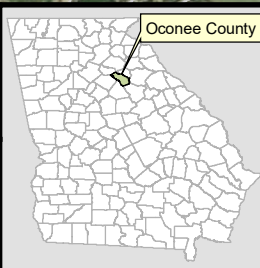
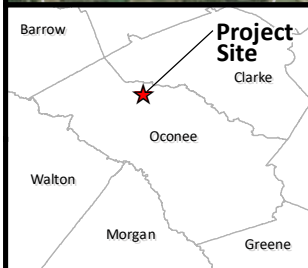
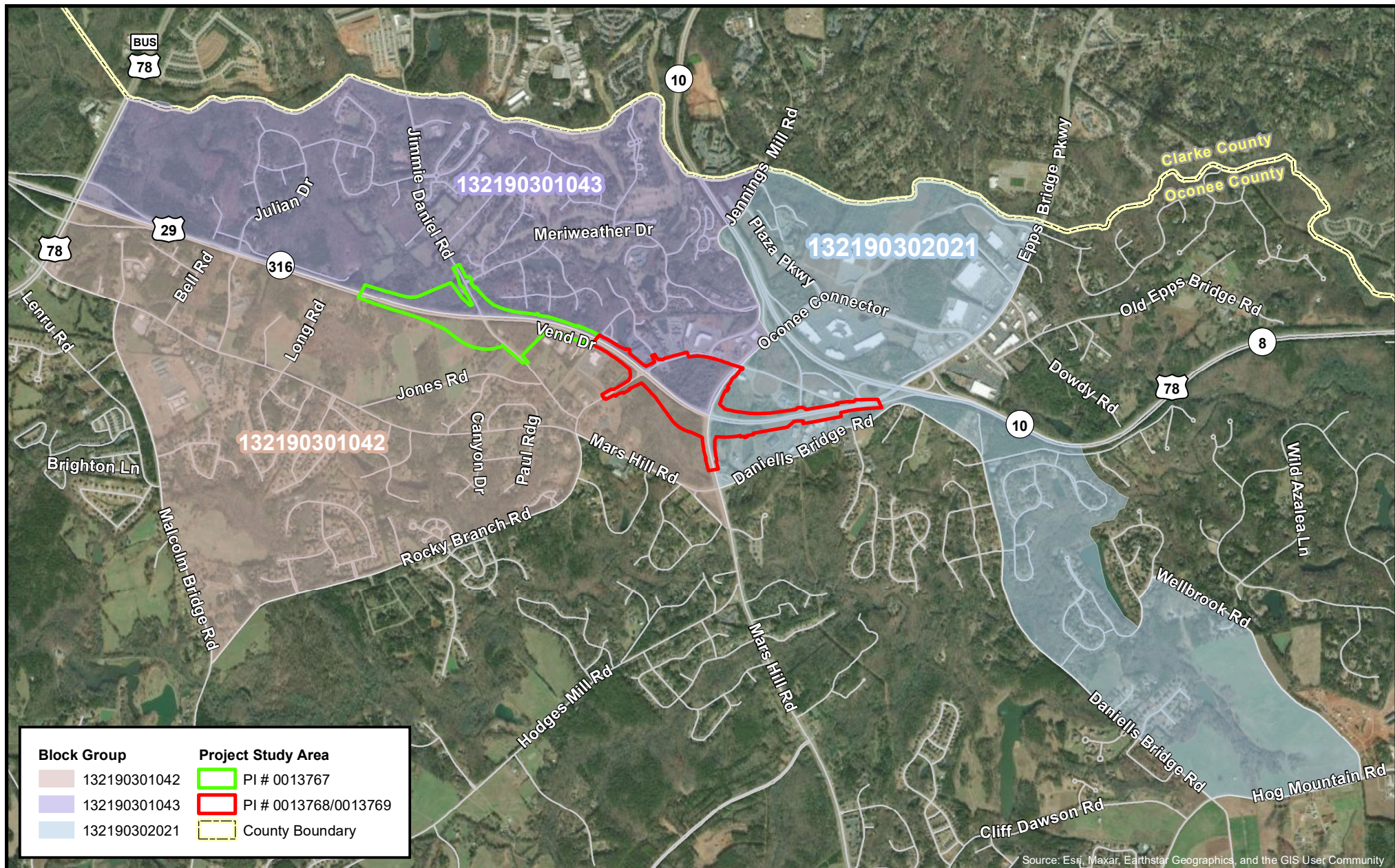
**Table 7: Population by Poverty**

	Total Population	Under 18 years	18 to 64 years	65 years +	Total % in Poverty
Georgia*	10,238,369	5%	8%	1%	14%
Oconee County*	39,908	2%	3%	1%	6%
Project Areas + 0.5-mile buffer*	3,030	4%	2%	1%	7%
Block Group 132190301043**	922	Breakdown not available	Breakdown not available	Breakdown not available	5%
Block Group 123190301042**	2,490	Breakdown not available	Breakdown not available	Breakdown not available	0%
Block Group 132190302021**	1,326	Breakdown not available	Breakdown not available	Breakdown not available	23%

\*Data derived from STEAP

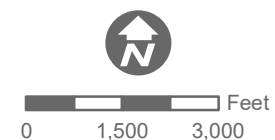
\*\*Data derived from EJScreen





**Figure 4: SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 55/Jimmy Daniell Road,  
CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road, and CR 929/Oconee Connector  
PI No. 0013767, 0013768, 0013769  
Oconee County, GA**

Author: JNL Date Saved: 3/7/2024  
Project File: T:\Production\GIS\Georgia\  
OconeeCo\0013767\_68\_69\_CensusMap.mxd



**Census Block  
Groups**



The STEAP and EJScreen analysis for race and ethnicity determined that the project areas including a 0.5-mile buffer and the census block groups had lower percentages of Black and Hispanics, an equal amount of American Indian or Native Alaskans and Pacific Islanders, and a higher percentage of Asians than the state or county. The STEAP and EJScreen analysis for poverty determined that the project areas including a 0.5-mile buffer had a slightly higher percentage of those in poverty below 18 years of age when compared to the county but a lower percentage when compared to the state, a lower percentage in poverty between 18 and 64 years of age when compared to the county and state, and an equal amount in poverty above the age of 65 when compared to the county and state. According to the percentage in poverty totals, the total percentage of those in poverty is slightly higher in the project areas including a 0.5-mile buffer than the county, by only 1%, and lower than the state percentage. Block group 132190302021, the westernmost area of the projects' termini, contained a higher percentage of total poverty when compared to both the county and state. However, the block group for this westernmost area is much larger than the project area that would experience project related impacts. The easternmost project area (block group 132190301043) and center project area (block group 123190301042) contained lower total percentages of minority than the county and state.

According to the STEAP data, within a 0.5-mile buffer radius of the project areas, there are a total of 1,087 households which consist of a range from 1- to 6- persons. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) 2023 poverty guidelines, in comparison to the project areas STEAP household size data, is detailed in Table 8 below.

**Table 8 – Households by Size Compared to DHHS Poverty Guidelines**

Household Size	0.5-mile Buffer Estimates	Percent	DHHS Poverty Guidelines by Household Size
1-person	164 households	15%	\$14,580
2-person	386 households	35%	\$19,720
3-person	260 households	24%	\$24,860
4-person	140 households	13%	\$30,000
5-person	102 households	9%	\$35,140
6-person	35 households	3%	\$40,280
7-person	0 households	0%	\$45,420
8-person	N/A	N/A	\$50,560

From Table 8, the majority (35%) of the project areas are comprised of 2-person households. According to the DHHS, the poverty guidelines for a two-person household is

\$19,720. In the STEAP analysis, the next income increment above the \$19,720 two-person household poverty guideline begins at approximately \$25,000. According to the STEAP data detailed in Table 9, the majority of the corridor + a 0.5-mile radius (55%) has an income above \$75,000 and only 9% has an income within or below the DHHS poverty range of a 2-person household. With the majority of the project area households making \$75,000 or above, this exceeds the DHHS poverty guidelines for all the household sizes. The DHHS poverty guideline for a one-person household is \$14,580, which 0% of the project area + a 0.5-mile radius falls within.

The STEAP data detailed by household income for a 0.5-mile buffer radius of the projects, the county, and state is found in Table 9.

**Table 9 – Households by Income**

Household Income	0.5-mile Buffer Estimates	Percent	Oconee County	State of Georgia
< \$15,000	5 households	0%	3%	11%
\$15,000 - \$25,000	101 households	9%	4%	9%
\$25,000 - \$35,000	82 households	8%	7%	9%
\$35,000 - \$50,000	120 households	11%	12%	12%
\$50,000 - \$75,000	178 households	16%	14%	18%
\$75,000+	602 households	55%	59%	41%

As shown in Table 9, approximately 90 percent of households in a 0.5-miles radius of the projects have incomes above \$25,000. Within the STEAP buffer area, approximately 9 percent have incomes less than \$25,000. This percentage is slightly higher but comparable to the percentage of households with incomes less than \$25,000 in Oconee County (7%), and lower than the percentage of households with incomes less than \$25,000 in the State of Georgia (20%).

The STEAP analysis evidenced that there are populations of non-English speaking and linguistically isolated households within a 0.5-mile radius of the proposed projects. Tables 10 and 11 below detail this data.

**Table 10: Population by Ability to Speak English**

	Total Population (5+ years)	Speak only English	Non-English Speaking	Speak English "very well"	Speak English "well"	Speak English "not well"	Speak English "not at all"
Georgia	9,864,494	86%	14%	9%	3%	2%	1%
Oconee County	37,105	91%	9%	5%	3%	1%	0%
Project Areas + 0.5-mile buffer	2,887	89%	11%	7%	3%	2%	0%

**Table 11: Linguistically Isolated Households**

	Total Population	Speak Spanish	Speak Other Indo-European Languages	Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	Speak Other Languages
Georgia	3,830,264	7%	3%	3%	1%
Oconee County	13,773	4%	2%	3%	0%
Project Areas + 0.5-mile buffer	1,087	2%	4%	7%	0%

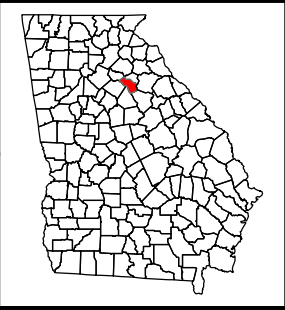
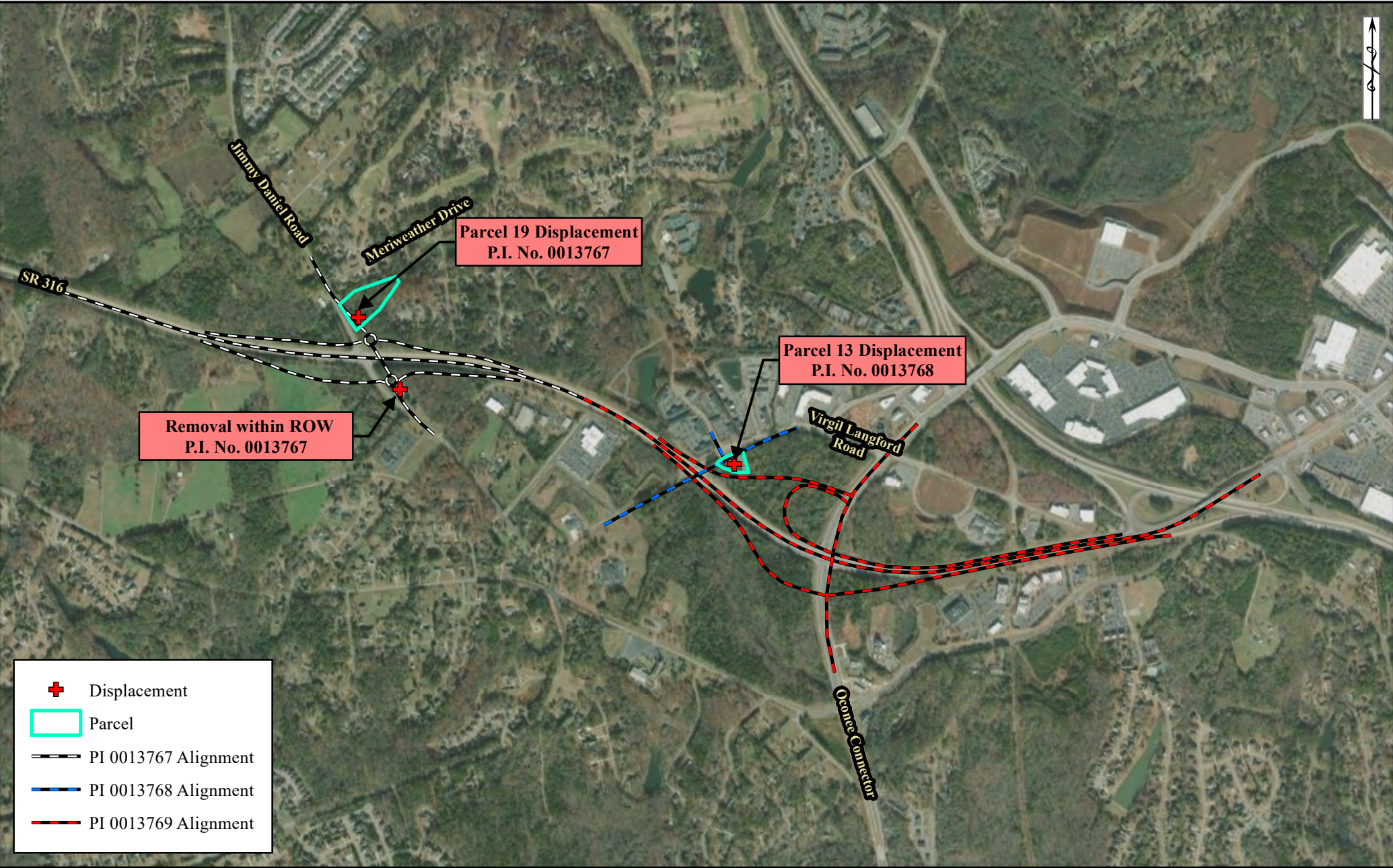
To ensure non-English speakers had access to project and public outreach materials for each of the projects, the online materials were made available for translation to a variety of languages by clicking the “translate” feature on the website.

Although there is evidence of some minority and low-income presence within the project corridors based on STEAP and EJScreen, it is not anticipated that the proposed projects would have a disproportionate or adverse effect on these populations. The screening of the corridors did not result in any readily identifiable low-income or Section 8 residences or businesses that would be impacted by the proposed projects. Although there would be a displacement of a dentist office on PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 and a residential displacement on PI No. 0013767, this business nor the residential property are identified as being or serving primarily EJ populations. Although ROW and easements would be required under all three PI Nos. from residential and commercial properties, and although temporary detours would be required on PI No. 0013767 and PI No. 0013769, these impacts would not be adverse or disproportionate to low-income or minority populations. The proposed projects, once implemented, are intended to improve operational efficiency and improve traffic flow and delays, which is expected to benefit the surrounding populations.

### 3. *Relocation Potential*

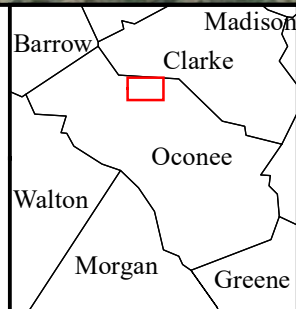
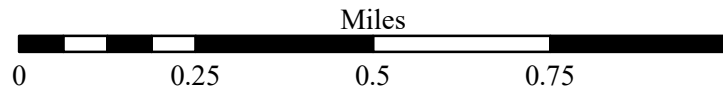
Under PI No. 0013767, there is one proposed residential displacement on Parcel 19 that would be required in order to construct the preferred alternative (see Figure 5). The virtual PIOH Concept Layout shown on the Georgia DOT website had this parcel marked as a displacement for public transparency. There were no comments received from the property owner of this parcel as a result of the PIOH identifying major concerns with the proposed displacement. The Georgia DOT would coordinate with the property owner through the standard ROW acquisition and negotiations and appraisal process as the project proceeds. There is another proposed removal (Mars Hill Disposal Site) under PI No. 0013767 located on Jimmy Daniell Road (see Figure 5). Comments received as a result of the PIOH questioned whether the Mars Hill





**Figure 5 - Project Displacements**

SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 55/Jimmy Daniell Road,  
SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector, and at  
CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road  
PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769, Oconee County





Disposal Site would be relocated. In the Response Letter for PI No. 0013767 sent on August 26, 2022, the comments were addressed with a response that the new location for the disposal site would be determined by the county at a future time (see Attachment 3, Public Involvement Materials). However, this property is within Georgia DOT ROW, and therefore its required removal is not considered a displacement.

There are no displacements proposed under PI No. 0013769. Under PI No. 0013768, there is one proposed commercial displacement (Athens-Oconee Dentist) on Parcel 13 that would be required in order to construct the preferred alternative (see Figure 5). The virtual PIOH Concept Layout shown on the Georgia DOT website had this parcel marked as a displacement for public transparency. A comment was received during public outreach from the owner of the Athens-Oconee Dentist office, stating concern for whether the change in elevation would affect access to the entrance and business. In the combined Response Letter for PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 sent on September 26, 2022, the comment was responded to informing the business owner that the entirety of the property would be required as a displacement. Additional information on the Georgia DOT ROW acquisition process and the link to the Georgia DOT ROW Brochure was also included (see Attachment 3, Public Involvement Materials). No further comments or questions were received from the Athens-Oconee Dentist as a result of the Response Letter.

The Georgia DOT will follow the requirements of Title 49 CFR Part 24, otherwise known as the Uniform Relocation Act, to ensure that persons displaced as a direct result of federal or federally-assisted projects, and state or state-assisted projects, are treated fairly, consistently, and equitably so that such displaced persons will not suffer disproportionate injuries as a result of projects designed for the benefit of the public as a whole. The Department will assist families or individuals in finding and relocating to decent, safe, and sanitary housing which is adequate to meet their needs and within their financial means. Relocation advisory assistance will be provided to any businesses, farm operations, and nonprofit organizations being displaced to assist in relocating within the same area, rather than relocating to other areas or closing entirely. In the event there are no replacement sites available at the time of acquisition, or if they cannot be relocated without a substantial loss of their existing patronage, they may qualify for a fixed payment in lieu of the payments for actual moving and related expenses, and actual reasonable re-establishment expenses. Under Legal Authority OCGA 32-8-2 and 32-8-5 (Last Resort Replacement Housing for Persons Displaced by State/Federal-Aid Highway Projects), the Georgia DOT shall have the authority as a “Last Resort”, to provide replacement housing in the rare instance that a State/Federal-Aid

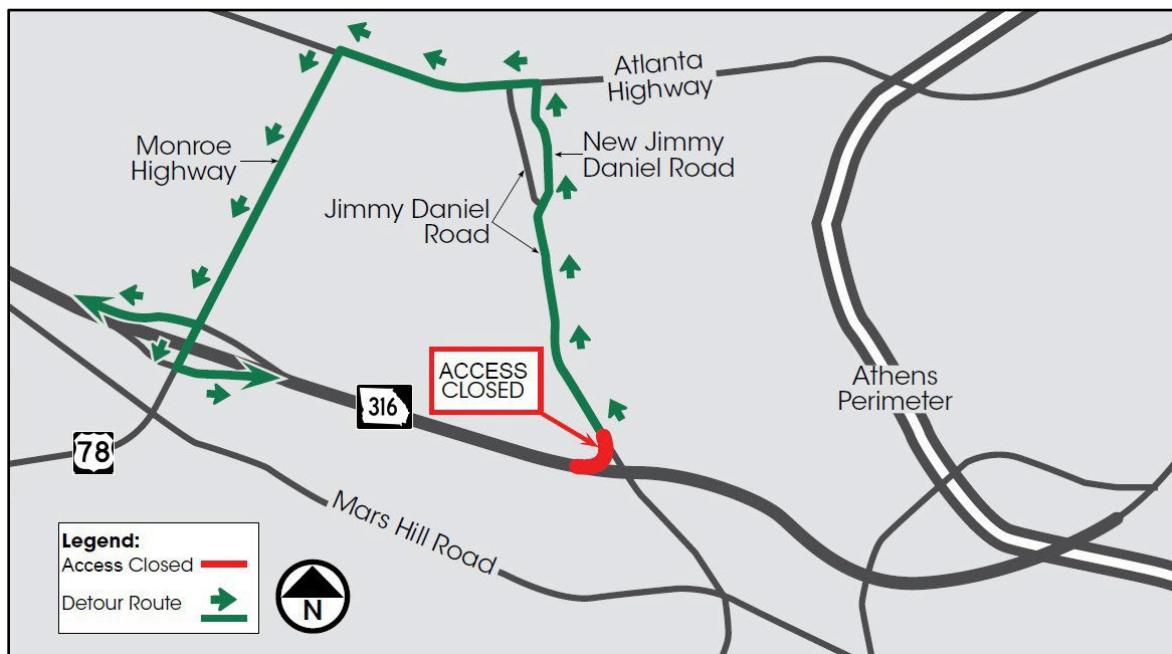
Highway project financed in whole or part with federal-aid cannot proceed to actual construction because no comparable replacement for sale or for rent housing is available. Each displacee's situation would be examined on an individual basis to assure requirements for decent, safe, and sanitary housing are met.

#### *6. Public Controversy Potential*

Under PI No. 0013767, traffic from Jimmy Daniell Road entering SR 316 westbound may be detoured for a short-term period of up to 45 days for construction. The posted detour would be approximately 3.84 miles long. Jimmy Daniell Road traffic wanting to go westbound on SR 316 would need to re-route north on Jimmy Daniell Road/New Jimmy Daniell Road and travel to the intersection of Atlanta Highway. Traffic would then continue westbound on Atlanta Highway and turn left on Monroe Highway headed south to re-enter SR 316 westbound.

Although this access closure and resulting detour may cause temporary inconvenience for motorists, the detour would only be required for a maximum of 45 days and would result in only 3.84 additional miles of travel distance. Additional outreach in the form of postcard notifications with a link to the Georgia DOT public outreach website to inform the public of the newly required detour was conducted on October 25, 2023 with a comment period open until November 15, 2023. As a result of this coordination, comments were received expressing concern that detour traffic would cut through residential areas. The response provided in the Response Letter mailed December 18, 2023, was that the posted detour would follow Atlanta Highway and US 78/Monroe Highway, though drivers would be able to use local streets. Enhanced signage is also anticipated for the posted detour route. Of the 13 respondents who formally commented on the detour, 3 were opposed, 7 were uncommitted, and 3 expressed conditional support. Oconee County and Oconee County Schools also requested that the detour not interfere with school bus routes. The Georgia DOT, through coordination with these officials, determined the temporary detour is acceptable because the Jimmy Daniell Road through movements across SR 316 will be maintained and would accommodate the school bus routes (see Attachment 3, Public Outreach Materials). Figure 6 below shows the proposed detour for PI No. 0013767.

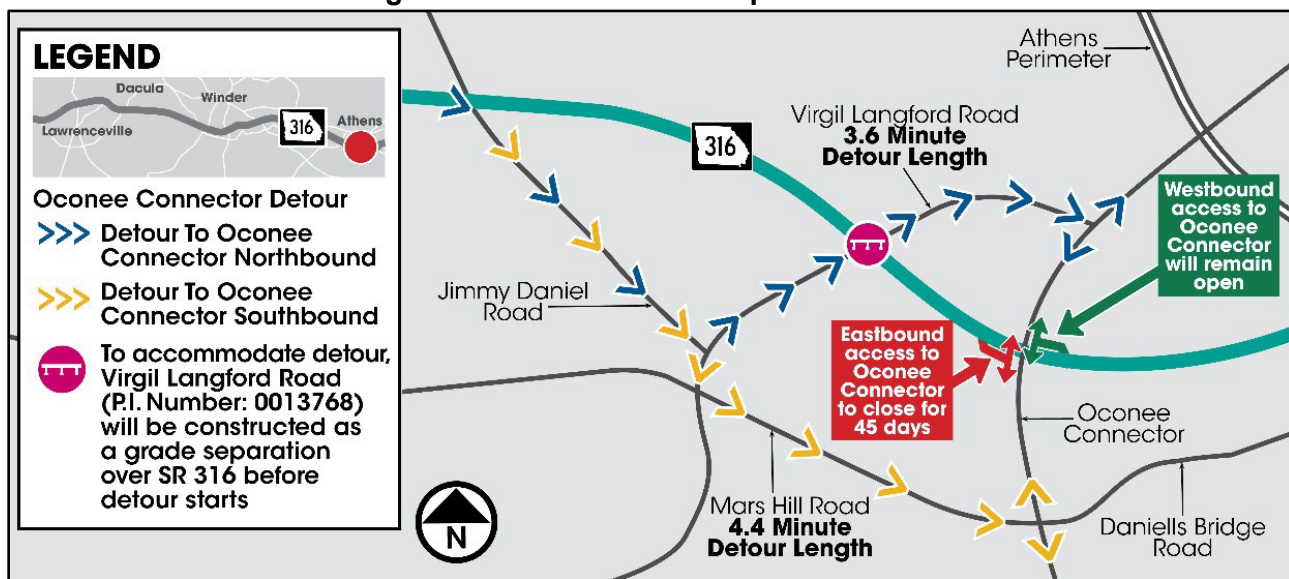
**Figure 6: PI No. 0013767 Proposed Detour**



Under PI No. 0013769, a potential detour may be needed for a short-term period of up to 45 days for eastbound SR 316 traffic needing to exit onto Oconee Connector. The detour would be 2.1 miles long and may be needed to allow for the completion of a small section of the proposed eastbound SR 316 exit ramp to Oconee Connector. Eastbound SR 316 traffic wanting to access the Oconee Connector would need to exit at Jimmy Daniell Road southbound and travel to the intersection of Virgil Langford Road. Traffic would either turn left on Virgil Langford Road headed north or turn right toward Mars Hill Road. At Mars Hill Road, traffic would turn left to head east toward Oconee Connector. The proposed grade separation project at Virgil Langford Road (PI No. 0013768) would be opened to traffic prior to implementation of the potential detour so that access over SR 316 to points north would be available. Since Jimmy Daniell Road would be utilized as part of the PI No. 0013769 detour route, provisions in the contract would require the detour timing of PI No. 0013767 and PI No. 0013769 be coordinated. Although this exit ramp closure and resulting detour may cause temporary inconvenience for motorists, the detour would only be required for a maximum of 45 days and would result in only 2.1 additional miles of travel distance. A joint virtual PIOH was held for PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 with a comment period beginning June 16, 2022 and ending on July 13, 2022, during which the proposed detour was disclosed to the public. As a result of public outreach, one comment was received requesting the detour be scheduled for the summer when traffic is typically less, and one commenter was concerned that the detour would bring increased traffic, including large trucks, to the proposed detour roads. Out of the 8 commenters who responded specifically with their level of support of the detour, 4 were in support, 2 expressed conditional

support, 2 were uncommitted, and 0 were against (see Attachment 3, Public Outreach Materials). Figure 7 below shows the location of the proposed PI No. 0013769 detour.

**Figure 7: PI No. 0013769 Proposed Detour**



## 7. Public Involvement

A virtual PIOH was held for PI No. 0013767 with a comment period beginning on May 17, 2022 and ending on June 10, 2022. There was also a virtual presentation and live Q&A session held on May 26, 2022, during which there were 22 virtual attendees from the public. This meeting provided attendees with an opportunity to hear commonly asked questions and responses, ask additional questions, and provide further comments. To alert the public of the upcoming virtual PIOH and virtual presentation and live Q&A session, 7,965 postcards were mailed out to property owners within the project corridor and surrounding areas. In addition, advertisements were placed in the local legal organ, The Oconee Enterprise, on May 12, 2022 and May 19, 2023. Flyers and “partner toolkits”, which were Georgia DOT produced documents with suggested social media and media blurbs about the PI No. 0013767 outreach opportunities, were also sent to various government officials to use as desired (see Attachment 3, Public Outreach Materials).

During the virtual PI No. 0013767 PIOH period, a total of 3,683 people accessed the project specific website, with 35 people providing formal comments. Of these 35 respondents, 16 were in support of the project, 6 were opposed, 7 were uncommitted, and 6 expressed conditional support. The majority of comments received included concerns for an increase in noise as a result of the proposed project and the desire for noise barriers or noise abatement and concerns for impacts to properties due to required acquisition. All formal comments received during the virtual PIOH were responded to in a Response Letter mailed August 26,

PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

2022. As a result of the virtual presentation and live Q&A session, 64 questions or comments were received and responded to during or following the live meeting (see Attachment 3, Public Outreach Materials).

After conducting the 2022 PI No. 0013767 virtual PIOH, the need for a 3.84-mile-long detour during construction was identified (refer to Figure 6 above in Section A.7 for a visual of the proposed PI No. 0013767 detour). To ensure the public was informed of the need for a detour, postcards were mailed to all stakeholders and previous commenters on October 25, 2023 containing a link to the Georgia DOT virtual PIOH website which was updated to include the new Detour Layout. Comments on the new detour were requested in the postcard and instructions on how to submit comments on the virtual PIOH website were included. A total of 365 people accessed the project specific website, with 13 people providing formal comments on the detour. Of these 13 respondents, 3 were opposed, 7 were uncommitted, and 3 expressed conditional support. The majority of the comments received included concerns about detour traffic cutting through residential areas. All formal comments received during the virtual PIOH were responded to in a Response Letter mailed December 18, 2023 (see Attachment 3, Public Outreach Materials).

A joint virtual PIOH was held for PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 with a comment period beginning June 16, 2022 and ending on July 13, 2022. There was also a virtual presentation and live Q&A session held on June 22, 2022, during which there were 16 virtual attendees from the public. This meeting provided attendees with an opportunity to hear commonly asked questions and responses, ask additional questions, and provide further comments. To alert the public to the upcoming virtual PIOH and virtual presentation and live Q&A session, 3,450 postcards were mailed out to property owners within the project corridor and surrounding areas. In addition, advertisements were placed in the local legal organ, The Oconee Enterprise, on June 16, 2022, June 23, 2022, June 30, 2022 and July 7, 2022, and media alerts and social media posts on the Georgia DOT Main and District channels were conducted. Flyers and “partner toolkits”, which were Georgia DOT produced documents with suggested social media and media blurbs about the PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 outreach opportunities, were also sent to various government officials to use as desired.

During the virtual PIOH period, a total of 948 people accessed the project specific website, with 8 people providing formal comments for PI No. 0013768 and another 8 people providing formal comments for PI No. 0013769. Of the 8 respondents for PI No. 0013768, 5 were in support of the project, 1 was opposed, and 2 expressed conditional support. Of the 8 respondents for PI No. 0013769, 5 were in support of the project and 3 expressed conditional support. The majority of comments received for PI No. 0013768 included concerns that

PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

the proposed roundabout could pose unsafe conditions for motorists and pedestrians as well as lead to increased traffic. The majority of comments received for PI No. 0013769 included concerns that the introduction of new traffic lights on the Oconee Connector would lead to decreased traffic flow and increased traffic delays. All of the formal comments received during the virtual PIOH for PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 were responded to in a combined Response Letter mailed September 26, 2022. As a result of the virtual presentation and live Q&A session, 40 questions or comments were received and responded to during the live meeting (see Attachment 3, Public Outreach Materials).

## **B. Cultural Environment**

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In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and amendments thereto, the proposed project corridors have been surveyed for archaeological and historic resources, especially those on or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The survey boundary and methodology were established using the Georgia DOT/FHWA Cultural Resource Survey Guidelines. These guidelines were established as a result of past interaction with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and his staff and were agreed upon by FHWA and the SHPO.

As a result of the survey efforts, no historic properties and no archeological sites considered eligible NRHP resources were identified within the proposed projects' areas of potential effect (APE) (see Attachment 2, Correspondence).

## **C. Natural Environment**

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### **1. Waters of the U.S./State Waters**

The proposed project corridors have been surveyed for Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) and State Waters under the Clean Water Act, Executive Order 11990, Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act, and other federal and state regulations. As a result of the survey efforts, 4 wetlands, 11 streams, and 2 open waters were identified in the proposed project corridor for PI No. 0013767 and 3 wetlands, 7 streams, and 2 open waters were identified in the proposed project corridor for PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769. Figures 8A-8C show the locations of identified waters for PI No. 0013767 and Figures 9A-9E show the locations of identified waters for PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769.

Due to overlapping environmental survey boundaries (ESB), the following WOTUS resources occur on the plans for both PI No. 0013767 and PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769: Intermittent Stream (IS) 12a, Open Water (OW) 12, Perennial Stream (PS) 12b, IS 12c, IS 12d, and Wetland (WL) 13.

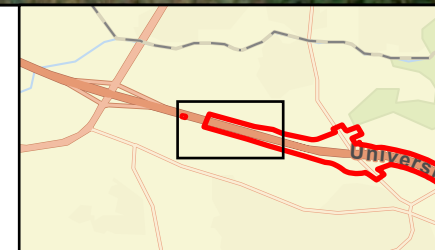
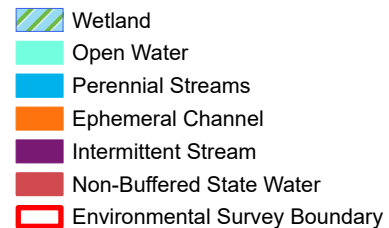
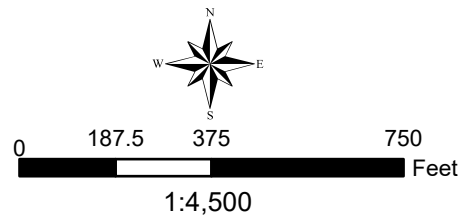




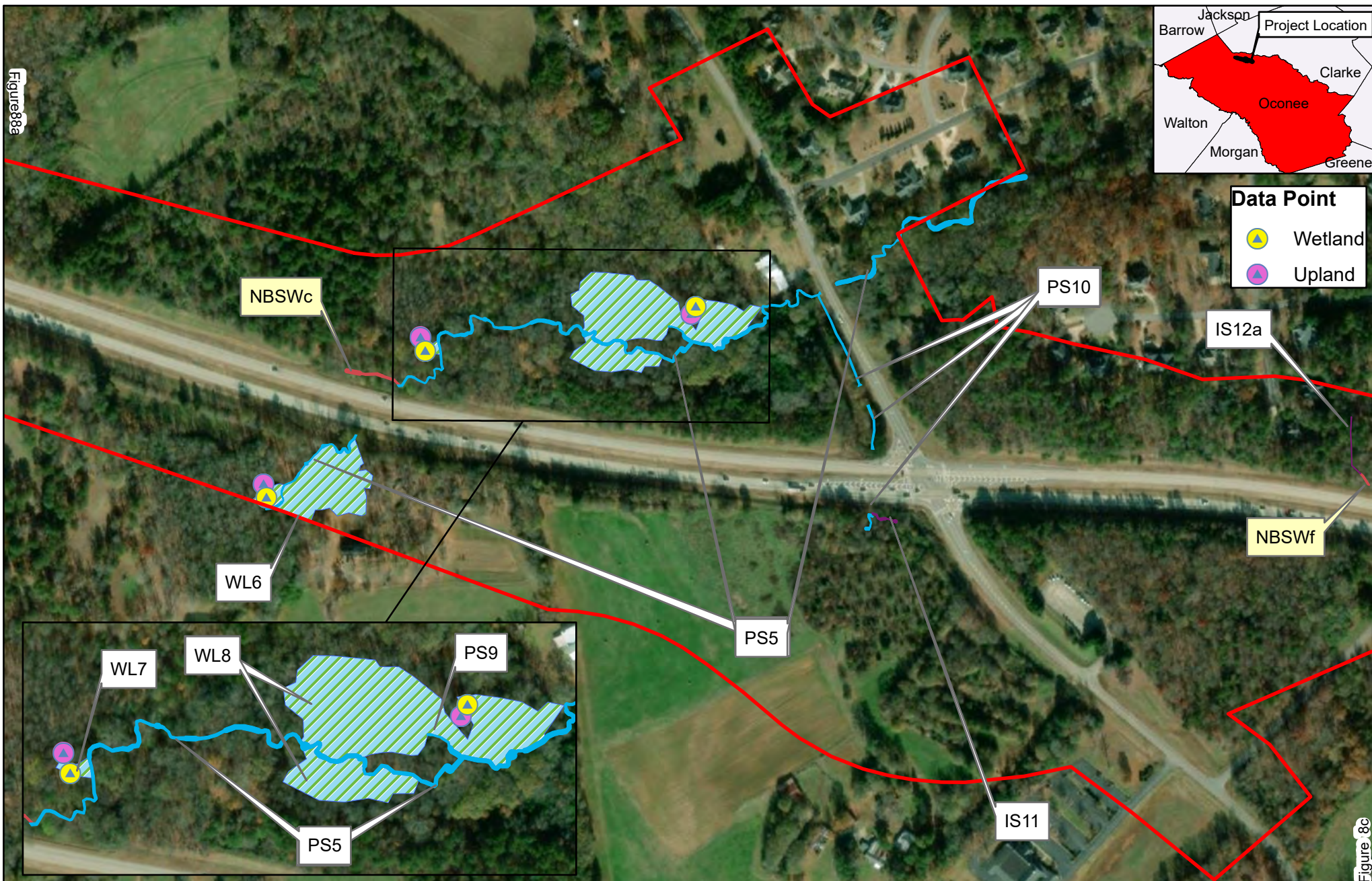
**Figure 8A:** Topographic Federal and State Waters Map State Route 316 at Jimmy Daniell Road Georgia Department of Transportation PI No. 0013767

Oconee County, Georgia

Source: ESRI Topographic Basemap



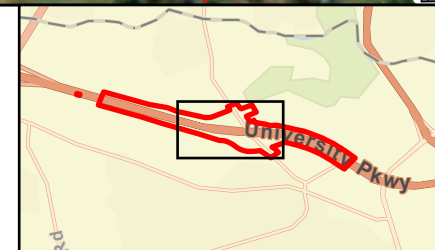
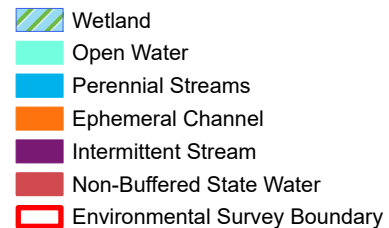
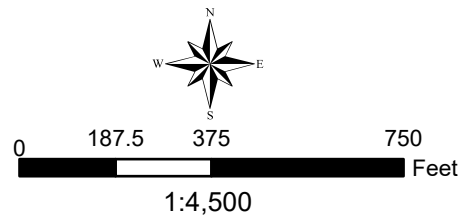




**Figure 8B:** Topographic Federal and State Waters Map State Route 316 at Jimmy Daniell Road Georgia Department of Transportation PI No. 0013767

Oconee County, Georgia

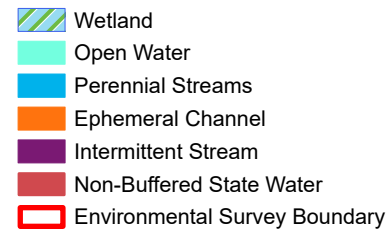
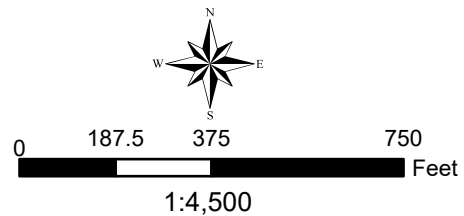
Source: ESRI Topographic Basemap



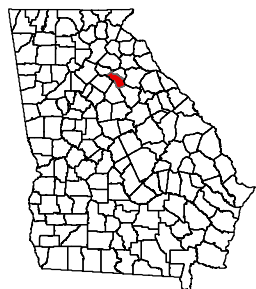
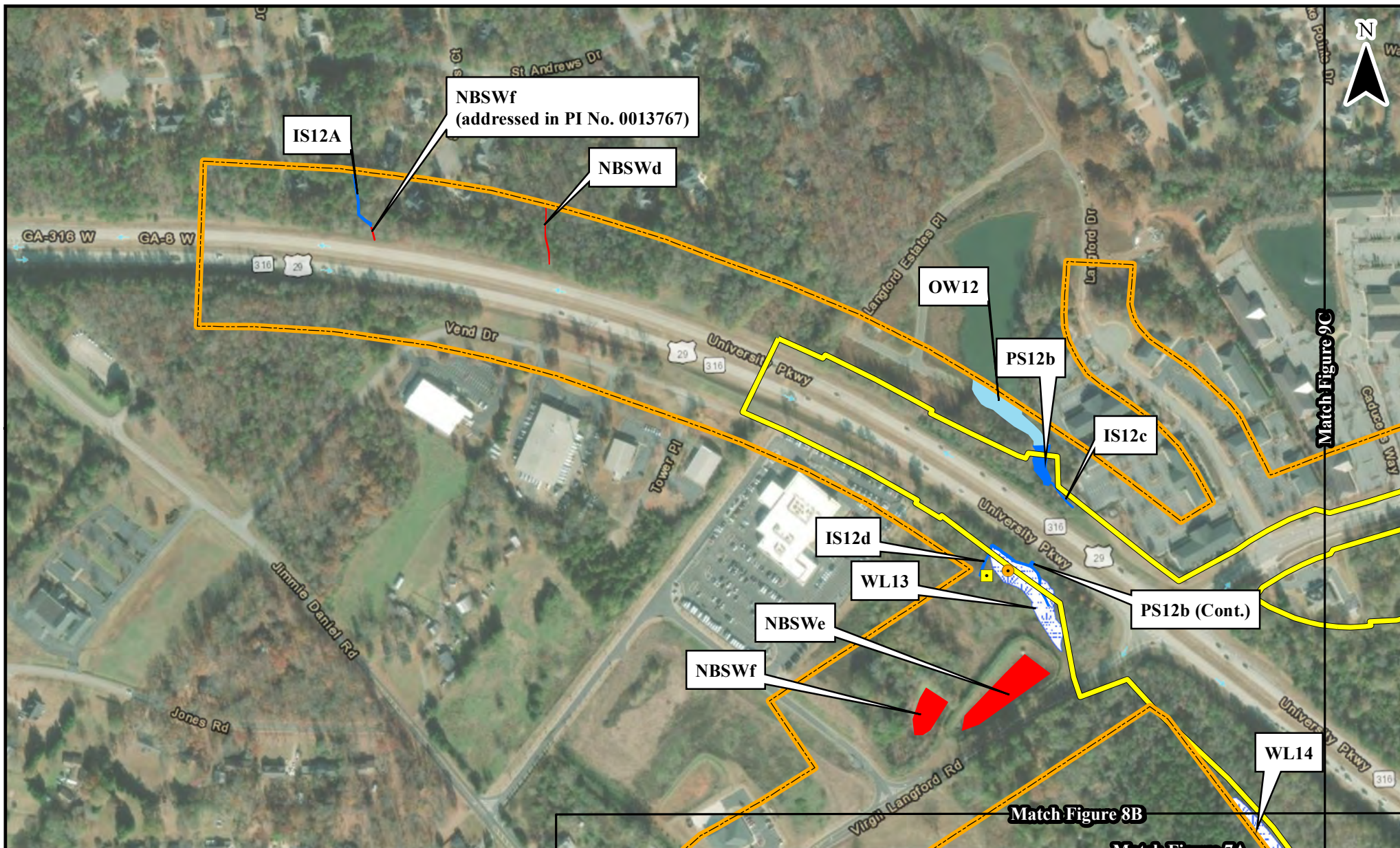




**Figure 8C:** Topographic Federal and State Waters Map State Route 316 at Jimmy Daniell Road Georgia Department of Transportation PI No. 0013767  
Oconee County, Georgia







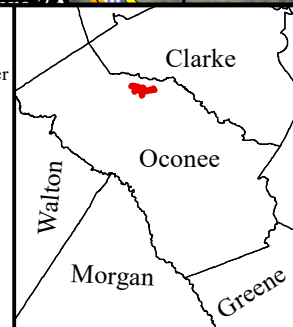
**Figure 9A - State and Federal Waters Map (Aerial)**  
 CR 440/SR 662/Virgil Langford Road over SR 8/SR 316/US 78 and  
 SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector  
 Oconee County  
 PI Nos. 0013768 & 0013769

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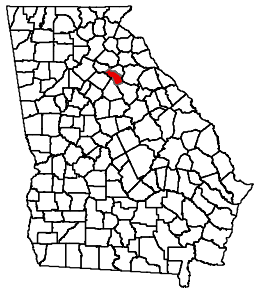
Source: Esri World Imagery

**Legend**

- Upland Data Point
- Wetland Data Point
- Environmental Survey Boundary
- Project Limits
- NBSW
- Open Water
- Stream
- Wetland







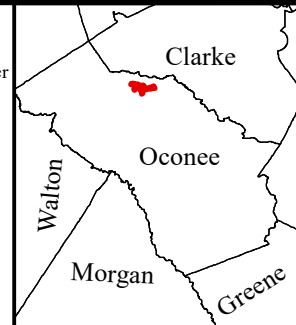
**Figure 9B - State and Federal Waters Map (Aerial)**  
 CR 440/SR 662/Virgil Langford Road over SR 8/SR 316/US 78 and  
 SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector  
 Oconee County  
 PI Nos. 0013768 & 0013769



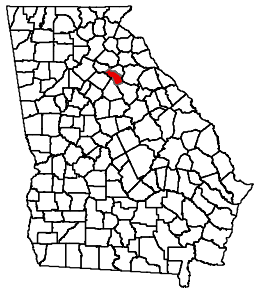
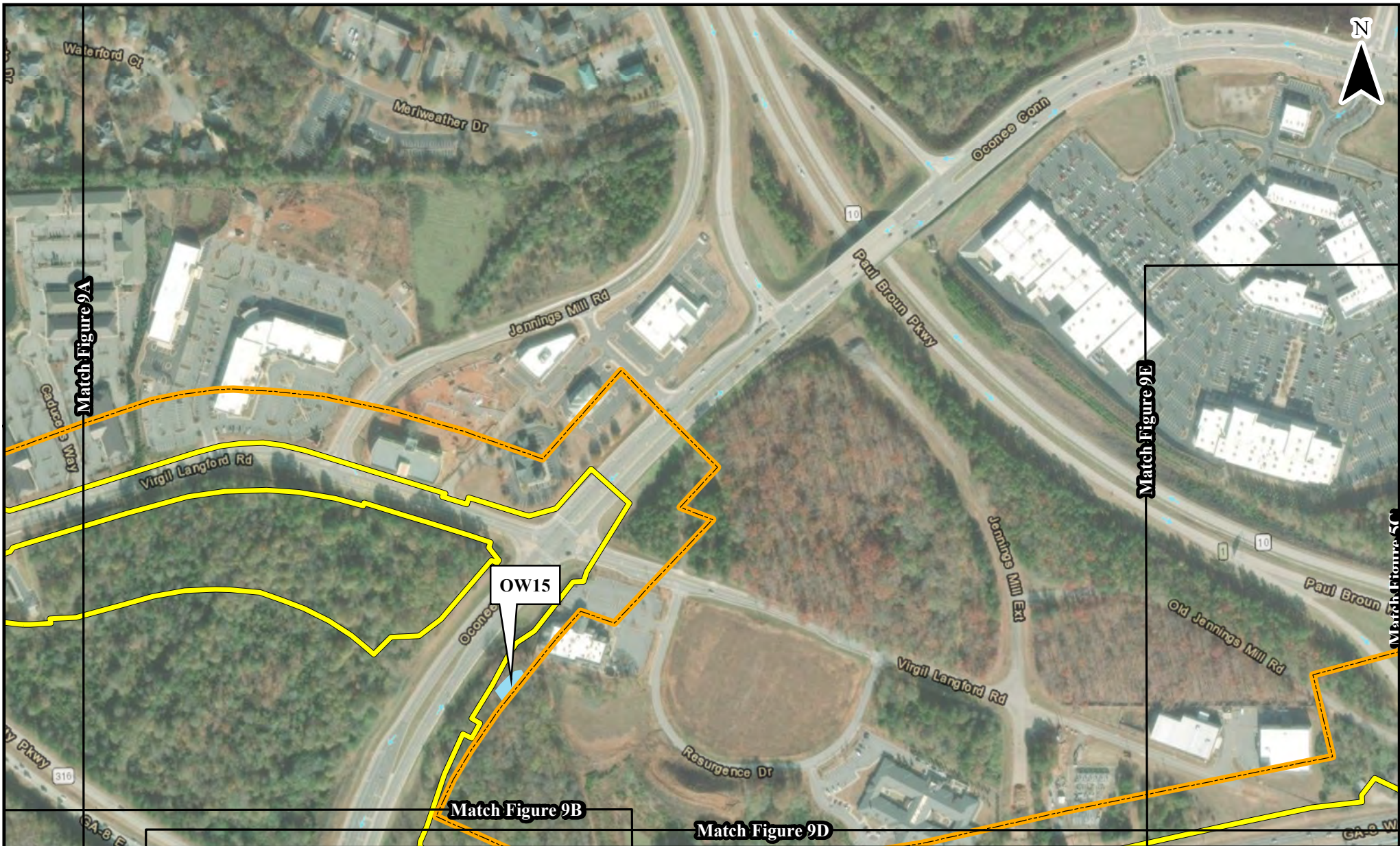
Source: Esri World Imagery

**Legend**

- Upland Data Point
- Wetland Data Point
- Environmental Survey Boundary
- Project Limits
- NBSW
- Open Water
- Stream
- Wetland







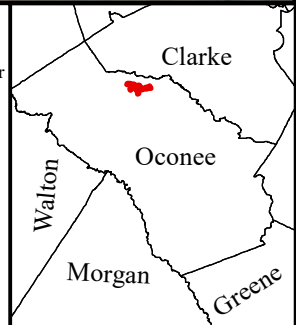
**Figure 9C - State and Federal Waters Map (Aerial)**  
 CR 440/SR 662/Virgil Langford Road over SR 8/SR 316/US 78 and  
 SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector  
 Oconee County  
 PI Nos. 0013768 & 0013769

0 500 1,000  
 Feet

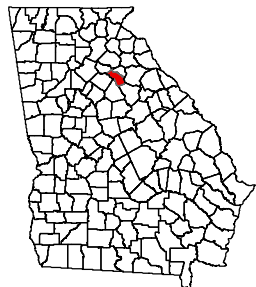
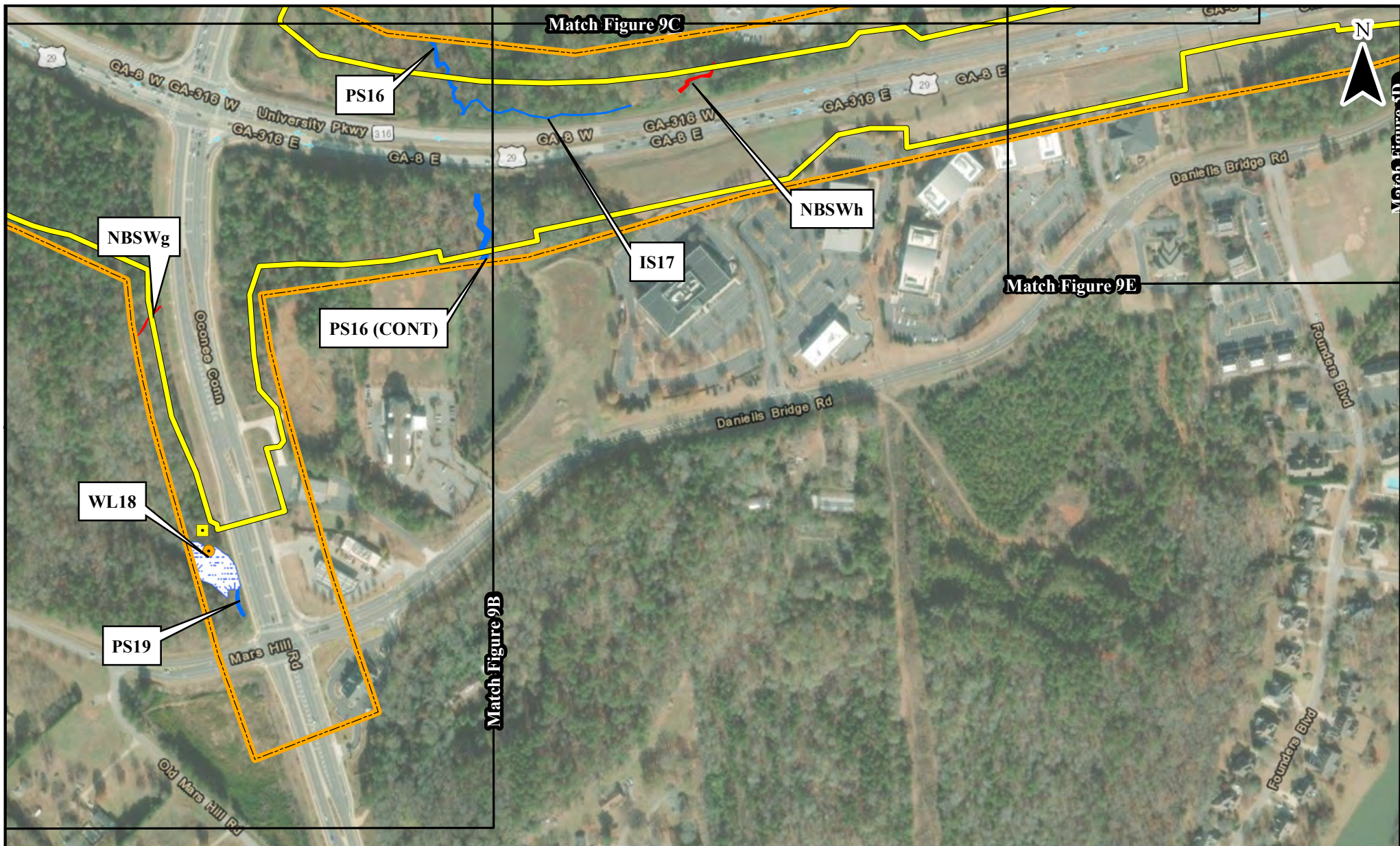
Source: Esri World Imagery

**Legend**

- Upland Data Point
- Wetland Data Point
- Environmental Survey Boundary
- Project Limits
- NBSW
- Open Water
- Stream
- Wetland







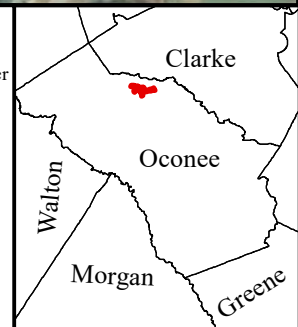
**Figure 9D - State and Federal Waters Map (Aerial)**  
 CR 440/SR 662/Virgil Langford Road over SR 8/SR 316/US 78 and  
 SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector  
 Oconee County  
 PI Nos. 0013768 & 0013769



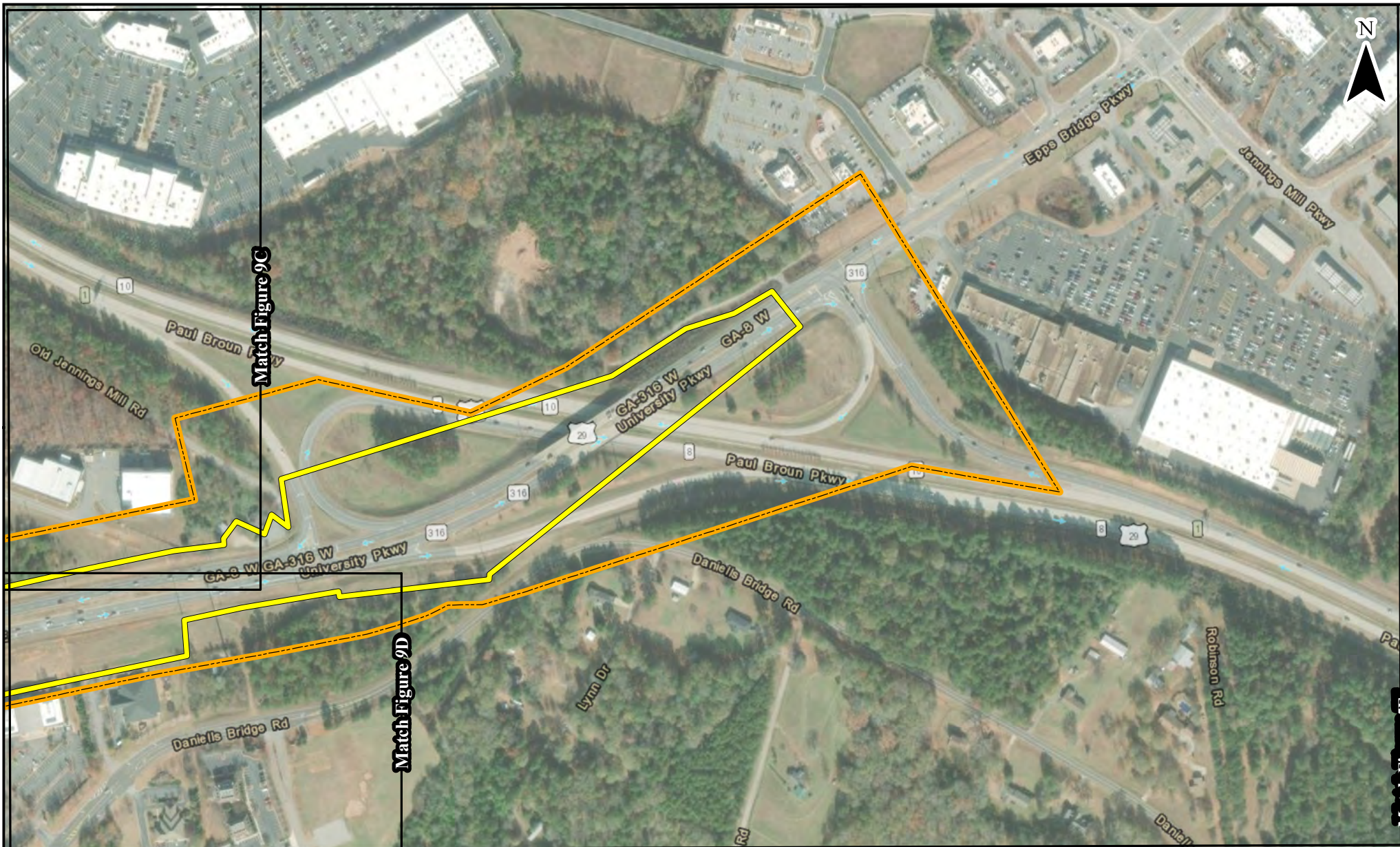
Source: Esri World Imagery

**Legend**

- Upland Data Point
- Wetland Data Point
- Environmental Survey Boundary
- Project Limits
- NBSW
- Open Water
- Stream
- Wetland







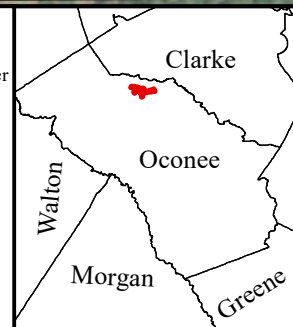
**Figure 9E - State and Federal Waters Map (Aerial)**  
 CR 440/SR 662/Virgil Langford Road over SR 8/SR 316/US 78 and  
 SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector  
 Oconee County  
 PI Nos. 0013768 & 0013769

0 500 1,000  
 Feet

Source: Esri World Imagery

**Legend**

- Upland Data Point
- Wetland Data Point
- Environmental Survey Boundary
- Project Limits
- NBSW
- Open Water
- Stream
- Wetland



*a. Wetlands*

There were 4 wetland sites identified in the PI No. 0013767 project corridor and 3 wetland sites identified in the PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 project corridor during field surveys. These wetlands displayed the characteristics required for wetland definition as given in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual:

- 1) prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation,
- 2) hydric soils, and
- 3) permanent or periodic inundation or saturation.

Areas were considered wetlands if they exhibited evidence of all three of the above wetland parameters. Table 12 describes the wetland sites identified along with the area of impact anticipated by implementation of the projects.

**Table 12: Summary of Wetland Impacts**

Wetland Site	PI No.	Wetland Description and Value	Area of Temporary Impact (acres)	Area of Permanent Impact (acres)
WL 6	0013767	Riverine of moderate quality	0 ac	0.02 ac discharge of fill
WL 7	0013767	Riverine of moderate quality	0 ac	0 ac
WL 8	0013767	Riverine of moderate quality	0 ac	0 ac
WL 13	0013767	Riverine of low quality	0 ac	0 ac
WL 13	0013768 / 0013769	Riverine of low quality	0 ac	0.09 ac fill
WL 14	0013768 / 0013769	Riverine of high quality	0 ac	0 ac
WL 18	0013768 / 0013769	Riverine of medium quality	0 ac	0 ac
<b>Totals</b>			0 acre	0.11 acre

The maximum acreage of potential permanent wetland impact, determined by measuring within the proposed construction limits/ROW, is 0.11 acre. Temporary impact is not anticipated to any wetland under PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, or 0013769. Additional details on wetlands can be found in the PI No. 0013767 Ecology Resources Survey Report (ERSR)/Ecology Assessment of Effects (AOE) Report and the PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 ERSR/AOE filed to record at the Georgia DOT Office of Environmental Services (OES).

*b. Streams*

There were 11 streams identified in the PI No. 0013767 project corridor and 7 streams identified in the PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 project corridor during field surveys. These streams exhibited a defined channel and showed evidence of water flow at times other than major storm events. Table 13 describes the streams identified along with the area of impact anticipated by implementation of the preferred alternative.

**Table 13: Summary of Stream Impacts**

Stream Site	PI No.	Type	Stream Description	On 303(d) List?	Length of Temporary Impact (feet)	Length of Permanent Impact (feet)
PS 2	0013767	Perennial Stream	Buffered stream of moderate quality	No	0 ft	0 ft
EC 3	0013767	Ephemeral Channel	Non-buffered channel of good quality	No	0 ft	0 ft
IS 4	0013767	Intermittent Stream	Buffered stream of good quality	No	0 ft	0 ft
PS 5	0013767	Perennial Stream	Buffered stream of good quality	No	0 ft	590 ft discharge of fill
PS 9	0013767	Perennial Stream	Buffered stream of good quality	No	0 ft	0 ft
PS 10	0013767	Perennial Stream	Buffered stream of good quality	No	34 ft hydrological alteration – diversion impact (<60 days)	148 ft discharge of fill*
IS 11	0013767	Intermittent Stream	Buffered stream	No	0 ft	0 ft
IS 12a	0013767	Intermittent Stream	Buffered stream	No	0 ft	61 ft permanent discharge of fill
IS 12a	0013768 /0013769	Intermittent Stream	Buffered stream	No	0 ft	0 ft
PS 12b	0013767	Perennial Stream	Buffered stream	No	0 ft	0 ft
PS 12b	0013768 /0013769	Perennial Stream	Buffered stream	No	0 ft	165 ft fill
IS 12c	0013767	Intermittent Stream	Buffered stream	No	0 ft	0 ft
1S 12c	0013768 /0013769	Intermittent Stream	Buffered stream	No	0 ft	0 ft



Stream Site	PI No.	Type	Stream Description	On 303(d) List?	Length of Temporary Impact (feet)	Length of Permanent Impact (feet)
IS 12d	0013767	Intermittent Stream	Buffered stream	No	0 ft	0 ft
IS 12d	0013768 /0013769	Intermittent Stream	Buffered stream	No	0 ft	55 ft fill
PS 16	0013768 /0013769	Perennial Stream	Buffered stream of degraded quality	No	0 ft	310 ft fill
IS 17	0013768 /0013769	Intermittent Stream	Buffered stream of degraded quality	No	0 ft	544 ft fill
PS 19	0013768 /0013769	Perennial Stream	Buffered stream of degraded quality	No	0 ft	0 ft
<b>Totals</b>					<b>34 ft</b>	<b>1,873 ft</b>

\* PS 10 will also incur permanent non-permitted, non-mitigated impacts within the previously piped reach of the stream in the amount of 61 linear feet (0.01 acre).

Due to permanent impacts to PS 5 and PS 10 greater than 100 linear feet (under PI No. 0013767) and due to permanent impacts to PS 12b and PS 16 greater than 100 linear feet (PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769), coordination under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) was required. FWCA concurrence was received from the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) for all three PI Nos. on November 20, 2023 (see Attachment 2, Correspondence).

Impacts would occur to the buffers of PS 5, PS 10, and IS 12a under PI No. 0013767 and impacts would occur to the buffers of PS 12b, IS 12c, IS 12d, PS 16, and IS 17 under PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769. Table 14 describes the buffer impacts occurring under each project.

**Table 14: Summary of Stream Buffer Impacts**

Buffered Stream	PI No.	Impact
PS 5 Buffer	0013767	Exempt under the roadway drainage structure exemption (RDSE) for culvert extension and culvert replacement. Non-exempt for side slope fill, placement of riprap, and channel relocation.
PS 10 Buffer	0013767	Exempt impacts as well as non-exempt impacts for lateral and longitudinal encroachment from side slope fill.
IS 12a Buffer	0013767	Exempt under the RDSE for culvert extension.

Buffered Stream	PI No.	Impact
PS 12b Buffer	0013768/0013769	Exempt under the RDSE for culvert extensions. Non-exempt for construction of fill slopes and clearing and grubbing for construction access.
IS 12c Buffer	0013768/0013769	Non-exempt for construction of fill slopes and clearing and grubbing for construction access.
IS 12d Buffer	0013768/0013769	Exempt under the RDSE for PS 12b culvert extensions. Non-exempt for construction of fill slopes and clearing and grubbing for construction access.
PS 16 Buffer	0013768/0013769	Exempt under the RDSE for culvert extensions. Non-exempt for construction of fill slopes and clearing and grubbing for construction access.
IS 17 Buffer	0013768/0013769	Non-exempt impacts for construction of fill slopes and clearing and grubbing for construction access.

For PI No. 0013767, the non-exempt buffer impacts to PS 5 would require an Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Buffer Variance under Criterion 2(h) and the non-exempt buffer impacts to PS 10 would require an EPD Buffer Variance under Criterion 2(a). Under PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769, the non-exempt buffer impacts to PS 12b, IS 12d, and PS 16 would require an EPD Buffer Variance under Criterion 2(a) and the non-exempt buffer impacts to IS 12c and IS 17 would require an EPD Buffer Variance under Criterion 2(h). Additional details on wetlands can be found in the PI No. 0013767 ERSR/AOE and the PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 ERSR/AOE filed to record at the Georgia DOT OES.

*c. Open Waters*

There were 2 open waters identified in the PI No. 0013767 project corridor and 2 open waters identified in the PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 project corridor during field surveys. Table 15 describes the open waters identified. There would be no impacts under the preferred alternative to any identified open waters for the three projects.

**Table 15: Summary of Open Water Impacts**

Open Water Site	PI No.	Open Water Description	Length of Temporary Impact (feet)	Length of Permanent Impact (feet)
OW 1	0013767	Buffered open water of moderate quality	0 ft	0 ft
OW 12	0013767	Buffered open water of degraded quality	0 ft	0 ft
OW 12	0013768 /0013769	Buffered open water of degraded quality	0 ft	0 ft
OW 15	0013768 /0013769	Buffered open water of degraded quality	0 ft	0 ft
<b>Totals</b>			0 ft	0 ft

*d. Avoidance and Minimization*

In order to avoid unintended impacts to WOTUS and buffers, orange barrier fencing (OBF) would be placed at Ephemeral Channel (EC) 3, IS 4, WL 6, WL 7, WL 8, PS 5 buffer, PS 9, PS 10, PS 10 buffer, IS 11, and IS 12a (PI No. 0013767) and at PS 12b, IS 12c, IS 12d, WL 13, OW 15, OW 15 buffer, PS 16, and IS 17 (PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769).

Upon selection of a Design Build Contractor and the advancement of design, potential staging needs and avoidance and minimization measures would be further explored as required by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and documented in an ecology re-evaluation if they vary from what is evaluated in the PI No. 0013767 ERSR/AOE and PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 ERSR/AOE filed to record at the Georgia DOT OES.

Under PI No. 0013767, a culvert extension was proposed instead of a culvert replacement as a replacement would increase the longitudinal impacts to PS 5 and PS 10. To avoid future erosion issues due to an existing sharp bend in PS 5 at the proposed culvert extension outfall, a segment of PS 5 would be relocated. In addition, the box culvert inlet at the SR 316 crossing would be aligned with PS 5 to capture flow as opposed to aligned with both PS 5 and WL 6, reducing the fill impacts to PS 5. Under PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769, impacts to PS 12b, IS 12d, WL 13, PS 16, IS 17, and suitable protected species habitat were reduced by maintaining the project on current alignment as much as feasible.

The projects would be expected to produce some increased siltation during the construction phase. Environmental harm would be minimized by standard construction erosion and sedimentation control devices. Measures to minimize harm to wetlands, water quality, wildlife, and fish and game habitat include:

- 1) Preservation of roadside vegetation beyond the limits of construction where possible;
- 2) Early revegetation of disturbed areas so as to minimize soil erosion;
- 3) The use of slope drains, detention/retention structures, surface, subsurface and cross drains, designed as appropriate or needed, so that discharge would occur in locations and in such a manner that surface and subsurface water quality would not be affected (the outlets may require aprons, bank protection, silt basins, and energy dissipaters);
- 4) Inclusion of construction features for the control of predicted erosion and water pollution in the plans, specifications, and control pay items (GDOT Standard Specification 715 identifies the pollution control measures which may be used);
- 5) The dumping of chemicals, fuels, lubricants, bitumens, raw sewage, or other harmful wastes into or alongside streams or impoundments, or into natural or manmade channels leading thereto, would be prohibited.

*e. Mitigation*

Unavoidable losses would be mitigated by debiting credits from a Georgia DOT-owned mitigation bank or through the purchase of credits from a US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) approved bank serving hydrologic unit code (HUC) 0307010103. A total of 0.02 Riverine 2018 or 0.16 Legacy wetland and 45.75 non-perennial stream and 553.50 perennial stream (<3 square miles) 2018 or 6,971.40 Legacy stream mitigation credits are required under PI No. 0013767 and a total of 0.07 Riverine/Lacustrine Fringe Wetland 2018 or 0.56 Legacy wetland and 805.5 2018 (356.25 perennial stream <3 square miles and 449.25 non-perennial stream) or 7,509.6 Legacy stream mitigation credits are required under PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 as a consequence of constructing the preferred alternative. Additional details on mitigation requirements for streams and wetlands can be found in the PI No. 0013767 ERSR/AOE Report and the PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 ERSR/AOE Report filed to record at the Georgia DOT OES.

*2. Water Quality/303(d) List*

Provisions in the construction contract would require the contractor to exercise every reasonable precaution during construction to prevent the pollution of streams in the vicinity of the projects. Where possible, early re-vegetation of disturbed areas would be completed to hold soil movement to a minimum. Dumping of chemicals, fuels, lubricants, bitumen, raw sewage, or other harmful wastes into or alongside streams or impoundments, or natural or manmade channels leading thereto, would be prohibited.

Additional contract provisions would require the use of temporary erosion control measures as shown on the construction plans or as deemed necessary during construction. These temporary measures may include the use of berms, dikes, dams, sediment basins, fiber mats, netting, gravel, mulches, grasses, slope drains, and other erosion control devices or methods, as applicable. These provisions are coordinated with the permanent erosion control features as practical to assure economical, effective, and continuous erosion control throughout the construction and post-construction periods and are in accordance with the 23 CFR, Part 650, Subpart B.

*7. Protected Species*

The Georgia DOT has reviewed the USFWS monthly update of Threatened and Endangered Species and Habitat Listing for Oconee County. In addition, a list of state-protected species was provided by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (Georgia DNR). A field survey was conducted to identify federally and state-listed protected species or potential habitat for protected species within the project corridors. Table 16 lists those species along with the project effect.

**Table 16: Protected Species Known to Occur in Oconee County**

Common Name	PI No.	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Project Effect on Species
Tricolored bat	0013767/0013768/0013769	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	PE	-	MANLAA
Monarch butterfly	0013767/0013768/0013769	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	C	-	NLJE
Chattahoochee crayfish	0013767/0013768/0013769	<i>Cambarus howardi</i>	-	T	NE
Altamaha shiner	0013767/0013768/0013769	<i>Cyprinella xaenura</i>	-	T	NE
Indian olive	0013767	<i>Nestronia umbellula</i>	-	R	NSAE
Indian olive	0013768/0013769	<i>Nestronia umbellula</i>	-	R	NE

Key: Proposed Endangered (PE), Threatened (T), Candidate (C), Rare (R), No Effect (NE), May Affect Not Likely to Adversely Affect (MANLAA), Not Likely to Jeopardize Existence (NLJE); No Significant Adverse Effect (NSAE)

\*\*Obligations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act must be reconsidered if new information reveals impacts of this identified action that may affect listed species or habitat in a manner not previously considered, a new species is listed or habitat is determined that may be affected by the identified action, or the project is modified in a manner not previously considered.

On September 14, 2022, the USFWS published a proposal to list the tricolored bat (TCB) as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The range for the tricolored bat covers the entire state of Georgia and known and potentially suitable habitat is present within existing and proposed Georgia DOT ROW. On February 8, 2023, the Georgia DOT, the FHWA Georgia Division, the USFWS, and the Georgia DNR entered into an agreement titled “Interim Agreement for Coordination for Proposed Tricolored Bat” (hereafter, TCB Agreement).

There was suitable habitat identified during field survey for the TCB under PI No. 0013767. During PI No. 0013767 field survey, the suitable habitat for TCB was observed within the PS 2 box culvert, the PS 5 box culvert, the PS 10 box culvert, and the PS 12b box culvert. The project survey area also consists of approximately 40.17 acres of mixed pine/hardwood forest, 19.53 acres of bottomland hardwood forest, and 10.67 acres of upland hardwood forest which provide medium to high quality foraging and roosting habitat for tricolored bat.

Approximately 28.45 acres of this habitat falls within the project limits and has the potential to be cleared. No caves exist within three miles of the survey area and no bats or signs of bats were observed during the surveys. Additionally, the mixed hardwood-pine habitat, bottomland forest, maintained dirt roads bisecting wooded land, and corridors along the stream banks provide suitable foraging habitat. Since the study area is within TCB consultation range, species presence is assumed within the suitable habitat. During PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 field survey, suitable habitat for TCB was observed within the hardwood/pine forest, PS 12b, PS 16, and PS 19 culverts, and SR 316 at Paul Brown Parkway Overpass.

PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

Approximately 44.5 acres of tree clearing would occur as a result of construction of the proposed projects and the culverts at PS 12b and PS 16 would be extended. Due to the identification of suitable habitat and the consultation range, presence of TCB is assumed within the ESB of PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769. However, no TCB were observed within/on the structures and no caves or other similar natural features were observed in the project area.

In accordance with the TCB Agreement, Georgia DOT has assessed the potential for the proposed projects PI No. 0013767 and PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 to affect the TCB and has found that it may affect but is not likely to adversely affect this species. A USFWS conference to this determination was requested and received by the agency on November 20, 2023, and Section 7 would be completed prior to construction of the proposed projects (see Attachment 2, Correspondence). Special Provision 107.23H would be implemented for PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769 for the protection of the TCB which includes restricting tree clearing between May 1 – July 31 (for non-volant pup season) and December 1 – February 28 (for feeding during warmer temperatures during winter hibernation) and conducting a winter culvert survey before let. In addition, OBF would be utilized where feasible to minimize impacts to suitable habitat within forested areas. Sightings and/or incidents that cause injury or harm to the TCB would be reported to the Georgia DOT Office of Environmental Services as specified in SP 107.23G.

Presence of Indian olive suitable habitat was also identified during survey for both PI No. 0013767 and PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769, with no actual species presence identified. OBF would be utilized under PI No. 0013767 to minimize impacts to suitable habitat for Indian olive where feasible. Under PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769, a commitment to conduct another survey within two years of let has been implemented.

On December 15, 2020, the USFWS announced that listing the monarch butterfly as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is warranted but precluded. As a result, the monarch butterfly is now a candidate under the ESA. The lead Federal Agency may treat candidate species as proposed under the ESA and request conference, as appropriate, if they determine a proposed action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species or if the species may be listed prior to completion of the projects' construction. Potentially suitable monarch butterfly habitat occurs statewide and may be present within existing and proposed Georgia DOT ROW. The lead Federal Agency and Georgia DOT have determined a Section 7 conference is not warranted. Based on the scope of the action compared to the range and distribution of this species, PI No. 0013767 and PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769, as proposed, are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the monarch butterfly and would be completed

before a final listing decision. Georgia DOT will continue to coordinate programmatically with the lead Federal Agency and USFWS to discuss the most current data to assess effects and develop avoidance and minimization efforts in preparation for the monarch butterfly's future listing.

#### 8. *Invasive Species*

In accordance with Executive Order 13112, a survey for populations of invasive species that may be spread during construction was conducted for the projects. The invasive species for which the survey was conducted are those which have been identified by the Department as having the highest priority due to environmental and economic impacts. Both the selected species and the management practices will be re-evaluated and revised as more information is obtained. The following invasive species were identified during field surveys:

PI No. 0013767

- Nepalese browntop (*Microstegium vimineum*)
- English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)

PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769:

- Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)
- Kudzu (*Pueraria montana*)
- Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)

During the construction process, Georgia DOT would take measures to prevent or minimize the spread of these species as appropriate for the time of the year. These measures would include removal and disposal of vegetative parts in the soil that may reproduce by root raking, burning on site any such parts and aboveground parts that bear fruit, controlling or eradicating infestations prior to construction, and cleaning of vehicles and other equipment prior to leaving the infested site. The measures used would be appropriate for the particular species and conditions that exist on the projects, as described in Georgia Standard Specifications Section 201, Clearing and Grubbing of Right of Way.

#### 9. *Wildlife and Habitat*

During PI No. 0013767 field survey, it was determined that PS 2, PS 5, PS 10, and PS 12b box culverts provide nesting habitat for migratory birds and five eastern phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) nests were observed during the May, July, and August 2021 field surveys. During the PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 field survey, it was determined that PS 12b, PS 19, and SR 316 over Paul Brown Overpass box culverts provide nesting habitat for migratory birds and three eastern phoebe nests were observed. SP 107.23G would be adhered to for PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769, which specifies no less than thirty calendar days prior to bridge work, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)



biologists will be contracted to develop an action plan specifically for this project that will address nest prevention and removal, where appropriate. With the implementation of Special Provision 107.23G, the project is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on migratory bird species or bats.

## **D. Physical Environment**

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### **1. Noise Assessment**

In compliance with 23 USC Section 109(h) and (i), the FHWA established a standard for the assessment of highway traffic-generated noise. The standard, published as Part 772 of Title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations (23 C.F.R. § 772), provide procedures to be followed in conducting noise analyses that will protect the public health, welfare, and livability. In accordance with the Noise Control Act of 1972, coordination of this regulation with the EPA was completed and Noise Impact Assessments (NIA) were completed for PI No. 0013767 and PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769. The NIAs included an estimation of traffic-related sound levels associated with the existing (2020), no-build (2048), and build (2048) alternatives was conducted using the FHWA Traffic Noise Model (TNM), version 2.5. Inputs to the model include existing and future roadway alignments and noise sensitive receptors. To provide a “worst case” analysis of the existing and future conditions, traffic volumes were based on PM peak hour traffic.

The PI No. 0013767 NIA was produced and transmitted to the FHWA on May 15, 2023. PI No. 0013767 would include the addition of interchange lanes and ramps and therefore, would be classified as a Type I project. The NIA concluded that construction of this project would result in no impacts by approaching or exceeding the FHWA Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC) and none by substantial increase. The proposed project in the design year (2048) would result in a 0.1 to 4.9 decibel (*dBA*) increase in traffic generated noise. Existing noise levels range from 46.9 to 66.3 *dBA*. The predicted no build noise levels would range from 49.1 to 68.4 *dBA*. The predicted build noise levels would range from 47.9 to 66.3 *dBA*. Noise abatement for the impacted sites was not considered, as there are no traffic noise impacts predicted under the 2048 build alternative and no receivers would experience noise related impacts in the design year build alternative (see Attachment 2, Correspondence).

The PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 NIA was produced and transmitted to the FHWA on September 26, 2023. PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 propose one interchange and one overpass with sections of new alignment and, therefore, would be classified as a Type I project. It was concluded as a result of the NIA that the construction of PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 would result in no impacts by approaching and/or exceeding the FHWA NAC and none

by substantial increase. Existing noise levels range from 49.9 to 66.3 *dBA*. The predicted no-build noise levels would range from 52.0 to 68.5 *dBA*. The predicted build noise levels would range from 51.7 to 70.4 *dBA*. Due to this conclusion, noise abatement for impacted sites was not considered, as there were no traffic noise impacts predicted under the 2048 build alternative and no receptors would experience noise related impacts in the design year build alternative (see Attachment 2, Correspondence).

## 2. *Air Assessment*

The EPA first set air quality standards for carbon monoxide (CO) in 1971. For the protection of both public health and welfare, EPA set an 8-hour primary standard at 9 parts per million (ppm) and a 1-hour primary standard at 35 ppm. Nationally and, particularly in urban areas, the majority of CO emissions to ambient air come from mobile sources.

In accordance with 40 CFR 93.102(b), as no counties in Georgia are currently categorized as being in nonattainment or maintenance for CO, regional and project-level transportation conformity requirements do not apply for CO in Georgia. In an effort to expedite the NEPA process, Georgia DOT has determined that quantitative CO project-level analyses are not required in any CO attainment areas within the state. In accordance with the FHWA – GDOT 2020 Agreement: Qualitative Project-Level Analyses for GA Areas in Attainment for Carbon Monoxide, effective May 1, 2020, a microscale CO analysis (project-level CO hot-spot analysis using MOVES and CAL3QHC) is unnecessary for NEPA purposes because the project contribution plus background concentrations can be judged to be well below the 1-hour and 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), based on the summary of previous CO hot-spot analyses and CO ambient monitoring data outlined in Attachment 2 of the FHWA – GDOT 2020 Agreement (please refer to this agreement for further details).

Effective October 24, 2016, the State of Georgia is considered to be in attainment for particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), so no further analysis of PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions is warranted.

An Air Assessment for PI No. 0013767 was produced and transmitted to FHWA on May 15, 2023, and an Air Assessment for PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 was produced and transmitted to FHWA on June 9, 2023 (see Attachment 2, Correspondence). Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSAT) assessments are required statewide for most federal transportation projects. Based on the example projects defined in the FHWA guidance “Updated Interim Guidance on Mobile Source Air Toxic Analysis in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documents” dated January 18, 2023, PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769 would be classified as *Projects with No Meaningful Potential MSAT Effects*. The proposed projects have been determined to generate minimal air quality impacts for Clean Air Act criteria pollutants and have

not been linked with any special MSAT concerns. As such, the projects will not result in changes in traffic volumes, vehicle mix, basic project location, or any other factor that would cause a meaningful increase in MSAT impacts of the project from that of the no-build alternative.

The Air Assessments concluded that the proposed projects are consistent with state and federal air quality goals, including CO, Ozone, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and MSAT. Results of these Assessments indicated the proposed projects are consistent with the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the attainment of clean air quality in Georgia and comply with both state and federal air quality standards.

#### **4. *Underground Storage Tanks/Hazardous Waste***

A Phase I environmental site assessment (ESA) was performed on January 27, 2021, to determine if any additional recognized environmental concerns (RECs) beyond those already identified occur within the PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 project area. Through this ESA, one site within the corridor for PI No. 0013769 (QuickTrip #819) was identified to be considered a REC which could have potential petroleum-based impacts to the area of future construction and a Phase II ESA was recommended. The Phase II ESA for the PI No. 0013769 site was conducted on October 6, 2022, and it was concluded that all detected analytes were below the EPD Underground Storage Management Tank Program's (USMTP) soil threshold levels and the EPD Hazardous Site Response Act (HSRA) notification criteria for regulated substances. In addition to having analytes below reporting thresholds, the QuickTrip #819 site would have no ROW or easements required, and therefore no additional consideration or reporting is required (see Attachment 2, Correspondence). A Phase I ESA was performed for the PI No. 0013767 project area which identified no evidence of recognized environmental conditions. As a result, a Statement of No Concern was issued for the project on December 28, 2022 (see Attachment 2, Correspondence).

### **E. *Permits/Variations/Commitments Required***

---

#### **1. *CWA USACE Section 404 Permit***

There would be a total of 1,873 feet of permanent impact to streams and 0.11 acre of impacts to wetlands within the project areas of PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769. Due to proposed impacts to WOTUS, a Regional Permit (RP) 34 covering all three projects would be required from the USACE prior to project construction.

**2. *GEPD Buffer Variance***

For PI No. 0013767, the non-exempt buffer impacts to PS 5 would require an EPD Buffer Variance under Criterion 2(h) and the non-exempt buffer impacts to PS 10 would require an EPD Buffer Variance under Criterion 2(a). Under PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769, the non-exempt buffer impacts to PS 12b, IS 12d, and PS 16 would require an EPD Buffer Variance under Criterion 2(a) and the non-exempt buffer impacts to IS 12c and IS 17 would require an EPD Buffer Variance under Criterion 2(h). Buffer Variances would be required from the EPD prior to construction (see the Environmental Commitments Table (ECT) commitment D-7).

**3. *404 and/or Buffer Mitigation Needed***

Unavoidable WOTUS losses would be mitigated by debiting credits from a Georgia DOT-owned mitigation bank or through the purchase of credits from a USACE approved bank serving HUC 0307010103. A total of 0.02 Riverine 2018 or 0.16 Legacy wetland and 45.75 non-perennial stream and 553.50 perennial stream <3 square miles 2018 or 6,971.40 Legacy stream mitigation credits are required under PI No. 0013767. A total of 0.07 Riverine/Lacustrine Fringe Wetland 2018 or 0.56 Legacy wetland and 805.5 2018 (356.25 perennial stream <3 square miles and 449.25 non-perennial stream) or 7,509.6 Legacy stream mitigation credits are required under PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 as a consequence of constructing the proposed projects. Impacts to the stream buffers would require stream buffer mitigation credits for PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769 in an amount to be determined.

**7. *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)***

The NPDES was created by the federal Clean Water Act to control water pollution by regulating the discharge of pollutants to surface waters. In Georgia, any ground-disturbing activities that exceed one acre are covered under the State's NPDES permit. Ground-disturbing activities exceeding one acre would occur for the proposed projects. Therefore, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the NPDES General Permit would be submitted prior to construction of PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769.

PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

## Attachment 2 Correspondence

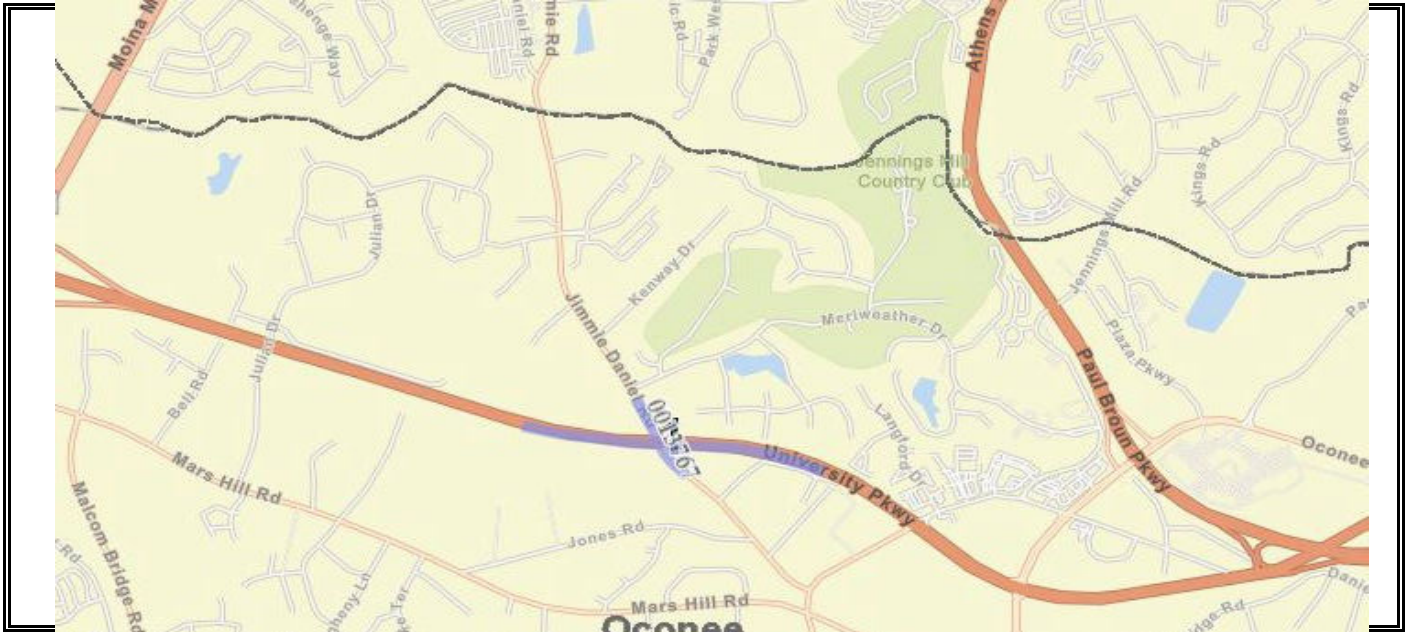


PI Number	Type	Description
0009012	Widening	SR 53 from SR 15 to SR 24/US 441 – Phase III
0013613	Widening	SR 24 from Apalachee River to CS 7 and from SR 186 to Watkinsville Bypass
0013763	Grade Separation	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 60/Dials Mill Rd
0013764	Grade Separation	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 64/McNutt Creek Rd
0013765	Grade Separation	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 263/Mars Hill Rd
0013766	Grade Separation	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 20/Julian Dr
0013767	Interchange	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 55/Jimmy Daniel Rd
0013768	Grade Separation	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Rd
0013769	Interchange	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector
0013770	Interchange	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at SR 10 Loop
0015656	Bridge	CR 592/Clotfelter Rd at Barber Creek 3 mi S of Bogart
0015925	Widening	SR 24/US 441 from SR 186 to CS 7/Astondale Rd
0016081	Roadway Project	CR 828/Bishop Farms Pkwy Extension to New High Shoals Rd

**MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
FY 2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

<b>PROJECT NAME:</b> SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 55/JIMMY DANIEL ROAD		<b>MTP Project / TIP #</b> P-77		<b>Fund:</b> Y001	
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION:</b>  This project would create an interchange at the SR 316 intersection with Jimmie Daniel Road.		Estimated Cost:		\$74,296,304	
		County:		Oconee	
		P.I. #:		0013767	
		GDOT Prj.#:			
Length (miles):	1.6	# of existing lanes:	4	# of lanes planned:	4
DOT District #:	1	Congressional Dist. #:	10	RDC:	Northeast Georgia
Average Daily Traffic Volume	2018 ADT:	4,830	2045(projected):	12,800	
<b>COMMENTS/REMARKS:</b>					

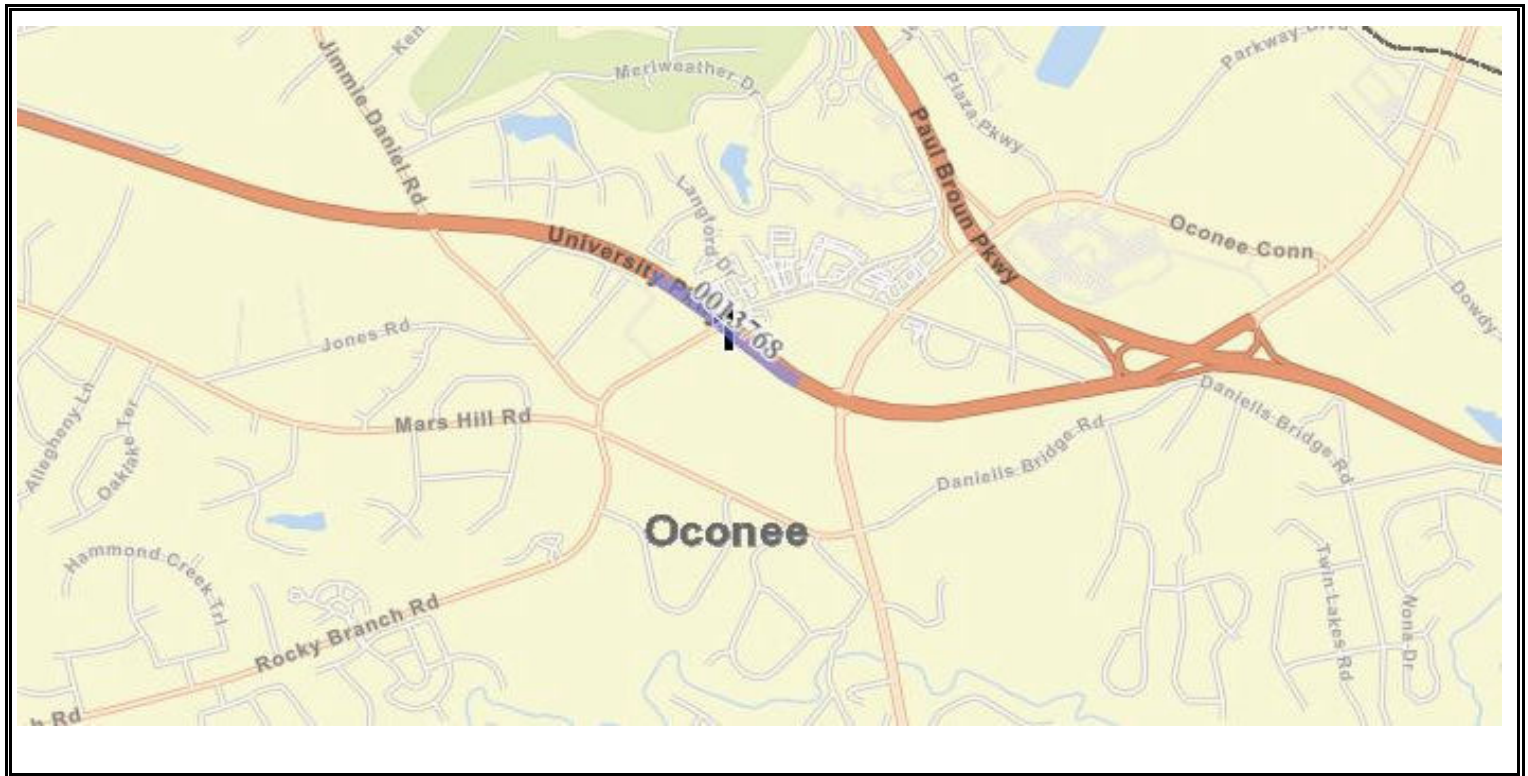
**PROJECT LOCATION**



**MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
FY 2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

<b>PROJECT NAME:</b> SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 440/CR 662/VIRGIL LANGFORD ROAD		<b>MTP Project / TIP#:</b>		<b>FUND:</b> Y001/HB170		
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION:</b>  This project involves a grade separation project at the SR 316 intersection with Virgil Langford Road.				<b>Est. Const Cost:</b> \$5,270,498		
				<b>County:</b> Oconee		
				<b>P.I. #:</b> 0013768		
				<b>GDOT Prj. #:</b>		
<b>Length (miles):</b> 0.44	<b># of existing lanes:</b> 4	<b># of lanes planned:</b> 4				
<b>DOT District #:</b> 1	<b>Congressional Dist. #:</b> 10	<b>RDC:</b> Northeast Georgia				
<b>COMMENTS/REMARKS:</b> FY24 ROW funds are all through HB170 funds.						
<b>PROJECT PHASE</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>FY2024</b>	<b>FY2025</b>	<b>FY2026</b>	<b>FY2027</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Preliminary Engineering (\$)	Fed/State					\$0
Right-of-Way (\$)	Fed/State	\$3,360,000				\$3,360,000
Construction Costs (\$)	Fed/State		\$1,910,498			\$1,910,498
<b>PROJECT COST</b>		<b>\$3,360,000</b>	<b>\$1,910,498</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$5,270,498</b>
Federal Cost (\$)		\$0	\$1,528,398	\$0	\$0	\$1,528,398
State Cost (\$)		\$3,360,000	\$382,100	\$0	\$0	\$3,742,100
Local Cost (\$)		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

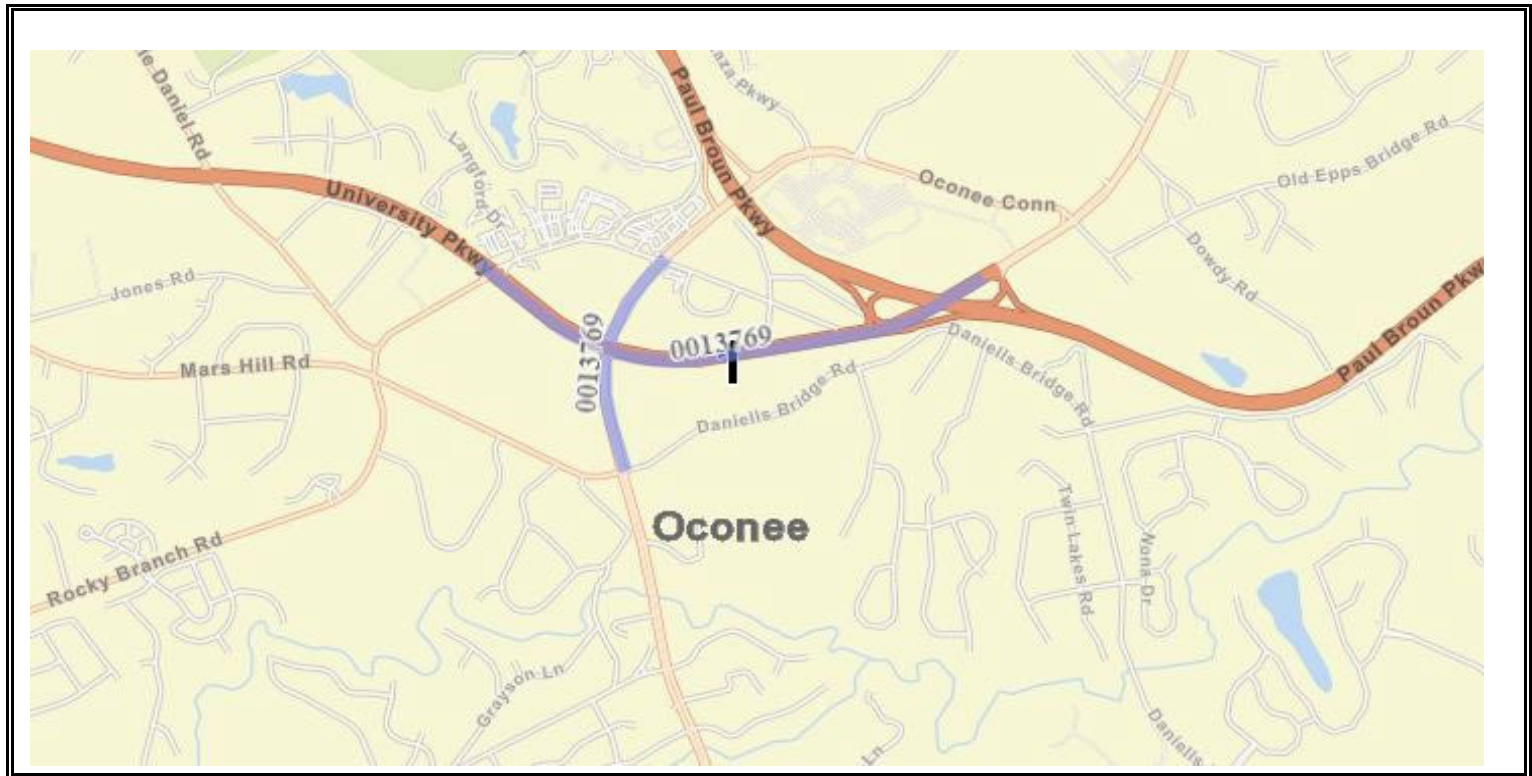
**PROJECT LOCATION**



**MADISON ATHENS-CLARKE OCONEE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
FY 2024-2027 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

<b>PROJECT NAME:</b> SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 929/OCONEE CONNECTOR		<b>MTP Project / TIP#:</b> N/A		<b>Fund:</b> Y001		
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION:</b>  This project would create an interchange at the SR 316 intersection with the Oconee Connector.				<b>Est. Const Cost:</b> \$73,447,745		
				<b>County:</b> Oconee		
				<b>P.I. #:</b> 0013769		
				<b>GDOT Prj. #:</b>		
<b>Length (miles):</b> 1.5	<b># of existing lanes:</b> 4		<b># of lanes planned:</b> 4			
<b>DOT District #:</b> 1	<b>Congressional Dist. #:</b> 10		<b>RDC:</b> Northeast Georgia			
<b>COMMENTS/REMARKS:</b>						
<b>PROJECT PHASE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>FY2024</b>	<b>FY2025</b>	<b>FY2026</b>	<b>FY2027</b>
Preliminary Engineering (\$)		Fed/State				\$0
Right-of-Way (\$)		Fed/State	\$1,865,000			\$1,865,000
Construction Costs (\$)		Fed/State		\$14,705,285	\$29,816,331	\$27,061,129
<b>PROJECT COST</b>			\$1,865,000	\$14,705,285	\$29,816,331	\$27,061,129
Federal Cost (\$)			\$1,492,000	\$11,764,228	\$23,853,065	\$21,648,903
State Cost (\$)			\$373,000	\$2,941,057	\$5,963,266	\$5,412,226
Local Cost (\$)			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**PROJECT LOCATION**







## D. Projects Funded by Other Sources

Status	PI #	County	Functional Classification	Project Name	Project Type	Project Description
HB170 funded	0009011	Oconee	Minor Arterial	SR 53 FROM SR 24/US 441 TO CR 274/HOG MTN - Ph II	Widening	Widen to 4 lanes and construct turn lanes as needed from the Hog Mountain Rd to US 441. Sidewalks and bicycle lanes are planned for this corridor.
HB170 funded	122890	ACC	Major Collector	SR 10LP @ SR 10; INC JENNINGS MILL RD REALIGNMENT IN ATHENS	Interchange	Construct a connector road between Atlanta Hwy and SR 10 Loop and a partial interchange with the SR 10 Loop.
2018 TSPLOST	NA	ACC		Tallassee Road Bridge	Bridge	Reconstruct the bridge to allow for two standard travel lanes and shoulders plus bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
HB 170 Funded	0007685	Oconee	Freeway/ Expressway/ Principal Arterial	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 58/DIALS MILL EXT	Interchange	Create an interchange at the SR 316 intersection with Dials Mill Extension
HB 170 Funded	0013763	Oconee	Freeway/ Expressway/ Principal Arterial	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 60/DIALS MILL ROAD	Interchange	Create an interchange at the SR 316 intersection with Dials Mill Road
HB 170 Funded	0013764	Oconee	Freeway/ Expressway/ Principal Arterial	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 64/MCNUIT CREEK ROAD	Interchange	Create an interchange at the SR 316 intersection with McNutt Creek Road
HB 170 Funded	0013765	Oconee	Freeway/ Expressway/ Principal Arterial	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 263/MARS HILL ROAD	Interchange	Create an interchange at the SR 316 intersection with Mars Hill Road
HB 170 Funded	0013766	Oconee	Freeway/ Expressway/ Principal Arterial	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 20/JULIAN DRIVE	Interchange	Create an interchange at the SR 316 intersection with Julian Drive
HB 170 Funded	0013767	Oconee	Freeway/ Expressway/ Principal Arterial	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 55/JIMMY DANIEL ROAD	Interchange	Create an interchange at the SR 316 intersection with Daniel Road
HB 170 Funded	0013768	Oconee	Freeway/ Expressway/ Principal Arterial	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 440/CR 662/VIRGIL LANGFORD ROAD	Interchange	Create an interchange at the SR 316 intersection with Virgil Langford
HB 170 Funded	0013770	Oconee	Freeway/ Expressway/ Principal Arterial	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ SR 10 LOOP	Interchange	Create an interchange at the SR 316 intersection with SR10 Loop
HB 170 Funded	013769	Oconee	Freeway/ Expressway/ Principal Arterial	SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 929/OCONEE CONNECTOR	Interchange	Create an interchange at the SR 316 intersection with Oconee Connector
HB 170 / Locally Funded	0016081	Oconee		CR 828/Bishop Farms Pkwy Ext to New High Shoals Rd.	New Roadway	Create a new connection between Bishop Farms Pkwy Extension to New High Shoals Rd.
HB 170 Funded	0013613	Oconee		SR 24 from Apalachee River to CS 7 and from SR 186 to Watkinsville Bypass	Widening	Widen from 2 and 3 lanes to 4 lanes with grass and flush median





Athens Planning Department  
120 W. Dougherty Street  
Athens, Georgia 30601  
706-613-3515

October 14, 2020

Georgia Dept. of Transportation  
Office of Planning  
Attn: Radney Simpson  
Transmitted via Email

Dear Mr. Simpson:

This letter is to inform you that Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS) has completed amendments to the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan to reflect the following information. Signed MACORTS Resolutions from the October 14, 2020 Policy Committee meeting and the revised project sheets are attached to this memo.

1. SR 10Lp at US 29 Interchange (PI# N/A), P-25: The construction phase was removed from the 2045 MTP and moved to the Unfunded Section of the MTP so that the associated funds could be used for the following projects.
2. SR 10Lp at US 29 Interchange (PI# N/A), P-25: The construction phase was removed from the 2045 MTP and moved to the Unfunded Section of the MTP so that the associated funds could be used for the following projects.
3. SR 316 Interchange at Jimmie Daniel Road (PI# 0013767), P-77: Preliminary Engineering and Right-of-Way phases were added to the 2045 MTP.
4. SR 10Loop at Atlanta Highway Interchange project (PI# 122890), P-78: Construction/Utilities phase was added to the 2045 MTP.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. If you should need additional information, please contact Ms. Sherry F. McDuffie, of this office at (706) 613-3515 or by e-mail at [macorts@accgov.com](mailto:macorts@accgov.com).

Sincerely,

Brad Griffin, Director  
Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional  
Transportation Study (MACORTS)

BAG/sfm

CC: Ann-Marie Day, FHWA (via email)  
Tom Caiafa, GDOT – Planning (via email)  
Jalen Ford, GDOT – Planning (via email)

PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

## Attachment 2 Social Environment

John Daniell, Chairman  
Oconee County Board of Commission  
[jdaniell@oconee.ga.us](mailto:jdaniell@oconee.ga.us)

Eva Kennedy, Director  
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission  
[ekennedy@negrc.org](mailto:ekennedy@negrc.org)

Janet Jones, Mayor  
City of Bogart Government  
[janetjones@cityofbogart.com](mailto:janetjones@cityofbogart.com)

Dan Wallace  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Federal Building  
355 East Hancock Avenue  
Athens, GA 30601  
[Dan.Wallace@usda.gov](mailto:Dan.Wallace@usda.gov)



United States Department of Agriculture

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February 4, 2022

Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308

**Re: Early Coordination Request for PI #0013767, Oconee County, State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/United States (US) 29 at Jimmy Rd**

Dear Mr. Duff:

This letter is in reference to your request for information on the possible impacts the proposed interchange construction project may have on land use, conservation, water quality and other general environmental concerns that may be of interest to our agency. The following outlines our concerns with the proposed project with regards to farmland protection, and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) watershed dams and project easements.

Farmland Protection

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) is intended to minimize the impact federal programs have on the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. Projects are subject to FPPA requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to nonagricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or with assistance from a federal agency. For the purpose of FPPA, farmland includes areas located within soil map units rated as prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements does not have to be currently used for cropland. It can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land uses, but not water or urban built-up land. It should be noted that the FPPA does not authorize the Federal Government to regulate the use of private or nonfederal land or, in any way, affect the property rights of owners.

NRCS uses a Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) system to establish a farmland conversion impact rating score on proposed sites of federally funded and assisted projects. This score is used as an indicator for the project sponsor to consider alternative sites if the potential adverse impacts on the farmland exceed the recommended allowable level. It is our understanding that the proposed project involves federal funds or assistance, and thus could be subject to this assessment. Please note, FPPA considers indirect as well as direct conversion. The acres directly converted will be the project area. Areas planned for direct or indirect conversion should be indicated on plans or maps included in the packet of materials for the project. **However, the project is located inside the U.S. Census Urban area and does not convert prime or statewide important farmland and is thus exempt from this assessment. You need to take no further action for FPPA purposes.**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Georgia State Office  
355 East Hancock Avenue - Athens, GA - 30601-2775  
Voice: 706-546-2272 Fax: 855-417-8490

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

### NRCS Watershed Dams

More than 50 years ago, the U.S. Department of Agriculture was authorized by Congress to help local communities with flood control and watershed protection through the Watershed Program (PL-534 Flood Control Act of 1944 and PL-566 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act). As a result, local communities, with NRCS assistance, have constructed over 11,000 dams in 47 states since 1948. These dams were originally constructed for protection of farmlands from flooding impacts. In 2000, PL-566 was amended to provide NRCS authorization to assist communities with rehabilitation of their aging dams. The legislation authorizes NRCS to work with local communities and watershed project sponsors to address public health and safety concerns and potential environmental impacts of aging dams.

**We have reviewed our records and have determined that there are no such structures downstream and/or in the vicinity of the proposed project that could be affected by these activities.**

### NRCS Easements

NRCS easements relate to our Wetland Reserve Program and the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. **We have reviewed our records and have determined that there are no such easements downstream or in the near vicinity of the proposed project that could be affected by these activities.**

NRCS appreciates this opportunity to comment. If you have questions or need any additional information, please contact me at (706) 546-2244 or [dan.wallace@usda.gov](mailto:dan.wallace@usda.gov).

Sincerely,

 Digitally signed by DANIEL WALLACE  
Date: 2022.02.07 08:51:32 -05'00'

DANIEL F. WALLACE  
STATE RESOURCE INVENTORY COORDINATOR

DANIEL F. WALLACE  
STATE RESOURCE INVENTORY COORDINATOR

cc: Jack Lewis, Assistant State Conservationist (FO), NRCS, Athens, GA  
Jose Pagan, District Conservationist, NRCS, Monroe, GA  
Jason Wheatley, Resource Soil Scientist, NRCS, Athens, GA  
Nelson Velazquez-Gotay, Soil Scientist, NRCS, Athens, GA  
Rhonda Tilt, Arcadis





**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

February 2, 2022

Eva Kennedy, Director  
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission  
[ekennedy@negrc.org](mailto:ekennedy@negrc.org)

Re: Early Coordination Request for PI#: 0013767, Oconee County, State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/United States (US) 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road

Dear Director Kennedy:

The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) is in the beginning stages of project development for the above noted project. The proposal consists of converting the current intersection at SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and Jimmy Daniel Road into a grade separated diamond interchange. Please see the attached Project Location Map.

The design for the project is being developed concurrently with the environmental analysis and in compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations. The purpose of this letter is to ask you to advise us of any known project area resources or conditions that should be considered during the environmental evaluation.

This evaluation process, developed by Georgia DOT to make our projects responsive to social, economic, and environmental concerns, offers you the opportunity to identify site specific conditions to be addressed in the environmental evaluation. With your assistance, we can give these issues due consideration and integrate them into the development of the project alignment and design.

Georgia DOT would especially appreciate your assistance in identifying communities in the project area—low income and minority communities in particular. If you are aware of community associations or community leaders who might serve as liaisons with neighborhoods, please bring these to our attention. We would like to be certain that communities are recognized and given the opportunity to fully participate and provide meaningful input in the project development process.

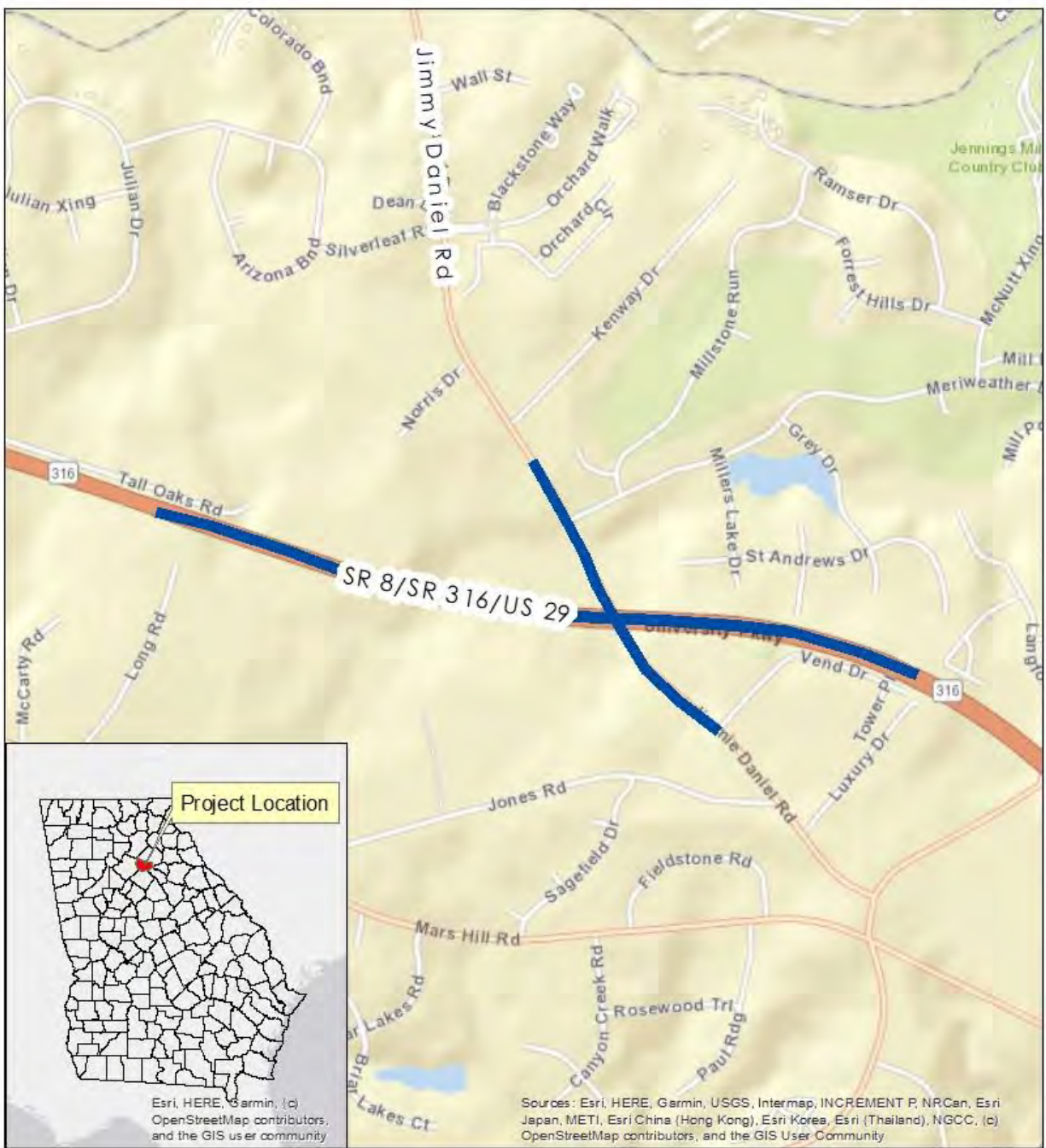
Your assistance is appreciated. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the NEPA Analyst, Rachael Rosenstein ([RRosenstein@dot.ga.gov](mailto:RRosenstein@dot.ga.gov)), at 404-631-1803 or the project manager, Achor Njoku, ([INjoku@dot.ga.gov](mailto:INjoku@dot.ga.gov)), at 404-631-1550.

Sincerely,

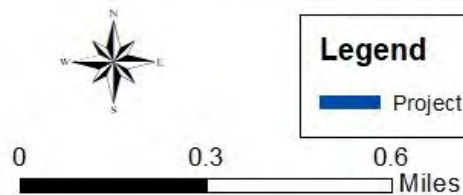
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Duff / DB".

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator  
ED/RR/rt  
Attachments: Project Location Map

cc: Achor Njoku, Georgia DOT Project Manager (via email)  
PDF for Project File



**Figure 1. Project Location Map**  
 PI #: 0013767, Oconee County  
 SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road



### Legend

— Project Corridor



**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

February 2, 2022

Dan Wallace  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Federal Building  
355 East Hancock Avenue  
Athens, GA 30601  
[Dan.Wallace@usda.gov](mailto:Dan.Wallace@usda.gov)

Re: Early Coordination Request for PI#: 0013767, Oconee County, State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/United States (US) 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road

Dear Mr. Wallace:

The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) is in the beginning stages of project development for the above noted project. The proposal consists of converting the current intersection at SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and Jimmy Daniel Road into a grade separated diamond interchange. Please see the attached Project Location Map.

The design for the project is being developed concurrently with the environmental analysis and in compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations. The purpose of this letter is to ask you to advise us of whether an AD-1006 or NCRS-CPA-106 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form must be prepared for this project, or if the project is exempt from further coordination. If no response is received by Georgia DOT within 30 calendar days, it will be assumed that this project is exempt from further coordination.

Enclosed are the environmental survey boundary (ESB), and a copy of a Soil Conservation map that shows the proposed project location. The total length of the project is approximately 2 miles, with minor amounts of right-of-way (ROW) required.

Your assistance is appreciated. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the NEPA Analyst, Rachael Rosenstein ([RaRosenstein@dot.ga.gov](mailto:RaRosenstein@dot.ga.gov)), at 404-631-1803 or the project manager, Achor Njoku ([INjoku@dot.ga.gov](mailto:INjoku@dot.ga.gov)), at 404-631-1550.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Duff / DB". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

ED/RR/rt  
Attachments: Project Location Map

cc: Achor Njoku, Georgia DOT Project Manager (via email)  
PDF for Project File





**Figure 1. Project Location Map**  
PI #: 0013767, Oconee County  
SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road



## State and Federal

<i><b>First Name</b></i>	<i><b>Last Name</b></i>	<i><b>Company Name 1</b></i>	<i><b>Email</b></i>
Ramona	McConney	Regional Environmental Officer	<a href="mailto:Ramona.K.McConney@hud.gov">Ramona.K.McConney@hud.gov</a>
Ntale	Kajumba	Chief, NEPA Section	<a href="mailto:kajumba.ntale@epa.gov">kajumba.ntale@epa.gov</a>
Patrick	Breyse, PhD, CIH, Director,	Center for Disease Control	<a href="mailto:pjb7@cdc.gov">pjb7@cdc.gov</a>
Pamela Protzel	Berman	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	<a href="mailto:pxp5@cdc.gov">pxp5@cdc.gov</a>
Daniel	Wallace	US Department of Agriculture	<a href="mailto:Dan.wallace@ga.usda.gov">Dan.wallace@ga.usda.gov</a>

## Local

<i><b>First Name</b></i>	<i><b>Last Name</b></i>	<i><b>Company Name</b></i>	<i><b>Email</b></i>
John	Daniell	County Chairman	<a href="mailto:jdaniell@oconee.ga.us">jdaniell@oconee.ga.us</a>
Lisa	Davol	County Parks and Rec Director	<a href="mailto:ldavol@oconee.ga.us">ldavol@oconee.ga.us</a>
Steve	Wrigley	University System of Georgia	<a href="mailto:chancellor@usg.edu">chancellor@usg.edu</a>
Eva	Kennedy	Region 5: Northeastern GA Commission	<a href="mailto:ekennedy@negrc.org">ekennedy@negrc.org</a>
Sherry F	McDuffie	Athens-Clarke County MPO	<a href="mailto:macorts@accgov.com">macorts@accgov.com</a>
Brad	Griffin	Athens-Clarke County Planner	<a href="mailto:planning@accgov.com">planning@accgov.com</a>

## Police/EMS

<i><b>First Name</b></i>	<i><b>Last Name</b></i>	<i><b>Company Name</b></i>	<i><b>Email</b></i>
James	Hale	Oconee County Sheriff	<a href="mailto:jhale@oconeesherriff.org">jhale@oconeesherriff.org</a>
John	Williams	Athens-Clarke County Sheriff	<a href="mailto:sheriff@acc.gov">sheriff@acc.gov</a>
Chris	Threlkeld	Regional EMS Director	<a href="mailto:chris.threlkeld@dph.ga.gov">chris.threlkeld@dph.ga.gov</a>

## Schools

<i><b>First Name</b></i>	<i><b>Last Name</b></i>	<i><b>Company Name</b></i>	<i><b>Email</b></i>
Jason L.	Branch	Athens Superintendent	<a href="mailto:zgattie@oconeeschools.org">zgattie@oconeeschools.org</a>
Duane	Peterson	Transportation Director	<a href="mailto:dpeterson@oconeeschools.org">dpeterson@oconeeschools.org</a>



---

**From:** Gates, Kim <[Gates.Kim@epa.gov](mailto:Gates.Kim@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 16, 2021 8:40 AM

**To:** Duff, Eric <[eduff@dot.ga.gov](mailto:eduff@dot.ga.gov)>

**Cc:** Borchardt, David J <[DBorchardt@dot.ga.gov](mailto:DBorchardt@dot.ga.gov)>; Njoku, Iheanachor <[INjoku@dot.ga.gov](mailto:INjoku@dot.ga.gov)>; [nsutton@edwards-pitman.com](mailto:nsutton@edwards-pitman.com); Kajumba, Ntale <[Kajumba.Ntale@epa.gov](mailto:Kajumba.Ntale@epa.gov)>; Buskey, Traci P. <[Buskey.Traci@epa.gov](mailto:Buskey.Traci@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** EPA's Response to GDOT's Early Coordination Request for PI #: 0013769, SR 8/SR 316/US 29/US 78 at Oconee Connector Interchange (Oconee County)

March 16, 2021

Mr. Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree Street NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308

SUBJ: GDOT PI #: 0013769, SR 8/SR 316/US 29/US 78 at Oconee Connector Interchange (Oconee County)

Dear Mr. Duff:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 acknowledges receipt of your Early Coordination Request, submitted via email on February 22, 2021, for information about project area resources or conditions that could affect constructing an interchange at the junction of US 78 and Oconee Connector. Based on our review of available information, we have the following comments.

**Air Quality.** Oconee County is in attainment with the Clean Air Act [National Ambient Air Quality Standards](#), so transportation conformity is not required.

**Contaminated Sites.** According to the EPA's [NEPAssist](#), [Facility Registration Service](#), and [Cleanups in My Community](#) mapping tools, there are no Superfund or federally-funded Brownfield sites in the project vicinity. The nearest Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle C (hazardous waste management) facilities are east of the project area on the other side of the US 78/SR 10 interchange (i.e., Home Depot, Lowe's and Walmart). The only RCRA Subtitle I (underground storage tank) facility in the project area is QuikTrip #819 at the intersection of Oconee Connector and Daniels Bridge Road (i.e., 1240 Oconee Connector). Data maintained by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's [Underground Storage Tank \(UST\) Management Program](#) shows four tanks in use and no confirmed releases.

**Environmental Justice and Children's Health.** The EPA's [EJSCREEN](#) mapping tool reported no residents in the 500-foot buffer. Demographic data for the 1,000-foot and one-quarter mile buffers indicate that statistically significant minority or low-income populations or children under five years of age are not present.

Statistic	1,000-Foot Buffer	0.25-Mile Buffer	Block Groups (13219030-)		Oconee County
			-1001	-2002	
Area (square miles)	1.16	1.53	7.30	5.11	186.37
Approx. Population	348	406	4,688	2,997	37,017
% Minority	18	18	18	17	15
% Low Income	3	3	3	26	17

% Linguistically Isolated	1	1	1	1	2
% Less than High School Education	2	2	2	3	5
% Under 5 Years of Age	7	7	7	2	5
% Over 64 Years of Age	12	12	12	20	14

**Section 4(f) Resources.** There are no federal or state historic sites, government-owned recreational areas, or wildlife refuges in the project area.

**Special Designations.** The project is in the Lower Middle Oconee River watershed, which is designated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as a [moderately significant high priority watersheds for aquatic species](#).

**Stormwater Management.** Oconee County has a [Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System \(MS4\) Permit](#), so the stormwater management provisions in GDOT's MS4 permit will be triggered if construction disturbs one acre or more of contiguous land. Even if these requirements are not applicable, we recommend implementing stormwater best management practices during construction to prevent erosion and sediment runoff. Stormwater runoff in the project area drains to two tributaries of Middle Oconee River: the US 78/Oconee Connector intersection drains to Barber Creek and the US 78/Virgil Langford Road intersection ultimately discharges to McNutt Creek. Both waterbodies are [verified impaired](#) and have [Total Maximum Daily Loads](#). Moreover, as noted above, the watershed is a state-designated high priority watershed for aquatic species. Excessive sediment loads alter the specific water quality and habitat characteristics that fish populations and other biological communities need for survival.

**Waters of the United States.** Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the project should avoid and minimize, to the maximum extent practicable, placement of dredged or fill material in jurisdictional waters. However, based on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's [National Wetlands Inventory](#), the project will not directly impact any waters of the U.S.

The EPA appreciates the opportunity to provide input on this bridge replacement project. If you have any questions about our comments, I can be contacted via email at [gates.kim@epa.gov](mailto:gates.kim@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

*Kim Gates*

KIM GATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER  
NEPA SECTION



STRATEGIC PROGRAMS OFFICE  
USEPA REGION 4  
61 FORSYTH STREET SW  
ATLANTA, GA 30303  
TELEPHONE: (404) 562-9261  
FAX: (404) 562-8518  
EMAIL: [gates.kim@epa.gov](mailto:gates.kim@epa.gov)

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

cc: David Borchardt/GDOT  
Achor Njoku/GDOT  
Nick Sutton/Edwards-Pitman

**From:** Nick Sutton <[nsutton@edwards-pitman.com](mailto:nsutton@edwards-pitman.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2021 4:59 PM

**To:** Kajumba, Ntale <[Kajumba.Ntale@epa.gov](mailto:Kajumba.Ntale@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** GDOT Early Coordination Request - PI# 0013769 - Oconee County



**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

February 22, 2021

Ramona McConney  
Regional Environmental Officer  
US Department of Housing and Urban Development  
40 Marietta Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: Early Coordination Request for PI#: 0013769, Oconee County, State Route (SR) 8/  
SR 316/US 29 at County Road (CR) 929/Oconee Connector

Dear Ramona McConney:

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is in the beginning stages of project development for the above noted project. The proposal consists of a new interchange to accommodate expected growth in traffic volumes and enhance functionality and operational traffic conditions in the area. The proposed project would include grade separation of CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road with a new bridge that would connect both sides of Virgil Langford Road across SR 316. Please see the attached Project Location Map.

The design for the project is being developed concurrently with the environmental analysis and in compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations. The purpose of this letter is to ask you to advise us of any known project area resources or conditions that should be considered during the environmental evaluation.

This evaluation process, developed by GDOT to make our projects responsive to social, economic, and environmental concerns, offers you the opportunity to identify site specific conditions to be addressed in the environmental evaluation. With your assistance, we can give these issues due consideration and integrate them into the development of the project alignment and design.

Your assistance is appreciated. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the NEPA Analyst, David Borchardt ([dborchardt@dot.ga.gov](mailto:dborchardt@dot.ga.gov)), at 404-631-1184 or the Project Manager, Achor Njoku ([injoku@dot.ga.gov](mailto:injoku@dot.ga.gov)), at 404-631-1550

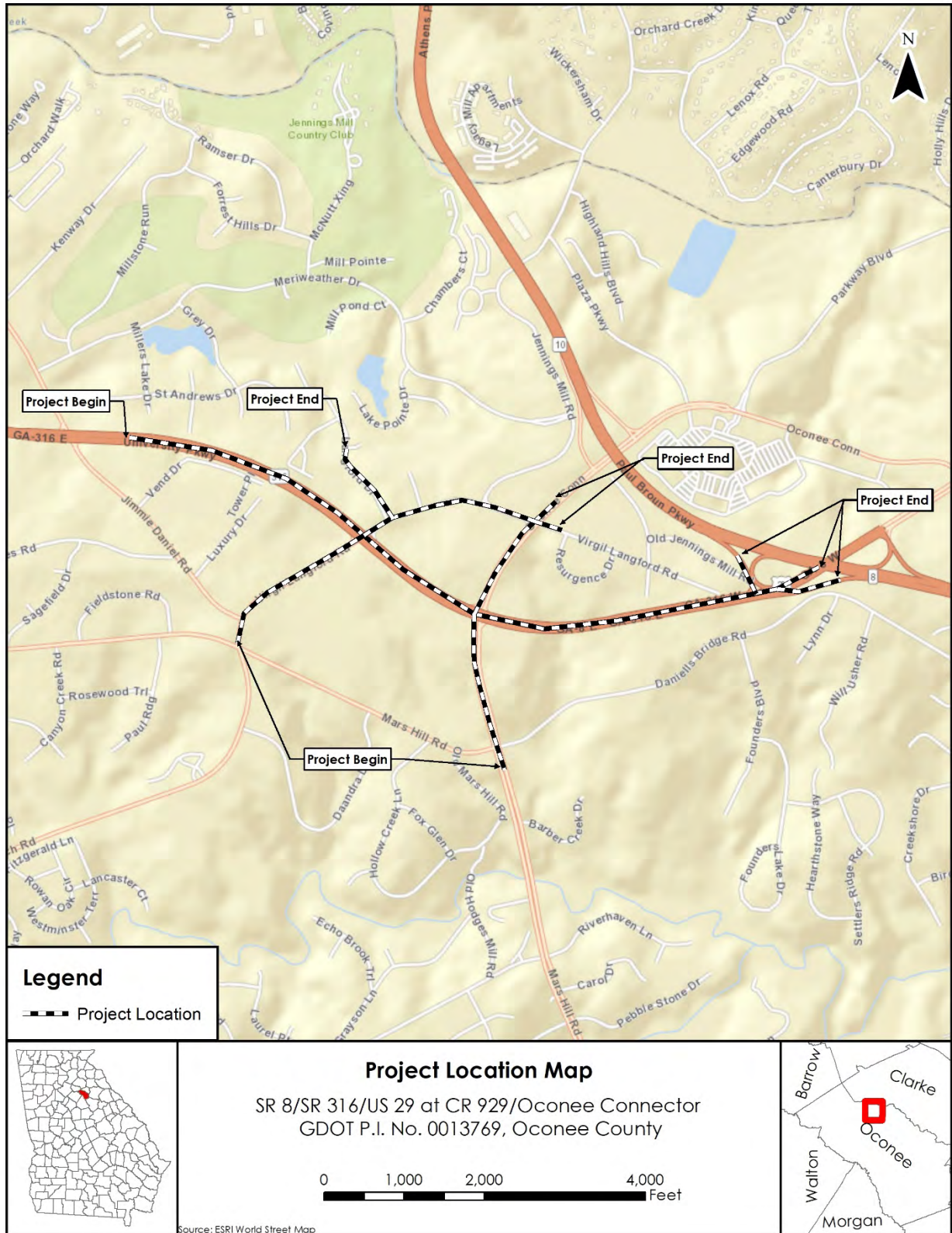
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Duff / DB".

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

ED/DJB/SM-EPEI  
Attachments: Project Location Map

cc: Achor Njoku, GDOT Project Manager (via email)  
PDF for Project File







**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

February 22, 2021

John Daniell  
County Chairman  
23 North Main Street  
Watsinsville, GA 30677

Re: Early Coordination Request for PI#: 0013769, Oconee County, State Route (SR) 8/  
SR 316/US 29 at County Road (CR) 929/Oconee Connector

Dear Chairman Daniell:

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is in the beginning stages of project development for the above noted project. The proposal consists of a new interchange to accommodate expected growth in traffic volumes and enhance functionality and operational traffic conditions in the area. The proposed project would include grade separation of CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road with a new bridge that would connect both sides of Virgil Langford Road across SR 316. Please see the attached Project Location Map.

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This evaluation process, developed by GDOT to make our projects responsive to social, economic, and environmental concerns, offers you the opportunity to identify site specific conditions to be addressed in the environmental evaluation. With your assistance, we can give these issues due consideration and integrate them into the development of the project alignment and design.

GDOT would especially appreciate your assistance in identifying communities in the project area—low income and minority communities in particular. If you are aware of community associations or community leaders who might serve as liaisons with neighborhoods, please bring these to our attention. We would like to be certain that communities are recognized and given the opportunity to fully participate and provide meaningful input in the project development process.

Your assistance is appreciated. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the NEPA Analyst, David Borchardt ([dborchardt@dot.ga.gov](mailto:dborchardt@dot.ga.gov)), at 404-631-1184 or the Project Manager, Achor Njoku, ([injoku@dot.ga.gov](mailto:injoku@dot.ga.gov)), at 404-631-1550.

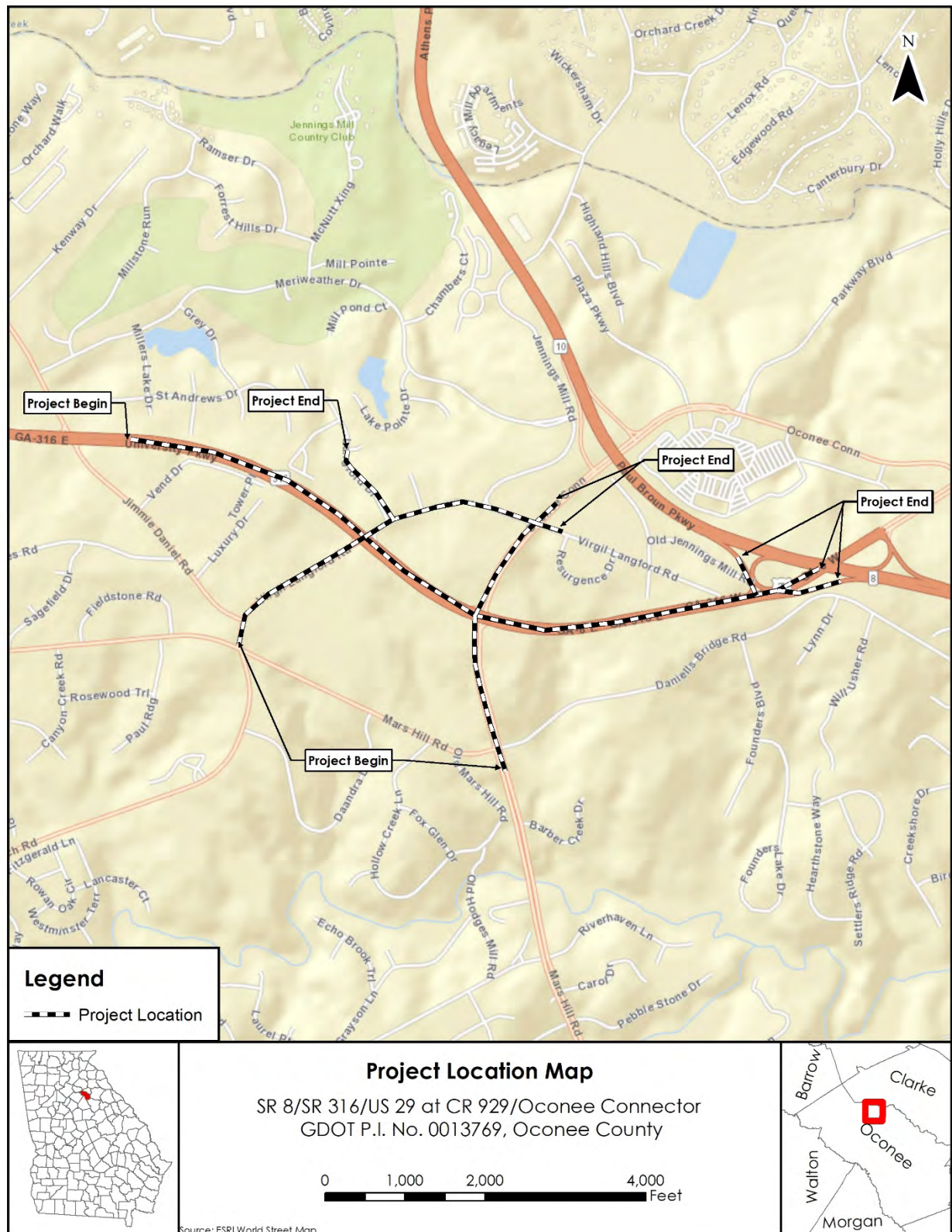
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Duff / DB".

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator  
ED/DJB/SM-EPEI  
Attachments: Project Location Map

cc: Achor Njoku, GDOT Project Manager (via email)  
PDF for Project File





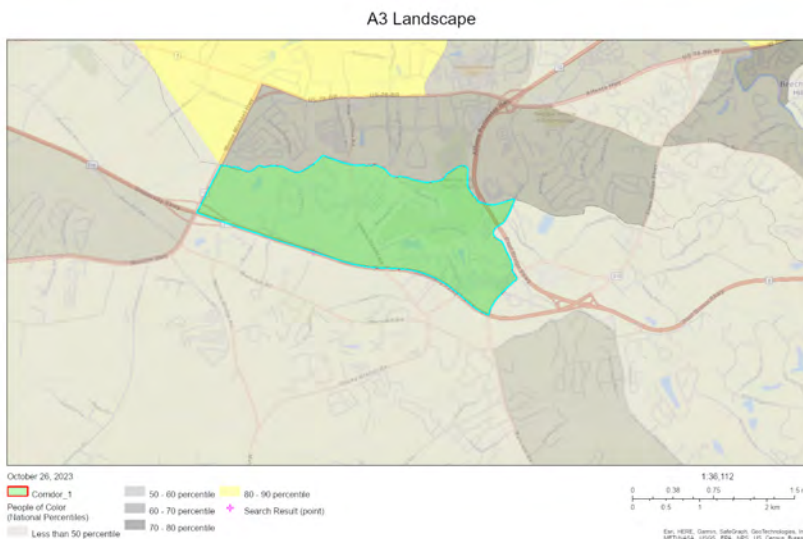
This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

# Oconee County, GA

Blockgroup: 132190301043

**Population: 922**

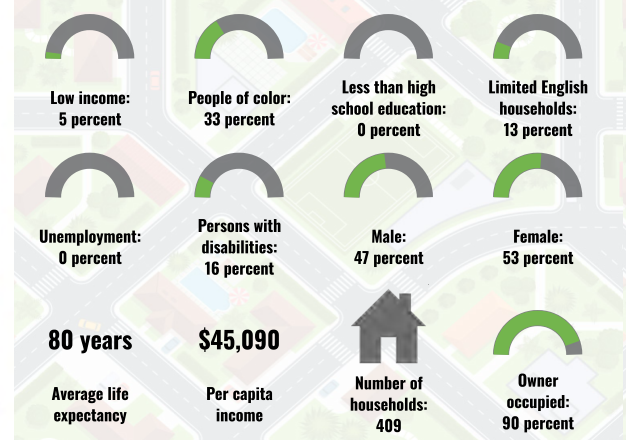
**Area in square miles: 2.28**



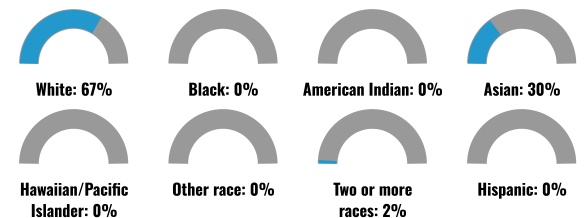
## LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	87%
Spanish	4%
Korean	4%
Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese)	5%
Total Non-English	13%

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION



## BREAKDOWN BY RACE



## BREAKDOWN BY AGE



### LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN



Notes: Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2017-2021. Life expectancy data comes from the Centers for Disease Control.

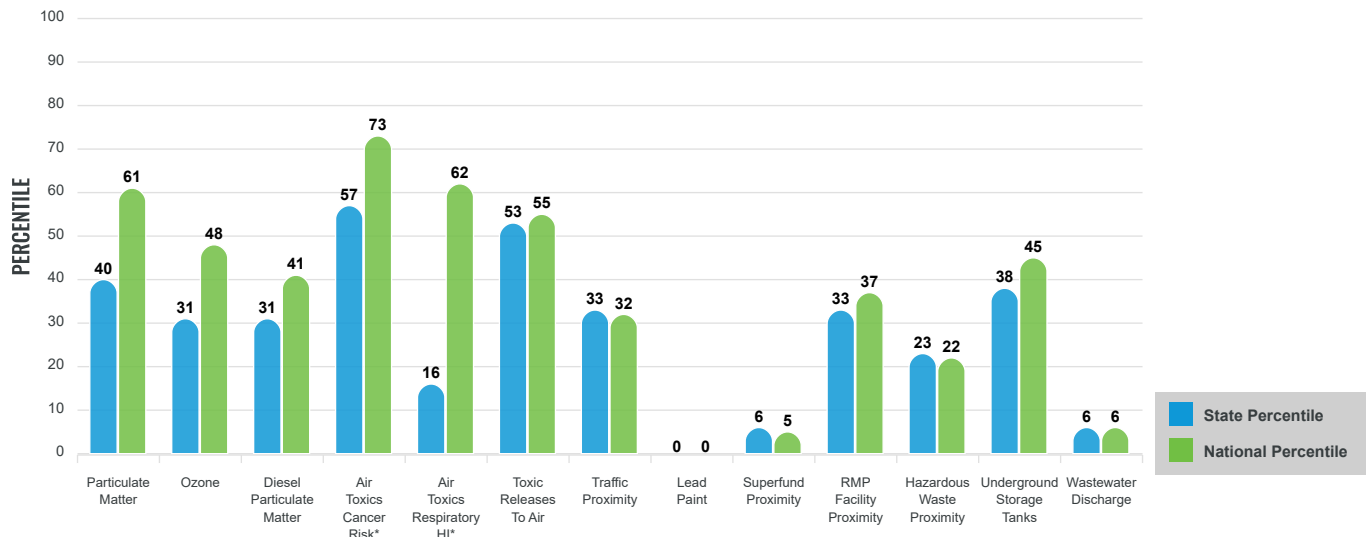
# Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

The environmental justice and supplemental indexes are a combination of environmental and socioeconomic information. There are thirteen EJ indexes and supplemental indexes in EJScreen reflecting the 13 environmental indicators. The indexes for a selected area are compared to those for all other locations in the state or nation. For more information and calculation details on the EJ and supplemental indexes, please visit the [EJScreen website](#).

## EJ INDEXES

The EJ indexes help users screen for potential EJ concerns. To do this, the EJ index combines data on low income and people of color populations with a single environmental indicator.

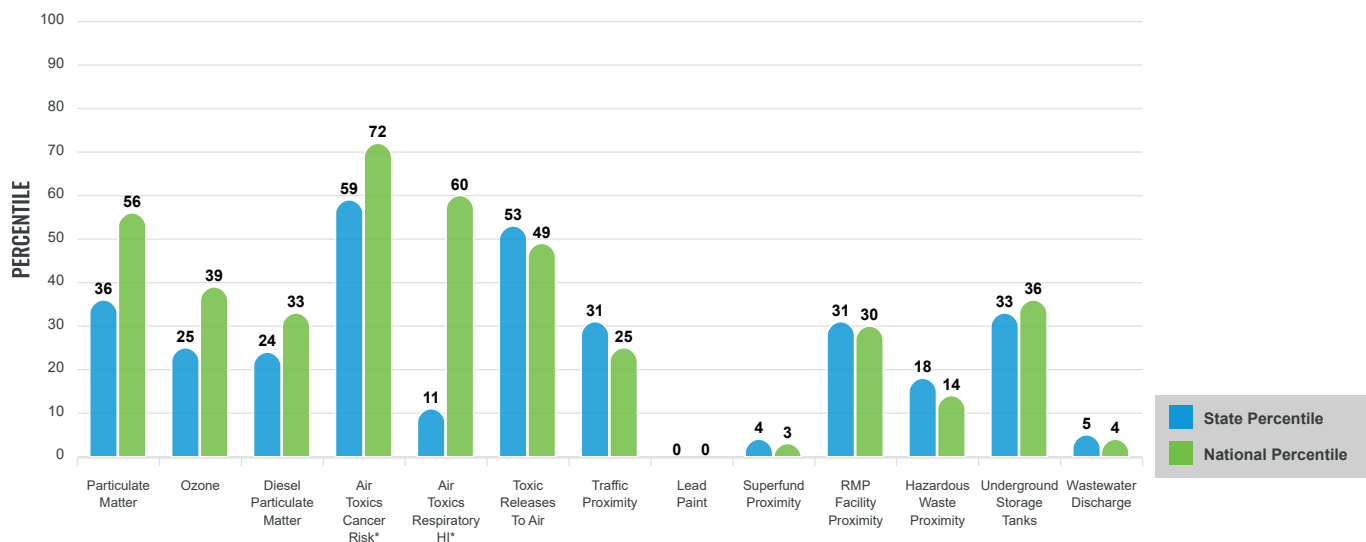
### EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



## SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability. They combine data on percent low-income, percent linguistically isolated, percent less than high school education, percent unemployed, and low life expectancy with a single environmental indicator.

### SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state or nation.

Report for Blockgroup: 132190301043

# EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
<b>POLLUTION AND SOURCES</b>					
Particulate Matter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	9.9	9.61	60	8.08	89
Ozone (ppb)	62.1	64	42	61.6	58
Diesel Particulate Matter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.198	0.277	39	0.261	45
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	40	35	50	25	94
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.4	0.44	6	0.31	70
Toxic Releases to Air	2,300	1,600	87	4,600	74
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	35	110	46	210	33
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0	0.14	0	0.3	0
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.011	0.066	8	0.13	5
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.13	0.38	42	0.43	40
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.099	0.45	27	1.9	19
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km <sup>2</sup> )	1	2.3	50	3.9	48
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	3.3E-07	0.18	8	22	5
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS</b>					
Demographic Index	19%	41%	18	35%	30
Supplemental Demographic Index	7%	15%	14	14%	17
People of Color	33%	48%	38	39%	52
Low Income	5%	34%	8	31%	9
Unemployment Rate	0%	6%	0	6%	0
Limited English Speaking Households	13%	3%	93	5%	88
Less Than High School Education	0%	12%	0	12%	0
Under Age 5	4%	6%	42	6%	42
Over Age 64	38%	15%	96	17%	95
Low Life Expectancy	18%	21%	15	20%	32

\*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update>.

## Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund .....	0
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities .....	0
Water Dischargers .....	9
Air Pollution .....	0
Brownfields .....	0
Toxic Release Inventory .....	0

## Other community features within defined area:

Schools .....	0
Hospitals .....	0
Places of Worship .....	0

## Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment .....	No
Impaired Waters .....	Yes

Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands* .....	No
Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community .....	No
Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community .....	No

# EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

## HEALTH INDICATORS

INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Low Life Expectancy	18%	21%	15	20%	32
Heart Disease	4.7	6.1	27	6.1	22
Asthma	8.2	10	10	10	8
Cancer	6.2	5.5	68	6.1	50
Persons with Disabilities	9.3%	13.1%	29	13.4%	27

## CLIMATE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Flood Risk	3%	9%	15	12%	27
Wildfire Risk	0%	4%	0	14%	0

## CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS

INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Broadband Internet	15%	15%	59	14%	62
Lack of Health Insurance	9%	13%	29	9%	62
Housing Burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation Access	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Desert	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Footnotes

Report for Blockgroup: 132190301043





# EJScreen Community Report

This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

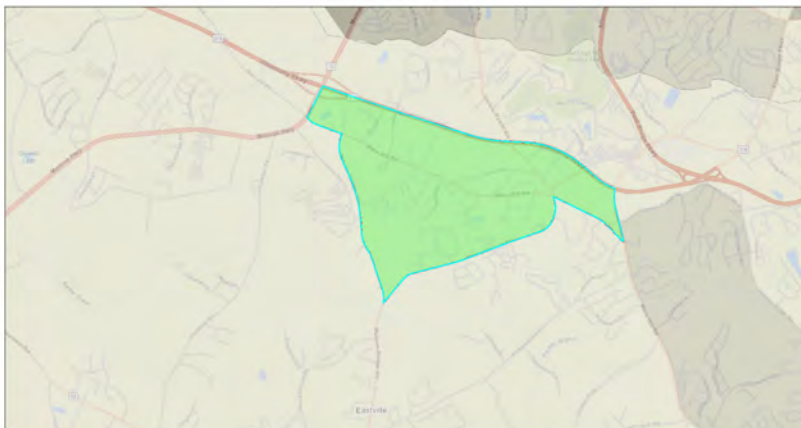
## Oconee County, GA

Blockgroup: 132190301042

Population: 2,490

Area in square miles: 2.63

A3 Landscape

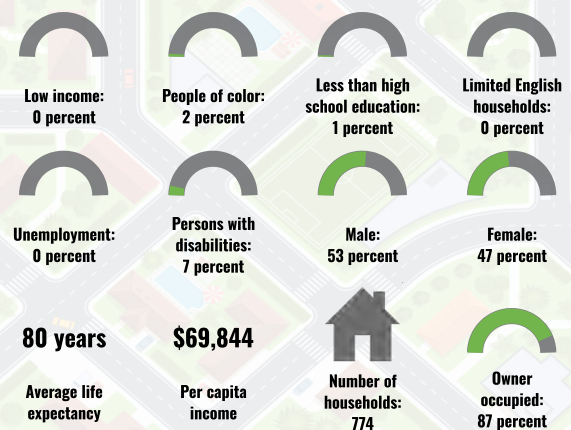


October 26, 2023  
Project 1  
Demographic Index (National Percentiles)  
Less than 50 percentile  
50 - 60 percentile  
60 - 70 percentile  
70 - 80 percentile  
Scale: 1:36,112  
0 0.38 0.75 1.5 mi  
0 0.5 1 2 km  
Data: NOAA, Census, SubStations, GeoNames, Inc., OpenStreetMap, USGS, EPA, US Census Bureau, USDA

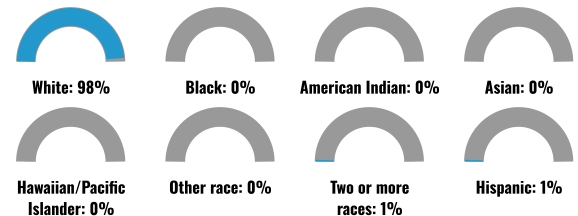
### LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	87%
Spanish	4%
Korean	4%
Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese)	5%
Total Non-English	13%

### COMMUNITY INFORMATION



### BREAKDOWN BY RACE



### BREAKDOWN BY AGE



### LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN



Notes: Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2017-2021. Life expectancy data comes from the Centers for Disease Control.

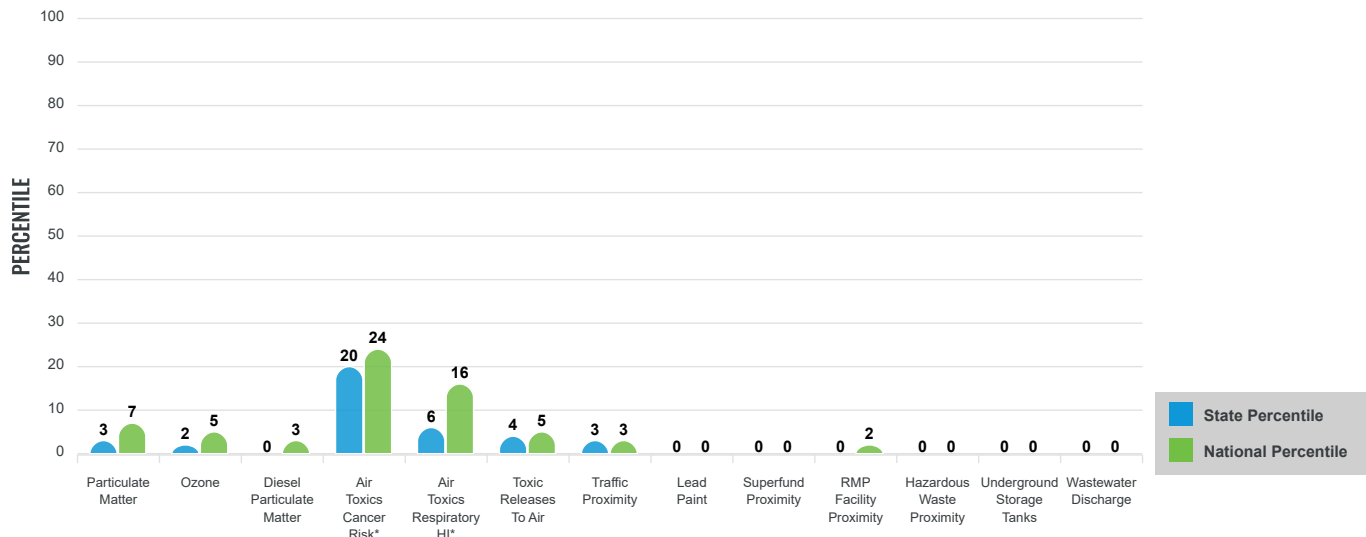
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## EJ INDEXES

The EJ indexes help users screen for potential EJ concerns. To do this, the EJ index combines data on low income and people of color populations with a single environmental indicator.

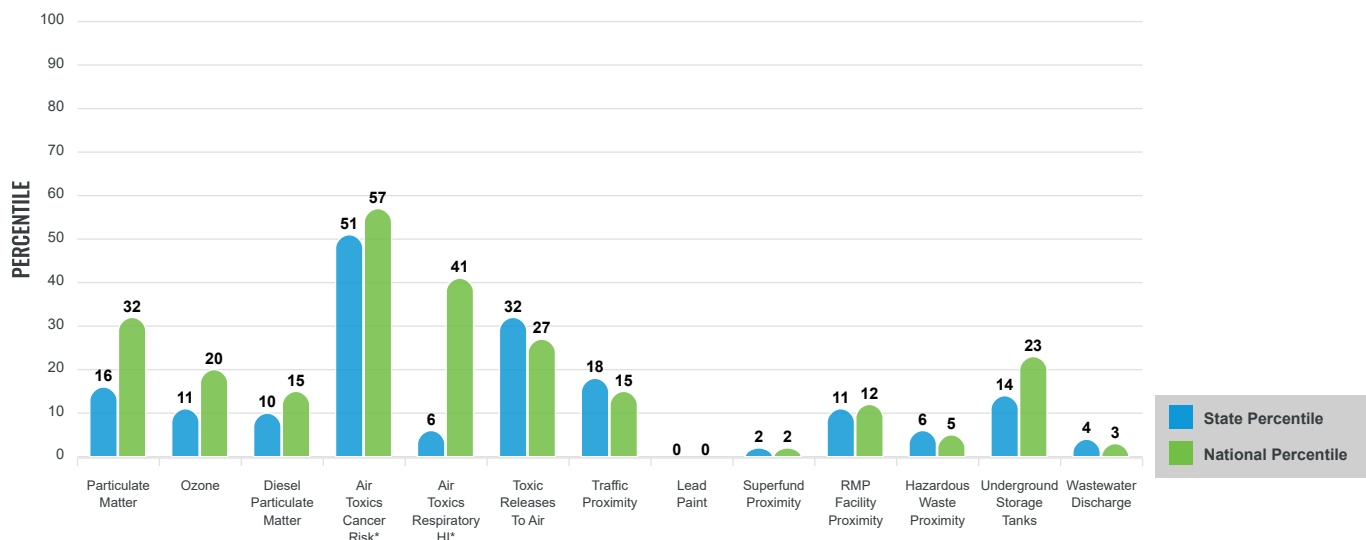
### EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



## SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability. They combine data on percent low-income, percent linguistically isolated, percent less than high school education, percent unemployed, and low life expectancy with a single environmental indicator.

### SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state or nation.

Report for Blockgroup: 132190301042

# EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
<b>POLLUTION AND SOURCES</b>					
Particulate Matter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	9.9	9.61	60	8.08	89
Ozone (ppb)	62.1	64	42	61.6	58
Diesel Particulate Matter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.198	0.277	39	0.261	45
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	40	35	50	25	94
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.4	0.44	6	0.31	70
Toxic Releases to Air	2,500	1,600	90	4,600	76
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	47	110	53	210	39
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0	0.14	0	0.3	0
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.012	0.066	8	0.13	5
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.11	0.38	35	0.43	33
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.088	0.45	23	1.9	17
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km <sup>2</sup> )	0.59	2.3	40	3.9	41
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	7.5E-07	0.18	12	22	7
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS</b>					
Demographic Index	1%	41%	0	35%	0
Supplemental Demographic Index	4%	15%	1	14%	2
People of Color	2%	48%	3	39%	6
Low Income	0%	34%	0	31%	0
Unemployment Rate	0%	6%	0	6%	0
Limited English Speaking Households	0%	3%	0	5%	0
Less Than High School Education	1%	12%	12	12%	11
Under Age 5	6%	6%	58	6%	60
Over Age 64	13%	15%	46	17%	38
Low Life Expectancy	18%	21%	15	20%	32

\*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update>.

## Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund .....	0
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities .....	0
Water Dischargers .....	17
Air Pollution .....	0
Brownfields .....	0
Toxic Release Inventory .....	0

## Other community features within defined area:

Schools .....	2
Hospitals .....	0
Places of Worship .....	0

## Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment .....	No
Impaired Waters .....	No

Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands* .....	No
Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community .....	No
Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community .....	No

# EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

HEALTH INDICATORS					
INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Low Life Expectancy	18%	21%	15	20%	32
Heart Disease	4.7	6.1	27	6.1	22
Asthma	8.2	10	10	10	8
Cancer	6.2	5.5	68	6.1	50
Persons with Disabilities	9.3%	13.1%	29	13.4%	27

CLIMATE INDICATORS					
INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Flood Risk	2%	9%	13	12%	26
Wildfire Risk	0%	4%	0	14%	0

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS					
INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Broadband Internet	8%	15%	40	14%	40
Lack of Health Insurance	9%	13%	29	9%	62
Housing Burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation Access	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Desert	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Footnotes

Report for Blockgroup: 132190301042





# EJScreen Community Report

This report provides environmental and socioeconomic information for user-defined areas, and combines that data into environmental justice and supplemental indexes.

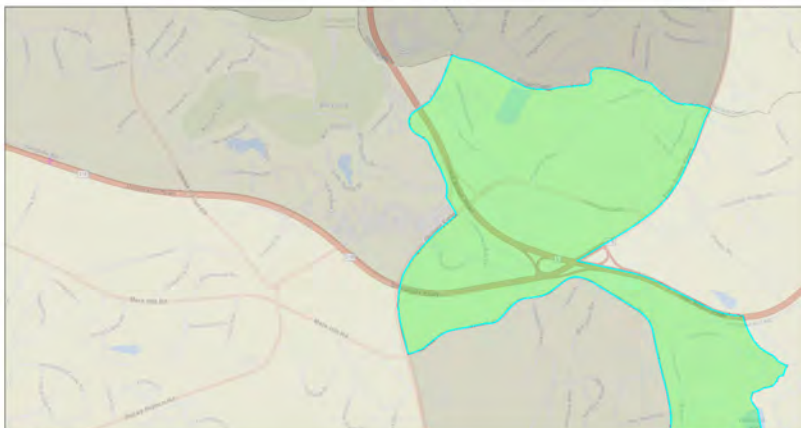
## Oconee County, GA

Blockgroup: 132190302021

Population: 1,326

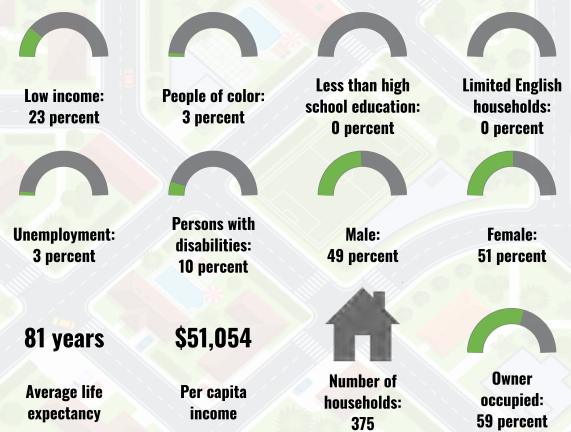
Area in square miles: 2.23

A3 Landscape

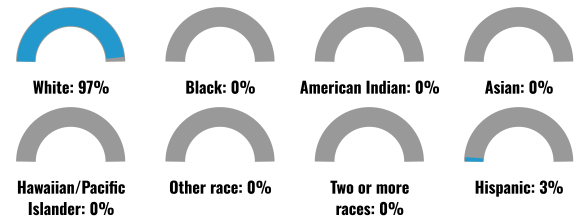


October 26, 2023  
Project 1: People of Color (National Percentiles)  
50 - 60 percentile  
60 - 70 percentile  
Less than 50 percentile  
Search Result (point)  
1:18,056  
0 0.17 0.35 0.7 mi  
0 0.3 0.6 1.2 km  
For Community Data Contributors: For HHS, CDC, EPA, HUD, US Census Bureau, USGS, NOAA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA

### COMMUNITY INFORMATION



### BREAKDOWN BY RACE



### BREAKDOWN BY AGE



### LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING BREAKDOWN



### LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME

LANGUAGE	PERCENT
English	98%
Vietnamese	1%
Other Asian and Pacific Island	1%
Total Non-English	2%

Notes: Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2017-2021. Life expectancy data comes from the Centers for Disease Control.

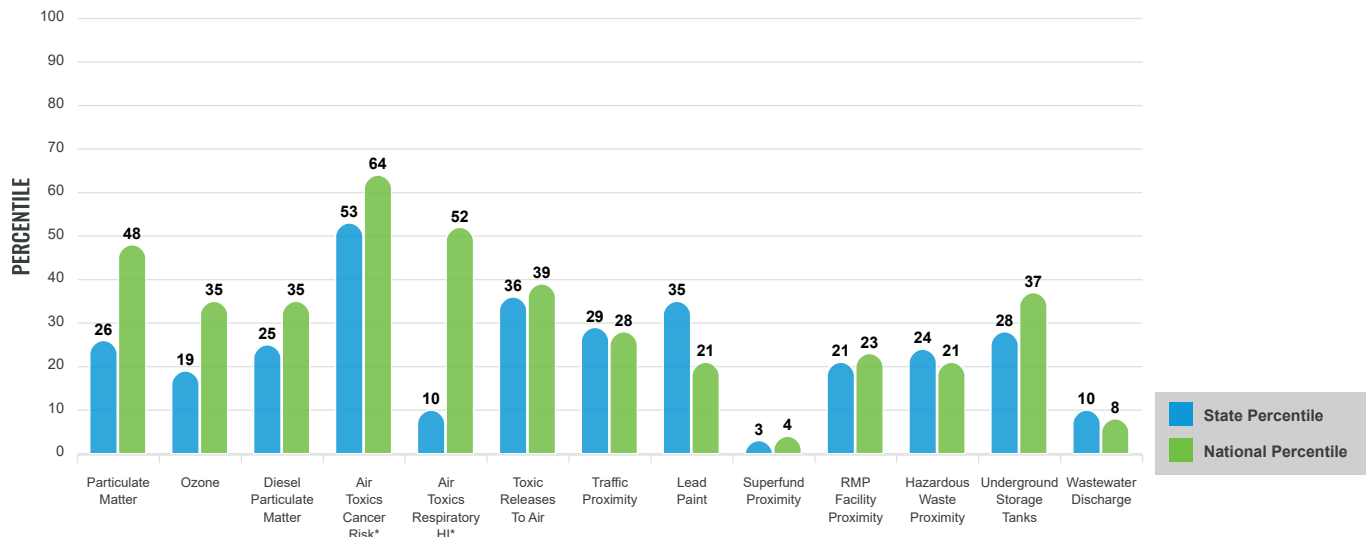
# Environmental Justice & Supplemental Indexes

The environmental justice and supplemental indexes are a combination of environmental and socioeconomic information. There are thirteen EJ indexes and supplemental indexes in EJScreen reflecting the 13 environmental indicators. The indexes for a selected area are compared to those for all other locations in the state or nation. For more information and calculation details on the EJ and supplemental indexes, please visit the [EJScreen website](#).

## EJ INDEXES

The EJ indexes help users screen for potential EJ concerns. To do this, the EJ index combines data on low income and people of color populations with a single environmental indicator.

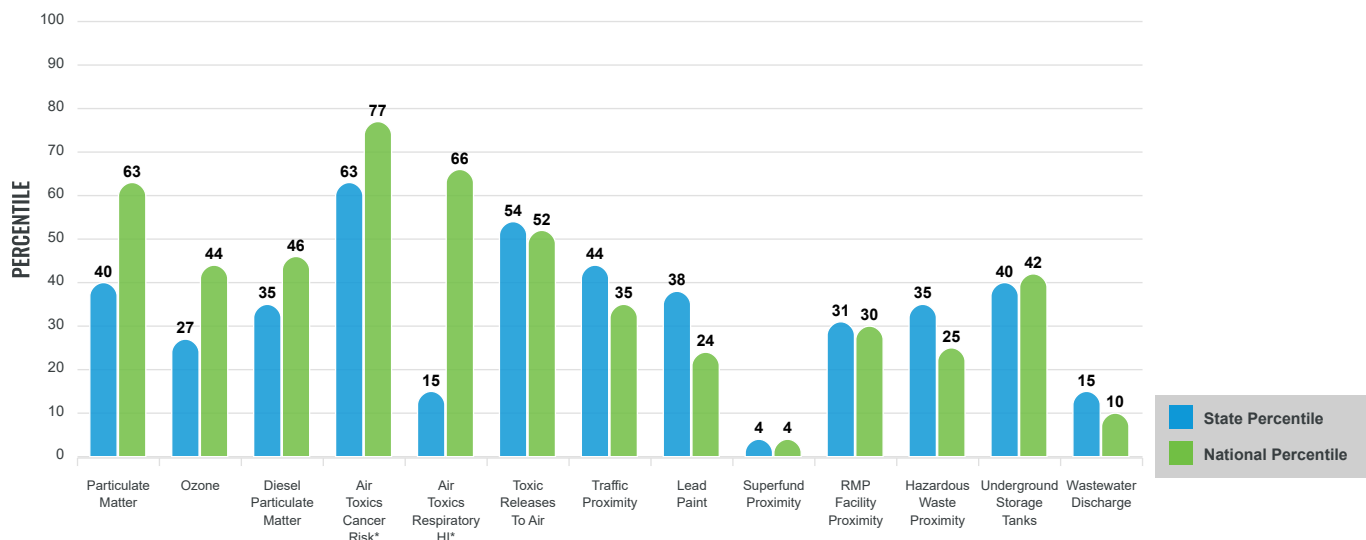
### EJ INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



## SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES

The supplemental indexes offer a different perspective on community-level vulnerability. They combine data on percent low-income, percent linguistically isolated, percent less than high school education, percent unemployed, and low life expectancy with a single environmental indicator.

### SUPPLEMENTAL INDEXES FOR THE SELECTED LOCATION



These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state or nation.

Report for Blockgroup: 132190302021

# EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

SELECTED VARIABLES	VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN STATE	USA AVERAGE	PERCENTILE IN USA
<b>POLLUTION AND SOURCES</b>					
Particulate Matter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	9.78	9.61	54	8.08	88
Ozone (ppb)	61.8	64	38	61.6	55
Diesel Particulate Matter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.229	0.277	45	0.261	53
Air Toxics Cancer Risk* (lifetime risk per million)	40	35	50	25	94
Air Toxics Respiratory HI*	0.4	0.44	6	0.31	70
Toxic Releases to Air	1,500	1,600	75	4,600	66
Traffic Proximity (daily traffic count/distance to road)	51	110	56	210	40
Lead Paint (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.05	0.14	45	0.3	26
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.011	0.066	6	0.13	5
RMP Facility Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.11	0.38	35	0.43	33
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.14	0.45	41	1.9	27
Underground Storage Tanks (count/km <sup>2</sup> )	1.1	2.3	51	3.9	49
Wastewater Discharge (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	2.3E-06	0.18	18	22	11
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS</b>					
Demographic Index	13%	41%	9	35%	16
Supplemental Demographic Index	9%	15%	21	14%	26
People of Color	3%	48%	3	39%	8
Low Income	23%	34%	36	31%	42
Unemployment Rate	3%	6%	46	6%	43
Limited English Speaking Households	0%	3%	0	5%	0
Less Than High School Education	0%	12%	0	12%	0
Under Age 5	0%	6%	0	6%	0
Over Age 64	20%	15%	74	17%	68
Low Life Expectancy	17%	21%	12	20%	28

\*Diesel particulate matter, air toxics cancer risk, and air toxics respiratory hazard index are from the EPA's Air Toxics Data Update, which is the Agency's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. This effort aims to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that the air toxics data presented here provide broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. Cancer risks and hazard indices from the Air Toxics Data Update are reported to one significant figure and any additional significant figures here are due to rounding. More information on the Air Toxics Data Update can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/haps/air-toxics-data-update>.

## Sites reporting to EPA within defined area:

Superfund .....	0
Hazardous Waste, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities .....	0
Water Dischargers .....	23
Air Pollution .....	0
Brownfields .....	0
Toxic Release Inventory .....	0

## Other community features within defined area:

Schools .....	0
Hospitals .....	0
Places of Worship .....	0

## Other environmental data:

Air Non-attainment .....	No
Impaired Waters .....	Yes

Selected location contains American Indian Reservation Lands* .....	No
Selected location contains a "Justice40 (CEJST)" disadvantaged community .....	No
Selected location contains an EPA IRA disadvantaged community .....	No

# EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

## HEALTH INDICATORS

INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Low Life Expectancy	17%	21%	12	20%	28
Heart Disease	6.2	6.1	54	6.1	54
Asthma	9	10	26	10	25
Cancer	6.4	5.5	75	6.1	54
Persons with Disabilities	12.7%	13.1%	50	13.4%	51

## CLIMATE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Flood Risk	5%	9%	32	12%	39
Wildfire Risk	0%	4%	0	14%	0

## CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS

INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Broadband Internet	6%	15%	33	14%	31
Lack of Health Insurance	1%	13%	1	9%	4
Housing Burden	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation Access	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Desert	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Footnotes

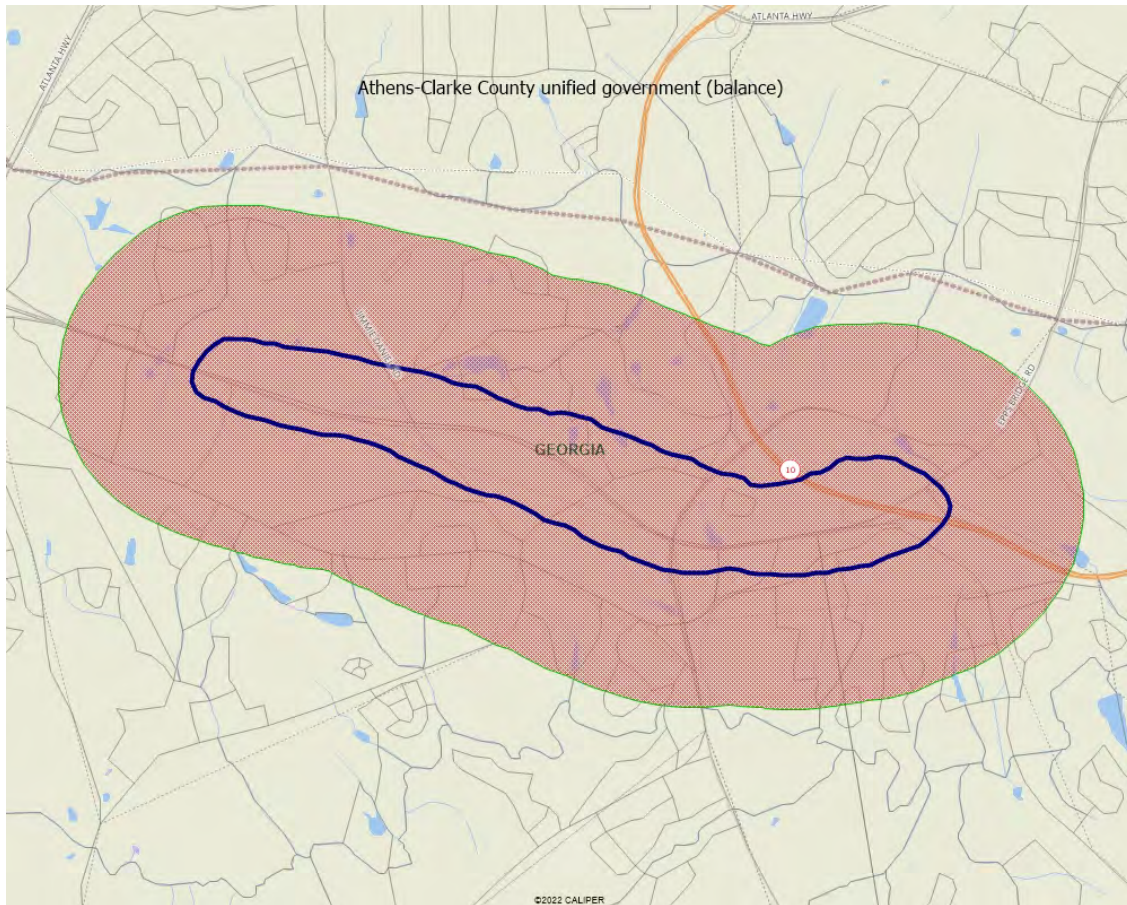
Report for Blockgroup: 132190302021



# Screening Tool for Equity Analysis of Projects (STEAP)

## Project Buffer Analysis Profile Report

Data Source: American Community Survey 2016-2020  
Prepared by FHWA Office of Planning



Analysis of 1 Buffer of Size 0.5 Miles

Reference Layers  
County: Oconee GA  
State: Georgia

Note; \*: The variables marked with an asterisk are estimated from Census Tract data. More information on the disaggregation method can be found on the "Help" tab of the Screening Tool for Equity Analysis of Projects webpage.

## 0.5 Miles Buffer Analysis Summary Report

	Buffer Estimates	Percent	County Oconee GA	State Georgia
<b>General Buffer Area Statistics</b>				
Land Area (in square miles)	5		184	57,717
Population	3,038		39,194	10,516,579
Housing Units	1,114		14,578	4,329,675
Households	1,087		13,773	3,830,264
Families	910		11,270	2,565,233
<b>Population by Race</b>				
Total	3,038	100%	39,194	10,516,579
Population Reporting One Race	3,000	99%	97%	96%
White	2,554	84%	88%	57%
Black	109	4%	5%	32%
American Indian	12	0%	0%	0%
Asian	324	11%	4%	4%
Pacific Islander		0%	0%	0%
Some Other Race		0%	0%	3%
Population Reporting Two or More Races	38	1%	3%	4%
<b>Population by Ethnicity</b>				
Total	3,038	100%	39,194	10,516,579
Hispanic Origin	61	2%	5%	10%
Not Hispanic	2,978	98%	95%	90%
<b>Total Non-Hispanic Population</b>				
Total	2,978	100%	37,059	9,503,522
White Alone	2,506	84%	88%	58%
Black or African American Alone	109	4%	5%	34%
American Indian & Alaska Native Alone		0%	0%	0%
Asian Alone	324	11%	4%	5%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander Alone		0%	0%	0%
Some other Race Alone		0%	0%	0%
Two or More Race	38	1%	2%	3%

Note: \*: The variables marked with an asterisk are estimated from Census Tract data. More information on the disaggregation method can be found on the "Help" tab of the Screening Tool for Equity Analysis of Projects webpage.

	Buffer Estimates	Percent	County Oconee GA	State Georgia
<b>Total Hispanic Population *</b>				
Total	61	100%	2,135	1,013,057
Hispanic – Mexican	32	53%	69%	55%
Hispanic – Puerto Rican	1	2%	14%	11%
Hispanic – Cuban	2	4%	3%	4%
Hispanic – Other	25	42%	15%	31%
<b>Total American Indian Population *</b>				
Total	12	100%	40	34,962
American Indian-Cherokee		0%	15%	15%
American Indian-Chippewa		0%	0%	2%
American Indian-Navajo		0%	0%	1%
American Indian-Sioux		0%	0%	2%
<b>Population by Sex</b>				
Total	3,038	100%	39,194	10,516,579
Male	1,574	52%	49%	49%
Female	1,465	48%	51%	51%
<b>Population by Age</b>				
Total	3,038	100%	39,194	10,516,579
Age 0-17 (children)	855	28%	27%	24%
Age 18-64 (Adult)	1,539	51%	58%	62%
Age 65+ (Senior Population)	645	21%	15%	14%
Age 5+ (used for "language spoken at home")	2,887	95%	95%	94%
Age 16+ (used for "Labor Forces")	2,359	78%	77%	79%
Age 18+ (Used for "voting age")	2,184	72%	73%	76%
Age 25+ (used for "Education Attainment")	1,966	65%	66%	67%
<b>Employed Population Age 16+ Years</b>				
Total	2,359	100%	30,285	8,296,817
In Labor Force	1,397	59%	66%	63%
Civilian Unemployed in Labor Force	29	1%	2%	4%
Not in Labor Force	963	41%	34%	37%

Note:, \*: The variables marked with an asterisk are estimated from Census Tract data. More information on the disaggregation method can be found on the "Help" tab of the Screening Tool for Equity Analysis of Projects webpage.

	Buffer Estimates	Percent	County Oconee GA	State Georgia
<b>Population 25+ by Educational Attainment</b>				
Total	1,966	100%	25,711	6,996,425
Less than 9th Grade	12	1%	1%	4%
9th - 12th Grade, No Diploma	42	2%	4%	8%
High School Graduate	287	15%	20%	28%
Some College, No Degree	339	17%	17%	20%
Associate Degree	170	9%	7%	8%
Bachelor's Degree or more	1,115	57%	51%	32%

<b>Households by Household Size</b>				
Total Households	1,087	100%	13,773	3,830,264
1-person households	164	15%	17%	27%
2-person households	386	35%	34%	33%
3-person households	260	24%	20%	17%
4-person households	140	13%	18%	13%
5-person households	102	9%	7%	6%
6-person households	35	3%	2%	2%
7+ person households		0%	1%	1%

<b>Households by Household Type (including Living Alone)</b>				
Total Households	1,087	100%	13,773	3,830,264
Married-Couple family households	739	68%	69%	47%
Male householder, no spouse present family households	96	9%	4%	5%
Female householder, no spouse present family households	75	7%	9%	15%
Householder living alone – nonfamily households	164	15%	17%	27%
Householder not living alone – nonfamily households	13	1%	1%	6%

<b>Household Type for Children Under 18 years in Households *</b>				
Total Population under 18 years in households (excluding householders, spouse and unmarried partners)	855	100%	10,387	2,499,876
Married-couple household	652	76%	83%	63%
Cohabiting couple household	17	2%	1%	7%
In male householder, no spouse/partner present household	76	9%	5%	4%
In female householder, no spouse/partner present household	109	13%	11%	26%

Note; \*: The variables marked with an asterisk are estimated from Census Tract data. More information on the disaggregation method can be found on the "Help" tab of the Screening Tool for Equity Analysis of Projects webpage.



	Buffer Estimates	Percent	County Oconee GA	State Georgia
<b>Households by Household Income</b>				
Household Income Base	1,087	100%	13,773	3,830,264
< \$15,000	5	0%	3%	11%
\$15,000 - \$25,000	101	9%	4%	9%
\$25,000 - \$35,000	82	8%	7%	9%
\$35,000 - \$50,000	120	11%	12%	12%
\$50,000 - \$75,000	178	16%	14%	18%
\$75,000 +	602	55%	59%	41%

<b>Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a % of Household Income in the past 12 months (with or without mortgage)</b>				
Total Owner-Occupied Housing Units	906	100%	11,374	2,453,159
Less than 10.0%	206	23%	27%	24%
10.0 to 14.9%	167	18%	19%	19%
15.0 to 19.9%	127	14%	17%	17%
20.0 to 24.9%	73	8%	12%	12%
25.0 to 29.9%	75	8%	8%	7%
30.0 to 34.9%	28	3%	3%	5%
35.0 to 39.9%	14	2%	2%	3%
40.0 to 49.9%	101	11%	5%	4%
50.0% or more	115	13%	7%	8%
Not computed		0%	0%	1%

<b>Gross Rent as a % of Household Income in the past 12 months</b>				
Total Renter-Occupied Housing Units	182	100%	2,399	1,377,105
Less than 10.0%	5	3%	2%	4%
10.0 to 14.9%	1	1%	12%	9%
15.0 to 19.9%	40	22%	13%	12%
20.0 to 24.9%	3	1%	20%	12%
25.0 to 29.9%	25	14%	12%	10%
30.0 to 34.9%	15	8%	3%	8%
35.0 to 39.9%		0%	4%	6%
40.0 to 49.9%	38	21%	14%	9%
50.0% or more	28	15%	10%	22%
Not computed	27	15%	9%	8%

Note: \*: The variables marked with an asterisk are estimated from Census Tract data. More information on the disaggregation method can be found on the "Help" tab of the Screening Tool for Equity Analysis of Projects webpage.

	Buffer Estimates	Percent	County Oconee GA	State Georgia
<b>Monthly Housing Cost *</b>				
Total Occupied Housing Units	1,087	100%	13,773	3,830,264
Less than \$199	14	1%	1%	2%
\$200 to \$399	39	4%	8%	10%
\$400 to \$599	119	11%	9%	11%
\$600 to \$799	94	9%	9%	11%
\$800 to \$999	70	6%	9%	12%
\$1000 to \$1499	196	18%	25%	27%
\$1500 to \$1999	252	23%	16%	14%
\$2000 to \$2499	120	11%	10%	6%
\$2500 to \$2999	52	5%	5%	3%
\$3000 or more	119	11%	7%	3%
No Cash Rent	11	1%	2%	2%
<b>Population in Poverty by Race *</b>				
Total (Population for whom poverty status is determined)	3,030	100%	38,908	10,238,369
People in Poverty - White Alone	135	4%	5%	6%
People in Poverty - Black or African American Alone	48	2%	1%	6%
People in Poverty - American Indian & Alaska Native Alone		0%	0%	0%
People in Poverty - Asian Alone		0%	0%	0%
People in Poverty - Native Hawaiian & other Pacific Islander Alone		0%	0%	0%
People in Poverty - Some Other Race Alone		0%	0%	1%
People in Poverty - Two or More Race	7	0%	0%	1%
<b>Population in Poverty by Age *</b>				
Total (Population for whom poverty status is determined)	3,030	100%	38,908	10,238,369
People in Poverty – Age 0-5	22	1%	1%	2%
People in Poverty – Age 6-17	81	3%	1%	3%
People in Poverty – Age 18-24	13	0%	1%	2%
People in Poverty – Age 25-64	55	2%	2%	6%
People in Poverty – Age 65+	19	1%	1%	1%
<b>Vehicle Ownership</b>				
Total Households	1,087	100%	13,773	3,830,264

Note:, \*: The variables marked with an asterisk are estimated from Census Tract data. More information on the disaggregation method can be found on the "Help" tab of the Screening Tool for Equity Analysis of Projects webpage.

	<b>Buffer Estimates</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>County Oconee GA</b>	<b>State Georgia</b>
Zero Vehicle Households	27	2%	2%	6%
One Vehicle Households	271	25%	17%	32%
Two Vehicle Households	410	38%	46%	38%
Three or More Vehicle Households	380	35%	35%	23%

#### Foreign Born Population \*

Total (regardless of citizenship status)	323	100%	2,778	1,068,027
Foreign Born – Europe	24	7%	11%	9%
Foreign Born – Asia	181	56%	47%	31%
Foreign Born – Africa	12	4%	5%	10%
Foreign Born – Oceania		0%	1%	0%
Foreign Born – Latin America	67	21%	31%	48%
Foreign Born – Northern America	39	12%	5%	2%

#### Population Age 5+ Years by Ability to Speak English

Total	2,887	100%	37,105	9,864,494
Speak only English	2,563	89%	91%	86%
Non-English at Home	324	11%	9%	14%
Speak English "very well"	197	7%	5%	9%
Speak English "well"	77	3%	3%	3%
Speak English "not well"	50	2%	1%	2%
Speak English "not at all"		0%	0%	1%

#### Linguistically Isolated Households (Household Limited English Speaking Status)

Total Households	1,087	100%	13,773	3,830,264
Speak Spanish	19	2%	4%	7%
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	46	4%	2%	3%
Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	81	7%	3%	3%
Speak Other Languages		0%	0%	1%

Note; \*: The variables marked with an asterisk are estimated from Census Tract data. More information on the disaggregation method can be found on the "Help" tab of the Screening Tool for Equity Analysis of Projects webpage.

	Buffer Estimates	Percent	County Oconee GA	State Georgia
<b>Other Vulnerable Populations or Households</b>				
Total Population	2,184	100%	28,801	7,958,153
Number of Veterans (18+)	242	11%	7%	8%
Number of People with Disabilities (Civilian Non-Inst) *	283	13%	13%	16%
Total Households	1,087	100%	13,773	3,830,264
Number of Households with no Computers	49	4%	4%	8%
Number of Households with no Internet Connection	78	7%	7%	13%




PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

## Attachment 2 Cultural Environment

**DATE:** February 8, 2024

**FROM:** Richard Moss, Archaeologist, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.

**TO:**  Daniel Haddock, Support Services Archaeologist, OES

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Improvements for SR 316/SR 8/US 29 at CR 55/Jimmy Daniel Road, at CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road, and at CR 929/Oconee Connector, Oconee County;  
PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769; HP# 220304-001;  
Archaeological Re-evaluation

Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769 propose to grade separate the existing at-grade intersections of SR 316 at Jimmy Daniel Road, SR 316 at Virgil Langford Road, and SR 316 at Oconee Connector, respectively. The projects are located approximately 6.7 miles west of downtown Athens, Georgia in Oconee County. The changes covered in this Reevaluation are only applicable to PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769.

PI No. 0013768: SR 316 and Virgil Langford Road

PI No. 0013768 would remove the existing at-grade, unsignalized intersection and construct a new bridge and approaches to create a grade separation on Virgil Langford Road over SR 316. The preferred alternative proposes to construct the bridge on shifted alignment to the east that would consist of a 316-foot, 3-span bridge. The bridge would include three lanes (two travel lanes and a left turn lane). The lanes would be 12 feet wide, with a 2-foot outside lateral offset and 6-foot-6-inch-wide sidewalk. The reconstructed portion of Virgil Langford Road would be two lanes with appropriate turning lanes and urban 12-foot wide shoulders including sidewalk. The proposed right-of-way (ROW) would vary between 80 feet and 245 feet. The approximate length of the project would be 2,300 feet (0.43 mile) along Virgil Langford Road.

PI No. 0013769: SR 316 and Oconee Connector

PI No. 0013769 proposes to replace the at-grade intersection of SR 316 and the Oconee Connector with a new interchange and new bridge over 316. Additional proposed actions include widening the existing outside shoulders on SR 316, the modification of the existing traffic signal-controlled intersection of SR 316 at the southbound SR 10 Loop Ramp to implement a continuous Green Light "T" type intersection for eastbound traffic, and the construction of auxiliary lanes on SR 316 connecting the easterly ramps of PI No. 0013767 with the westerly ramps of PI No. 0013769. At SR 316, the Oconee Connector would be shifted to the east and a partial cloverleaf interchange would be constructed. The new 224-foot, two span bridge would consist of five lanes (two lanes in each direction with a left turn lane) and raised median. The lanes would be 12 feet wide with 4-foot bike lane, 2-foot lateral offset, and 6-foot-6-inch-wide sidewalk. The reconstructed Oconee Connector would be four lanes with appropriate turning lanes and 16-foot urban shoulders including sidewalk, 4-foot bike lanes, and a variable width raised median. Proposed ramps for the interchange would include a partial cloverleaf configuration for the westbound exit ramp, with the remaining ramps to be constructed in a diamond configuration. Lanes for the ramp would vary in width from 12 feet to 16 feet with rural shoulders that are 8 feet (4-foot paved) to the inside and 12 feet (10-foot paved) to the outside. SR 316 outside shoulders would be widened to 14 feet (12-foot paved). The approximate length of the project is 8,400 feet (1.59 miles) along SR 316 and 3,089 feet (0.58 mile) along the Oconee Connector.

PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 would require approximately 5.82 acres of ROW, 0.68 acre of temporary easement, 0.02 acre of permanent easement, and 0.47 acre of driveway easement and the total project length would be approximately 2.6 miles.

An archaeological resources survey was conducted in 2018 by AECOM for PI No. 0013769, the proposed SR 316 and Oconee Connector improvements (Hahs 2019). The GEPA Phase I Report was approved by OES and transmitted to tribal consulting parties on March 27, 2019. An addendum archaeological survey for PI No. 0013769 was conducted by Edwards-Pitman, Inc. (EP) in 2020, which did not explicitly name PI No. 0013768 but included the proposed grade separation of SR 316 and Virgil Langford Road in the project description and corresponding survey area (Moss 2021). A total of two archaeological sites were revisited within the proposed projects' Environmental Survey Boundary (ESB). None were determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Prior to the completion of the Addendum Archaeological Resources Survey Report, the funding for this project changed from state funds to federal funds and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) became the lead federal agency. The Addendum Archaeological Resources Survey Report was prepared and submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), FHWA, and tribal partners on July 20, 2021. Concurrence was received by the SHPO in a letter dated August 9, 2021. The original Archaeological Resources Survey Report was prepared and submitted to SHPO, FHWA, and tribal partners on December 31, 2021. Concurrence was received by the SHPO in a letter dated February 1, 2022. A second addendum archaeological resources survey was conducted in 2021 by EP to cover enlargements to the ESB (Moss and Plent 2022). No archaeological resources were found in the addendum survey area and an Archaeological Short Report was prepared and submitted to SHPO, FHWA, and tribal partners on March 30, 2022. Because the second addendum survey resulted in negative findings, no signed concurrence was required from SHPO.

Since that time, the designs of the projects have been modified and the latest project descriptions (see page 1) have been updated or corrected accordingly. Changes (relative to previous project descriptions used in past archaeological reporting) include a required ROW reduction from 7.44 acres to 5.82 acres, temporary easement reduction from 0.69 acre to 0.68 acre, and the total project length has changed from 1.6 miles to 2.6 miles. All of the project changes fall within the limits of the previous archaeological surveys (Figure 1) and therefore, no further documentation under Section 106 is required.

#### **References:**

Hahs, David

2019 *Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Proposed SR 316/SR 8/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector, Improvements Project in Oconee County, Georgia*. GDOT PI No. 0013769. AECOM Technical Services, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia. Prepared for the Georgia Department of Transportation, Atlanta.

Moss, Richard A.

2021 *Addendum to the Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Proposed SR 316/SR 8/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector Improvements Project in Oconee County, Georgia*. PI No. 0013769. Edwards-Pitman Inc., Atlanta, Georgia. Prepared for Georgia Department of Transportation, Atlanta.

Moss, Richard A. and Samuel Plent

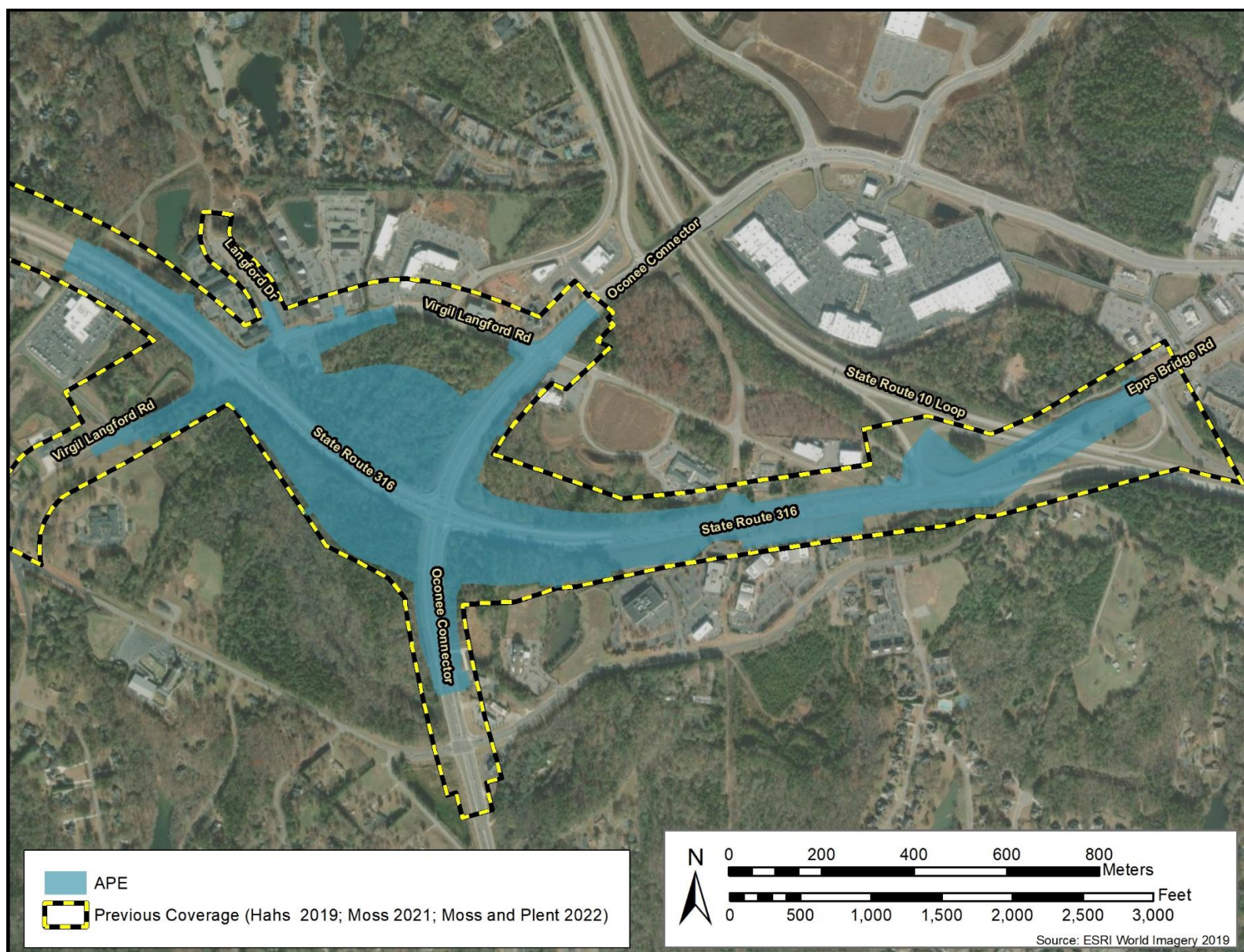
2022 *Second Addendum to the Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Proposed SR 316/SR 8/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector Improvements Project in Oconee County, Georgia*. PI No. 0013769. Edwards-Pitman Inc., Atlanta, Georgia. Prepared for Georgia Department of Transportation, Atlanta.

**Attachments:**

**Figure 1.** The current project limits in relation to the limits of the previous archaeological surveys.

cc: Sabrina S. David, AICP, FHWA GA Division, w/attachment (Attn: Aaron Hernandez)  
Jennifer Dixon, Deputy SHPO, w/attachment  
Cherokee Nation, w/attachment  
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. w/attachment  
Muscogee Nation, w/attachment  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians, w/attachment  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, w/attachment  
Shawnee Tribe, w/attachment  
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, w/attachment  
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians  
Alexandra Nelson, GDOT NEPA  
Achor Njoku, GDOT Project Manager, Office of Program Delivery





**Figure 1.** The current project limits in relation to the limits of the previous archaeological surveys.

## Memo

**DATE:** February 2, 2024

**FROM:** Joachim Hillier, Senior Historian, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.

**TO:** Files

**SUBJECT:** GDOT P.I. Nos. 0013767, 0013768 & 0013769, Oconee County;  
Interchange Improvements for SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector  
and at CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road  
H.P. No. 210125-001  
Re-evaluation

Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) P.I. Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769 propose to grade separate the existing at-grade intersections of State Route (SR) 316 at Jimmy Daniell Road, SR 316 at Virgil Langford Road, and SR 316 at Oconee Connector, respectively. The proposed projects are located approximately 6.7 miles west of downtown Athens, Georgia in Oconee County. The original Technical Studies for all three proposed projects were handled in two separate reports, one for P.I. No. 0013767, and one for P.I. Nos. 0013768 and 0013769, and were transmitted to agencies under one combined transmittal letter. The changes covered in this Reevaluation are applicable only to P.I. Nos. 0013768 and 0013769.

At the time of the finding of No Historic Properties Affected in May 2023, the project description for P.I. Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 was as follows: the proposed projects would consist of a new interchange at the intersection of County Road (CR) 929/Oconee Connector and SR 8/SR 316/United States Highway (US) 29, approximately one mile west of the existing SR 10 loop interchange, to accommodate expected growth in traffic volumes and enhance functionality and operational traffic conditions in the proposed project area. The intersection is currently configured as a signalized at-grade intersection with slip lanes for all right-turning movements. Multiple interchange configurations are under consideration as the project concept is developed. The proposed projects would also include grade separation of CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road with a new proposed bridge that would connect both sides of Virgil Langford Road across SR 8/SR 316/US 29. Existing right-of-way (ROW) in the project area ranges from approximately 200 feet to approximately 1,280 feet. Required ROW is anticipated in an amount of approximately 7.44 acres; required permanent easement is anticipated in an amount of approximately 0.02 acre; required temporary easement is anticipated in an amount of approximately 0.69 acre; and required driveway easement is anticipated in an amount of approximately 0.47 acre. The proposed projects would be approximately 1.6 miles in length.

A historic resources survey for P.I. Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 was conducted in February 2021. At the time of the Historic Resources Survey Report, dated June 1, 2021, the proposed combined projects were referred to solely under the merged P.I. No. 0013769. Two resources 50 years old or older were identified within the proposed projects' APE. The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criteria of Eligibility were applied, and both resources were determined not eligible for listing in the NRHP in consultation with the Georgia SHPO (see attached SHPO concurrence). In December of 2021, the proposed projects' expanded APE was field surveyed for historic properties. As a result of these efforts, no additional property listed in or considered eligible for

listing in the NRHP was identified within the proposed projects' expanded APE, and no additional properties 50 years old or older were identified within the proposed projects' expanded APE. A No Historic Properties Affected report, dated May 11, 2023, was prepared for P.I. Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 and, because the SHPO concurred with the Historic Resources Survey Report that there were no eligible resources within the APE of the proposed projects, no signed concurrence from the SHPO was required.

Since May 2023, the designs of P.I. Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 have been modified. The anticipated total amount of required ROW has been reduced by 1.62 acres to 5.82 acres, and the anticipated total amount of required temporary easement has been reduced by 0.01 acre to 0.68 acre. The anticipated total amounts of permanent and driveway easement have remained unchanged at 0.02 acre and 0.47 acre, respectively. In addition, the combined total project length for P.I. Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 has now been corrected to approximately 2.6 miles from the previously erroneously stated 1.6 miles.

The project description for P.I. No. 0013678 now reads as follows: the proposed project would remove the existing at-grade, unsignalized intersection and construct a new bridge and approaches to create a grade separation on Virgil Langford Road over SR 316. The preferred alternative proposes to construct the bridge on shifted alignment to the east that would consist of a 316-foot, three-span bridge. The bridge would include three lanes (two travel lanes and a left-turn lane). The lanes would be 12 feet wide, with a two-foot outside lateral offset and 6.5-foot-wide sidewalk. The reconstructed portion of Virgil Langford Road would be two lanes with appropriate turning lanes and urban 12-foot-wide shoulders including sidewalk. The proposed ROW would vary between 80 feet and 245 feet. The approximate length of P.I. No. 0013678 would be 2,300 feet (0.43 mile) along Virgil Langford Road.

The project description for P.I. No. 0013679 now reads as follows: the proposed project would replace the at-grade intersection of SR 316 and the Oconee Connector with a new interchange and new bridge over SR 316. Additional proposed actions include widening the existing outside shoulders on SR 316, the modification of the existing traffic signal-controlled intersection of SR 316 at the southbound SR 10 loop ramp to implement a continuous Green Light "T" type intersection for eastbound traffic, and the construction of auxiliary lanes on SR 316 connecting the easterly ramps of P.I. No. 0013767 with the westerly ramps of P.I. No. 0013769. At SR 316, the Oconee Connector would be shifted to the east, and a partial cloverleaf interchange would be constructed. The new 224-foot, two-span bridge would consist of five lanes (two lanes in each direction with a left-turn lane) and raised median. The lanes would be 12 feet wide with a four-foot bike lane, two-foot lateral offset, and 6.5-foot-wide sidewalk. The reconstructed Oconee Connector would be four lanes with appropriate turning lanes and 16-foot urban shoulders including sidewalk, four-foot bike lanes, and a variable-width raised median. Proposed ramps for the interchange would include a partial cloverleaf configuration for the westbound exit ramp, with the remaining ramps to be constructed in a diamond configuration. Lanes for the ramp would vary in width from 12 feet to 16 feet with rural shoulders that are eight feet (four-foot paved) to the inside and 12 feet (10-foot paved) to the outside. SR 316 outside shoulders would be widened to 14 feet (12-foot paved). The approximate length of P.I. No. 0013679 is 8,400 feet (1.59 miles) along SR 316 and 3,089 feet (0.58 mile) along the Oconee Connector.

While the combined total project length for P.I. Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 has been corrected to approximately 2.6 miles, the APE for the proposed projects has remained unchanged, and all project changes fall within the limits of the two previous historic resource surveys. Since there continue to be no eligible historic resources within the APE of the proposed projects, no further documentation under Section 106 is required.

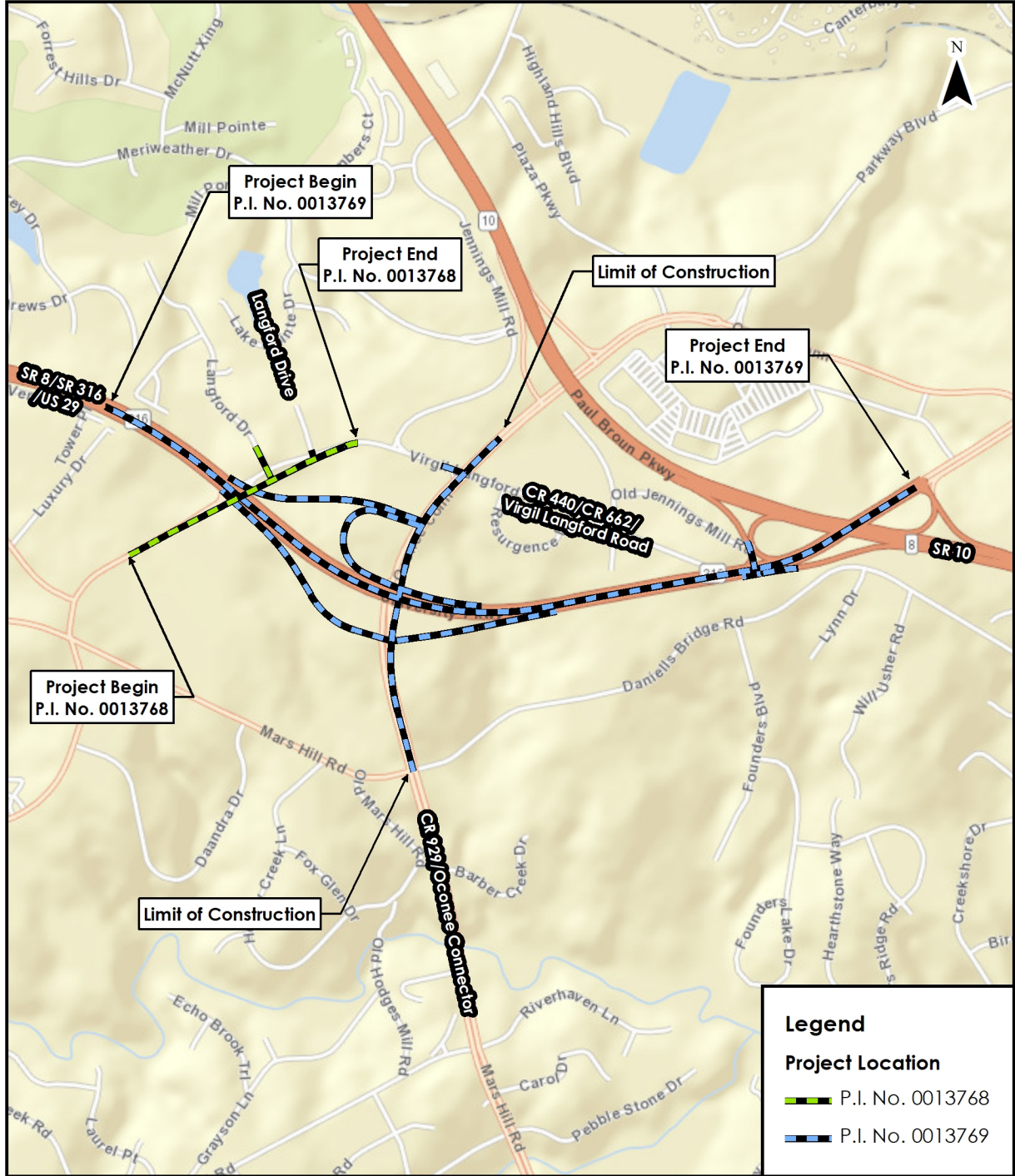
**Attachments:**

Figure 1. Project Location Map

SHPO Concurrence for the June 2021 Historic Resources Survey Report for the merged P.I. No. 0013769

JHH/





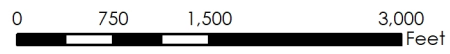
**Legend**

**Project Location**

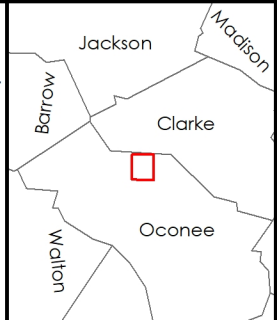
- P.I. No. 0013768
- P.I. No. 0013769

**Figure 1. Project Location Map**

Interchange Improvements for SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at  
CR 929/Oconee Connector and at  
CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road  
P.I. Nos. 0013768 & 0013769, Oconee County



Source: ESRI World Street Map, Created: 12/12/2009, Updated: 8/2/2021







## Memo

**DATE:** June 3, 2021

**FROM:** Caroline Darnell, Historian, Office of Environmental Services

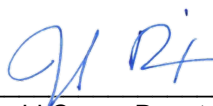
**TO:** Files

**SUBJECT:** GDOT Project P.I. #0013769, Oconee County;  
HP #210125-001:  
**Historic Resources Survey Report**

Attached is the Historic Resources Survey Report completed by Drew West of Edwards-Pitman for the subject project. This document describes the Department's efforts to identify historic properties located within the proposed project's area of potential effects and the evaluation of all identified properties through the application of the Criteria of Eligibility to determine eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

CLD/

cc: Moises Marrero, FHWA, w/attachment (Attn: Aaron Hernandez)  
David Crass, Deputy SHPO, w/attachment  
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, w/attachment

**CONCUR:**  **DATE:** June 11, 2021  
for David Crass, Deputy SHPO

cc: Rachael Rosenstein, GDOT NEPA  
Drew West, Edwards-Pitman  
Achor Njoku, GDOT Project Manager, Office of Innovative Program Delivery



## Memo

**DATE:** August 8, 2023

**FROM:** Teresa Lotti, Historian, Office of Environmental Services

**TO:** Files

**SUBJECT:** GDOT Project State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/US 29 @ County Road (CR) 55/Jimmy Daniel Road, Oconee County;  
P.I. #0013767 and HP #210615-001:  
**Finding of No Historic Properties Affected**

Attached is the Finding of No Historic Properties Affected document for the subject project. This finding fulfills the Department's responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 and subsequent amendments for historic properties. Per the *Section 106 Programmatic Agreement between FHWA, the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), federally recognized Tribes, and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)*, because the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has concurred with the Historic Resources Survey Report that there are no eligible resources within the Area of Potential Effects of this project, no signed concurrence from the SHPO is required.

\_\_\_/

cc: Sabrina S. David, AICP, FHWA GA Division, w/attachment (Attn: Aaron Hernandez)  
Jennifer Dixon, Deputy SHPO, w/attachment  
Northeast Regional Commission, w/attachment  
Oconee Historical Society, w/attachment  
Oconee County Board of Commissioners, w/attachment  
Alexandra Nelson, GDOT NEPA  
Wendy Dyson, Consultant  
Achor Njoku, GDOT Project Manager, Office of Program Delivery



**United Keetoowah Band  
Of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma  
Office of Historic Preservation**

P.O. Box 746 • Tahlequah, OK 74465  
4547 S Whitmore Lane • Tahlequah, OK 74464  
Phone: (918) 871-2852 • Fax: (918) 414-4038  
[awatt@ukb-nsn.gov](mailto:awatt@ukb-nsn.gov) | [ukbthpo@ukb-nsn.gov](mailto:ukbthpo@ukb-nsn.gov)



04/21/2023

RE: GDOT Project PI# 0013767

To Whom It May Concern:

This response is regarding the request from your office for a review of the project listed above. We have reviewed the information provided in your letter dated March 21, 2023. We find after review of this information that we are in concurrence with the report's determination of

"No cultural resources observed // No Historic Properties Affected."

However, the UKB has historical and cultural ties within the area referenced in your project's filing/report, and there remains the possibility that unrecorded cultural interests, including archaeological artifacts or human remains, may be encountered during the construction, demolition, or earthmoving activities of this project. Should this occur we require that you contact our office immediately so we may offer appropriate comments under 36 CFR 800.13.

Thank you for your time and patience in communications regarding Section 106 and NAGPRA issues. We appreciate your continued efforts in such matters. Please do not hesitate to contact me at the information below if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Acee Watt  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Historic Preservation  
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee  
918-871-2852  
[awatt@ukb-nsn.gov](mailto:awatt@ukb-nsn.gov)



**Russell R. McMurtry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

July 21, 2022

Jennifer Dixon  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Historic Preservation Division/Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
**Attn: Environmental Review**  
60 Executive Park South, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Re: **Transmittal of Final Archaeological Report:** "Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Proposed Intersection Improvements Along SR 316/SR 8/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road, Oconee County, Georgia"; PI No.: 0013767; HP # 210615-001

Dear Ms. Dixon:

Enclosed please find one (1) digital copy of the final report entitled, "Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Proposed Intersection Improvements Along SR 316/SR 8/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road, Oconee County, Georgia" prepared by Edwards-Pitman, Inc.

Should you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Caroline Herritt of this office at (404) 631-1993 or [cheritt@dot.ga.gov](mailto:cheritt@dot.ga.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Duff" followed by a circular stamp or mark.

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

EAD/SW/ceh  
Enclosure

cc: Sabrina S. David, ACIP, FHWA, Georgia Division (Attn: Aaron Hernandez)

April 15, 2022

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308  
**Attn: Caroline Herritt, Archaeologist**

**RE: Final Archaeology Report  
PI 0013767: Construct Grade Separated Diamond Interchange,  
SR 316 and Jimmy Daniel Road  
Oconee County, Georgia  
HP-210615-001**

Dear Mr. Duff:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has reviewed the information submitted concerning the above referenced project. Our comments are offered to assist the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Thank you for providing HPD with a copy of the final archaeological report entitled, *Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Proposed Intersection Improvements Along SR 316/SR 8/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road, Oconee County, Georgia*, prepared by Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. and dated April 2022. For your information, the electronic copy will be uploaded to the Georgia Archaeological Site File at the University of Georgia-Athens for permanent retention.

Please refer to project number **HP-210615-001** in any future correspondence regarding this project. If we may be of further assistance, please feel free to contact Ayesha Tarek, Compliance Archaeologist at [Ayesha.Tarek@dca.ga.gov](mailto:Ayesha.Tarek@dca.ga.gov) or (404) 486-6440.

Sincerely,



Stacy Rieke, MHP  
Program Manager  
Environmental Review & Preservation Planning

cc: Sabrina David, FHWA (Attn: Aaron Hernandez)  
Heather Mustonen, GDOT  
Dennis Cheek, GDOT  
Lydia Joffray, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission





**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

April 06, 2022

Dr. David Crass, Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
Attn: Environmental Review, Historic Preservation Division  
60 Executive Park South, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Re: **Transmittal of Draft Archaeological Report:** "Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Proposed Intersection Improvements along SR 316/SR 8/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road, Oconee County, Georgia"; GDOT PI No.: 0013767; HP # 210615-001

Dear Dr. Crass:

Enclosed please find one (1) draft archaeological report entitled "Phase I Archaeological Survey for the Proposed Intersection Improvements along SR 316/SR 8/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road, Oconee County, Georgia" prepared by Edwards-Pitman, Inc. The above referenced project consists of the proposed inter-section improvements along State Route (SR) 316/SR 8/United States Highway (US) 29 (collectively referred to as SR 316) at Jimmy Daniel Road in Oconee County, Georgia. The coordinates of the project center point are: 33.91732, -83.48211.

During the survey, one previously recorded site was revisited and one new site was recorded. The sites and their eligibility recommendations for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are detailed in the table below. The Department concurs with the recommendations presented in the report by Edwards-Pitman.

Site Number	Site Type	NRHP Recommendation	Management Recommendation
9OC239-Revisit	Precontact Artifact Scatter	Ineligible	No further work is necessary
9OC446	Historic house site	Ineligible	No further work is necessary

Based on the results of the enclosed archaeological survey, no archaeological sites listed in or considered eligible for listing in the NRHP were located within the APE of this undertaking. Therefore, there is a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for this undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) and this finding fulfills the Department's responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 and subsequent amendments for archaeological resources. A report which fulfills the Department's responsibilities under Section 106 for historic resources will be submitted separately.

Please review and comment on the findings and recommendations within thirty days from receipt of this information. Should you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Caroline Herritt of this office at (404) 631-1993 or [cheritt@dot.ga.gov](mailto:cheritt@dot.ga.gov).

Sincerely,

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

EAD/SW/ceh  
Enclosure

CONCUR:  DATE: April 22, 2022  
for David Crass, Deputy SHPO

cc: Mr. Daniel T. Hinton, FHWA Georgia Division, (Attn: Aaron Hernandez)  
Tribal Distribution List (Attached)

SHPO Transmittal Letter  
GDOT PI 0013767, HP# 210615-001  
April 06, 2022

**Tribal Distribution List:**

**Ms. Elizabeth Toombs**

THPO  
Cherokee Nation  
P.O. Box 948  
Tahlequah, OK 74465

**Mr. Russell Townsend**

THPO  
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
P.O. Box 455  
Cherokee, NC 28719

**Ms. Corain Lowe-Zepeda**

THPO  
Muscogee Nation  
Historic and Cultural Preservation  
Office  
P.O. Box 580  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

**Mr. Larry Haikey**

THPO  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians  
5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore, AL 36502

**Mr. Ben Yahola**

THPO  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma  
12555 NS 3540  
Seminole, OK 74868

**Mr. David Frank**

THPO  
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town  
P.O. Box 188  
Okemah, OK 74859

**Ms. Whitney Warrior**

THPO  
United Keetoowah Band of  
Cherokee Indians  
P.O. Box 746  
Tahlequah, OK 74465  
Attn: Acee Watt



## Memo

**DATE:** January 25, 2022  
**FROM:** Caroline, Historian, Office of Environmental Services  
**TO:** Files  
**SUBJECT:** GDOT Project P.I. #0013767, Oconee County;  
HP #210615-001:  
**Historic Resources Survey Report**

Attached is the Historic Resources Survey Report completed by Simone Kaplan of Edwards-Pitman Environmental for the subject project. This document describes the Department's efforts to identify historic properties located within the proposed project's area of potential effects and the evaluation of all identified properties through the application of the Criteria of Eligibility to determine eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

CLD/

cc: Daniel T. Hinton, FHWA, w/attachment (Attn: Aaron Hernandez)  
David Crass, Deputy SHPO, w/attachment  
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, w/attachment

**CONCUR:** 9/124 **DATE:** February 11, 2022  
for David Crass, Deputy SHPO

cc: Rachael Rosenstein, GDOT NEPA  
Simone Kaplan, Edwards-Pitman Environmental  
Achor Njoku, GDOT Project Manager, Office of Program Delivery



**Russell R. McMurtry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

December 31, 2021

Dr. David Crass, Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
Attn: Environmental Review, Historic Preservation Division  
60 Executive Park South, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Re: **Transmittal of Draft Archaeological Report:** "Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Proposed SR 316/SR 8/US 29 at CR929/Oconee Connector Improvements Project in Oconee, Georgia"; GDOT PI No.: 0013769; HP # 210125-001

Dear Dr. Crass:

Enclosed please find one (1) draft archaeological report entitled "*Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Proposed SR 316/SR 8/US 29 at CR929/Oconee Connector Improvements Project in Oconee, Georgia*" prepared by AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (AECOM). The above referenced project consists of the proposed intersection improvements at the junction of SR 316/SR 8/US 29 and CR929/Oconee Connector. The coordinates of the project center point are: 33°54'40.07"N / 83°27'54.79"W. This project was initially State-funded, but recently switched to Federal funding.

During the course of the survey, one (1) new archaeological site was recorded. The site and its eligibility recommendation for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are detailed in the table below. The Department concurs with the recommendations presented in the report by EP.

Site Number	Site Type	NRHP Recommendation	Management Recommendation
90C433	Historic House Site with Precontact Isolate	Unknown, portion within the survey area lacks significant data potential	Designation of unknown portions as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and protection with Orange Barrier Fencing (OBF)

Based on the results of the enclosed archaeological survey, no archaeological sites listed in or considered eligible for listing in the NRHP were located within the APE of this undertaking. Therefore, there is a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for this undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) and this finding fulfills the Department's responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 and subsequent amendments for archaeological resources. A report which fulfills the Department's responsibilities under Section 106 for historic resources will be submitted separately.

Please review and comment on the findings and recommendations within thirty days from receipt of this information. Should you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Rachel Bowen of this office at (404) 631-1119 or [rbowen@dot.ga.gov](mailto:rbowen@dot.ga.gov).

Sincerely,  
  
Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

EAD/WAP/rb  
Enclosure

CONCUR:   
for David Crass, Deputy SHPO

DATE: February 1, 2022

Archaeology Report Transmittal  
GDOT PI 0013769, HP# 210125-001  
December 31, 2021

cc: Mr. Daniel T. Hinton, FHWA Georgia Division, (Attn: Aaron Hernandez)  
Tribal Distribution List (Attached)



**Tribal Distribution List:**

**Mr. Ben Yahola**

THPO  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma  
12555 NS 3540  
Seminole, OK 74868

**Mr. Galen Cloud**

THPO  
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town  
P.O. Box 188  
Okemah, OK 74859

**Ms. Elizabeth Toombs**

THPO  
Cherokee Nation  
P.O. Box 948  
Tahlequah, OK 74465

**Mr. Russell Townsend**

THPO  
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
P.O. Box 455  
Cherokee, NC 28719

**Ms. Corain Lowe-Zepeda**

THPO  
Muscogee Nation  
Historic and Cultural Preservation Office  
P.O. Box 580  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

**Ms. Whitney Warrior**

THPO  
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians  
P.O. Box 746  
Tahlequah, OK 74465  
Attn: Erica Gorsuch

**Mr. Larry Haikey**

THPO  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians  
5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore, AL 36502



ᎠᏍᏍᏉ ᎠᏍᏍᏉ  
**CHEROKEE NATION®**  
P.O. Box 948 • Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948  
918-453-5000 • [www.cherokee.org](http://www.cherokee.org)

**Chuck Hoskin Jr.**  
*Principal Chief*  
ᎠᏍᏍᏉ ᎠᏍᏍᏉ  
ᎠᏍᏍᏉ ᎠᏍᏍᏉ

**Bryan Warner**  
*Deputy Principal Chief*  
ᎠᏍᏍᏉ ᎠᏍᏍᏉ  
ᎠᏍᏍᏉ ᎠᏍᏍᏉ ᎠᏍᏍᏉ

August 27, 2021

Heather Mustonen  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree Street, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308

Re: PI 0013767, SR-316 and Jimmy Daniel Road Intersection Improvements

Ms. Heather Mustonen:

The Cherokee Nation (Nation) is in receipt of your correspondence about **PI 0013767**, and appreciates the opportunity to provide comment upon this project. Please allow this letter to serve as the Nation's interest in acting as a consulting party to this proposed project.

The Nation maintains databases and records of cultural, historic, and pre-historic resources in this area. Our Historic Preservation Office reviewed this project, cross referenced the project's legal description against our information, and found instances where this project is within close proximity to such resources. Thus, the Nation recommends that a cultural resources survey is conducted for this project, and requests a copy of the related report. The Nation requires that cultural resources survey personnel and reports meet the Secretary of Interior's standards and guidelines.

However, the Nation requests that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) halt all survey activities immediately and re-contact our Offices for further consultation if items of cultural significance are discovered during the course of this survey. Additionally, the Nation requests that GDOT conduct appropriate inquiries with other pertinent Tribal and Historic Preservation Offices regarding historic and prehistoric resources not included in the Nation's databases or records.

If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact me at your convenience. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Wado,

Elizabeth Toombs, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Cherokee Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
[elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org](mailto:elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org)  
918.453.5389

## Bowen, Rachel E

---

**From:** David Franks <Franks.D@sno-nsn.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 11:15 AM  
**To:** Bowen, Rachel E  
**Subject:** RE: GDOT Project PI# 0013769, Oconee County, Draft Archaeological Report Transmittal

[The Seminole Nation can concur with No Adverse Effects for project 0013769](#)

---

**From:** Bowen, Rachel E [mailto:RBowen@dot.ga.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 9:34 AM  
**To:** Muscogee (Creek) Nation <section106@mcn-nsn.gov>; Poarch Band of Creek Indians <THPO@pci-nsn.gov>; David Franks <Franks.D@sno-nsn.gov>; Thlopthlocco Tribal Town <thpo@tttown.org>; elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org; russtown@nc-cherokee.com; syerka@nc-cherokee.com; 'ukbthpo@ukb-nsn.gov' <ukbthpo@ukb-nsn.gov>  
**Cc:** Mustonen, Heather <hmustonen@dot.ga.gov>; 'aaron.hernandez@dot.gov' <aaron.hernandez@dot.gov>  
**Subject:** GDOT Project PI# 0013769, Oconee County, Draft Archaeological Report Transmittal

Hello,

Please find below a link to a Draft Phase I Archaeological Report for the subject Georgia Department of Transportation project. In coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, Georgia Division and in compliance with 36CFR800, we are requesting any comments you may have on this enclosed Section 106 documentation. GDOT is assisting FHWA in tribal consultation efforts for the project in accordance with Stipulation V of the [2019 Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for the Transportation Program in Georgia](#).

**Undertaking Center Point Lat/Long:** 33°54'40.07"N / 83°27'54.79"W

Please direct any responses regarding the document and its findings to GDOT Archaeologist Rachel Bowen, at 404-631-1119 or [rbowen@dot.ga.gov](mailto:rbowen@dot.ga.gov) and Ms. Heather Mustonen, the Department's American Indian liaison, at (404) 631-1166 or [hmustonen@dot.ga.gov](mailto:hmustonen@dot.ga.gov).

If you have difficulty accessing the file, please let me know.

Thank you,

**Rachel Bowen**  
*Senior Archaeologist*



Office of Environmental Services  
600 W. Peachtree St., NW  
Atlanta, GA, 30308  
404.631.1119 office



**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

July 20, 2021

Dr. David Crass, Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Georgia Department of Community Affairs  
Attn: Environmental Review, Historic Preservation Division  
60 Executive Park South, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Re: **Transmittal of Draft Archaeological Report:** "Addendum to the Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Proposed SR 316/SR 8/US 29 at CR929/Oconee Connector Improvements Project in Oconee, Georgia"; GDOT PI No.: 0013769; HP # 210125-001

Dear Dr. Crass:

Enclosed please find one (1) draft archaeological report entitled "*Addendum to the Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Proposed SR 316/SR 8/US 29 at CR929/Oconee Connector Improvements Project in Oconee, Georgia*" prepared by Edwards-Pitman, Inc. (EP). The above referenced project consists of the proposed intersection improvements at the junction of SR 316/SR 8/US 29 and CR929/Oconee Connector. The coordinates of the project center point are: 33°54'40.07"N / 83°27'54.79"W.

During the course of the survey, two previously recorded sites were revisited. The sites and their eligibility recommendations for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are detailed in the table below. The Department concurs with the recommendations presented in the report by EP.

Site Number	Site Type	NRHP Recommendation	Management Recommendation
9OC239 - Revisit	Precontact Lithic Scatter	Ineligible	No further work is necessary
9OC433 - Revisit	Historic House Site with Precontact Isolate	Ineligible	No further work is necessary

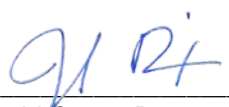
Based on the results of the enclosed archaeological survey, no archaeological sites listed in or considered eligible for listing in the NRHP were located within the APE of this undertaking. Therefore, there is a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for this undertaking in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) and this finding fulfills the Department's responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 and subsequent amendments for archaeological resources. A report which fulfills the Department's responsibilities under Section 106 for historic resources will be submitted separately.

Please review and comment on the findings and recommendations within thirty days from receipt of this information. Should you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Rachel Bowen of this office at (404) 631-1119 or rbowen@dot.ga.gov.

Sincerely,

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

EAD/HLM/RB  
Enclosure

**CONCUR:**  **DATE:** August 9, 2021  
for David Crass, Deputy SHPO

cc: Mr. Moises Marrero, FHWA Georgia Division, (Attn: Aaron Hernandez)  
Tribal Distribution List (Attached)

**Tribal Distribution List:**

**Mr. David Frank**

THPO  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma  
12555 NS 3540  
Seminole, OK 74868

**Mr. Galen Cloud**

THPO  
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town  
P.O. Box 188  
Okemah, OK 74859

**Ms. Elizabeth Toombs**

THPO  
Cherokee Nation  
P.O. Box 948  
Tahlequah, OK 74465

**Mr. Russell Townsend**

THPO  
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
P.O. Box 455  
Cherokee, NC 28719

**Ms. Corain Lowe-Zepeda**

THPO  
Muscogee Nation  
Historic and Cultural Preservation Office  
P.O. Box 580  
Okmulgee, OK 74447

**Ms. Whitney Warrior**

THPO  
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians  
P.O. Box 746  
Tahlequah, OK 74465  
Attn: Erica Gorsuch

**Mr. Larry Haikey**

THPO  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians  
5811 Jack Springs Road  
Atmore, AL 36502



## Bowen, Rachel E

---

**From:** Bowen, Rachel E  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 29, 2021 1:18 PM  
**To:** 'ryargee@alabama-quassarte.org'; Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Poarch Band of Creek Indians; 'franks.d@sno-nsn.gov'; Thlopthlocco Tribal Town; elizabeth-toombs@cherokee.org; russtown@nc-cherokee.com; syerka@nc-cherokee.com; 'ukbthpo@ukb-nsn.gov'  
**Cc:** Mustonen, Heather; 'aaron.hernandez@dot.gov'  
**Subject:** PI# 0013767, Section 106 Notification - Oconee County  
**Attachments:** 0013767\_CR\_106Notification\_2021.06.15.pdf; 0013767\_Project\_Location.kmz; 0013767\_GNAHRGIS\_1KM\_Search.pdf

Hello,

Please find attached a Section 106 Notification Letter the subject Georgia Department of Transportation project. In coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, Georgia Division and in compliance with 36CFR800, we are requesting any information you may have on the project location indicated in the enclosed Section 106 Notification Letter. GDOT is assisting FHWA in tribal consultation efforts for the project in accordance with Stipulation V of the [2019 Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for the Transportation Program in Georgia](#).

For further reference, the center point of the project can be viewed on Google Earth by opening the attached .kmz file. Also attached is a 1KM Archaeological Site Files search from the project center point. There are two (2) previously recorded archaeological sites within 1KM of the project.

**Project Lat/Long:** 33°55'2.39"N / 83°28'55.19"W

Site Number	Site Type	NRHP Eligibility
9OC239	Precontact lithic scatter	Recommended Ineligible
9CO294	Precontact lithic scatter	Recommended Ineligible

Please direct any responses regarding this notification to GDOT Archaeologist Rachel Bowen, at 404-631-1119 or [rbowen@dot.ga.gov](mailto:rbowen@dot.ga.gov) and Ms. Heather Mustonen, the Department's American Indian liaison, at (404) 631-1166 or [hmustonen@dot.ga.gov](mailto:hmustonen@dot.ga.gov).

Thank you,

**Rachel Bowen**

*Senior Archaeologist*



Office of Environmental Services

600 W. Peachtree St., NW

Atlanta, GA, 30308

404.631.1119 office

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator  
Office of Environmental Services  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
**Attn: Terri Lotti, History Team Lead**

FROM: Santiago Martinez   
Environmental Review Historian  
Historic Preservation Division

RE: Receipt of Early Coordination Information

**PI 0013767: Construct Grade Separated Diamond Interchange, SR 316 and  
Jimmy Daniel Road**

**Project Number: HP-210615-001**

County: Oconee

DATE: June 23, 2021

The Historic Preservation Division has received the early coordination information required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Based on the limited information provided in the early coordination memo and a brief desktop review, HPD is currently unaware of additional previously identified historic resources within the proposed project's area of potential effect (APE). However, our initial review does not preclude additional previously identified resources from being within the APE. Therefore, HPD encourages the review of additional sources including but not limited to the Historic Resources and Research and Documentation portions of our website, Environmental Review files, Identified Sites files, established contexts, such as the Railroad Context and other linear resource contexts, and county tax assessor data.

Thank you for submitting this information. We look forward to receiving additional Section 106 documentation, as appropriate, and working with you as this project progresses.

Cc: Aaron Hernandez, FHWA  
Heather Mustonen, GDOT  
Dennis Cheek, GDOT  
Lydia Joffray, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission  
Simone Kaplan, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.



(404) 631-1990 Main Office

Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308

June 15, 2021

NOTIFICATION: Initiation of Section 106 Process for  
GDOT P.I. No. 0013767, Oconee County

The Georgia Department of Transportation (Department) is in the beginning stages of project development for this proposed transportation project. In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Department has determined that because of the nature and the scope of this undertaking, the proposed project has the potential to cause effects to historic properties if any such properties exist in the project area. The Department is attempting to identify historic properties already listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and any properties not already listed that would be considered eligible for listing that are located within the geographic area of potential effects (APE) of the proposed project.

The proposed project would consist of the improvements to the intersection of State Route (SR) 316 and Jimmy Daniel Road in Oconee County (see Figure 1. Project Location Map). SR 316 at Jimmy Daniel Road is currently an at grade, signalized intersection that would be reconstructed as a grade separated diamond interchange. For staging purposes, the crossing would be reconstructed slightly east of Jimmy Daniel Road's current location. Proposed auxiliary lanes would be constructed parallel to eastbound (EB) and westbound (WB) SR 316 to provide access between Jimmy Daniel Road and the Oconee Connector. The proposed auxiliary lanes would consist of a single, 16-foot-wide EB travel lane and a single, 16-foot-wide WB travel lane both with four to eight-foot wide inside shoulders and 10 to 12-foot wide outside shoulders. Within the project limits, the right-of-way (ROW) along the SR 316 mainline varies from approximately 200 feet to approximately 300 feet. Within the proximity of the SR 316 intersection with Jimmy Daniel Road, the ROW extends to approximately 1,090 feet. The acquisition of additional ROW for the implementation of the proposed project is anticipated; however, the amounts are not yet known. The length of the proposed project would be approximately 7,920 feet (1.5 miles).

The APE for the proposed project would include the areas within the proposed ROW and the viewshed of the proposed project. No potential for indirect effects outside this corridor is anticipated as a result of implementation of the proposed project.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires the Federal Highway Administration and the Department, in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), to identify potential consulting parties and to invite them to participate in the Section 106 process. This Notification letter is one of several methods the Department uses to encourage public participation in this process, and it serves as your invitation to participate as a consulting party in the Section 106 process for this project.

A written request to become a consulting party for cultural resources for this project should be directed to:

Edwards-Pitman  
2700 Cumberland Parkway SE, Suite 300  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-3331

Attn: Simone Kaplan

Responses would be appreciated within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Notification letter. Please refer to the project identification number (P.I. No. 0013767) in your response. The potential consulting parties identified and invited to participate in the Section 106 process for this project are the Georgia SHPO, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, the Oconee Historical Society, and the Oconee County Board of Commissioners. If you are aware of other organizations or individuals interested in cultural resources in the project area not already identified, please forward their names to the Department.

Also, on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration Georgia Division (FHWA), in keeping with a government-to-government relationship and in compliance with 36CFR800, the following tribal governments are invited to participate in the Section 106 process for this project: Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Cherokee Nation, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Muscogee (Creek) National Council, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. Responses to this Notification regarding tribal concerns should be addressed to the attention of Heather Mustonen, the Department's American Indian liaison.

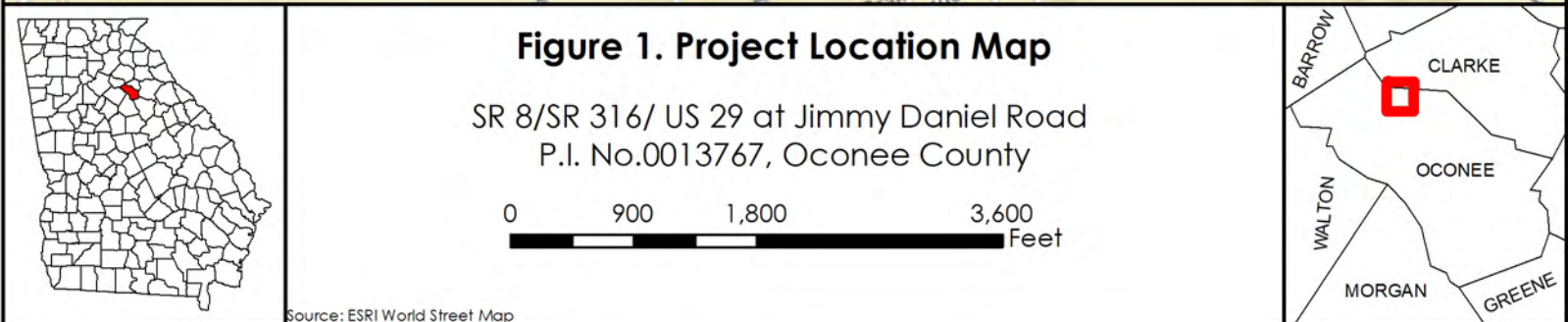
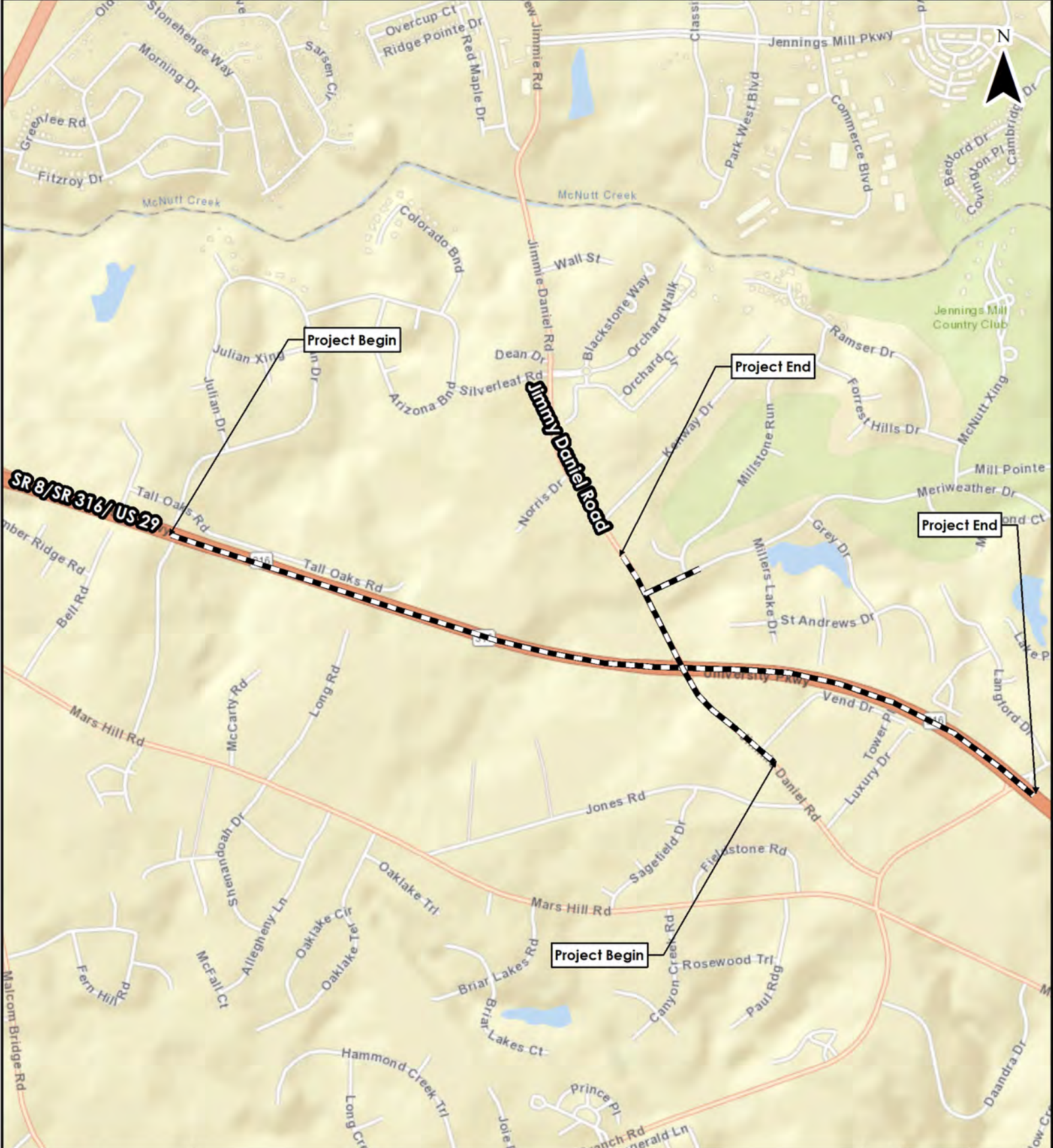
Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been checked to determine if any are located within the APE of this undertaking. This review of existing information revealed that no properties listed in or nominated for listing in the NRHP, no National Historic Landmarks, and no bridges determined eligible for inclusion in the NRHP in the updated Georgia Historic Bridge Survey (GHBS) are located within the proposed project's APE. No properties 50 years old or older were identified within the proposed project's APE in the 1976 or 2004 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Oconee County Survey or in Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resource Geographic Information System (GNAHRGIS) database reviewed at <https://www.gnahrgis.org>.

The proposed project will be field surveyed for both historic properties and archaeological sites and the Criteria of Eligibility will be applied to any identified properties in consultation with the Georgia SHPO and other consulting parties to determine if any of those properties are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Consulting parties are also invited to provide information concerning any historic or archaeological properties already listed in the NRHP or that could be eligible for listing in the NRHP that are not identified in this Notification letter. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Department will assess project effects to any identified historic properties as preliminary project plans become available, endeavor to minimize harm to all identified historic properties and produce an Assessment of Effects report. This document will be provided to all consulting parties for comment when completed. The Department also wishes to know of any past, present or future local developments or zoning plans which may result in indirect or cumulative impacts to archaeological sites and historic structures as they relate to the proposed project.

Individuals and organizations that do not wish to become a consulting party but would still like to comment on the proposed project will also have that opportunity throughout the plan development process. Historic resource concerns can be addressed to Simone Kaplan (770-333-9484 or [skaplan@edwards-pitman.com](mailto:skaplan@edwards-pitman.com)) of Edwards-Pitman; archaeological resource concerns, including cemetery and other human burials, can be addressed to Heather Mustonen (404-631-1166 or [hmustonen@dot.ga.gov](mailto:hmustonen@dot.ga.gov)) of this office. Questions concerning general design or location issues may be addressed to Rhonda Tilt (770-431-8666 or [rhonda.tilt@arcadis.com](mailto:rhonda.tilt@arcadis.com)) of ARCADIS.









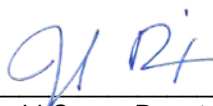
## Memo

**DATE:** June 3, 2021  
**FROM:** Caroline Darnell, Historian, Office of Environmental Services  
**TO:** Files  
**SUBJECT:** GDOT Project P.I. #0013769, Oconee County;  
HP #210125-001:  
**Historic Resources Survey Report**

Attached is the Historic Resources Survey Report completed by Drew West of Edwards-Pitman for the subject project. This document describes the Department's efforts to identify historic properties located within the proposed project's area of potential effects and the evaluation of all identified properties through the application of the Criteria of Eligibility to determine eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

CLD/

cc: Moises Marrero, FHWA, w/attachment (Attn: Aaron Hernandez)  
David Crass, Deputy SHPO, w/attachment  
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, w/attachment

**CONCUR:**  **DATE:** June 11, 2021  
for David Crass, Deputy SHPO

cc: Rachael Rosenstein, GDOT NEPA  
Drew West, Edwards-Pitman  
Achor Njoku, GDOT Project Manager, Office of Innovative Program Delivery

February 8, 2021

Eric Duff  
Department of Transportation  
Office of Environmental Services  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308  
**Attn: Terri Lotti, Team Lead, History**

**RE: PI 0013769: Construct Interchange, CR 929/Oconee Connector and SR 316/US 29 Interchange  
Oconee County, Georgia  
HP-210125-001**

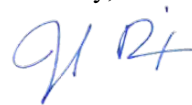
Dear Mr. Duff:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has received the early coordination information for the above referenced project dated December 15, 2020. Our comments are offered to assist the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

Thank you for notifying our office of this proposed project. Based on the limited information provided in the early coordination memorandum and a brief desktop review, HPD finds that historic properties have been previously identified in the proposed project's area of potential effect (Oconee County; HP-191009-002). Please note, our initial review does not preclude additional resources from being within the area of potential effect (APE). Therefore, HPD encourages the review of additional sources including but not limited to the Historic Resources and Research and Documentation portions of our website, Environmental Review files, Identified Sites files, established contexts, such as the Railroad Context and other linear resource contexts, and county tax assessor data. We look forward to receiving Section 106 compliance documentation when it becomes available and working with you as this project progresses.

Please refer to project number **HP-210125-001** in any future correspondence regarding this project. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Debbie Wallsmith, Compliance Archaeologist, at [Debbie.Wallsmith@dca.ga.gov](mailto:Debbie.Wallsmith@dca.ga.gov) or by phone at (404) 486-6440 or Whitney Rooks, Environmental Review Historian, at [Whitney.Rooks@dca.ga.gov](mailto:Whitney.Rooks@dca.ga.gov) or by phone at (404) 486-6437.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Dixon, MHP, LEED Green Associate  
Program Manager  
Environmental Review & Preservation Planning

JAD/wmr

cc: Aaron Hernandez, FHWA  
Heather Mustonen, GDOT  
Dennis Cheek, GDOT  
Lydia Joffray, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission  
Drew West, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.



Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

January 21, 2021

NOTIFICATION: Initiation of Section 106 Process for  
GDOT P.I. No. 0013769, Oconee County

The Georgia Department of Transportation (Department) is in the beginning stages of project development for this proposed transportation project. In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Department has determined that because of the nature and the scope of this undertaking, the proposed project has the potential to cause effects to historic properties if any such properties exist in the project area. The Department is attempting to identify historic properties already listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and any properties not already listed that would be considered eligible for listing that are located within the geographic area of potential effects (APE) of the proposed project.

This project was originally state-funded and a GEPA notification was transmitted December 20, 2018. Since that time, the project has been programmed for federal funding and will follow the Section 106 process with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as the lead agency.

The proposed project would consist of a new interchange at the intersection of County Road (CR) 929/Oconee Connector and State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/United States Highway 29, approximately 1 mile west of the existing SR10 loop interchange, to accommodate expected growth in traffic volumes and enhance functionality and operational traffic conditions in the proposed project area (see Figure 1. Project Location Map). The intersection is currently configured as a signalized at-grade intersection with slip lanes for all right turning movements. Multiple interchange configurations are under consideration as the project concept is developed. The proposed project would also include grade separation of CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road with a new proposed bridge that would connect both sides of Virgil Langford Road across SR 316. Proposed right-of-way (ROW) is unknown at this time.

The APE for the proposed project would include the areas within the proposed ROW and the viewshed of the proposed project. No potential for indirect effects outside this corridor is anticipated as a result of implementation of the proposed project.

Section 106 of the NHPA requires the Federal Highway Administration and the Department, in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), to identify potential consulting parties and to invite them to participate in the Section 106 process. This Notification letter is one of several methods the Department uses to encourage public participation in this process and it serves as your invitation to participate as a consulting party in the Section 106 process for this project.

A written request to become a consulting party for cultural resources for this project should be directed to:

Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.  
2700 Cumberland Parkway SE  
Suite 300  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-3331

Attn: Drew West

Responses would be appreciated within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Notification letter. Please refer to the project identification number (P.I. No. 0013769) in your response. The potential consulting parties identified and invited to participate in the Section 106 process for this project are the Georgia SHPO, the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission, the Oconee Historical Society, and the Oconee County Board of Commissioners. If you are aware of other organizations or individuals interested in cultural resources in the project area not already identified, please forward their names to the Department.

Also, on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration Georgia Division (FHWA), in keeping with a government-to-government relationship and in compliance with 36CFR800, the following tribal governments are invited to participate in the Section 106 process for this project: Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Cherokee Nation, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Muscogee (Creek) National Council, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. Responses to this Notification regarding tribal concerns should be addressed to the attention of Heather Mustonen, the Department's American Indian liaison.

Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been checked to determine if any are located within the APE of this undertaking. This review of existing information revealed that no properties listed in or nominated for listing in the NRHP, no National Historic Landmarks, and no bridges determined eligible for inclusion in the NRHP in the updated Georgia Historic Bridge Survey (GHBS) are located within the proposed project's APE. No properties 50 years old or older were identified within the proposed project's APE in the 1974 or 2004 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Oconee County surveys or in Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resource Geographic Information System (GNAHRGIS) database reviewed at <https://www.gnahrgis.org>.

The proposed project will be field surveyed for both historic properties and archaeological sites and the Criteria of Eligibility will be applied to any identified properties in consultation with the Georgia SHPO and other consulting parties to determine if any of those properties are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Consulting parties are also invited to provide information concerning any historic or archaeological properties already listed in the NRHP or that could be eligible for listing in the NRHP that are not identified in this Notification letter. In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the Department will assess project effects to any identified historic properties as preliminary project plans become available, endeavor to minimize harm to all identified historic properties and produce a cultural resources Assessment of Effects report. This document will be provided to all consulting parties for comment when completed. The Department also wishes to know of any past, present or future local developments or zoning plans which may result in indirect or cumulative impacts to archaeological sites and historic structures as they relate to the proposed project.

Individuals and organizations that do not wish to become a consulting party, but would still like to comment on the proposed project will also have that opportunity throughout the plan development process. Historic resource concerns can be addressed to Drew West (770-333-9484 or [dwest@edwards-pitman.com](mailto:dwest@edwards-pitman.com)) of Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.; archaeological resource concerns, including cemetery and other human burials, can be addressed to Heather Mustonen (404-631-1166 or [hmustonen@dot.ga.gov](mailto:hmustonen@dot.ga.gov)) of the Department's Office of Environmental Services. Questions concerning general design or location issues may be addressed to Umit Seyhan (678-954-5000 or [useyhan@chacompanies.com](mailto:useyhan@chacompanies.com)) of CHA Companies.

PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

## Attachment 2 Natural Environment





**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

February 9, 2024

Peter Maholland, Georgia Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Georgia Ecological Services  
RG Stephens Jr. Federal Building  
355 East Hancock Avenue, Room 320  
Athens, GA 30601  
ATTN: Laci Pattavina

Sabrina David, Georgia Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Suite 17T100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3104  
ATTN: Aaron Hernandez

Re: Action Request: None  
GDOT Project PI Nos. 0013768 & 0013769, Oconee County

Dear Mr. Maholland and Ms. David,

Please find attached the *Memorandum to the Ecology Resource Survey and Assessment of Effects Report* for the above referenced project. The project is for the reconstruction of State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/US Highway (US) 29 at County Road (CR) 929/Oconee Connector (PI No. 0013769) and at CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Landford Road (PI No. 0013768), located in Oconee County, Georgia.

The October 2023 *Ecology Resource Survey and Assessment of Effects Report* (EAOER) for the subject projects (submitted under the same transmittal letter as GDOT PI No. 0013767) was transmitted to your office on October 26, 2023. FWCA coordination and Section 7 consultation was completed on November 20, 2023. Since then, the project descriptions for PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 have changed, and this memorandum provides the updated project description. The changes described in the memorandum do not change any of the previous impacts, mitigation, or effect determinations documented in the preceding *Ecology Resource Survey and Assessment of Effects Report*.

Please copy the lead Federal Agency, GDOT Ecologist, and GDOT Environmental Analyst assigned to the project on your response or any other correspondence. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact GDOT P3 Support Services Ecologist Dan

PI Nos. 0013768 & 0013769, Oconee County  
February 9, 2024

Ashworth at 404-433-2421 (bashworth@dot.ga.gov) or GDOT P3 Support Services Ecology Team Leader Katherine Zornig at 404-946-5578 (kzornig@dot.ga.gov).

Sincerely,



Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

ED/KZ/jb

Enclosure

cc: *GDOT Project Manager, Achor Njoku*  
*GDOT Environmental Analyst, Alexandra Nelson (anelson@dot.gov.ga)*  
*GDOT ECB, Daryl Williams*  
*GDOT Mitigation, Lisa Westberry*  
*EPD-GDOT Inbox, (epd.gdot@dnr.ga.gov)*  
*DNR WRD, Maggie Hunt*  
*EPA, Eric Sommerville*  
*GDOT IOEQ Inbox, (IOEQsubmittals@dot.ga.gov)*  
*GDOT Environmental Program Manager, Robert Dollar*  
*Edwards-Pitman, Jessica Bonin (jbonin@edwards-pitman.com)*  
*Edwards-Pitman, Collin Lane (clane@edwards-pitman.com), Ecology Group Manager*

**DATE:** February 9, 2024

**FROM:** Mr. Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

**TO:** Aaron Hernandez  
Federal Highway Administration

Laci Pattavina  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**SUBJECT:** PI Nos. 0013768 & 0013769, Oconee County  
Updated Project Description

### **Project Description**

Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769 propose to grade separate the existing at-grade intersections of State Route (SR) 316 at Jimmy Daniell Road, SR 316 at Virgil Langford Road, and SR 316 at Oconee Connector, respectively. The projects are located approximately 6.7 miles west of downtown Athens, Georgia in Oconee County. The original Technical Studies were handled in two separate reports, one for PI No. 0013767 and one for PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 and were transmitted to agencies under one combined transmittal letter. Therefore, the changes covered in this memo are only applicable to PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769.

#### PI 0013768: SR 316 and Virgil Langford Road

PI No. 0013768 would remove the existing at-grade, unsignalized intersection and construct a new bridge and approaches to create a grade separation on Virgil Langford Road over SR 316. The preferred alternative proposes to construct the bridge on shifted alignment to the east that would consist of a 316-foot, 3-span bridge. The bridge would include three lanes (two travel lanes and a left turn lane). The lanes would be 12 feet wide, with a 2-foot outside lateral offset and 6-foot-6-inch-wide sidewalk. The reconstructed portion of Virgil Langford Road would be two lanes with appropriate turning lanes and urban 12-foot wide shoulders including sidewalk. The proposed ROW would vary between 80 feet and 245 feet. The approximate length of the project would be 2,300 feet (0.44 mile) along Virgil Langford Road.

#### PI 0013769: SR 316 and Oconee Connector

PI 0013769 proposes to replace the at-grade intersection of SR 316 and the Oconee Connector with a new interchange and new bridge over SR 316. Additional proposed actions include widening the existing outside shoulders on SR 316, the modification of the existing traffic signal-controlled intersection of SR 316 at the southbound SR 10 Loop Ramp to implement a continuous Green Light “T” type intersection<sup>1</sup> for eastbound traffic, and the construction of auxiliary lanes on SR 316 connecting the easterly ramps of PI No. 0013767 with the westerly ramps of PI No. 0013769. At SR 316, the Oconee Connector would be shifted to the east and a partial cloverleaf interchange would be constructed. The new 224-foot, two span bridge would consist of five lanes (two lanes in each direction with a left turn lane) and raised median. The lanes would be 12 feet wide with 4-foot bike lane, 2-foot lateral offset, and 6-foot-6-inch-wide sidewalk. The reconstructed Oconee Connector would be four lanes with appropriate turning lanes and 16-foot urban shoulders including sidewalk, 4-foot bike lanes, and a variable width raised median. Proposed ramps for the interchange would include a partial cloverleaf configuration for the westbound exit ramp, with the remaining ramps to be constructed in a diamond configuration. Lanes for the ramp would vary in width from 12 feet to 16 feet with rural shoulders that are 8 feet (4-foot paved) to the inside and 12 feet (10-foot paved) to the outside. SR 316 outside shoulders would be widened to 14 feet (12-foot

paved). The approximate length of the project is 8,400 feet (1.59 miles) along SR 316 and 3,089 feet (0.59 mile) along the Oconee Connector.

PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 would require approximately 5.82 acres of ROW, 0.68 acre of temporary easement, 0.02 acre of permanent easement, and 0.47 acre of driveway easement and the total project length would be approximately 2.6 miles.

### **Purpose of the Memorandum**

The purpose of the Memorandum to the Ecology Resource Survey and Assessment of Effects Report is to provide an updated project description. The updates include reducing the required ROW from 7.44 acres to 5.82 acres, reducing temporary easement from 0.69 acre to 0.68 acre, and revising the reported project length to 2.6 miles (previously reported as 1.6 miles in error). The permanent easement remains unchanged from 0.02 acre, and the driveway easement remains unchanged from 0.47 acre. The updates do not change any of the previous impacts, mitigation, or effect determinations documented in the preceding October 2023 *Ecology Resource Survey and Assessment of Effects Report*.

Please note that updated construction plans are attached to reflect project changes.



United States Department of the Interior

**Fish and Wildlife Service**  
RG Stephens, Jr. Federal Building  
355 East Hancock Avenue, Room 320  
Athens, Georgia 30601

West Georgia Sub Office  
P.O. Box 52560  
Ft. Benning, Georgia 31995-2560

Coastal Sub Office  
4980 Wildlife Drive  
Townsend, Georgia 31331

November 20, 2023

Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
600 West Peachtree Street NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308  
ATTN: Dan Ashworth

RE: GDOT P.I. No. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769; FWS Log 2023-0004689

Dear Mr. Duff:

Thank you for your October 26, 2023, electronic transmittal of the Ecology Resource Survey and Assessment of Effects Report for Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) project PI 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769 in Oconee County, Georgia. PI No. 0013767 was transmitted on May 26, 2023, and a response was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on June 21, 2023. However, based on subsequent coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), GDOT will permit PI No. 0013767 together with PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769. GDOT PI No. 0013767 proposes improvements to the intersection of State Route (SR) 316 and Jimmy Daniel Road in Oconee County. SR 316 at Jimmy Daniel Road is currently an at grade, signalized intersection that would be reconstructed as a grade separated diamond interchange. GDOT PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 propose the reconstruction of County Road (CR) 929/Oconee Connector at SR 316. As the Federal Highway Administration's designated non-federal representative, GDOT is requesting Conference for the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) and comments under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) for Perennial Stream (PS) 5, PS 10, PS 12b, and PS 16. We submit the following comments under provisions of the FWCA (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et. seq.*) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

**Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act**

Impacts to PS 5 could not be avoided due to the proximity of the stream to the proposed roadway and drainage improvements. Both a culvert extension, channel relocation, and placement of riprap at the SR 316 crossing and a culvert replacement and placement of riprap at the Jimmy Daniel Road crossing are proposed to account for grading, side-slope fill, and drainage improvements necessary for project implementation. The box culvert inlet at the SR 316 crossing would be aligned with PS 5 to capture flow as opposed to aligned with both PS 5 and Wetland 6,



November 20, 2023  
RE: PI 0013767-9 Oconee County

thus reducing fill impacts. Additionally, the realignment of PS 5 would create a more stable channel for the culvert extension and the realignment of the channel has been shortened to the greatest extent possible. Orange barrier fence (OBF) placement has been included on the plan sheets to prevent unintended impacts PS 5 beyond what is necessary.

Impacts to PS 10 could not be avoided due to the proximity of the stream to the proposed roadway and drainage improvements. A culvert extension was deemed appropriate at PS 10 and SR 316, as the existing double box culvert is in good condition and meets USACE standards for width, slope, and embedment. The existing corrugated metal pipe conveying PS 10 under a berm north of SR 316 would be removed and PS10 would be daylighted and riprapped to accommodate increased stormflow. OBF placement has been included on the plan sheets to prevent unintended impacts to PS10 beyond what is necessary.

Impacts to PS12b and PS 16 could not be avoided due to the stream locations perpendicularly crossing the SR 316 roadway. Culvert extensions on both the southern and northern side of SR 316 at both streams would result in permanent impacts to these resources. Impacts have been reduced by maintaining the project on current alignment as much as possible. OBF has been included along the existing right-of-way (ROW) to prevent additional impacts to the resources.

Impacts for PI 0013767 are expected to require 553.5 perennial stream and 45.75 non-perennial stream (6,971.4 legacy) and 0.02 riverine wetland (0.16 legacy) mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank. Impacts for PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 are expected to require 356.25 perennial stream and 449.25 non-perennial stream (7,509.6 legacy) and 0.07 riverine wetland (0.56 legacy) mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank. GDOT will coordinate any mitigation responsibilities with the USACE. Impacts have been minimized to the extent reasonable at this stage in the design and are subject to change upon the selection of a design-build contractor. In the event of changes, impact alternatives and/or avoidance and minimization measures would be re-evaluated.

### **Endangered Species Act**

On September 14, 2022, the Service published a proposal to list the tricolored bat as endangered under the ESA. The range for the tricolored bat covers the entire state of Georgia and known and potentially suitable habitat is present within existing and proposed GDOT ROWs. Project completion may require clearing of approximately 28.45 acres and 44.5 acres of habitat suitable for roosting and foraging by tricolored bats for PI 0013767 and PI 0013768-9, respectively. Additionally, multiple culverts that provide suitable roosting habitat for this species are present along the project corridor. Special Provision (SP)107.23H will be implemented for the protection of this species. SP 107.23H states that all tree clearing must occur outside the non-volant pup season (May 1 - July 31) and winter hibernation season (December 1 - February 28) for the tricolored bat. Additionally, for PI 0013767 winter culvert surveys for the tricolored bat will be conducted prior to let and project documents would be updated, if necessary, pending the results of these surveys. For PI 0013768-9, winter surveys have been conducted and bats were not

November 20, 2023  
RE: PI 0013767-9 Oconee County

found. However, these surveys will be more than two years old at the time of let, so additional transportation structure surveys will be conducted within fourteen days of the start of construction. Based on the information provided, we agree that an effect determination of **“may affect, is not likely to adversely affect”** the tricolored bat is appropriate. Concurrence with this effect determination may be requested under Section 7(a)(2) at the time the final listing rule is issued if the determination is to list the species under the ESA.

Obligations of section 7(a)(2) of the ESA have been satisfied, and formal consultation is not required. However, obligations under the ESA must be reconsidered if: (1) the project is modified in a manner not considered by this assessment; (2) a new species is listed or critical habitat is determined that may be affected by the project; or (3) new information indicates that the project may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact staff biologist Laci Pattavina, at [laci\\_pattavina@fws.gov](mailto:laci_pattavina@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

CATHY  
MARION

Digitally signed by  
CATHY MARION  
Date: 2023.11.20  
11:25:27 -05'00'

*Acting for*

Peter Maholland  
Field Supervisor



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT**  
**4751 BEST ROAD, SUITE 140**  
**COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA 30337**

October 30, 2023

Regulatory Division  
SAS-2021-01021  
GDOT P.I. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769

Mr. Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Dear Mr. Duff:

I refer to a letter received September 28, 2023, requesting an Aquatic Resources Delineation Review (ARDR) associated with the proposed intersection modification project located on State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/United States Route (US) 29 and County Road (CR) 55/SR 316 at Jimmy Daniel Road; and SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector. The project is located approximately 6.7 miles west of the City of Athens, Oconee County, Georgia (Latitude 33.9173, Longitude -83.4821). This project has retained the previously assigned number SAS-2021-01021, and it is important that you refer to this number in all communication concerning this matter. This letter supersedes the previous ARDR verification letter dated February 7, 2022.

We have completed an ARDR for this site. Any wetlands on-site were delineated in accordance with criteria contained in the 1987 "Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual," as amended by the most recent regional supplements to the manual. The enclosed exhibits entitled, "Figure 3a through 3c: Aerial Aquatic Resource Map, State Route 316 at Jimmy Daniel Road, Georgia Department of Transportation, PI No. 0013767, Oconee County, Georgia," dated September 5, 2023, and "Figure 3A through 3E - Aquatic Resource Map (Aerial), SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector, Oconee County, PI Nos. 0013768 & 0013769," dated August 4, 2023, accurately identify the delineated limits of all aquatic resources located within the Environmental Survey Boundary. Please note, this delineation may require re-verification and is subject to change based on site conditions at the time of re-evaluation.

The delineation included herein has been conducted to identify the location and extent of the aquatic resource boundaries and/or the jurisdictional status of aquatic resources for purposes of the Clean Water Act for the particular site identified in this request. This delineation and/or jurisdictional determination may not be valid for the Wetland Conservation Provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. If you or your tenant are U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program participants, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should discuss the applicability of a

certified wetland determination with the local USDA service center, prior to starting work.

If you have any questions, please call Dr. Anne Sexton-Paperno, Project Manager, Management Branch, at (678) 422-5731.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edward B. Johnson, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward B. Johnson, Jr.  
Chief, Management Branch

Enclosures



**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

October 26, 2023

Peter Maholland, Georgia Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Georgia Ecological Services  
RG Stephens Jr. Federal Building  
355 East Hancock Avenue, Room 320  
Athens, GA 30601  
ATTN: Laci Pattavina

Sabrina David, AICP, Georgia Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Suite 17T100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3104  
ATTN: Aaron Hernandez

Re: Action Request: Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) Coordination  
and Section 7 Conference  
GDOT Project PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769, Oconee County

Dear Mr. Maholland and Ms. David,

Please find attached the Ecology Resource Survey and Assessment of Effects Reports (ERS-AOER) for the above referenced projects. Previously, the ERS-AOER for Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) PI No. 0013767 was transmitted on May 26, 2023, and a response was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on June 21, 2023. However, based on subsequent coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, GDOT will permit PI No. 0013767 together with PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769, and resource numbering has been updated for cohesion between projects. A retraction of the May 26, 2023 GDOT PI No. 0013767 ERS-AOER transmittal was requested by GDOT on July 14, 2023. Since the ERS-AOER for PI No. 0013767 and the ERS-AOER for PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 were prepared separately but will be permitted together, GDOT is submitting them under the same transmittal letter.

GDOT PI No. 0013767 proposes improvements to the intersection of State Route (SR) 316 and Jimmy Daniel Road in Oconee County. SR 316 at Jimmy Daniel Road is currently an at grade, signalized intersection that would be reconstructed as a grade separated diamond interchange. GDOT PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 propose the reconstruction of County Road (CR) 929/Oconee Connector at SR 316. These projects are located in Oconee County, Georgia, and the coordinates of the approximate midpoint of the projects are 33.917033, -83.478638. As the Federal Highway Administration's designated non-federal representative, the Department provides the attached report containing details on findings related to ecological resources and has made the following determinations.



**Project Specific FWCA - Action Request: FWCA comments**

Perennial Stream (PS) 5, PS10, PS 12b, and PS16 will require project specific FWCA coordination. These perennial streams will incur >100 linear feet of permanent impact as a result of project activities.

**"May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect" - Action Request: Conference**

The Department requests USFWS concurrence with the effect determination for the following species: tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*).

**"Not Likely to Jeopardize" – Action Request: No coordination required**

The proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the following species: monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*).

Please copy the Lead Federal Agency, GDOT Ecologist, and GDOT Environmental Analyst assigned to the project on any correspondence. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact GDOT P3 Support Services Ecologist Dan Ashworth at 404-433-2421 (bashworth@dot.ga.gov) or GDOT P3 Support Services Ecology Team Leader Katherine Zornig at 404-946-5578 (kzornig@dot.ga.gov).

Sincerely,



Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

ED/KZ/ia

Enclosure

cc: Achor Njoku, Project Manager

Alexandra Nelson, GDOT Environmental Analyst (anelson@dot.ga.gov)

Daryl Williams, GDOT ECB

Lisa Westberry, GDOT Mitigation

GDOT Liaison (GDOT\_Liaison@fws.gov)

EPD-GDOT Inbox (epd.gdot@dnr.ga.gov)

Maggie Hunt, DNR, WRD

Eric Sommerville, EPA

GDOT IOEQ Inbox (IOEQsubmittals@dot.ga.gov)

Robert Dollar, GDOT Environmental Program Manager

Iris Avila, ATKINS Consultant

Kevin Thomas, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. Consultant

## Glazer, Natalie

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**From:** Ashworth, Benjamin <BAshworth@dot.ga.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 26, 2023 2:17 PM  
**To:** Pattavina, Laci L; Hernandez, Aaron (FHWA)  
**Cc:** Katherine Zornig; Avila, Iris; Njoku, Iheanachor; Nelson, Alexandra M; Williams, Daryl L; Westberry, Lisa; epd.gdot@dnr.ga.gov; Hunt, Maggie; Eric Somerville; IOEQsubmittals; Dollar, Robert (Bobby); Avila, Iris; Thomas, Kevin; Dubord, Scott M; Chris Edmondson; Schmidt, Christina; Dyson, Wendy E; Glazer, Natalie; Margut, Michael M; McDuff, Nancy; Iqbal, Sajid; Nguyen, Thao D; Medeiros, Jennifer H; Francisco Chavez; Joe Alexander; Andrew Pitman; Austin Meadows; Erin McGehee; Maurine Ely; Robert Brown  
**Subject:** Action Request: Conference, FWCA Coordination, GDOT PI# 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769, Oconee County: Ecology AOER Transmittal

Good afternoon,

**USFWS & FHWA** – the combined Ecology Resource Survey and Assessment of Effects Report (AOER) for the subject projects is being transmitted to USFWS/FHWA.

Previously, the AOER for Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) PI No. 0013767 was transmitted on May 26, 2023, and a response was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on June 21, 2023. However, based on subsequent coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, GDOT will permit PI No. 0013767 together with PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769, and resource numbering has been updated for cohesion between projects. Since the AOER for PI No. 0013767 and the AOER for PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 were prepared separately but will be permitted together, GDOT is submitting them under the same transmittal letter. A retraction of the May 26, 2023 PI No. 0013767 AOER transmittal was requested by GDOT on July 14, 2023 to facilitate a combined transmittal. For the purposes of streamlining file access, the electronic version of this combined AOER document has been uploaded to the IPaC system under “GDOT PI No. 0013767 (SR 316, Oconee Co.).”

**GDOT Team** – This document can be found on ProjectWise [here](#) and [here](#).

**To All** – This document can also be found on the Office of Environmental Services Secure FTP site in the following folder: /EnvironmentalServices/0013767\_0013768-69Combined\_Ecology/AOER

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

**Dan Ashworth**

*GDOT P3 Support Services Ecologist*



Office of Environmental Services

One Georgia Center – 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
600 West Peachtree Street, NW  
Atlanta, GA, 30308



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Georgia Ecological Services Field Office  
355 East Hancock Avenue  
Room 320  
Athens, GA 30601-2523  
Phone: (706) 613-9493 Fax: (706) 613-6059



In Reply Refer To:

October 09, 2023

Project Code: 2023-0004689

Project Name: 0013767 (SR 316) at Jimmy Daniel Road

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your request for information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for certain species of wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) as amended (16 USC 701-715), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) as amended (16 USC 668-668c). We are providing the following guidance to assist you in determining which federally imperiled species may or may not occur within your project area and to recommend some conservation measures that can be included in your project design if you determine those species or designated critical habitat may be affected by your proposed project.

### **FEDERALLY-LISTED SPECIES AND DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT**

Attached is a list of endangered, threatened, and proposed species that may occur in your project area. Your project area may not necessarily include all or any of these species. Under the ESA, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency, project proponent, or their designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with the Service further. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or project proponent, not the Service, to make "no effect" determinations. If you determine that your proposed action will have "no effect" on threatened or endangered species or their respective critical habitat, you do not need to seek concurrence with the Service. Nevertheless, it is a violation of Federal law to harm or harass any federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species without the appropriate permit. If you need additional information to assist in your effect determination, please contact the Service.

If you determine that your proposed action may affect federally listed species, please consult with the Service. Through the consultation process, we will analyze information contained in a biological assessment or equivalent document that you provide. If your proposed action is associated with Federal funding or permitting, consultation will occur with the Federal agency under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. Otherwise, an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (also known as a Habitat Conservation Plan) may be necessary to exempt harm or harass federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species. For more information regarding formal consultation and HCPs, please see the Service's [Section 7 Consultation Library](#) and [Habitat Conservation Plans Library](#) Collections.

**Action Area.** The scope of federally listed species compliance not only includes direct effects, but also any indirect effects of project activities (e.g., equipment staging areas, offsite borrow material areas, or utility relocations). The action area is the spatial extent of an action's direct and indirect modifications or impacts to the land, water, or air (50 CFR 402.02). Large projects may have effects to land, water, or air outside the immediate footprint of the project, and these areas should be included as part of the action area. Effects to land, water, or air outside of a project footprint could include things like lighting, dust, smoke, and noise. To obtain a complete list of species, the action area should be uploaded or drawn in IPaC rather than just the project footprint.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. An updated list may be requested through IPaC.

ESA Section 7 consultation (and related tools such as the EDGES and/or DKeys) apply to projects being permitted or funded by a Federal agency. However, please note that a lead federal agency may consider an action area that excludes portions of the project footprint. In these cases, further coordination with our office may be required to ensure compliance with the ESA. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to coordinate with the lead federal agency to understand the action and action area being reviewed as part of ESA Section 7 consultation.

**How to Submit a Project Review Package.** If you determine that your action may affect any federally listed species and would like technical assistance from our office, please send us a complete project review package. A step by step guide is available at the Georgia Ecological Services [Project Planning and Review](https://www.fws.gov/office/georgia-ecological-services/project-planning-review) page (<https://www.fws.gov/office/georgia-ecological-services/project-planning-review>).

Beginning April 1, 2023, requests for threatened and endangered species project reviews must be submitted to our office using the process described below. (If you are not emailing us to submit a project for review, your email will be forwarded to the appropriate staff.) This is a three-step process. All steps must be completed to ensure your project is reviewed by a biologist in our office and you receive a timely response. In brief the steps are:

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**Step 1.** Request an official species list for your project through IPaC (Done!)

**Step 2.** Complete applicable Determination Keys

**Step 3.** Send your complete project review package to **GAES\_Assistance@FWS.gov** for review if no DKey is applicable or all aspects of the project are not addressed by DKeys, i.e. a species returned by IPaC does not have a DKey to address impacts to it. A complete project review package should include:

1. A description of the proposed action, including any measures intended to avoid, minimize, or offset effects of the action. The description shall provide sufficient detail to assess the effects of the action on listed species and critical habitat, such as the purpose of the action; duration and timing of the action; location (latitude and longitude); specific activities involving disturbance to land, water, and air, and how they will be carried out; current description of areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the action; and maps, drawings, or similar schematics of the action.
2. An updated Official Species List and DKey results
3. Biological Assessments (may include habitat assessments and information on the presence of listed species in the action area);
4. Description of effects of the action on species in the action area and, if relevant, effect determinations for species and critical habitat;
5. Conservation measures and any other available information related to the nature and scope of the proposed action relevant to its effects on listed species or designated critical habitat (e.g., management plans related to stormwater, vegetation, erosion and sediment plans). Visit the [Georgia Conservation Planning Toolbox](https://www.fws.gov/story/conservation-tools-georgia) (<https://www.fws.gov/story/conservation-tools-georgia>) for information about conservation measures.
6. In the email subject line, use the following format to include the Project Code from your IPaC species list and the county in which the project is located (Example: Project Code: 2023-0049730 Gwinnett Co.). For Georgia Department of Transportation related projects, please work with the Office of Environmental Services ecologist to determine the appropriate USFWS transportation liaison.

The Georgia Ecological Services Field Office will send a response email within approximately 30 days of receipt with technical assistance or further recommendations for specific species.

## **WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS**

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value. We encourage you to use the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. The Service's [NWI program website](https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory) (<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>) integrates digital map data with other resource information. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for

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permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

## **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

The MBTA prohibits the taking of migratory birds, nests, and eggs, except as permitted by the Service's [Migratory Birds Program](https://fws.gov/program/migratory-birds) (<https://fws.gov/program/migratory-birds>). To minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to migratory birds, we recommend construction activities occur outside the general bird nesting season from March through August, or that areas proposed for construction during the nesting season be surveyed, and when occupied, avoided until the young have fledged.

We recommend review of Birds of Conservation Concern to fully evaluate the effects to the birds at your site. This list identifies birds that are potentially threatened by disturbance and construction. It can be found at the Service's [Migratory Birds Conservation Library Collection](https://fws.gov/library/collections/migratory-bird-conservation-documents) (<https://fws.gov/library/collections/migratory-bird-conservation-documents>).

Information related to best practices and migratory birds can be found at the Service's [Avoiding and Minimizing Incidental Take of Migratory Birds Library Collection](https://fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds) (<https://fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds>).

## **BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES**

The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was delisted under the ESA on August 9, 2007. Both the bald eagle and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) are still protected under the MBTA and BGEPA. The BGEPA affords both eagles protection in addition to that provided by the MBTA, in particular, by making it unlawful to “disturb” eagles. Under the BGEPA, the Service may issue limited permits to incidentally “take” eagles (e.g., injury, interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior nest abandonment). For information on bald and golden eagle management guidelines, we recommend you review information provided at the Service's [Bald and Golden Eagle Management Library Collection](https://fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management) (<https://fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management>).

## **NATIVE BATS**

If your species list includes Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) or northern long-eared bat (*M. septentrionalis*) and the project is expected to impact forested habitat that is appropriate for maternity colonies of these species, forest clearing should occur outside of the period when bats may be present. Federally listed bats could be actively present in forested landscapes from April 1 to October 15 of any year and have non-volant pups from May 15 to July 31 in any year. Non-volant pups are incapable of flight and are vulnerable to disturbance during that time.

Indiana, northern long-eared, and gray (*M. grisescens*) bats are all known to utilize bridges and culverts in Georgia. If your project includes maintenance, construction, or any other modification or demolition to transportation structures, a qualified individual should complete a survey of these structures for bats and submit your findings via the Georgia Bats in Bridges cell phone application, free on Apple and Android devices. Please include these findings in any biological

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assessment(s) or other documentation that is submitted to our office for technical assistance or consultation.

Additional information can be found at Georgia Ecological Services' [Conservation Planning Toolbox](#) and [Bat Conservation in Georgia](#) pages.

## **MONARCH BUTTERFLY**

On December 20, 2020, the Service determined that listing the Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) under the Endangered Species Act is warranted but precluded at this time by higher priority listing actions. With this finding, the monarch butterfly becomes a candidate for listing. The Service will review its status each year until we are able to begin developing a proposal to list the monarch.

As it is a candidate for listing, the Service welcomes conservation measures for this species. Recommended, and voluntary, conservation measures for projects in Georgia can be found at our [Monarch Conservation in Georgia](https://www.fws.gov/project/monarch-conservation-georgia) (<https://www.fws.gov/project/monarch-conservation-georgia>) page.

## **EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE**

Our office has published guidance documents to assist project proponents in avoiding and minimizing potential impact to the eastern indigo snake. The [Visual Encounter Survey Protocol for the Eastern Indigo Snake \(\*Drymarchon couperi\*\) in Georgia](#) is recommended for project proponents or their designees to evaluate the possible presence of the Eastern indigo snake at a proposed project site. The [Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake \(\*Drymarchon couperi\*\)](#) include educational materials and training that can help protect the species by making staff working on a project site aware of their presence and traits. In Georgia, indigo snakes are closely associated with the state-listed gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), a reptile that excavates extensive underground burrows that provide the snake shelter from winter cold and summer desiccation.

## **SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT**

The [Recommended Practices for the Responsible Siting and Design of Solar Development in Georgia](#) were published in September 2023 and are intended to provide voluntary guidance to support consideration of natural resources during the development of photovoltaic solar in Georgia. Furthermore, the Georgia Low Impact Solar Siting Tool (LISST) is available as a [web application](#) and as a map layer in IPaC (Find it in the “Layers” Box > “Environmental Data”) to provide project managers with the data to identify areas that may be preferred for low-impact development. The tool seeks to support the acceleration of large-scale solar development in areas with less impact to the environment.

## **STATE AGENCY COORDINATION**

Additional information that addresses at-risk or high priority natural resources can be found in the State Wildlife Action Plan (<https://georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeActionPlan>), at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division Biodiversity Portal (<https://georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern>), Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and

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Historic Resources GIS portal (<https://www.gnahrgis.org/gnahrgis/index.do>), and the [Georgia Ecological Services HUC10 Watershed Guidance](#) page.

Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species. We appreciate your efforts to identify and avoid impacts to listed and sensitive species in your project area. For further consultation on your proposed activity, please email [gaes\\_assistance@fws.gov](mailto:gaes_assistance@fws.gov) and reference the project county and your Service Project Tracking Number.

This letter constitutes Georgia Ecological Services' general comments under the authority of the Endangered Species Act.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- Bald & Golden Eagles
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

## OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Georgia Ecological Services Field Office**

355 East Hancock Avenue

Room 320

Athens, GA 30601-2523

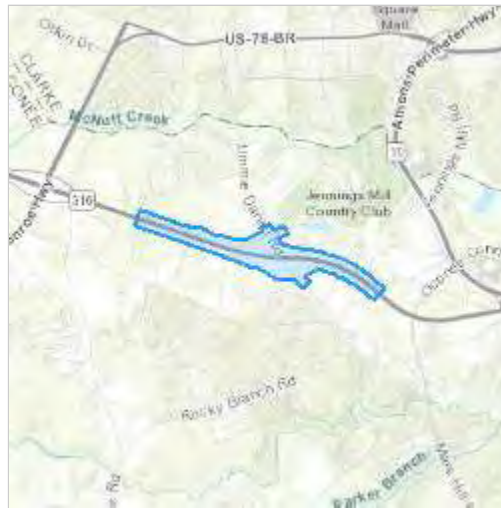
(706) 613-9493

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2023-0004689  
Project Name: 0013767 (SR 316) at Jimmy Daniel Road  
Project Type: Road/Hwy - New Construction  
Project Description: Proposed improvements to intersection of SR 316  
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@33.91755685,-83.482782943512,14z>



Counties: Oconee County, Georgia

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## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 1 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Candidate

## CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

## BALD & GOLDEN EAGLES

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>1</sup> and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats<sup>3</sup>, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

- 
1. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
  2. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
  3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)
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# Drawn Action Area & Overlapping S7 Consultation Areas

## Area of Interest (AOI) Information

Area : 2,009.02 acres

Apr 14 2023 11:42:19 Eastern Daylight Time



1:9,028  
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 mi  
0 0.1 0.2 0.4 km  
Esri Community Maps Contributors, © OpenStreetMap contributors, Esri, HERE, Garmin, Swatch, GeoTechnologies, Inc., METI/NASA, USGS

Summary

Name	Count	Area(acres)	Length(mi)
0013767_ESBrefined_7.27.21	1	194.16	N/A
Atlantic Sturgeon	0	0	N/A
Shortnose Sturgeon	0	0	N/A
Atlantic Salmon	0	0	N/A
Sea Turtles	0	0	N/A
Atlantic Large Whales	0	0	N/A
In or Near Critical Habitat	0	0	N/A

0013767\_ESBrefined\_7.27.21

#	FID	Id	Area(acres)
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## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Georgia Ecological Services Field Office  
355 East Hancock Avenue  
Room 320  
Athens, GA 30601-2523  
Phone: (706) 613-9493 Fax: (706) 613-6059



In Reply Refer To:  
Project Code: 2023-0076670  
Project Name: Oconee Connector

September 14, 2023

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your request for information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for certain species of wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) as amended (16 USC 701-715), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) as amended (16 USC 668-668c). We are providing the following guidance to assist you in determining which federally imperiled species may or may not occur within your project area and to recommend some conservation measures that can be included in your project design if you determine those species or designated critical habitat may be affected by your proposed project.

### **FEDERALLY-LISTED SPECIES AND DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT**

Attached is a list of endangered, threatened, and proposed species that may occur in your project area. Your project area may not necessarily include all or any of these species. Under the ESA, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency, project proponent, or their designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with the Service further. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or project proponent, not the Service, to make "no effect" determinations. If you determine that your proposed action will have "no effect" on threatened or endangered species or their respective critical habitat, you do not need to seek concurrence with the Service. Nevertheless, it is a violation of Federal law to harm or harass any federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species without the appropriate permit. If you need additional information to assist in your effect determination, please contact the Service.

If you determine that your proposed action may affect federally listed species, please consult with the Service. Through the consultation process, we will analyze information contained in a biological assessment or equivalent document that you provide. If your proposed action is associated with Federal funding or permitting, consultation will occur with the Federal agency under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. Otherwise, an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (also known as a Habitat Conservation Plan) may be necessary to exempt harm or harass federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species. For more information regarding formal consultation and HCPs, please see the Service's [Section 7 Consultation Library](#) and [Habitat Conservation Plans Library](#) Collections.

**Action Area.** The scope of federally listed species compliance not only includes direct effects, but also any indirect effects of project activities (e.g., equipment staging areas, offsite borrow material areas, or utility relocations). The action area is the spatial extent of an action's direct and indirect modifications or impacts to the land, water, or air (50 CFR 402.02). Large projects may have effects to land, water, or air outside the immediate footprint of the project, and these areas should be included as part of the action area. Effects to land, water, or air outside of a project footprint could include things like lighting, dust, smoke, and noise. To obtain a complete list of species, the action area should be uploaded or drawn in IPaC rather than just the project footprint.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. An updated list may be requested through IPaC.

ESA Section 7 consultation (and related tools such as the EDGES and/or DKeys) apply to projects being permitted or funded by a Federal agency. However, please note that a lead federal agency may consider an action area that excludes portions of the project footprint. In these cases, further coordination with our office may be required to ensure compliance with the ESA. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to coordinate with the lead federal agency to understand the action and action area being reviewed as part of ESA Section 7 consultation.

**How to Submit a Project Review Package.** If you determine that your action may affect any federally listed species and would like technical assistance from our office, please send us a complete project review package. A step by step guide is available at the Georgia Ecological Services [Project Planning and Review](https://www.fws.gov/office/georgia-ecological-services/project-planning-review) page (<https://www.fws.gov/office/georgia-ecological-services/project-planning-review>).

Beginning April 1, 2023, requests for threatened and endangered species project reviews must be submitted to our office using the process described below. (If you are not emailing us to submit a project for review, your email will be forwarded to the appropriate staff.) This is a three-step process. All steps must be completed to ensure your project is reviewed by a biologist in our office and you receive a timely response. In brief the steps are:

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**Step 1.** Request an official species list for your project through IPaC (Done!)

**Step 2.** Complete applicable Determination Keys

**Step 3.** Send your complete project review package to **GAES\_Assistance@FWS.gov** for review if no DKey is applicable or all aspects of the project are not addressed by DKeys, i.e. a species returned by IPaC does not have a DKey to address impacts to it. A complete project review package should include:

1. A description of the proposed action, including any measures intended to avoid, minimize, or offset effects of the action. The description shall provide sufficient detail to assess the effects of the action on listed species and critical habitat, such as the purpose of the action; duration and timing of the action; location (latitude and longitude); specific activities involving disturbance to land, water, and air, and how they will be carried out; current description of areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the action; and maps, drawings, or similar schematics of the action.
2. An updated Official Species List and DKey results
3. Biological Assessments (may include habitat assessments and information on the presence of listed species in the action area);
4. Description of effects of the action on species in the action area and, if relevant, effect determinations for species and critical habitat;
5. Conservation measures and any other available information related to the nature and scope of the proposed action relevant to its effects on listed species or designated critical habitat (e.g., management plans related to stormwater, vegetation, erosion and sediment plans). Visit the [Georgia Conservation Planning Toolbox](https://www.fws.gov/story/conservation-tools-georgia) (<https://www.fws.gov/story/conservation-tools-georgia>) for information about conservation measures.
6. In the email subject line, use the following format to include the Project Code from your IPaC species list and the county in which the project is located (Example: Project Code: 2023-0049730 Gwinnett Co.). For Georgia Department of Transportation related projects, please work with the Office of Environmental Services ecologist to determine the appropriate USFWS transportation liaison.

The Georgia Ecological Services Field Office will send a response email within approximately 30 days of receipt with technical assistance or further recommendations for specific species.

## **WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS**

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value. We encourage you to use the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. The Service's [NWI program website](https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory) (<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>) integrates digital map data with other resource information. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for

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permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

## **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

The MBTA prohibits the taking of migratory birds, nests, and eggs, except as permitted by the Service's [Migratory Birds Program](https://fws.gov/program/migratory-birds) (<https://fws.gov/program/migratory-birds>). To minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to migratory birds, we recommend construction activities occur outside the general bird nesting season from March through August, or that areas proposed for construction during the nesting season be surveyed, and when occupied, avoided until the young have fledged.

We recommend review of Birds of Conservation Concern to fully evaluate the effects to the birds at your site. This list identifies birds that are potentially threatened by disturbance and construction. It can be found at the Service's [Migratory Birds Conservation Library Collection](https://fws.gov/library/collections/migratory-bird-conservation-documents) (<https://fws.gov/library/collections/migratory-bird-conservation-documents>).

Information related to best practices and migratory birds can be found at the Service's [Avoiding and Minimizing Incidental Take of Migratory Birds Library Collection](https://fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds) (<https://fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds>).

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As it is a candidate for listing, the Service welcomes conservation measures for this species. Recommended, and voluntary, conservation measures for projects in Georgia can be found at our [Monarch Conservation in Georgia](https://www.fws.gov/project/monarch-conservation-georgia) (<https://www.fws.gov/project/monarch-conservation-georgia>) page.

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Our office has published guidance documents to assist project proponents in avoiding and minimizing potential impact to the eastern indigo snake. The [Visual Encounter Survey Protocol for the Eastern Indigo Snake \(\*Drymarchon couperi\*\) in Georgia](#) is recommended for project proponents or their designees to evaluate the possible presence of the Eastern indigo snake at a proposed project site. The [Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake \(\*Drymarchon couperi\*\)](#) include educational materials and training that can help protect the species by making staff working on a project site aware of their presence and traits. In Georgia, indigo snakes are closely associated with the state-listed gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), a reptile that excavates extensive underground burrows that provide the snake shelter from winter cold and summer desiccation.

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Additional information that addresses at-risk or high priority natural resources can be found in the State Wildlife Action Plan (<https://georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeActionPlan>), at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division Biodiversity Portal (<https://georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern>), Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS portal (<https://www.gnahrgis.org/gnahrgis/index.do>), and the [Georgia Ecological Services HUC10 Watershed Guidance](#) page.

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Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species. We appreciate your efforts to identify and avoid impacts to listed and sensitive species in your project area. For further consultation on your proposed activity, please email [gaes\\_assistance@fws.gov](mailto:gaes_assistance@fws.gov) and reference the project county and your Service Project Tracking Number.

This letter constitutes Georgia Ecological Services' general comments under the authority of the Endangered Species Act.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- Migratory Birds
- Wetlands

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This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Georgia Ecological Services Field Office**  
355 East Hancock Avenue  
Room 320  
Athens, GA 30601-2523  
(706) 613-9493

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2023-0076670

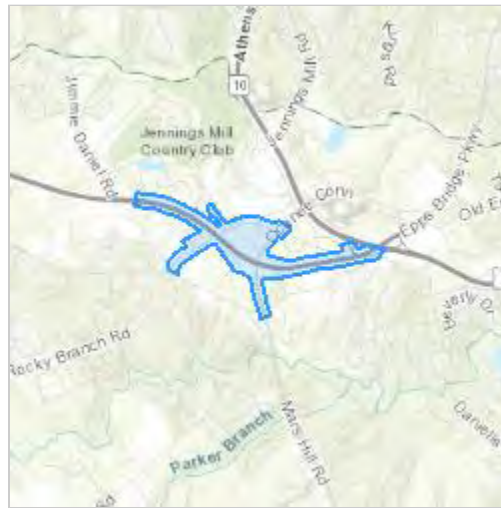
Project Name: Oconee Connector

Project Type: Road/Hwy - Maintenance/Modification

Project Description: interchange expansion

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@33.91184215,-83.45456901226702,14z>



Counties: Oconee County, Georgia

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## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 1 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Candidate

## CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

## MIGRATORY BIRDS

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>1</sup> and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act<sup>2</sup>.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described [below](#).

- 
1. The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
  2. The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.
  3. 50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)
-





MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

TED WILL  
DIRECTOR

August 24, 2023

Kevin Thomas  
Senior Ecologist  
Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.  
2700 Cumberland Parkway  
Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30339

Subject: Known occurrences of natural communities, plants and animals of highest priority conservation status on or near Oconee Connector (PI # 0013768 & 0013769) in: Oconee County, GA.

Dear Kevin Thomas:

This is in response to your request of August 24, 2023. Within a three-mile radius of the project site, there are the following Natural Heritage Database occurrences:

**Oconee Connector Point 1 (Site Center: -83.464566, 33.912804 , WGS84)**

GA *Cambarus howardi* (Chattahoochee Crayfish)

4.7 miles E of site in Unnamed Middle Oconee River Tributary

GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner) 2.1 miles NE of site in McNutt Creek

GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner) 0.4 miles S of site in Barber Creek

GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner) 4.7 miles SE of site in Calls Creek

GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner) 3.5 miles N of site in Middle Oconee River

GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner) 4.7 miles N of site in Turkey Creek

GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner) 5.8 miles NW of site in Bear Creek

*Micropterus* sp. 2 (Altamaha) (Altamaha Bass) 0.8 miles N of site in McNutt Creek

*Moxostoma* sp. 4 (Brassy Jumprock) 3.8 miles N of site in Middle Oconee River

*Bare rock/lichens, pd granite outcrop* (Granite Outcrop Rock/lichens)

1.1 miles E of site

*Bombus pensylvanicus* (American Bumblebee) 2.7 miles NE of site

*Carex hystericina* (Porcupine Sedge) [HISTORIC] 2.4 miles NE of site

*Hemidactylium scutatum* (Four-toed Salamander) 2.2 miles S of site

*Herbaceous veg., pd granite outcrop* (Granite Outcrop Herb Community)

1.1 miles E of site

*Lampropeltis rhombomaculata* (Mole Kingsnake) [HISTORIC] 2.8 miles NE of site  
GA *Nestronia umbellula* (Indian Olive) [HISTORIC] 0.4 miles NE of site  
*Perimyotis subflavus* (Tricolored Bat) 2.5 miles W of site  
*Shrub/scrub veg., pd granite outcrop* (Granite Outcrop Shrub/scrub Community)  
1.1 miles E of site  
Abbey West 2 miles NE of site  
Ben Burton Park 3 miles N of site  
Herman C. Michael Park 2.7 miles S of site  
Middle Oconee River Greenway 2.6 miles NE of site  
Odum 2.5 miles NE of site  
Timothy Rd. Elementary 1.6 miles N of site  
0307010103 Middle Oconee River 1  
(0307010103) [SWAP High Priority Watershed]

**Recommendations will be provided in completed letter.**

**Disclaimer:**

Please keep in mind the limitations of our database. The data collected by the Wildlife Conservation Section comes from a variety of sources, including museum and herbarium records, literature, and reports from individuals and organizations, as well as field surveys by our staff biologists. In most cases the information is not the result of a recent on-site survey by our staff. Many areas of Georgia have never been surveyed thoroughly. Therefore, the Nongame Conservation Section can only occasionally provide definitive information on the presence or absence of rare species on a given site. Our files are updated constantly as new information is received. **Thus, information provided by our program represents the existing data in our files at the time of the request and should not be considered a final statement on the species or area under consideration.**

If you know of populations of highest priority species that are not in our database, please fill out the appropriate data collection form and send it to our office. Forms can be obtained through our web site (<http://georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern#rare-locations>) or by contacting our office. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Anna Yellin, Wildlife Biologist, Environmental Reviews  
anna.yellin@dnr.ga.gov, (706) 557-3283

Maggie Hunt, Wildlife Biologist, Environmental Reviews  
maggie.hunt@dnr.ga.gov, (706) 557-3228

**Data Available on the Wildlife Conservation Section Website**

- Georgia protected plant and animal profiles are available on our website. These accounts cover basics like descriptions and life history, as well as threats, management recommendations and conservation status. Visit <http://georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern#rare-locations>.
- Rare species and natural community information can be viewed by Quarter Quad, County and HUC8 Watershed. To access this information, please visit our GA Rare

Species and Natural Community Information page at: <http://georgiabiodiversity.org/>

- Downloadable files of rare species and natural community data by quarter quad and county are also available. They can be downloaded from:  
<http://georgiabiodiversity.org/natels/natural-element-locations>.

DRAFT

### Area of Interest (AOI) Information

Area : 7.81 mi<sup>2</sup>

May 2 2023 14:40:50 Eastern Daylight Time



DISCLAIMER: Use of this App does NOT replace the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation process; it is a first step in determining if a proposed Federal action overlaps with listed species or critical habitat presence. Because the data provided through this App are updated regularly, reporting results must include the date they were generated. The report outputs (map/tables) depend on the options picked by the user, including the shape and size of the action area drawn, the layers marked as visible or selectable, and the buffer distance specified when using the "Draw your Action Area" function. Area calculations represent the size of overlap between the user-drawn Area of Interest (with buffer) and the specified S7 Consultation Area. Summary table areas represent the sum of these overlapping areas for each species group.





## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Georgia Ecological Services Field Office  
355 East Hancock Avenue  
Room 320  
Athens, GA 30601-2523  
Phone: (706) 613-9493 Fax: (706) 613-6059



In Reply Refer To:  
Project Code: 2023-0076670  
Project Name: Oconee Connector

May 02, 2023

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your request for information on federally listed species and important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has responsibility for certain species of wildlife under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) as amended (16 USC 701-715), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) as amended (16 USC 668-668c). We are providing the following guidance to assist you in determining which federally imperiled species may or may not occur within your project area and to recommend some conservation measures that can be included in your project design if you determine those species or designated critical habitat may be affected by your proposed project.

### **FEDERALLY-LISTED SPECIES AND DESIGNATED CRITICAL HABITAT**

Attached is a list of endangered, threatened, and proposed species that may occur in your project area. Your project area may not necessarily include all or any of these species. Under the ESA, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency, project proponent, or their designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with the Service further. Similarly, it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or project proponent, not the Service, to make "no effect" determinations. If you determine that your proposed action will have "no effect" on threatened or endangered species or their respective critical habitat, you do not need to seek concurrence with the Service. Nevertheless, it is a violation of Federal law to harm or harass any federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species without the appropriate permit. If you need additional information to assist in your effect determination, please contact the Service.

If you determine that your proposed action may affect federally listed species, please consult with the Service. Through the consultation process, we will analyze information contained in a biological assessment or equivalent document that you provide. If your proposed action is associated with Federal funding or permitting, consultation will occur with the Federal agency under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. Otherwise, an incidental take permit pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA (also known as a Habitat Conservation Plan) may be necessary to exempt harm or harass federally listed threatened or endangered fish or wildlife species. For more information regarding formal consultation and HCPs, please see the Service's [Section 7 Consultation Library](#) and [Habitat Conservation Plans Library](#) Collections.

**Action Area.** The scope of federally listed species compliance not only includes direct effects, but also any indirect effects of project activities (e.g., equipment staging areas, offsite borrow material areas, or utility relocations). The action area is the spatial extent of an action's direct and indirect modifications or impacts to the land, water, or air (50 CFR 402.02). Large projects may have effects to land, water, or air outside the immediate footprint of the project, and these areas should be included as part of the action area. Effects to land, water, or air outside of a project footprint could include things like lighting, dust, smoke, and noise. To obtain a complete list of species, the action area should be uploaded or drawn in IPaC rather than just the project footprint.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. An updated list may be requested through IPaC.

**Project Planning and Review.** If you determine that your action may affect any federally listed species and would like technical assistance from our office, please send us a complete project review package. A step by step guide is available at the Georgia Ecological Services [Project Planning and Review](https://www.fws.gov/office/georgia-ecological-services/project-planning-review) page (<https://www.fws.gov/office/georgia-ecological-services/project-planning-review>). A complete project review package should include:

1. A description of the proposed action, including any measures intended to avoid, minimize, or offset effects of the action. Consistent with the nature and scope of the proposed action, the description shall provide sufficient detail to assess the effects of the action on listed species and critical habitat, including:
    - The purpose of the action;
    - The duration and timing of the action;
    - The location of the action;
    - The specific components of the action and how they will be carried out;
    - Description of areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the action;
-

- Maps, drawings, blueprints, or similar schematics of the action
- 2. An updated Official Species List
- 3. Biological Assessments (may include habitat assessments and information on the presence of listed species in the action area);
- 4. Description of effects of the action on species in the action area and, if relevant, effect determinations for species and critical habitat;
- 5. Conservation measures and any other available information related to the nature and scope of the proposed action relevant to its effects on listed species or designated critical habitat (e.g., management plans related to stormwater, vegetation, erosion and sediment plans). Visit the [Georgia Planning and Consultation Tools](https://www.fws.gov/story/planning-and-consultation-tools-georgia) (<https://www.fws.gov/story/planning-and-consultation-tools-georgia>) for guidance.

**Please submit all consultation documents via email to [gaes\\_assistance@fws.gov](mailto:gaes_assistance@fws.gov)** or by using IPaC, uploaded documents, and sharing the project with a specific Georgia Ecological Services staff member. If the project is on-going, documents can also be sent to the Georgia Ecological Services staff member currently working with you on your project. For Georgia Department of Transportation related projects, please work with the Office of Environmental Services ecologist to determine the appropriate USFWS transportation liaison.

## **WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS**

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure that there would be no net loss of wetlands function and value. We encourage you to use the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps in conjunction with ground-truthing to identify wetlands occurring in your project area. The Service's [NWI program website](https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory) (<https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory>) integrates digital map data with other resource information. We also recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands.

## **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

The MBTA prohibits the taking of migratory birds, nests, and eggs, except as permitted by the Service's [Migratory Birds Program](https://fws.gov/program/migratory-birds) (<https://fws.gov/program/migratory-birds>). To minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to migratory birds, we recommend construction activities occur outside the general bird nesting season from March through August, or that areas proposed for construction during the nesting season be surveyed, and when occupied, avoided until the young have fledged.

We recommend review of Birds of Conservation Concern to fully evaluate the effects to the birds at your site. This list identifies birds that are potentially threatened by disturbance and construction. It can be found at the Service's [Migratory Birds Conservation Library Collection](https://fws.gov/library/collections/migratory-bird-conservation-documents) (<https://fws.gov/library/collections/migratory-bird-conservation-documents>).

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Information related to best practices and migratory birds can be found at the Service's [Avoiding and Minimizing Incidental Take of Migratory Birds Library Collection](https://fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds) (https://fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incident-take-migratory-birds).

## **BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLES**

The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was delisted under the ESA on August 9, 2007. Both the bald eagle and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) are still protected under the MBTA and BGEPA. The BGEPA affords both eagles protection in addition to that provided by the MBTA, in particular, by making it unlawful to “disturb” eagles. Under the BGEPA, the Service may issue limited permits to incidentally “take” eagles (e.g., injury, interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior nest abandonment). For information on bald and golden eagle management guidelines, we recommend you review information provided at the Service's [Bald and Golden Eagle Management Library Collection](https://fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management) (https://fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management).

## **NATIVE BATS**

If your species list includes Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) or northern long-eared bat (*M. septentrionalis*) and the project is expected to impact forested habitat that is appropriate for maternity colonies of these species, forest clearing should occur outside of the period when bats may be present. Federally listed bats could be actively present in forested landscapes from April 1 to October 15 of any year and have non-volant pups from May 15 to July 31 in any year. Non-volant pups are incapable of flight and are vulnerable to disturbance during that time.

Indiana, northern long-eared, and gray (*M. grisescens*) bats are all known to utilize bridges and culverts in Georgia. If your project includes maintenance, construction, or any other modification or demolition to transportation structures, a qualified individual should complete a survey of these structures for bats and submit your findings via the Georgia Bats in Bridges cell phone application, free on Apple and Android devices. Please include these findings in any biological assessment(s) or other documentation that is submitted to our office for technical assistance or consultation.

Additional information can be found at Georgia Ecological Services' [Planning and Consultations Tools](#) and [Bat Conservation in Georgia](#) pages.

## **MONARCH BUTTERFLY**

On December 20, 2020, the Service determined that listing the Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) under the Endangered Species Act is warranted but precluded at this time by higher priority listing actions. With this finding, the monarch butterfly becomes a candidate for listing. The Service will review its status each year until we are able to begin developing a proposal to list the monarch.

As it is a candidate for listing, the Service welcomes conservation measures for this species. Recommended, and voluntary, conservation measures for projects in Georgia can be found at our [Monarch Conservation in Georgia](https://www.fws.gov/project/monarch-conservation-georgia) (https://www.fws.gov/project/monarch-conservation-georgia) page.

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## **EASTERN INDIGO SNAKE**

The [Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake](#) (*Drymarchon couperi*) include educational materials and training that can help protect the species by making staff working on a project site aware of their presence and traits. In Georgia, indigo snakes are closely associated with the state-listed gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), a reptile that excavates extensive underground burrows that provide the snake shelter from winter cold and summer desiccation.

## **SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT**

The Georgia Low Impact Solar Siting Tool (LISST) is available as a map layer in IPaC (Find it in the “Layers” Box > “Environmental Data”) and as a [web application](#) to provide project managers with the data to identify areas that may be preferred for low impact development. The tool seeks to support the acceleration of large-scale solar development in areas with less impact to the environment.

## **STATE AGENCY COORDINATION**

Additional information that addresses at-risk or high priority natural resources can be found in the State Wildlife Action Plan (<https://georgiawildlife.com/WildlifeActionPlan>), at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division Biodiversity Portal (<https://georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern>), Georgia's Natural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources GIS portal (<https://www.gnahrgis.org/gnahrgis/index.do>), and the [Georgia Ecological Services HUC10 Watershed Guidance](#) page.

Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species. We appreciate your efforts to identify and avoid impacts to listed and sensitive species in your project area. For further consultation on your proposed activity, please email [gaes\\_assistance@fws.gov](mailto:gaes_assistance@fws.gov) and reference the project county and your Service Project Tracking Number.

This letter constitutes Georgia Ecological Services’ general comments under the authority of the Endangered Species Act.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
  - Migratory Birds
  - Wetlands
-



## OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**Georgia Ecological Services Field Office**

355 East Hancock Avenue

Room 320

Athens, GA 30601-2523

(706) 613-9493

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2023-0076670

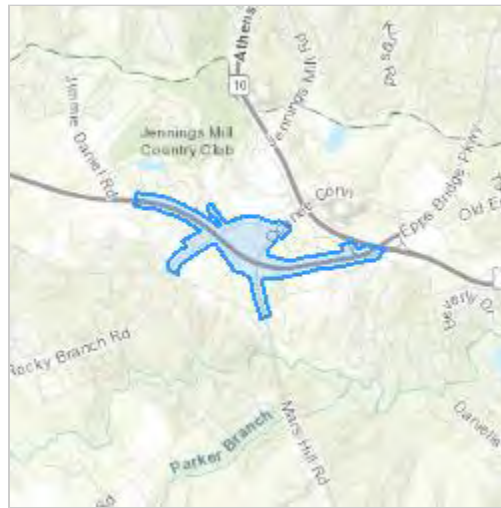
Project Name: Oconee Connector

Project Type: Road/Hwy - Maintenance/Modification

Project Description: interchange expansion

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@33.91184215,-83.45456901226702,14z>



Counties: Oconee County, Georgia

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 1 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

## INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Candidate

## CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

---



MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

TED WILL  
DIRECTOR

December 14, 2022

Iris Avila  
Senior Scientist I  
Atkins  
1600 RiverEdge Drive  
700  
Atlanta, GA 30328

**Subject: Known occurrences of natural communities, plants and animals of highest priority conservation status on or near PI 0013767 Jimmy Daniel Road at SR 316 in Oconee County, GA.**

Dear Iris Avila:

This is in response to your request of October 14, 2022. The following Georgia natural heritage database element occurrences (EOs) were selected for the current site using the local HUC10 watershed for elements whose range distribution is limited by aquatic systems and within 3 miles for all other EOs:

**Jimmy Daniel Road at SR 316 Point 1 (Site Center: -83.484202, 33.917770 , WGS84)**

- GA *Cambarus howardi* (Chattahoochee Crayfish)  
5.2 miles E of site in Unnamed Middle Oconee River Tributary
- GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner) 0.8 miles S of site in Barber Creek
- GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner) 3.8 miles NE of site in Turkey Creek
- GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner) 5.1 miles SE of site in Calls Creek
- GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner) 3.9 miles E of site in McNutt Creek
- GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner) 2.9 miles NE of site in Middle Oconee River
- Micropterus sp. 2 (Altamaha)* (Altamaha Bass) 1.1 miles NE of site in McNutt Creek
- Moxostoma sp. 4* (Brassy Jumprock) 3.5 miles NE of site in Middle Oconee River
- Bare rock/lichens, pd granite outcrop* (Granite Outcrop Rock/lichens) 2.3 miles E of site
- Bombus pensylvanicus* (American Bumblebee) [HISTORIC] 2.7 miles NW of site
- Herbaceous veg., pd granite outcrop* (Granite Outcrop Herb Community) 2.3 miles E of site
- GA *Nestronia umbellula* (Indian Olive) [HISTORIC] 1.2 miles NE of site
- Perimyotis subflavus* (Tri-colored Bat) 1.3 miles W of site
- Shrub/scrub veg., pd granite outcrop* (Granite Outcrop Shrub/scrub Community) 2.3 miles E of site
- Abbey West 2.7 miles NE of site
- Bogart Sports Complex 2.2 miles NW of site

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SECTION  
2065 U.S. HIGHWAY 278 S.E. | SOCIAL CIRCLE, GEORGIA 30025-4743  
706.557.3213 | FAX 706.557.3033 | WWW.GEORGIAWILDLIFE.COM

Timothy Rd. Elementary 2.1 miles NE of site  
0307010103 Middle Oconee River 1 (0307010103) [SWAP High Priority Watershed]

### **Recommendations:**

Please be aware that state-protected species are documented within three miles of the proposed project. For information about these species, including survey recommendations, please visit our webpage at [www.georgiabiodiversity.org](http://www.georgiabiodiversity.org). Surveys for species of federal or state conservation concern should be conducted prior to commencement of construction.

If the applicant is willing to assume presence and implement provisions to protect state listed aquatic species identified during this review, it may not be necessary to complete any additional surveys for aquatic species. Please refer to the Aquatic Survey Determination Protocol for State Listed Species in determining whether surveys are recommended.

Although this document was prepared for use on GDOT projects, it may be applicable to other projects, as well. For any additional questions about state-listed fishes, mussels, crayfishes, snails, or aquatic insects, please contact Brett

Albanese [Brett.Albanese@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Brett.Albanese@dnr.ga.gov) for projects in the Tennessee Drainage. Please contact Paula Marcinek [Paula.Marcinek@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Paula.Marcinek@dnr.ga.gov) for projects in the Atlantic Slope Drainages (Savannah, Ogeechee, Altamaha (including Oconee and Ocmulgee), Satilla, and St. Mary's). Please contact Ani Popp [Anakela.Popp@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Anakela.Popp@dnr.ga.gov) for projects in the Coosa Drainage and Tallapoosa. Please contact Matt Rowe [Matthew.Rowe@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Matthew.Rowe@dnr.ga.gov) for projects in the Gulf Slope Drainages (Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint, Aucilla, Ochlocknee, and Suwanee).

This project occurs within a high priority watershed. As part of Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan, high priority watersheds were identified to protect the best-known populations of high priority aquatic species, important coastal habitats, and migratory corridors for anadromous species. Please refer to Appendix F of Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan to find out more specific information about this high priority watershed:

<https://georgiawildlife.com/wildlifeactionplan>.

We are concerned about streams and other habitats that could be impacted by the proposed roadway project. We recommend that stringent erosion control practices be used during construction activities and that vegetation is re-established on disturbed areas as quickly as possible. Silt fences and other erosion control devices should be inspected and maintained until vegetation stabilizes soil. Please use natural vegetation and grading techniques (e.g. vegetated swales, turn-offs, vegetated buffer strips) to ensure that the road or right-of-way does not serve as a conduit for stormwater or pollutants into the watershed during or after construction. These measures will help protect water quality near the project as well as in downstream areas.

### **Disclaimer:**

Please keep in mind the limitations of our database. The data collected by the Wildlife Conservation Section comes from a variety of sources, including museum and herbarium records, literature, and reports from individuals and organizations, as well as field surveys by our staff biologists. In most cases the information is not the result of a recent on-site survey by our staff. Many areas of Georgia have never been surveyed thoroughly. Therefore, the



Wildlife Conservation Section can only occasionally provide definitive information on the presence or absence of rare species on a given site. Our files are updated constantly as new information is received. Thus, information provided by our program represents the existing data in our files at the time of the request and should not be considered a final statement on the species or area under consideration.

If you know of populations of highest priority species that are not in our database, please fill out the appropriate data collection form and send it to our office. Forms can be obtained through our web site <https://georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern#providing> or by contacting our office.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Anna Yellin  
Wildlife Biologist II

#### **Data Available on the Wildlife Conservation Section Website**

- Georgia protected plant and animal profiles are available on our website. These accounts cover basics like descriptions and life history, as well as threats, management recommendations and conservation status. Visit [www.georgiabiodiversity.org](http://www.georgiabiodiversity.org).
- Rare species and natural community information can be viewed by Quarter Quad, County and HUC8 Watershed. To access this information, please visit our GA Rare Species and Natural Community Data Portal at: <http://georgiabiodiversity.org/>



**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

July 8, 2021

Don Imm, PhD, Georgia Field Supervisor  
US Fish & Wildlife Service, Georgia Ecological Services  
RG Stephens Jr. Federal Building  
355 East Hancock Avenue, Room 320  
Athens, GA 30601  
ATTN: Peter Maholland

Moises Marrero, Georgia Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Suite 17T100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3104  
ATTN: Aaron Hernandez

Re: Action Request: Technical Assistance  
GDOT Project, PI No. 0013769, Oconee County

Dear Dr. Imm and Mr. Marrero,

Please find attached the Ecology Resource Survey Report for the above referenced project. The proposed project, PI No. 0013769, will reconstruct the SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector intersection 3 miles west of Athens in Oconee County. As the Federal Highway Administration's designated non-federal representative, the Department provides the attached report containing details on findings related to ecological resources.

This report is being provided for your information and files. If applicable, please provide technical assistance regarding the defined action area and project-specific recommendations for any species that may be affected by the project. Please copy the Lead Federal Agency, GDOT Ecologist, and GDOT Environmental Analyst assigned to the project on your response or any other correspondence. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact GDOT Senior Ecologist Bradley Daugherty (404) 631-1597 (bdaugherty@dot.ga.gov) or GDOT Ecology Team Leader Matt Carroll (mcarroll@dot.ga.gov) (404) 631-1174.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Duff /mc".

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

Mr. Moises Marrero, P.E.  
PI No. 0013769, Oconee County  
July 8, 2021

ED/MC/krt

Enclosure:

Cc: Achor Njoku, GDOT PM –  
([anjoku@dot.ga.gov](mailto:anjoku@dot.ga.gov))  
Daryl Williams, GDOT ECB  
Eric Somerville, EPA  
Anna Yellin, GADNR  
Lisa Westberry, GDOT Mitigation

Rachael Rosenstein, GDOT  
Environmental Analyst  
([rrosenstein@dot.ga.gov](mailto:rrosenstein@dot.ga.gov))  
EPD-GDOT Inbox  
([EPD.gdot@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:EPD.gdot@dnr.ga.gov))  
Kevin Thomas, EPEI  
([kthomas@edwards-pitman.com](mailto:kthomas@edwards-pitman.com))

# Georgia Ecological Services U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## HUC 10 Watershed Report



0307010103

Lower Middle Oconee River

**HUC 8 Watershed: Upper Oconee**

### Counties:

Barrow, Clarke, Jackson, Oconee

### Major Waterbodies (in GA):

Middle Oconee River, Barber Creek, McNutt Creek, Beech Creek, Bear Creek

### Federal Listed Species:

(historic, known occurrence, or likely to occur in the watershed)

E - Endangered, T - Threatened, C - Candidate, CCA - Candidate Conservation species, PE - Proposed Endangered, PT - Proposed Threatened, Pet - Petitioned, R - Rare, U - Uncommon, SC - Species of Concern.

Rusty Patched Bumblebee (*Bombus affinis*) US: E; GA: E

Historic Occurrence; No habitat assessment is required, this species is currently considered extirpated from Georgia.

Black Spored Quillwort (*Isoetes melanospora*) US: E; GA: E

Potential Range (geology); Please consult with GDNR for survey efforts.

### Federal Candidate, Candidate Conservation, or Petitioned Species:

(likely or known to occur in the watershed)

Georgia Aster (*Symphyotrichum georgianum*) US: CCA; GA: T

Potential Range (county); Survey period: flowering early Sep - early Nov. Use of a nearby reference site to more accurately determine local flowering period is recommended.

### State Listed or Other At-risk Species:

(likely or known to occur in the watershed)

Altamaha Shiner (*Cyprinella xaenura*) GA: T

Occurrence; Please consult with GDNR for survey efforts.

Indian Olive (*Nestronia umbellula*) GA: R

Occurrence; Please consult with GDNR for survey efforts.

Ovate Catchfly (*Silene ovata*) GA: R

Occurrence; Please consult with GDNR for survey efforts.



# Georgia Ecological Services U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## HUC 10 Watershed Report



*Any of the above species may occur in suitable habitat in this HUC 10 watershed. Survey dates are provided for reference only. Please coordinate with your lead federal agency, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, or USFWS to determine if surveys will help assess project impacts to species of concern.*

### **Watershed Specific Concerns:**

There are federally listed terrestrial species, but no federally listed aquatic/wetland species that occur or could occur in this watershed. If the project contains suitable habitat for listed species, please contact your lead federal agency to determine the appropriate next step for those species to inform their NEPA and ESA decisions. Coordination with Georgia Department of Natural Resources may also be helpful in those decisions.

**Granite Outcrops:** The geology in this watershed is favorable for granite outcrops harboring federally listed plants within this watershed. Listed granite outcrop species typically occur on exposed areas of granite or granitic-gneiss that have full sun exposure in the Piedmont physiographic province. All of these species occur in isolated "solution pits" (pools) that contain a thin layer of soil and will hold water in the spring when blooming and seeds are developed for Little Amphianthus and in the mid-summer storms for the spore-producing quillworts. During dry periods of the year, these pools will be completely dry with little to no plant life visible.

**Georgia Aster:** This watershed is within the range of candidate conservation species Georgia Aster. Georgia Aster can be found in open forests or forest edges and right-of-ways. Use of prescribed fire or mowing in winter or early spring to create or maintain sunny openings, avoiding the use of herbicides, and avoiding clear-cutting and soil disturbance can help protect areas where this species occurs.

**Priority Watershed:** This watershed has been identified as a moderately significant high priority watershed for aquatic species. This indicates that the watershed contains important populations of high priority aquatic species or is an important watershed for aquatic organisms. For more information, please see the following fact sheet:

[https://www.fws.gov/athens/transportation/pdfs/SWAP\\_Priority\\_Watershed\\_fact\\_sheet\\_2017.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/athens/transportation/pdfs/SWAP_Priority_Watershed_fact_sheet_2017.pdf)

### **Species and Habitat Concerns**

**Bridges / Culverts / Structures:** Bridges, culverts, and structures (barns, buildings, etc.) can be used by migratory bird species for nesting and roosting and by federally listed and sensitive bat species for roosting. To comply with the national programmatic agreement between FHWA, FRA, and FWS and to assess risk and potential impacts to species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.), or state protected bat species, inspections of all bridges, culverts, and structures will help determine if there is evidence of roosting bats. If an inspection is conducted, please use the "Georgia Bats in Bridges" phone app to submit the data online to GA and provide a copy of the datasheet with any report to the lead federal agency. The app may be downloaded for free for iPhone (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/georgia-bats-in-bridges/id1376788714>) or Android phones. If you are unable to utilize the app, a digital version of the datasheet is available at <https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/#YVhJ>. Please follow any previous coordination with the Service and/or Georgia Department of Natural Resources related to activities that may impact roosting bats or nesting migratory birds.

**Erosion Control Netting:** Monofilament or plastic mesh commonly used for slope stabilization can ensnare snakes and other wildlife, including listed species. The use of alternative natural fibers (e.g., coir, jute, or wood fiber) and moveable mesh strands can reduce impacts to wildlife.

### **Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and additional Endangered Species Act Considerations**

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their water-related actions (that modify or control natural streams or waterbodies) on fish and wildlife resources. Many of the following recommendations are also specific to endangered or threatened aquatic species protected under the Endangered Species Act. The following may be applicable to proposed project actions.

#### **Riparian Buffer, Streambank, and Stream Channel Protection**

Minimize disturbance to stream banks and riparian areas during project work. Do not operate equipment in the stream channel or ford the channel during work. Service recommendations for riparian buffer protection are consistent with those of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District requiring maintenance of a 50 ft. undisturbed buffer and an additional 25 ft. impervious setback on all streams. Any staging areas, the storage of materials and equipment, borrow pits, or waste sites should not occur in buffer areas or other environmentally



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## HUC 10 Watershed Report



sensitive areas. Additionally, when impacts to streambanks and/or stream channel occur, the Service recommends a biotechnical approach to streambank and channel stabilization and restoration where feasible. The use of hard armoring of streambanks or channels should be minimized except where necessary for safety or the protection of structures or property.

### Wetland Protection

Wetland losses diminish important wetland values including: the provision of habitat which wetland and terrestrial fauna need for reproduction and/or survival, the storage of storm and flood waters with resultant moderation of flow extremes to receiving waters, and the natural filtration processes that enhance water quality. Wetlands along riparian corridors can provide important connectivity for wildlife movement at the landscape-level. Bridge or culvert construction associated with wetland impacts can alter stream hydrology, degrade water quality, create fish passage barriers, and result in the loss of stream bottom habitat. Measures to avoid and reduce impacts to wetlands and wetland hydrology should be considered during project design.

### Water Quality Protection

The Service recommends use of erosion control practices, post construction stormwater management, and other best management practices to protect water quality. The Service's recommendations can be found below.

Erosion and Sedimentation Sedimentation from construction sites is regulated through Georgia's Erosion and Sedimentation Act, which in most cases is administered by local jurisdictions that have been delegated enforcement authority. We recommend all projects ensure compliance with the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act and encourage consistent communication with the local issuing authority or Georgia Environmental Protection Division both in the design phase and during construction.

Stormwater Post construction stormwater management recommendations are consistent with performance standards for Water Quality protection (WQv) and Channel Protection (CPv) found in the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual, otherwise known as the Blue Book (<https://atlantaregional.org/georgia-stormwater-management-manual/>). The Service recommends both the Water Quality and Channel Protection performance standards be met on all projects when applicable under the Blue Book, to minimize impacts to water quality associated with stormwater runoff. For projects that drain to streams or wetlands with federally protected species, we would recommend that additional water quality protection be provided through implementation of the Runoff Reduction performance standard, also found in the Blue Book.

Other Protections For all project types, the Service recommends equipment storage, equipment maintenance, supply storage, and use of pesticides, herbicides, and/or other chemicals not occur within the 100-year floodplain or 200 feet from the stream banks or wetland edge, whichever is greater. All storage and maintenance areas should be protected with secondary containment. Material utilized in, or adjacent to aquatic resources for temporary fill, permanent fill, or bank protection shall consist of suitable material, free from toxic contaminants in other than trace quantities. Materials that contain toxic contaminants, such as used asphalt, pressure treated lumber, and uncured concrete, should not be used because it can alter water quality causing mortality in aquatic organisms and can be harmful to public health. For projects authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, please ensure that all permit conditions are followed.

### Road Stream Crossings (Bridges, Culverts)

Many road stream crossings, especially where pipe culverts are used, limit aquatic organism passage upstream and downstream, leading to fragmentation of aquatic populations. The construction, repair, and replacement of stream crossings can also increase turbidity and sedimentation downstream of road crossings leading to degradation of aquatic habitat. The Service recommends designs that provide habitat continuity through the crossing by maintaining or recreating natural stream reach geomorphic elements including slope, channel width, bed material, and bedform.

Bridges and arch spans are the preferred option for stream crossings from an aquatic habitat continuity perspective. However, when spanning the stream is prohibitively expensive, use of culverts at stream crossings must be designed and implemented in a way that ensures the structures do not become barriers to aquatic organism passage. Making culverts suitable for aquatic organism passage requires preventing excessive water velocities in culverts at base flow conditions, preventing drops resulting from scour in and around the culvert, and providing adequate depth in the culvert at base flows.

The Service recommends following the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District Regional Conditions for Nationwide Permits when designing culverts. The Regional Conditions contain specific guidelines for designing and constructing culverts to promote the safe passage of fish and other aquatic organisms.

Additional information about regional conditions can be found at the following web address:

# Georgia Ecological Services U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## HUC 10 Watershed Report



<http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting/General-Permits/Regional-General-Permits/>

For culvert replacements or extensions involving less than 100 feet of all stream impacts in total, FWCA coordination is not required where no federally listed aquatic species occur. When modifying the design of a culvert that was previously consulted on under FWCA (but excluding those previously exempt from past coordination), new consultation would not be required unless stream impacts have been increased by more than 10% or 50 feet (whichever is less), or the change results in modifications to the morphology or flow of the waterbody.

When bridges or arch spans are the chosen construction method, the Service recommends minimizing the number of in-stream piles or structures and aligning them with the natural stream flow. Additionally, the use of bridge scuppers that directly discharge stormwater to streams should be minimized, except where necessary for safety. For bridge construction activities that require the use of temporary in-stream construction access (e.g., jetties, work bridges, barges, etc.), the Service recommends performing all work in a manner that does not inhibit aquatic organism passage, including minimizing river constriction. For situations where river constriction is greater than 25% of the cross sectional area of the critical flow, we would recommend a flow analysis to evaluate water velocity alterations and development of a contingency plan in the event channel scour, bank erosion, or undesirable conditions occur. Upon completion of activities, temporary fills should be entirely removed and the site restored to pre-existing elevation. Equipment should not be stored on any in-stream structure to reduce equipment loss if flows exceed the height of the in-stream structure and reduce contamination from pollutant leakage during off-use times.

Direct all stormwater runoff from road approaches toward floodplains, letting the runoff discharge as sheet flow across the floodplain or into stormwater management structures. When road approaches are composed of unpaved surfaces, consider paving the road approaches to improve the water quality of stormwater runoff around stream crossing locations. If spread footers, containment structures, or other structures require the use of dry or poured concrete, flowable fill, or similar materials and are elected for use in the construction within any waterway, such methods shall be constructed using cofferdams or similar containment structures. If uncured, dry or wet concrete will be used, the water used for curing shall not be allowed into the waterways. The use of uncured concrete in a waterway can raise the pH of the surrounding water causing mortality in aquatic organisms and potential public health concerns.

The Service also recommends incorporating measures to provide connectivity and reduce mortality to terrestrial wildlife species during project design. Opportunities for terrestrial species to cross under road crossings at stream crossing locations exist both within the banks of the stream along constructed benches, as well as, in the floodplain when additional structures are used to pass flood flows.

**Utility Stream Crossings** Construction, relocation, and maintenance of powerlines and other utilities can disturb aquatic systems and affect fish and other populations. To minimize impacts from these activities, use best management practices to control stormwater runoff from the project area during construction. Direct runoff via sheetflow to vegetated areas or stormwater treatment basins and utilize rolling dips or water bars to divert water from the utility right-of-way (ROW) into vegetated areas on slopes to minimize erosion.

**Underground Utilities** Directional boring is preferred when a utility line must be installed across a perennial stream that supports federally protected aquatic species. Bore pits should be located as far away from the stream channel as possible.

Dry open trench pipe installation using isolation crossing diversions, such as coffer dams, are preferred for all other perennial stream crossings. The diversions should not dewater downstream reaches or create excessive water velocity that could scour downstream reaches. Wet open trench construction should be avoided in all perennial streams unless no other method is feasible, or if it can be shown that alternative methods would cause greater sedimentation and environmental harm. For both wet and dry open trench installation, stream banks and channels should be restored to their original contours and the banks stabilized with native vegetation (except in areas where permanent road crossings are to be maintained). In-channel stream restoration techniques should be considered to stabilize the channel elevation and protect buried utility lines. In-channel restoration techniques can also effectively prevent downstream scour or upstream head cutting which can result from open trenching.

Wet open trench installation should not be conducted during the sensitive reproductive periods of federally-listed aquatic species, when eggs and newly-hatched larvae are most likely to be buried or harmed by increased turbidity and sedimentation. Only directional boring or isolation crossing methods should be used during these times of year. Please consult the Service for timing of sensitive reproductive periods for aquatic species in this watershed.

**Aerial Utilities** Maintain a 100-foot undisturbed riparian buffer within the powerline's ROW on both sides of all streams with endangered or threatened aquatic species. No crossings, either temporary or permanent, via culverts, fords, or other methods should be constructed and all access roads should end at the buffer's edge farthest from the

# Georgia Ecological Services U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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streambank. The buffer, where possible, should be retained in or planted with native vegetation of at least shrub size.

Within the powerline's ROW, maintain a 50-foot riparian buffer on both sides of other perennial and intermittent streams that will be crossed. Some vegetation within these buffer zones may be temporarily disturbed if culverts, fords, or other stream crossings are necessary, but streambanks should be restored to normal contours and stabilized after the crossing is removed.

### Impoundments/Farm Ponds

For proposed impoundments, the Service recommends excavated ponds be constructed where feasible. Though the volume of material requiring excavation is greater to construct an excavated pond, they have fewer problems than dammed ponds, which can be plagued with muddy water, rapid filling with silt, flow rate fluctuations, aquatic weeds, temperature fluctuations, and wild fish invasions.

The Service recommends consulting the county Natural Resources Conservation Service office (<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ga/home/>) or the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for advice regarding pond construction and avoiding or minimizing downstream impacts from sediment and toxicant input into aquatic systems.

### Stream Gage Replacement

If a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) stream gage will potentially be impacted by a proposed project, the Service recommends assessing what coordination or compensation may need to occur with the USGS related to the disturbance, moving, and recalibration of the gage structure prior to project implementation.

### Conservation Lands in Georgia and within the Watershed:

Alps Rd. Elementary

Arcade Park

Barrow County Greenspace

Bear Creek Reservoir Public Boat Ramp

Ben Burton Park

Bishop Park

# Georgia Ecological Services U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## HUC 10 Watershed Report



**Bogart Sports Complex**

**Burney Harris Middle School**

**Clarke Middle School**

**Cleveland Rd. Elementary**

**Easement - Athens Land Trust (2012062, 2013004, 2013068, 2013085)**

**Easement - Athens Land Trust (Barrow Hold, Bowden Park, Earthsavor, Kenney Ridge)**

**Easement - Oconee River Land Trust (2013043, Abbey West, Bear Creek, Cook)**

**Easement - Oconee River Land Trust (McNutt Creek, Nature Walk, Odum)**

**Easement - Southeastern Trust for Parks and Land (2012108, 2012112)**

**Harris Shoals Park**

**Memorial Park**

**Middle Oconee River Greenway**

**Mitigation Bank - USACE (Hard Labor Creek Reservoir mitigation site)**

**Naval Supply Corps School**

**Oconee Forest Park**

**Oglethorpe Elementary**

**Osborn Park**

**Rocket Field**

**Rocksprings Park**

**State Botanical Gardens of Georgia**

**Statham Little League Fields**

**Statham Recreation Fields**

**Timothy Rd. Elementary**

**Treadwell Estate**

**Whitehall Forest**

**Whitehead Road Elementary**

**Winder Lions Club Baseball Fields**

# Georgia Ecological Services U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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*If your project crosses watershed boundaries, please use the appropriate guidance document for each portion of the project area.*

*Your agency or lead federal agency may have coordination procedures in place or determination keys for urban areas or activities with classified as having "no effect" on listed species. Please use those guidelines to help determine impacts to federally listed species.*

*If you have questions relating to this guidance, please contact our office at [gaes\\_assistance@fws.gov](mailto:gaes_assistance@fws.gov) or 706-613-9493.*

*Data provided in this document is for guidance only and applies to portions of the watershed within the Georgia State Boundary. Please contact the appropriate FWS Field Office for coordination outside of the state. This document does not replace any requirements for consultation under the Endangered Species Act.*

*As written in 50 CFR § 402.16 of the Endangered Species Act, obligations under the Act must be reconsidered if a new species is listed or critical habitat is determined that may be affected by the project, or new information indicates that the project may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered. We will continue to update these documents to help project proponents meet their obligations under the Endangered Species Act.*





MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

RUSTY GARRISON  
DIRECTOR

January 22, 2021

Kevin Thomas  
Senior Ecologist  
Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.  
2700 Cumberland Parkway  
Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30339

**Subject: Known occurrences of natural communities, plants and animals of highest priority conservation status on or near PI 0013769 Oconee Connector in Oconee County, GA.**

Dear Kevin Thomas:

This is in response to your request of January 5, 2021. The following Georgia natural heritage database element occurrences (EOs) were selected for the current site using the local HUC10 watershed for elements whose range distribution is limited by aquatic systems and within 3 miles for all other EOs:

**Oconee Connector**

**(Site Center: -83.466146, 33.912758 , WGS84)**

- GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner)  
2.8 miles E of site in McNutt Creek Huc 10 - 0307010103 Middle Oconee 1
- GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner)  
0.3 miles S of site in Barber Creek Huc 10 - 0307010103 Middle Oconee River 1
- GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner)  
2.9 miles N of site in Middle Oconee River Huc 10 - 0307010103
- GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner)  
4.1 miles SE of site in Calls Creek Huc 10 - 0307010103 (Middle Oconee River 1)
- GA *Cyprinella xaenura* (Altamaha Shiner)  
3.9 miles N of site in Turkey Creek Huc 10 - 0307010103
- Micropterus sp. 2* (Altamaha) (Altamaha Bass)  
0.8 miles N of site in McNutt Creek Huc 10 - 0307010103
- Moxostoma sp. 4* (Brassy Jumprock)  
3.3 miles N of site in Middle Oconee River Huc 10 - 0307010103 Middle Oconee River 1
- Bare rock/lichens, pd granite outcrop* (Granite Outcrop Rock/lichens) 1.3 miles E of site
- Carex hystericina* (Porcupine Sedge) [HISTORIC] 2.6 miles NE of site
- Herbaceous veg., pd granite outcrop* (Granite Outcrop Herb Community) 1.3 miles

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SECTION

2065 U.S. HIGHWAY 278 S.E. | SOCIAL CIRCLE, GEORGIA 30025-4743  
706.557.3213 | FAX 706.557.3033 | WWW.GEORGIAWILDLIFE.COM

E of site  
GA *Nestronia umbellula* (Indian Olive) [HISTORIC] 0.6 miles NE of site  
*Shrub/scrub veg., pd granite outcrop* (Granite Outcrop Shrub/scrub Community) 1.3 miles E of site  
Abbey West 2.2 miles NE of site  
Herman C. Michael Park 2.7 miles S of site  
Middle Oconee River Greenway 2.8 miles NE of site  
Odum 2.7 miles NE of site  
Timothy Rd. Elementary 1.7 miles N of site  
0307010103 Middle Oconee River 1 (0307010103) [SWAP High Priority Watershed]

## Recommendations:

Please be aware that state protected species have been documented within three miles of the proposed project. For information about these species, including survey recommendations, please visit our webpage at [http://www.georgiawildlife.org/rare\\_species\\_profiles](http://www.georgiawildlife.org/rare_species_profiles). Surveys for species of federal or state conservation concern should be conducted prior to commencement of construction.

If the applicant is willing to assume presence and implement provisions to protect state listed aquatic species identified during this review, it may not be necessary to complete any additional surveys for aquatic species. Please refer to the Aquatic Survey Determination Protocol for State Listed Species in determining whether surveys are recommended. Although this document was prepared for use on GDOT projects, it may be applicable to other projects, as well. For any additional questions about state-listed fishes, mussels, crayfishes, snails, or aquatic insects, please contact Brett

Albanese [Brett.Albanese@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Brett.Albanese@dnr.ga.gov) for projects in the Tennessee Drainage. Please contact Paula Marcinek [Paula.Marcinek@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Paula.Marcinek@dnr.ga.gov) for projects in the Atlantic Slope Drainages (Savannah, Ogeechee, Altamaha (including Oconee and Ocmulgee), Satilla, and St. Mary's). Please contact Ani Popp [Anakela.Popp@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Anakela.Popp@dnr.ga.gov) for projects in the Coosa Drainage and Tallapoosa. Please contact Matt Rowe [Matthew.Rowe@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Matthew.Rowe@dnr.ga.gov) for projects in the Gulf Slope Drainages (Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint, Aucilla, Ochlocknee, and Suwanee).

This project occurs within a high priority watershed. As part of Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan, high priority watersheds were identified to protect the best-known populations of high priority aquatic species, important coastal habitats, and migratory corridors for anadromous species. Please refer to Appendix F of Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan to find out more specific information about this high priority watershed:  
<https://georgiawildlife.com/wildlifeactionplan>.

We are concerned about streams and other habitats that could be impacted by the proposed roadway project. We recommend that stringent erosion control practices be used during construction activities and that vegetation is re-established on disturbed areas as quickly as possible. Silt fences and other erosion control devices should be inspected and maintained until soil is stabilized by vegetation. Please use natural vegetation and grading techniques (e.g. vegetated swales, turn-offs, vegetated buffer strips) that will ensure that the road or right-of-way does not serve as a conduit for storm water or pollutants into the watershed

during or after construction. These measures will help protect water quality near the project as well as in downstream areas.

**Disclaimer:**

Please keep in mind the limitations of our database. The data collected by the Wildlife Conservation Section comes from a variety of sources, including museum and herbarium records, literature, and reports from individuals and organizations, as well as field surveys by our staff biologists. In most cases the information is not the result of a recent on-site survey by our staff. Many areas of Georgia have never been surveyed thoroughly. Therefore, the Wildlife Conservation Section can only occasionally provide definitive information on the presence or absence of rare species on a given site. Our files are updated constantly as new information is received. Thus, information provided by our program represents the existing data in our files at the time of the request and should not be considered a final statement on the species or area under consideration.

If you know of populations of highest priority species that are not in our database, please fill out the appropriate data collection form and send it to our office. Forms can be obtained through our web site <https://georgiawildlife.com/conservation/species-of-concern#providing> or by contacting our office.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Anna Yellin  
Wildlife Biologist II

**Data Available on the Wildlife Conservation Section Website**

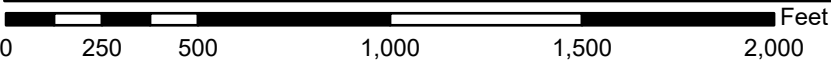
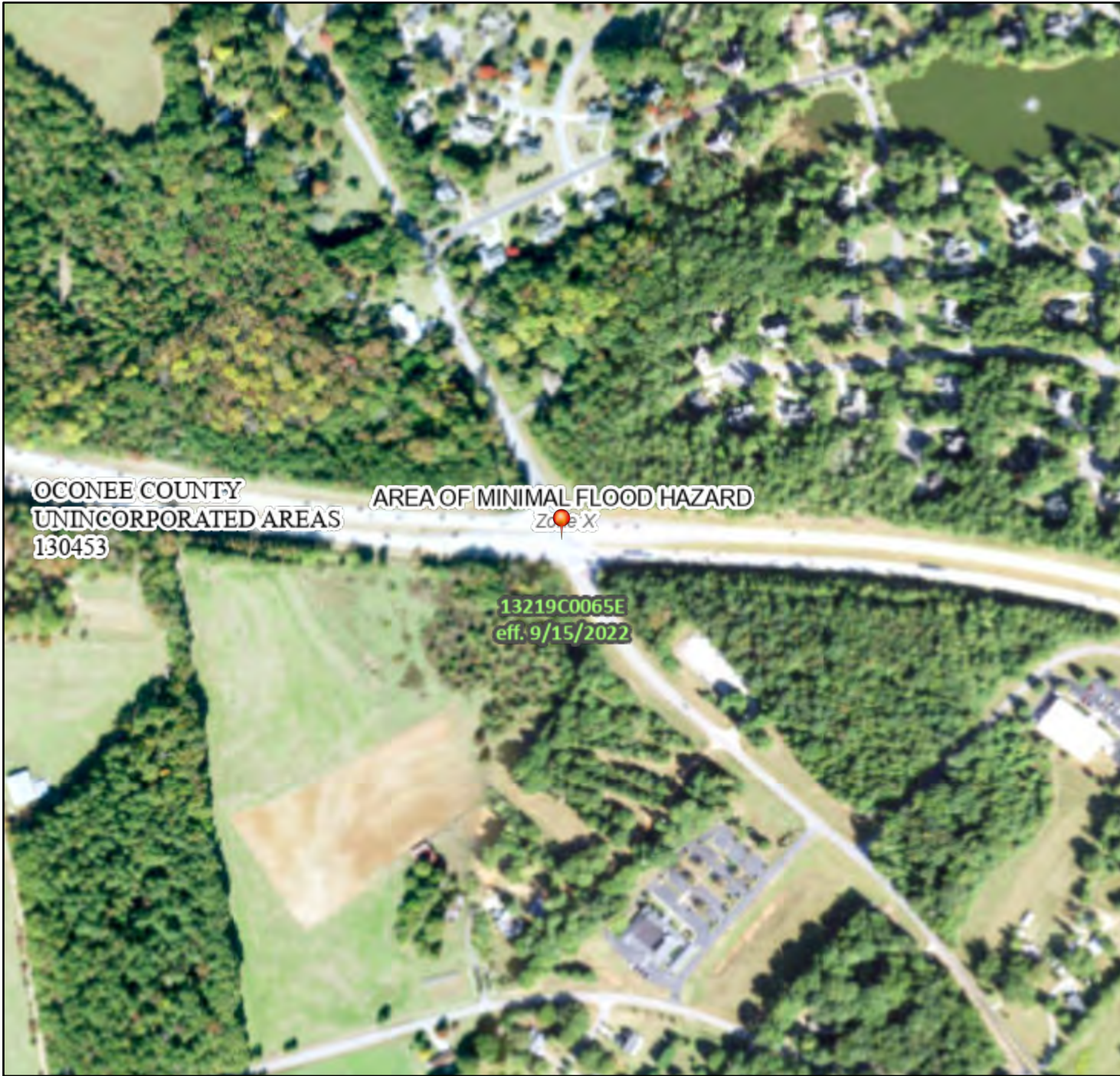
- Georgia protected plant and animal profiles are available on our website. These accounts cover basics like descriptions and life history, as well as threats, management recommendations and conservation status. Visit <http://georgiabiodiversity.org/natels/general-info.html>.
- Rare species and natural community information can be viewed by Quarter Quad, County and HUC8 Watershed. To access this information, please visit our GA Rare Species and Natural Community Data Portal at: <http://georgiabiodiversity.org/>
- Downloadable files of rare species and natural community data by Quarter Quad and County are also available. Please visit: <http://georgiabiodiversity.org/natels/natural-element-locations.html>



# National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMMette



83°29'14"W 33°55'17"N



1:6,000

83°28'37"W 33°54'47"N

Basemap Imagery Source: USGS National Map 2023

## Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS		Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A, V, A99
		With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR
		Regulatory Floodway
OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD		0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X
		Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X
		Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. Zone X
		Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D
OTHER AREAS		NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
		Effective LOMRs
		Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D
GENERAL STRUCTURES		Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
		Levee, Dike, or Floodwall
OTHER FEATURES		20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation
		17.5 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation
		Coastal Transect
		Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
		Limit of Study
		Jurisdiction Boundary
		Coastal Transect Baseline
MAP PANELS		Digital Data Available
		No Digital Data Available
		Unmapped



The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on **10/25/2023 at 10:29 PM** and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

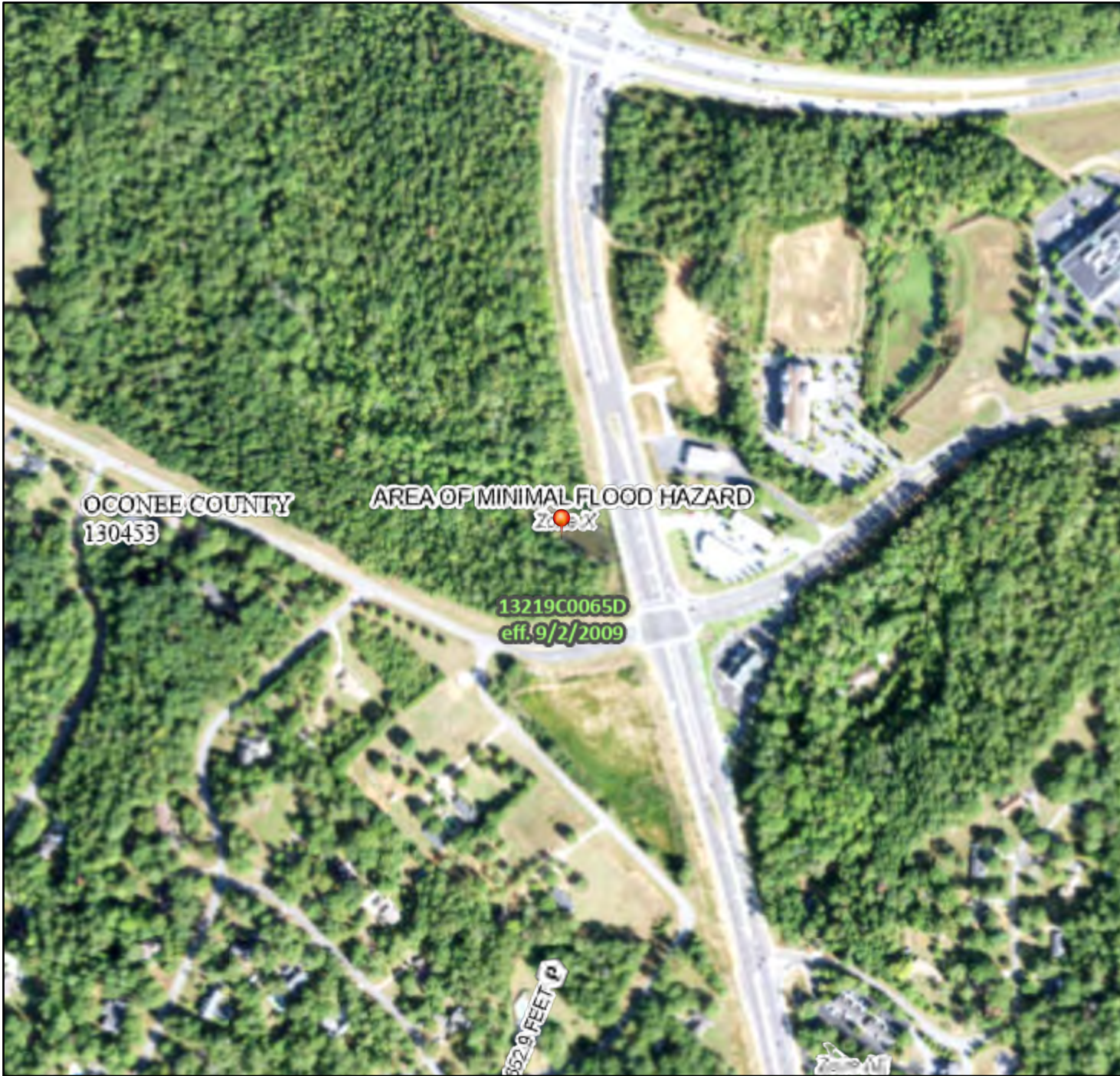
This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.



# National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



83°28'15"W 33°54'41"N



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet 1:6,000 83°27'37"W 33°54'11"N  
Basemap: USGS National Map: Orthoimagery: Data refreshed October, 2020

## Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS		Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A, V, A99
		With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR
		Regulatory Floodway
OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD		0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X
		Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X
		Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. Zone X
		Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D
OTHER AREAS		NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
		Effective LOMRs
		Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D
GENERAL STRUCTURES		Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
		Levee, Dike, or Floodwall
OTHER FEATURES		20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation
		17.5
		Coastal Transect
		Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
		Limit of Study
		Jurisdiction Boundary
		Coastal Transect Baseline
MAP PANELS		Digital Data Available
		No Digital Data Available
		Unmapped



The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 8/18/2022 at 4:22 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.



PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

## Attachment 2 Physical Environment



**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

February 9, 2024

Sabrina David  
Georgia Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Suite 17 T100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3104

ATTN: Aaron Hernandez

Dear Ms. David:

Re: P.I. Nos. 0013768 & 0013769, Oconee County – SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road and SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector

Please find enclosed the Air and Noise Memo for the above noted project. It is being sent to you for your information and files.

Should you need further information, please contact Alexis Kriegh at (404) 631-1093 or Miles Kemp at (404) 631-1127.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Duff" followed by a date "1/11/24".

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

ED/AK  
Enclosures

cc: ProjectWise

## Interoffice Memo

**DATE:** February 9, 2024

**FROM:** Samantha Lynch, Edwards-Pitman

**TO:** File

**SUBJECT:** P.I. No's. 0013768 & 0013769, Oconee County – Project Update

There has been a change in the project description that provides more detail and includes changes to the project length, right-of-way (ROW), and easement in the State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/ United States (US) 29 at County Road (CR) 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road and SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector projects. Based on these changes, the most recent Air Quality Assessment completed on June 9, 2023, and Noise Impact Assessment completed on September 26, 2023 do not need to be repeated.

### *Changes to Project Length, ROW and Temporary Easement:*

- Required ROW has been reduced from 7.44 acres to 5.82 acres.
- Temporary easement has been reduced from 0.69 acres to 0.68 acres.
- The previous total project length was erroneously stated as 1.6 miles and has been corrected to 2.6 miles.

### **Previous Project Description:**

A new interchange under PI No. 0013769 is proposed at SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and CR 929/Oconee Connector to accommodate expected growth in traffic volumes and enhance functionality and operational traffic conditions in the proposed project area. The proposed project would also include grade separation of CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road with a proposed new bridge that would connect both sides of Virgil Langford Road across SR 316 under PI 0013768 within the same contract as PI 0013769. SR 316 is a primary east-west corridor in Northeast Georgia, connecting greater Atlanta and the Athens Metropolitan Area. SR 316 is a designated freight corridor. CR 929/Oconee Connector serves as the primary access road for traffic bound for Watkinsville and points south via US 441. CR 929/Oconee Connector intersects SR 316 approximately 1-mile (mi) west of the existing SR 10 loop interchange and is currently configured as a signalized at-grade intersection with slip lanes for all right turning movements. The proposed project would be approximately 1.6 mi in length. Existing ROW ranges from 200 feet (ft) to 1,280 ft (at the east approach of the Oconee Connector Interchange) along the project corridor. Required ROW under PI 0013768 and PI 0013769 is anticipated in an amount of approximately 7.44 acres (ac), required permanent easement is anticipated in an amount of approximately 0.02 ac, required temporary easement is anticipated in an amount of approximately 0.69 ac, and required driveway easement is anticipated in an amount of approximately 0.47 ac.

### **Updated Project Description:**

Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) PI Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769 propose to grade separate the existing at-grade intersections of SR 316 at Jimmy Daniell Road, SR 316 at Virgil Langford Road, and SR 316 at Oconee Connector, respectively. The projects

are located approximately 6.7 miles west of downtown Athens, Georgia in Oconee County. The original Technical Studies were handled in two separate reports, one for PI No. 0013767 and one for PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 and were transmitted to agencies under one combined transmittal letter. Therefore, the changes covered in this Reevaluation are only applicable to PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769. PI No. 0013768 would remove the existing at-grade, unsignalized intersection and construct a new bridge and approaches to create a grade separation on Virgil Langford Road over SR 316. The preferred alternative proposes to construct the bridge on shifted alignment to the east that would consist of a 316-foot, 3-span bridge. The bridge would include three lanes (two travel lanes and a left turn lane). The lanes would be 12 feet wide, with a 2-foot outside lateral offset and 6-foot-6-inch-wide sidewalk. The reconstructed portion of Virgil Langford Road would be two lanes with appropriate turning lanes and urban 12-foot wide shoulders including sidewalk. The proposed ROW would vary between 80 feet and 245 feet. The approximate length of the project would be 2,300 feet (0.43 mile) along Virgil Langford Road. PI 0013769 proposes to replace the at-grade intersection of SR 316 and the Oconee Connector with a new interchange and new bridge over 316. Additional proposed actions include widening the existing outside shoulders on SR 316, the modification of the existing traffic signal-controlled intersection of SR 316 at the southbound SR 10 Loop Ramp to implement a continuous Green Light "T" type intersection for eastbound traffic, and the construction of auxiliary lanes on SR 316 connecting the easterly ramps of PI No. 0013767 with the westerly ramps of PI No. 0013769. At SR 316, the Oconee Connector would be shifted to the east and a partial cloverleaf interchange would be constructed. The new 224-foot, two span bridge would consist of five lanes (two lanes in each direction with a left turn lane) and raised median. The lanes would be 12 feet wide with 4-foot bike lane, 2-foot lateral offset, and 6-foot-6-inch-wide sidewalk. The reconstructed Oconee Connector would be four lanes with appropriate turning lanes and 16-foot urban shoulders including sidewalk, 4-foot bike lanes, and a variable width raised median. Proposed ramps for the interchange would include a partial cloverleaf configuration for the westbound exit ramp, with the remaining ramps to be constructed in a diamond configuration. Lanes for the ramp would vary in width from 12 feet to 16 feet with rural shoulders that are 8 feet (4-foot paved) to the inside and 12 feet (10-foot paved) to the outside. SR 316 outside shoulders would be widened to 14 feet (12-foot paved). The approximate length of the project is 8,400 feet (1.59 miles) along SR 316 and 3,089 feet (0.58 mile) along the Oconee Connector. PI Nos. 0013768 and 0013769 would require approximately 5.82 acres of ROW, 0.68 acre of temporary easement, 0.02 acre of permanent easement, and 0.47 acre of driveway easement. The total project length would be approximately 2.6 miles.

### Conclusion

#### Noise

The change in project length, ROW and temporary easement do not change the findings reported in the September 26, 2023 Noise Impact Assessment. The proposed changes would neither increase nor decrease the previously identified noise impacts; therefore, the findings of the previously approved noise assessment remain valid.

Air

The change in project length, ROW and temporary easement do not change the findings reported in the June 9, 2023 Air Quality Assessment. The proposed changes would not increase air quality impacts; therefore, the findings of the previously approved air quality assessment remain valid.

SL/SP

Cc:

ProjectWise  
FHWA





**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

September 26, 2023

Sabrina David  
Georgia Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Suite 17 T100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3104

ATTN: Aaron Hernandez

Dear Ms. David:

Re: P.I. No. 0013768 & 0013769, Oconee County – SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road and SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/ Oconee Connector

Please find enclosed the Noise Impact Assessment for the above noted project. It is being sent to you for your information and files.

Should you need further information, please contact Spencer Pucci at (404) 631-1164 or Miles Kemp at (404) 631-1127.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Duff" followed by a date "1/11/22".

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

ED/SP  
Enclosures

cc: ProjectWise



**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

June 9, 2023

Sabrina David  
Georgia Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Suite 17 T100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3104

ATTN: Aaron Hernandez

Dear Ms. David:

Re: P.I. No. 0013768 and 0013769, Oconee County – SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road and SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector

Please find enclosed Air Assessment for the above noted project. It is being sent to you for your information and files.

Should you need further information, please contact Osbert Ellis at (404) 631-1109 or Spencer Pucci at (404) 631-1164.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Duff", with a small "ED" monogram to the right.

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

ED/OE  
Enclosures

cc: ProjectWise



**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

May 15, 2023

Sabrina David  
Georgia Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Suite 17 T100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3104

ATTN: Aaron Hernandez

Dear Ms. David:

Re: P.I. No. 0013767, Oconee County – SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 55/Jimmy Daniel Rd

Please find enclosed the Air Assessment for the above noted project. It is being sent to you for your information and files.

Should you need further information, please contact Spencer Pucci at (404) 631-1164 or Miles Kemp at (404) 631-1127.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Duff" followed by a date "1/11/12".

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

ED/SP  
Enclosures

cc: ProjectWise



**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

May 15, 2023

Sabrina David  
Georgia Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Suite 17 T100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3104

ATTN: Aaron Hernandez

Dear Ms. David:

Re: P.I. No. 0013767, Oconee County - SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 55/Jimmy Daniel Road

Please find enclosed the Noise Assessment for the above noted project. It is being sent to you for your information and files.

Should you need further information, please contact Clayton Collins at (404) 347-0541 or Miles Kemp at (404) 631-1127.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Duff" followed by a date "1/11/12".

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

ED/CC  
Enclosures

cc: ProjectWise



## Interoffice Memo

**FILE:** Oconee County  
PI No. 0013769  
SR 8/SR316/US 29 @ CR 929/Oconee Connector

**DATE:** February 22, 2023

**FROM:** Patrick Allen, P.E., State Materials Engineer

**TO:** Darryl VanMeter, State Alternative Delivery Administrator  
Attn: Nick Castronova, Project Manager

**SUBJECT:** **Statement of No Concern for Consultant's Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Report**

As requested, we have reviewed the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) Report that was written on November 17, 2022, by MC Squared, LLC of Kennesaw, Georgia which was received by Office of Materials and Testing (OMAT) on January 13, 2023. No concerns were identified with the Report dated November 17, 2022. This is not an official review or approval.

Below is a summary of the findings and recommendations from Phase II ESA:

Toluene and Ethylbenzene were detected in one soil sample at the investigated site (QuikTrip #819 – Facility ID 10001853) located at 1240 Oconee Connector, Athens, GA 30606. None of the detections exceeded the applicable Georgia Environmental Protection Division Underground Storage Tank Management Program notification criteria. Constituents detected in groundwater were below the laboratory reporting limits. Therefore, no further investigation is recommended at this time, and any proposed right-of-way acquisitions may proceed.

There are no concerns from the Geotechnical Bureau. This is not an official review or approval.

If additional information is needed, please contact Radha Geetha Palliambil of the Geotechnical Bureau at the following e-mail [rpalliambil@dot.ga.gov](mailto:rpalliambil@dot.ga.gov).

PA: GEF: RGP

cc: Kelvin H. Mullins, District Manager, Gainesville  
Kevin DeWitt, Area Manager, Athens  
Kevin York, State Right-of-Way Administrator  
Attn: Katrina Anderson, Assistant State Right-of-Way Administrator  
Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator  
Attn: Carla Benton-Hooks, EPM (D3 & D6)  
Michelle Ramey, District Planning and Programming Engineer, Gainesville  
District Right-of-Way Office, Gainesville  
Nazanin Kardi, Ph.D., R.E.P., MC Squared, LLC ([nkardi@MC2Engineers.com](mailto:nkardi@MC2Engineers.com))  
Jodonna Jimenez, P.E., MC Squared, LLC ([jjimenez@MC2Engineers.com](mailto:jjimenez@MC2Engineers.com))





## Interoffice Memo

**FILE:** Oconee County  
PI No. 0013767  
SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 55/JIMMY DANIEL ROAD

**DATE:** December 28, 2022

**FROM:** Patrick Allen, P.E., State Materials Engineer

**TO:** Darryl VanMeter, P.E., State Alternative Delivery Administrator  
Attn: Nick Castronova, Project Manager

**SUBJECT:** **Statement of No Concern for Consultant's Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Report**

As requested, we have reviewed the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) Report that was written on November 4, 2022 by MC Squared, LLC of Kennesaw, Georgia which was received by the Office of Materials and Testing (OMAT) on December 6, 2022. No concerns were identified with the Report.

The Phase I ESA has identified no evidence of recognized environmental conditions in connection with the project corridor. Therefore, no additional investigation is warranted.

This is not an official review or approval. If changes are made to the report, send a final version to our office for our files.

If additional information is needed, please contact DeVante Crawford of the Geotechnical Bureau at [decrawford@dot.ga.gov](mailto:decrawford@dot.ga.gov).

PA: GEF: DXC

cc: Kelvin Mullins, District Manager, Gainesville  
Kevin DeWitt, Area Manager, Athens  
Troy Hill, State Right-of-Way Administrator  
Attn: Katrina Anderson, Assistant State Right-of-Way Administrator  
Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator  
Attn: Carla Benton-Hooks, EPM (D3 & D6)  
Michelle Ramey, District Planning and Programming Liaison, Gainesville  
District Right-of-Way Office, Gainesville  
Denver Williams, E.I.T, MC Squared, LLC ([denver.williams@mc2engineers.com](mailto:denver.williams@mc2engineers.com))  
Jodonna Jimenez, P.E., MC Squared, LLC ([jjimenez@mc2engineers.com](mailto:jjimenez@mc2engineers.com))



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**Prepared By:**

**MC Squared, LLC**

1275 Shiloh Road NW  
Suite 2620  
Kennesaw, Georgia 30144  
phone: (770) 650-0873  
[www.mc2engineers.com](http://www.mc2engineers.com)

## **Phase II Environmental Site Assessment**

**P.I. No. 0013769  
SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 929/  
Oconee Connector  
Oconee County, Georgia**

**MC² Project No.: A091903.140**

**Prepared On: November 17, 2022**

**Prepared For: CHA Consulting, Inc.  
270 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1500  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308**



November 17, 2022

Brian Sapp  
Principal Engineer VI  
CHA Consulting, Inc.  
270 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1500  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Subject: Phase II Environmental Site Assessment  
**SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @ CR 929/Oconee Connector**  
**Oconee County, Georgia**  
**GDOT P.I. No. 0013769**  
MC² Project No. A091903.140

Dear Mr. Sapp:

**MC Squared, LLC** has completed a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment for the subject project. This Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was authorized through a Notice To Proceed (NTP) dated September 23, 2022, and performed in accordance with the Subcontract for Professional Services between **MC Squared, LLC** and **CHA Consulting, Inc.** dated September 1, 2021. We are pleased to submit this Phase II Environmental Site Assessment for your review.

Please advise if you have any questions or need any additional information. We appreciate the opportunity to provide Environmental Engineering services on the above referenced project.

Sincerely,  
**MC Squared, LLC**

*Nazanin Kardi*

Nazanin Kardi, Ph.D., R.E.P.  
Environmental Scientist

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jodonna J. Jimenez".

Jodonna Jimenez, P.E.  
Senior Project Manager  
GA P.E. No. 031327



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**MC Squared, LLC (MC²)** performed a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) for **CHA Consulting, Inc. (CHA)** and the **Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)**.

This project is in Oconee County near Watkinsville, GA along SR 316. SR 316 serves as a primary east-west corridor in the region which connects the greater Atlanta area to the Athens metropolitan area. CR 929/Oconee Connector serve as the primary access road for traffic bound for Watkinsville and areas south via US 441. Since SR 316 is a designated freight corridor, improvements at two existing interchanges, one at SR 316/Virgil Langford Road and SR 316/Oconee Connector are planned to improve connectivity and to accommodate the expected growth in traffic volumes. Two bridges, one at each intersection, are currently planned.

The objective of this Phase II ESA is to determine the presence, or absence, and concentrations of, target analytes for one (1) site located adjacent to the project alignment. This site, QuikTrip #819, 1240 Oconee Connector, was determined to be a recognized environmental condition (REC) as noted in a Phase I ESA performed by **MC²** dated February 17, 2021. For this Phase II ESA report, the proposed right-of-way (ROW) limits were obtained on plans provided to us by **CHA** on February 14, 2022.

Environmental soil sampling and screening was performed on October 6, 2022, along the western boundary of the parcel. A total of three (3) direct push borings (IDs: **E1-1** through **E1-3**) were performed to a depth of 25 feet below land surface (BLS) or refusal, whichever occurred first. Groundwater was encountered at only one location, boring **E1-3**. Photo Ionization Detection (PID) field screening detected no presence of organic vapors at all of the tested locations. Soil samples were collected at a depth of 10' to 14' (**E1-1**), 5' to 10' (**E1-2**), and 10' to 15' (**E1-3**) and delivered to an analytical laboratory for testing. Laboratory analyses were selected in general accordance with GDOT ESA: Phase II Guidelines (10.3.2, revised July 26, 2022).

Based on the guidelines, for sites identified as having the potential for gasoline or diesel sources from underground storage tanks (USTs), BTEX (Benzene, Toluene, Ethylene, and Xylene), and PAH (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons) analytes were tested on both soil and groundwater samples, when encountered. BTEX analysis was performed by EPA method 8260D and PAH by EPA method 8270E.

All detected analytes were below the GA EPD Underground Storage Management Tank Program's (USMTP) soil threshold levels and the GA EPD Hazardous Site Response Act (HSRA) notification criteria for regulated substances.





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**Prepared By:**

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# **Phase I Environmental Site Assessment**

**GDOT P.I. No. 0013767  
SR 316 @ CR 55/Jimmy Daniel Road  
Oconee County, Georgia**

**MC² Project No.: A082207.186**

**Prepared On: November 4, 2022**

**Prepared For: Atkins North America, Inc.  
1600 Riveredge Parkway NW, Suite 700  
Atlanta, Georgia 30328**





November 4, 2022

Mr. Scott Dubord, P.E.  
Atkins North America, Inc.  
1600 Riveredge Parkway NW, Suite 700  
Atlanta, Georgia 30328

Subject: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment  
**SR 316 @ CR 55/Jimmy Daniel Road**  
**Oconee County, Georgia**  
**GDOT P.I. No. 0013767**  
MC² Project No. A082207.186

Dear Mr. Dubord:

**MC Squared, LLC** has completed the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the subject project. This Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was performed in general accordance with ASTM E1527-13 (Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I) and **GDOT** Guidelines. We are pleased to submit this Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for your review.

Please advise if you have any questions or need any additional information. We appreciate the opportunity to provide Environmental Engineering services on the above referenced project.

Sincerely,  
**MC Squared, LLC**

Denver Williams, E.I.T.  
Staff Engineer

Jodonna Jimenez, P.E.  
Senior Project Manager  
GA P.E. No. 031327

Stephanie M. Grahl, P.E.  
Geotechnical Department Manager  
GA Operations  
GA P.E. No. 041467



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Phase I ESA was performed for the proposed project located approximately 9.5 miles west of Athens, Georgia that consists of the intersection of SR 316 and Jimmy Daniel Road. This is currently an at grade, signalized intersection that would be reconstructed as a grade separated diamond interchange. For staging purposes, the crossing would be reconstructed slightly east of Jimmy Daniel Road's current location. Proposed auxiliary lanes would be constructed parallel to eastbound and westbound SR 316 to provide access between Jimmy Daniel Road and the Oconee Connector. The proposed auxiliary lanes would consist of a single, 12-foot-wide eastbound travel lane and a single, 12-foot-wide westbound travel lane both with 12-foot wide inside shoulder (8-foot paved) and 14-foot-wide outside shoulders (12-foot paved). The total project length would be approximately 1.5 miles.

**MC Squared, LLC (MC²)**, through its subcontractor **ERIS**, gathered information from various federal and state regulatory agencies in September 2022 for this assessment. From our review of **ERIS** data, two (2) sites were identified for review to determine if they would be a recognized environmental condition (REC) for the project.

**MC²** performed a site reconnaissance on October 13, 2022, along the alignment and within the Environmental Survey Boundary, to visually determine if RECs exist within the search area that could potentially impact the project alignment. Based on our findings, no additional sites were identified within the searched radii that would require review to determine if the site would be a REC for the project.

Based on our findings, no RECs were identified within the searched area as having the potential for hazardous materials or petroleum-based impacts on the area of future construction, and thus no further investigation is warranted at this time.

This evaluation was based on the State, Federal, or Tribal Environmental Regulatory Lists, information collected during site reconnaissance and interviews with residences, and/or information collected from historical aerial photographs and topographic maps.



## Interoffice Memo

**FILE:** Oconee County  
PI No. 0013769  
SR 8/SR316/US 29 @ CR 929/Oconee Connector

**DATE:** May 13, 2021

**FROM:** Monica L. Flournoy, P.E., State Materials Engineer

**TO:** Darryl VanMeter, State Innovative Delivery Engineer  
Attn: Achor Njoku, Project Manager

**SUBJECT:** **Statement of No Concern for Consultant's Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Report**

As requested, we have reviewed the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Report that was written on February 17, 2021, by MC Squared, Inc. of Kennesaw, Georgia. No concerns were identified in the Report.

The Project Manager should provide a link to the accepted Report in ProjectWise to [Geotechnical\\_Reports@dot.ga.gov](mailto:Geotechnical_Reports@dot.ga.gov).

This is not an official review or approval.

If additional information is needed, please contact Jeffery Goodyear, P.E. of the Geotechnical Bureau at 404-608-4738 (Direct) or 404-608-4720 (Main).

MLF: GEF: JRG

cc: Jodonna Jimenez, P.E., MC Squared Inc.  
[jjimenez@MC2Engineers.com](mailto:jjimenez@MC2Engineers.com)

**FILE:** Oconee County  
PI No. 0013769  
SR 8/SR316/US 29 @ CR 929/Oconee Connector

**DATE:** May 10, 2021

**FROM:** Monica L. Flournoy, P.E., State Materials Engineer

**TO:** Kimberly Nesbitt, State Program Delivery  
Attn: Achor Njoku, Project Manager

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance of Consultant's Phase I Environmental Site Assessment

As requested, we have reviewed the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Report that was written on February 17, 2021, by MC Squared, Inc. of Kennesaw, Georgia. This Report is acceptable for use. Copies of this Report should be forwarded to the appropriate Offices by the Project Manager.

The Project Manager should provide a link to the accepted Report in ProjectWise to [Geotechnical\\_Reports@dot.ga.gov](mailto:Geotechnical_Reports@dot.ga.gov).

If additional information is needed, please contact Jeffery Goodyear, P.E. of the Geotechnical Bureau at 404-608-4738 (Direct) or 404-608-4720 (Main).

MLF: GEF: JRG

cc: Kelvin Mullins, District Engineer, Gainesville  
Shannon Giles, Area Engineer, Athens  
Troy Hill, State R/W Administrator  
Attn: Hershel Thompson  
Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator  
Kim Coley, District Planning and Programming Coordinator, Gainesville  
District Right-of-Way Office, Gainesville  
Jodonna Jimenez, P.E., MC Squared Inc.  
[jjjimenez@MC2Engineers.com](mailto:jjjimenez@MC2Engineers.com)



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**Prepared By:**

**MC Squared, Inc.**

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[www.mc2engineers.com](http://www.mc2engineers.com)

# **Phase I Environmental Site Assessment**

**P.I. No. 0013769  
SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/  
Oconee Connector  
Oconee County, Georgia**

**MC² Project No.: A091903.140**

**Prepared On: February 17, 2021**

**Prepared For: CHA Consulting, Inc.  
270 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1500  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**





February 17, 2021

Umit Seyhan, Ph.D, P.E.  
Senior Project Manager  
CHA Consulting, Inc.  
270 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1500  
Atlanta, Georgia, 30303

Subject: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment  
**SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector**  
**Oconee County, Georgia**  
**GDOT P.I. No. 0013769**  
MC<sup>2</sup> Project No. A091903.140

Dear Mr. Seyhan:

**MC Squared Inc.** has completed a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the subject project. This Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was performed in general accordance with ASTM E1527-13 (Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I) and GDOT guidelines. We are pleased to submit this Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for your review.

Please advise if you have any questions or need any additional information. We appreciate the opportunity to provide environmental engineering services on the above referenced project.

Sincerely,  
**MC Squared, Inc.**

Tate Cozort, E.I.T.  
Staff Engineer

Jodonna Jimenez, P.E.  
Project Manager  
GA P.E. No. 031327

Stephanie M. Grahl, P.E.  
Geotechnical Department Manager  
GA Operations  
GA P.E. No. 041467



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project is located in Oconee County near Watkinsville, GA along SR 316. SR 316 serves as a primary east-west corridor in the region which connects the greater Atlanta area to the Athens metropolitan area. CR 929 and Oconee Connector serves as the primary access road for traffic bound for Watkinsville and areas south via US 441. Since SR 316 is a designated freight corridor, two new proposed interchanges, one at SR 316/Virgil Langford Road and SR 316/Oconee Connector, are planned to improve connectivity and to accommodate the expected growth in traffic volumes. Two bridges, one at each intersection, are currently planned. While no plans or project specific details are readily available at the time of this report, the cumulative length of the planned extents of the project are assumed to be approximately 3.5 miles.

**MC Squared, Inc. (MC²)**, through its subcontractor **ERIS**, gathered information from various federal and state regulatory agencies in January 2021 for this assessment. From our review of **ERIS** data, we selected two (2) sites for additional review to determine if the site would be a recognized environmental condition (REC) for the proposed project.

**MC²** performed a site reconnaissance on January 27, 2021 along the alignment and within the searched radii, paying close attention to RECs already identified as well as to visually determine if additional RECs exist within the search area that could potentially impact the project alignment. Two (2) additional sites were identified through site reconnaissance.

Based on our findings, one site (QuikTrip #819) was identified within the searched radii that is considered a REC which has potential petroleum-based impacts to the area of future construction. This site was evaluated based on its proximity to the project alignment, its presence on State, Federal, or Tribal Environmental Regulatory Lists, information collected during site reconnaissance and interviews with personnel and/or information collected from historical aerial photographs and topographic maps. The site evaluations are detailed in **Section 7.0** of this report and in **Appendix B, the Potential Hazardous Materials and Petroleum Sites Summary Table**.

It is recommended that construction personnel adhere to safe working practices and remain alert of potentially contaminated or harmful groundwater or soils during construction activities. Additionally, it is recommended that, should contamination or suspicion of contamination of groundwater or soils encountered during construction activities be observed, soil and or groundwater samples should be collected for laboratory analysis. These analyses will aid to confirm or negate the presence of environmentally adverse conditions at these sites. Verification of the potential hazards to construction personnel or the liabilities for proper disposal of excess soils should be conducted.

PI#(s): 0013767, 0013768, 0013769, County: Oconee

## Attachment 3 Public Involvement Materials



Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

December 14, 2023

Re: Responses to *Public Information Open House* Comments for P.I. No.: 0013767, Oconee County, State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/US 29 at County Road (CR) 55/Jimmy Daniell Road

Thank you for your feedback concerning the detour for the proposed project referenced above. We appreciate your participation and the questions and comments received through the project's website. As the project develops, the proposed project plan may need to be revised. If there are significant changes to what was shown on the project's website, there will be additional public outreach. If no significant changes are proposed, the project will proceed to procurement for a Design-Build team in the Fall of 2024.

Every comment provided during the project's comment period beginning on October 25, 2023, and ending on November 15, 2023, will be made part of the project's official record. The project's website received **365** page views in total. Of the **13** respondents who formally commented, **3** were **opposed**, **7** were **uncommitted**, and **3** expressed **conditional support**.

The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) has prepared a single response letter that addresses all questions and comments received during the comment period which are summarized below (in *italics*) followed by our response.

- *I would like more information about the need for the detour. This was not presented as a possibility in 2022 when Georgia DOT officials met virtually with the public on this project.*

The need for the detour had not been identified at the time of the public outreach that was conducted in 2022. Over the past year, the project design has been further developed, and the approach for how to stage traffic during construction has been evaluated. During construction of the new, elevated Jimmy Daniell Road alignment over SR 316, traffic would be maintained on the existing Jimmy Daniell Road. Access from Jimmy Daniell Road to SR 316 westbound would need to be temporarily closed because the westbound ramp from Jimmy Daniell Road to SR 316 would be constructed across the existing Jimmy Daniell Road alignment. Prior to completion of that westbound ramp construction, traffic would need to be shifted off of the existing Jimmy Daniell Road alignment onto the new, elevated Jimmy Daniell Road alignment over SR 316. The last portion of the westbound ramp could then be constructed across the existing Jimmy Daniell Road alignment without disrupting the through-traffic movements on the new, elevated Jimmy Daniell Road alignment. This temporary closure of the Jimmy Daniell Road turning movement onto SR 316 westbound is anticipated to last no more than 45 days.

Through-traffic on SR 316 and through-traffic on Jimmy Daniell Road would be maintained throughout construction. All turning movements except for Jimmy Daniell Road onto SR 316 westbound would remain open throughout construction.

- *Navigation will direct traffic to cut through Silverleaf and Deerbrook, a shorter route than Atlanta Highway and US 78/Monroe Highway. Drivers will ignore the Atlanta Highway and US 78/Monroe Highway detour. Have any studies been conducted to*

*determine the impact to our community and what if any potential remedies might be available to minimize traffic flow and ensure the safety of our children and residents? Is there any way to limit the possibility of our community being used as a cut through?*

The posted detour would follow Atlanta Highway and US 78/Monroe Highway; however, drivers would be able to use local streets. Enhanced signage is anticipated for this detour to encourage traffic to follow the posted Atlanta Highway and US 78/Monroe Highway detour route. Additionally, we have forwarded a comment along to Oconee County Public Works Department for the consideration of the construction of speed breaks or speed humps.

- *I would support this detour if the Georgia DOT would install and maintain speed breaks or speed humps to slow speeders already racing through our neighborhood and to deter traffic on Silverleaf Road, Arizona Bend, and Julian Drive.*

These roadways are outside of the proposed project construction limits and are not on state routes. The construction of speed breaks or speed humps on these roadways would not be part of the proposed interchange construction project. Your suggestion for improvements to these county roads has been forwarded to the Oconee County Public Works Department for consideration.

- *Because of the open median at Julian Road, we already have significant bypass traffic each day from 316 through our neighborhood. Examples are commuters, 18 wheelers, tour buses, and construction vehicles. My recommendation is to close the open median at Julian Road/316 and to put up a sign at the subdivision entrance that the road is closed and local traffic only.*

No construction activities are proposed at Julian Drive as part of the Jimmy Daniell Road Interchange project (P.I. No. 0013767). However, there is a future grade-separation project under consideration for Julian Road at SR 316, P.I. No. 0013766. As P.I. No. 0013766 is developed, information will be made available under the Oconee County tab on the Transforming SR 316 website, <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>.

- *What will happen to traffic on Julian Drive during and after construction. Will the traffic need to go through the Silverleaf neighborhood to go either west or east during and after the detour? Will Julian Drive have direct access to SR 316?*

The Julian Drive access to SR 316 would not be altered during or after construction of the Jimmy Daniell Road project, P.I. No. 0013767. However, there is a future grade-separation project for Julian Road at SR 316, P.I. No. 0013766. As P.I. No. 0013766 is developed, information will be made available under the Oconee County tab on the Transforming SR 316 website, <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>.

- *Taking a major highway and diverting onto a small two-lane road (Jimmy Daniell Road) isn't the answer. I would recommend having traffic use the off- and on-ramps.*

The proposed project would not require a detour for SR 316 through traffic. The temporary closure requiring a detour would be only for traffic from Jimmy Daniell Road accessing SR 316 westbound.



- *The amount of rerouted traffic on Jimmy Daniell from SR 316 to Highway 78 would be enormous during the detour timeline, causing excessive difficulty for residents at Creekside Subdivision. We would only be able to exit the community and drive towards Highway 78. Traffic flow would prohibit left turns.*

The proposed detour would only be for traffic turning from Jimmy Daniell Road onto SR 316 westbound. The through-traffic on SR 316 would not be detoured during construction. The traffic projections indicate less than 1,075 vehicles per day would be unable to turn from Jimmy Daniell Road north/southbound onto SR 316 westbound and would be directed onto the detour route using Jimmy Daniell Road northbound, past the entrance to the Creekside Subdivision, continuing to Atlanta Highway and US 78/Monroe Highway.

- *I would like to understand the incorporation of the roundabouts instead of the traffic signals with this interchange when they haven't been used for any of the previous interchanges constructed along 316. I understand there's data that supports the roundabouts reducing collisions, but when drivers no longer know how to merge correctly using a traffic flow pattern that's different and confusing for many, this seems counterproductive.*

Roundabouts are now under consideration or are included in the design for multiple interchanges along SR 316, including at CR 74/Kilcrease Road (P.I. No. 0013902), at SR 211/Bethlehem Road (P.I. No. 0010352), and at CR 329/Barber Creek Road (P.I. No. 0013910) in Barrow County. Additional information about these projects is available on the Transforming SR 316 website at <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>.

Roundabouts demonstrate several safety and operational benefits over traditional stop-controlled and traffic light-controlled intersections. Roundabouts, by their nature, allow for a steadier traffic stream (as opposed to signals or all-way stops) and allow for more efficient traffic operation while still reducing the potential for crashes. Traffic signals do not eliminate crossing movements nor force drivers to slow down through the intersection, leaving the potential for high-speed angle crashes. Roundabouts have fewer conflict points compared to a conventional traffic light-controlled intersection, have lower speeds, and have been found to reduce crashes, crash severity, fuel consumption, and air pollution.

Furthermore, due to traveling at lower speeds through roundabouts, the consequences of errors are less severe than at conventional intersections. Roundabouts also create fewer delays than traffic signals due to the reduced number of vehicles required to stop, and roundabouts typically operate with lower vehicle delays than other types of intersections and controls. As a result, roundabouts are viable solutions for both peak and non-peak hours. Studies show that a signal can reduce delays to an acceptable level, but an increase in the number of crashes would be expected. These studies also show that a roundabout can provide much greater reductions in delay and a safer intersection.

For more information on the Georgia DOT's safety initiatives on roundabouts, please visit <https://www.dot.ga.gov/GDOT/Pages/Roundabouts.aspx>.

- *I like this proposed detour much better than the one that I saw that used Mars Hill Road as the detour.*

Thank you for the support. The posted detour would use Atlanta Highway and US 78/Monroe Highway; however, traffic would be able to use local streets, and some drivers may choose to use Mars Hill Road. Mars Hill Road is part of the proposed detour route that may be needed as part of the CR 929/Oconee Connector project, P.I. No. 0013769. Information about P.I. No. 0013769 is available at <https://0013769-sr8sr316us29atcr929oconeeconnector-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>.

- *People traveling from Watkinsville down the connector past the QT who want to get on the inner loop should be encouraged to turn right onto 316 and use the "old" ramp to enter. It will take some of the pressure off the interchange at SR 316/Connector for those trying to get to the "newer" on ramp.*

Thank you for your comment. This suggestion has been forwarded to the project team for the CR 929/Oconee Connector Interchange project, P.I. No. 0013769, for consideration.

- *Please add a note on the flyers, which are helpful, about if they are recyclable or not.*

Thank you for this suggestion. Your comment has been forwarded to the project team for consideration in future public outreach activities.

Again, thank you for your feedback. Should you have further questions or comments, please call the Project Manager, Achor Njoku, at 404-631-1550 or the Environmental Analyst, Alexandra Nelson, at 404-631-1224.

Sincerely,



Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

ED/AN/jeb

cc: Jamie Boswell, Georgia DOT Board Member (District 10)  
Houston Gaines, State Representative (District 120)  
Bill Cowsert, State Senator (District 46)  
Achor Njoku, Georgia DOT Project Manager (via email)  
PDF for Project File

Do you support the detour as presented?	Describe Your Response: Do you support the detour as presented?
Conditional (I would support th	<p>This will force Waze and other navigation systems to redirect traffic through our neighborhood (a shorter route) instead of the intended Atlanta Hwy and 78. I will support this detour if the DOT would install and maintain speed breaks/humps to slow speeders already racing through our neighborhood and deter through traffic on Silverleaf Road, Arizona Bend, and Julian Drive</p>
Conditional (I would support th	<p>I'm very concerned about the potential for a large increase in traffic through the Silver Leaf subdivision due to the westbound ramp closure. We already have too many commuters cutting through the neighborhood to access 316 via Julian Drive. Have any studies been conducted to determine the impact on our community and what if any potential remedies might be available to minimize traffic flow and insure the safety of our children and residents?</p>
Uncommitted	<p>I would like more information about the need for the detour. The virtual room contains only the map with no explanation for the decision to include the detour as an option. This was not presented as a possibility in June of 2022 when GDOT officials met virtually with the public on this project.</p>
Against	<p>The amount of rerouted traffic on Jimmy Daniels from 316 to Hwy 78 would be enormous during the detour timeline, causing excessive difficulty for residents at Creekside Subdivision. Traffic is already heavy and vehicles travel at excessive speeds.</p> <p>Thus, we would only be able to exit the community and drive towards Hwy 78. Traffic flow would prohibit left turns.</p>
Against	<p>I live in the Silverleaf subdivision located 3/4 mile North of the Jimmy Daniell/316 intersection. I OPPOSE THE DETOUR because driver's GPS devices, which look for the quickest route, will redirect traffic through our subdivision and exit 316 westbound via Julian Road (not shown on the GDOT drawing) instead of Atlanta Hwy and Monroe Hwy for 316. This will cause significant traffic to use our subdivision as the bypass and NOT the Jimmy Daniell/Atl Hwy/Monroe Hwy detour in the diagram. Because of the open median at Julian Road (again, not pictured) we already have significant bypass traffic each day from 316 westbound/eastbound through our neighborhood. Examples of traffic: commuters, 18 wheelers, tour buses, construction vehicles. My recommendation is to close the open median at Julian Rd/316 and put up a sign at the subdivision entrance: Road Closed. Local Traffic Only. additional flow. Taking a major hwy and diverting onto a small 2 lane rd(Jimmy Daniel) isn't the answer. I would recommend following a similar pattern to the previous exchange at hwy 53 or current exchange at hwy11 where traffic uses the off/on ramps. I also don't believe the size or distance of the east or west bound off ramps onto Jimmy Daniel is advantageous when a more direct shorter route could be used reducing the impact on the area. I'd also like to understand the incorporation of the roundabouts instead of traffic signals with this exchange when they haven't been used for any of the previous exchanges constructed along 316. I understand there's data that supports the roundabouts reducing collisions but when drivers no longer know how to merge correctly using a traffic flow pattern that's different and confusing for many seems counterproductive.</p>
Against	

Conditional (I would support th

What will happen to traffic living on Julian Drive during and after construction? will the traffic need to go through Silver Leaf neighborhood (i.e, Arizona Bend to Jimmy Daniel) to go either West or East during and after the detour? Will Julian Drive have direct access to GA 316?

I am concerned that my community (Silverleaf) will be used as a cut through during this design detour. Any way we can limit that possibility?

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback to the Proposed Project regarding detours related to Jimmy Daniel Road. Personally this does not concern me, because I don't use Jimmy Daniel Road, although I live nearby. I of course support all measures that consider human safety. I am hopeful that my fellow citizens who do use this road will express their concerns. I am retired and do not have to participate in traffic for work. I think it is most important that you hear from people who use this route regularly.

Drivers will ignore Atl Hwy/Monroe Hwy detour and cut through Silverleaf and Julian Dr. I saw the plan for 316/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road. This seems like a much better plan than the one I saw that used Mars Hill Rd as the detour. One thing I'd like to add, people traveling from Watkinsville down the connector past the QT who want to get on the inner loop should be encouraged to turn right onto 316 and use the "old" ramp to enter. It will take some of the pressure off the interchange at 316/connector for those trying to get to the "newer" on ramp.

I'm an attorney in Athens, Georgia. I represent several people who own property on 316 near Jimmy Daniel Road in Oconee County. I have a couple of questions and wondered if you could call me.

I received a note from you about feedback on Jimmy Daniel Road in Oconee County. I appreciate the information. However, I would request that GDOT list these flyers, which are helpful, as recyclable or not. Just put that on your information, and hopefully we'll keep these out of landfills and just recycle this paper. Thank you very much.

I'm calling and responding to the highway change to take place on SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road in Oconee County. I'm concerned about the redirection of traffic because the traffic pattern took you down Jimmy Daniel Road and off of Jimmy Daniel Road is Silverleaf Subdivision which backs up to Deerbrook. People will be cutting across Silverleaf into Deerbrook and coming back out onto 316. I'm wondering how that is going to remedy that situation and that traffic mess.

## Brown, Jill

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**From:** fricketson@oconeeschools.org  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 5:11 PM  
**To:** Brown, Jill  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] RE: 0013767-69\_SR316 B2\_MOT layout/Constructability Staging with Oconee County

Thanks Jill, we have no objections to anything mentioned in the message.

Thanks,



**Fred W. Ricketson**  
Director of Facilities  
Oconee County Schools  
706-769-5130 (x2204)

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**From:** Brown, Jill <Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 3:57 PM  
**To:** fricketson@oconeeschools.org  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] RE: 0013767-69\_SR316 B2\_MOT layout/Constructability Staging with Oconee County

Good afternoon! I wanted to follow up on this email since I believe you were out of the office last week. Would you please read over this and reply when you have the opportunity? The original email is attached as well.

Thank you!

## Jill Brown

Senior Planner III, NEPA  
**AtkinsRéalis**  
T: 678.581.3507  
1600 RiverEdge Parkway, Suite 700  
Atlanta, Georgia, 30328

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**From:** Brown, Jill  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 10:25 AM  
**To:** Jody Woodall <[jwoodall@oconee.ga.us](mailto:jwoodall@oconee.ga.us)>; [fricketson@oconeeschools.org](mailto:fricketson@oconeeschools.org); 'Debra Shelton' <[dshelton@oconeeschools.org](mailto:dshelton@oconeeschools.org)>  
**Cc:** 'Dallas LeDuff' <[dleduff@oconeeschools.org](mailto:dleduff@oconeeschools.org)>; Njoku, Iheanachor <[INjoku@dot.ga.gov](mailto:INjoku@dot.ga.gov)>; Eureka, Mary E <[meureka@dot.ga.gov](mailto:meureka@dot.ga.gov)>; Anton Sova <[asova@HNTB.com](mailto:asova@HNTB.com)>; Jillian Bostwick <[jbostwick@HNTB.com](mailto:jbostwick@HNTB.com)>; Dyson, Wendy E <[Wendy.Dyson@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Wendy.Dyson@atkinsrealis.com)>; Dubord, Scott M <[Scott.Dubord@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Scott.Dubord@atkinsrealis.com)>; Nguyen, Thao D <[Thao.Nguyen@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Thao.Nguyen@atkinsrealis.com)>; Clowers, Marlo <[mclowers@dot.ga.gov](mailto:mclowers@dot.ga.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] RE: 0013767-69\_SR316 B2\_MOT layout/Constructability Staging with Oconee County

Good morning,

I'm emailing to follow up on this previous coordination. These responses are based on the commitments that are being included in the environmental document as well as measures that are proposed for inclusion in the construction contract:



1. The crossing movement of Jimmy Daniell Road at SR 316 is maintained at all times.

The approved detour only allows for the closure of the Jimmy Daniell Road turning movement onto SR 316 westbound. As currently proposed, the Jimmy Daniell Road through movement is to remain open at all times during construction. If the Design Build Team recommends any additional detours during the project design development, the team would be required to coordinate with the local Governmental Entities, local Emergency Services, and the school board requesting review and feedback on the proposed detour.

2. The detour is strongly encouraged to occur over the school system's summer break, typically after the third week in May to the first Wednesday in August.

The duration of the approved detour is limited to 45 days, as previously discussed. Seasonal restrictions have not been included as a requirement in the construction contract to allow flexibility for the Design Build Team in developing an approach that would accelerate the overall project delivery. The detour seasonal timing will not be established until the Design Build Team further advances the project design; however, the Design Build Team is required to coordinate with the local Governmental Entities, local Emergency Services, and the local schools in advance of implementing the detour.

3. The construction contractor provide advance communication/notice about the timing of the detour. As much advance notice as possible will be very appreciated.

The Design Build Team is to ensure that the local Governmental Entities, local Emergency Services, and the local schools are provided notice at least 30 days in advance of the accepted date of closures.

Please respond to acknowledge your receipt of this email.

Thank you!

## Jill Brown

Senior Planner III, NEPA

**AtkinsRéalis**

T: 678.581.3507

1600 RiverEdge Parkway, Suite 700

Atlanta, Georgia, 30328

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**From:** Jody Woodall <[jwoodall@oconee.ga.us](mailto:jwoodall@oconee.ga.us)>

**Sent:** Friday, November 10, 2023 11:04 AM

**To:** Brown, Jill <[Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com)>; [fricketson@oconeeschools.org](mailto:fricketson@oconeeschools.org); 'Debra Shelton' <[dshelton@oconeeschools.org](mailto:dshelton@oconeeschools.org)>

**Cc:** 'Dallas LeDuff' <[dleduff@oconeeschools.org](mailto:dleduff@oconeeschools.org)>; Dyson, Wendy E <[Wendy.Dyson@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Wendy.Dyson@atkinsrealis.com)>; Dubord, Scott M <[Scott.Dubord@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Scott.Dubord@atkinsrealis.com)>; Nguyen, Thao D <[Thao.Nguyen@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Thao.Nguyen@atkinsrealis.com)>; Azim, Mohammed <[Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] RE: 0013767-69\_SR316 B2\_MOT layout/Constructability Staging with Oconee County

Jill, Azim,

Based on the conversation today, Oconee County and Oconee County Schools are ok with the proposed westbound Jimmy Daniell Road at SR 316 closure and detour provided the following can be accomplished:

1. The crossing movement of Jimmy Daniell Road at SR 316 is maintained at all times.
2. The detour is strongly encouraged to occur over the school system's summer break, typically after the third week in May to the first Wednesday in August.
3. The construction contractor provide advance communication/notice about the timing of the detour. As much advance notice as possible will be very appreciated.

Thanks

Jody B. Woodall, PE  
Public Works Director  
Oconee County Public Works  
(706) 769-2937

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**From:** Brown, Jill <[Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 4:56 PM  
**To:** [fricketson@oconeeschools.org](mailto:fricketson@oconeeschools.org); 'Debra Shelton' <[dshelton@oconeeschools.org](mailto:dshelton@oconeeschools.org)>  
**Cc:** Jody Woodall <[jwoodall@oconee.ga.us](mailto:jwoodall@oconee.ga.us)>; 'Dallas LeDuff' <[dleduff@oconeeschools.org](mailto:dleduff@oconeeschools.org)>; Dyson, Wendy E <[Wendy.Dyson@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Wendy.Dyson@atkinsrealis.com)>; Dubord, Scott M <[Scott.Dubord@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Scott.Dubord@atkinsrealis.com)>; Nguyen, Thao D <[Thao.Nguyen@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Thao.Nguyen@atkinsrealis.com)>; Azim, Mohammed <[Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL EMAIL] RE: 0013767-69\_SR316 B2\_MOT layout/Constructability Staging with Oconee County

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, Fred,

This email is to follow up on our phone conversation about scheduling a time to discuss the SR 316 and Jimmy Daniel Road project and the school bus routes. Thank you for offering to facilitate setting this up. Please do respond with your availability, and we will get a Teams meeting scheduled.

Thank you,

**Jill Brown**

Senior Planner III, NEPA  
**AtkinsRéalis**  
678.581.3507  
1600 RiverEdge Parkway, Suite 700  
Atlanta, Georgia, 30328

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**From:** Azim, Mohammed <[Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2023 11:33 AM  
**To:** [fricketson@oconeeschools.org](mailto:fricketson@oconeeschools.org)  
**Cc:** 'Jody Woodall' <[jwoodall@oconee.ga.us](mailto:jwoodall@oconee.ga.us)>; Brown, Jill <[Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com)>; 'Dallas LeDuff' <[dleduff@oconeeschools.org](mailto:dleduff@oconeeschools.org)>; 'Debra Shelton' <[dshelton@oconeeschools.org](mailto:dshelton@oconeeschools.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: 0013767-69\_SR316 B2\_MOT layout/Constructability Staging with Oconee County

Thanks Fred. We are looking for options how best we could respond to your needs.

Thank You,

**Azim Mohammed** P.E. (GA, FL, & MD)

Senior Project Manager  
**AtkinsRéalis**  
313-799-0180  
1600 Riverside Pkwy, Suite 700  
Atlanta, GA 30328, USA

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**From:** [fricketson@oconeeschools.org](mailto:fricketson@oconeeschools.org) <[fricketson@oconeeschools.org](mailto:fricketson@oconeeschools.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2023 8:35 AM  
**To:** Azim, Mohammed <[Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com)>  
**Cc:** 'Jody Woodall' <[jwoodall@oconee.ga.us](mailto:jwoodall@oconee.ga.us)>; Brown, Jill <[Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com)>; 'Dallas LeDuff' <[dleduff@oconeeschools.org](mailto:dleduff@oconeeschools.org)>; 'Debra Shelton' <[dshelton@oconeeschools.org](mailto:dshelton@oconeeschools.org)>  
**Subject:** RE: 0013767-69\_SR316 B2\_MOT layout/Constructability Staging with Oconee County

Azim,

Thanks for reaching out again. Please see the response below from our Director of Transportation. Please let me know if we understand this properly. Would it be possible for the contractor to let school buses through to keep the routes shorter.

“Based on the map, the entrance to 316 from Jimmy Daniels will be shut down during construction? If this is the case, it is going to cause 3 of our buses to run 20 to 30 minutes late based on the detour.”

Thanks,



**Fred W. Ricketson**  
Director of Facilities  
Oconee County Schools  
706-769-5130 (x2204)

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**From:** Azim, Mohammed <[Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2023 7:49 AM  
**To:** [fricketson@oconeeschools.org](mailto:fricketson@oconeeschools.org)  
**Cc:** 'Jody Woodall' <[jwoodall@oconee.ga.us](mailto:jwoodall@oconee.ga.us)>; Brown, Jill <[Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: 0013767-69\_SR316 B2\_MOT layout/Constructability Staging with Oconee County

GM Fred,

Is there any additional information I can provide to help speed up the response? If you have a clear understanding of the proposed detour, please email us confirming that there are no concerns, and we can proceed to the next phase of our environmental activities.

Thank You,

**Azim Mohammed** P.E. (GA, FL, & MD)

Senior Project Manager

**AtkinsRéalis**

313-799-0180

1600 Riverside Pkwy, Suite 700

Atlanta, GA 30328, USA

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**From:** Azim, Mohammed  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 5, 2023 9:36 AM  
**To:** [fricketson@oconeeschools.org](mailto:fricketson@oconeeschools.org)  
**Cc:** 'Jody Woodall' <[jwoodall@oconee.ga.us](mailto:jwoodall@oconee.ga.us)>; Brown, Jill <[Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] RE: [--EXTERNAL--]: RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] 0013767-69\_SR316 B2\_MOT layout/Constructability Staging with Oconee County

Fred,  
Thanks a lot for your quick response. Apart from the previously provided detour map, attached, please find the another detailed version of the same detour. The attached map shows a little more details showing the access from Jimmy Daniel to SR 316 West is closed.

Cheers,

**Azim Mohammed** P.E. (GA, FL, & MD)

Senior Project Manager

**AtkinsRéalis**

313-799-0180

1600 Riverside Pkwy, Suite 700

Atlanta, GA 30328, USA

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**From:** [fricketson@oconeeschools.org](mailto:fricketson@oconeeschools.org) <[fricketson@oconeeschools.org](mailto:fricketson@oconeeschools.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 5, 2023 8:50 AM

**To:** Azim, Mohammed <[Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com)>

**Cc:** 'Jody Woodall' <[jwoodall@oconee.ga.us](mailto:jwoodall@oconee.ga.us)>; Brown, Jill <[Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] RE: [--EXTERNAL--]: RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] 0013767-69\_SR316 B2\_MOT layout/Constructability Staging with Oconee County

Hi Azim,

I will follow up with our Director of Transportation and get back to you. Thanks for reaching out to us.

Thanks,



**Fred W. Ricketson**

Director of Facilities

Oconee County Schools

706-769-5130 (x2204)

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**From:** Azim, Mohammed <[Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 5, 2023 8:24 AM

**To:** [fricketson@oconeeschools.org](mailto:fricketson@oconeeschools.org)

**Cc:** Jody Woodall <[jwoodall@oconee.ga.us](mailto:jwoodall@oconee.ga.us)>; Brown, Jill <[Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Jill.Brown@atkinsrealis.com)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] RE: [--EXTERNAL--]: RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] 0013767-69\_SR316 B2\_MOT layout/Constructability Staging with Oconee County

Fred,  
I left a voicemail about the proposed detour on your desk telephone number (706.769.5130) and I wanted to follow up with an email too. The rest assured that **Jimmy Daniel Lanes are not temporarily closed or detoured** at any time in the project PI 0013767 during proposed interchange construction. Please see the attached detour map. I wanted to confirm if the single ramp closure for SR 316 Westbound from Jimmy Daniel Road, does impact the designated bus routes?

Please feel free to reach out for any questions you have.

Thank You,

**Azim Mohammed** P.E. (GA, FL, & MD)

Senior Project Manager

**AtkinsRéalis**

313-799-0180

1600 Riverside Pkwy, Suite 700

Atlanta, GA 30328, USA

---

**From:** Jody Woodall <[jwoodall@oconee.ga.us](mailto:jwoodall@oconee.ga.us)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 2, 2023 4:20 PM

**To:** Azim, Mohammed <[Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com](mailto:Mohammed.Azim@atkinsrealis.com)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] RE: [--EXTERNAL--]: RE: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] 0013767-69\_SR316 B2\_MOT layout/Constructability Staging with Oconee County

Azim,

My contact with the school system is Fred Ricketson, [fricketson@oconeeschools.org](mailto:fricketson@oconeeschools.org). He can put you in contact with the transportation manager.

Thanks

Jody B. Woodall, PE

Public Works Director

Oconee County Public Works

(706) 769-2937

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**Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)**

P.I. No.: 0013767, County: Oconee, Date: October 25 – November 15, 2023

**Comment Card**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you support the detour as presented? (check your response)

☐ **For**   ☐ **Against**   ☐ **Conditional (I would support this project if... describe below)**   ☐ **Uncommitted**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Help GDOT Improve Future Meetings:**

**Advertising:** How did you hear about the meeting: ☐ Newspaper   ☐ Signs   ☐ GDOT Website   ☐ Radio

☐ Word of mouth   ☐ Social Media   ☐ Post card   ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendance:** Did you visit the online information for the project?   ☐ Yes   ☐ No

<b>Questions:</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>If answer is no please provide a suggestion/comment</b>
Was the website convenient?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Was the virtual meeting room format convenient?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Were your questions answered?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Do you understand the project?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Were the virtual materials understandable?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Please share your suggestions on improving the ways GDOT conducts or advertises online open houses:

\_\_\_\_\_

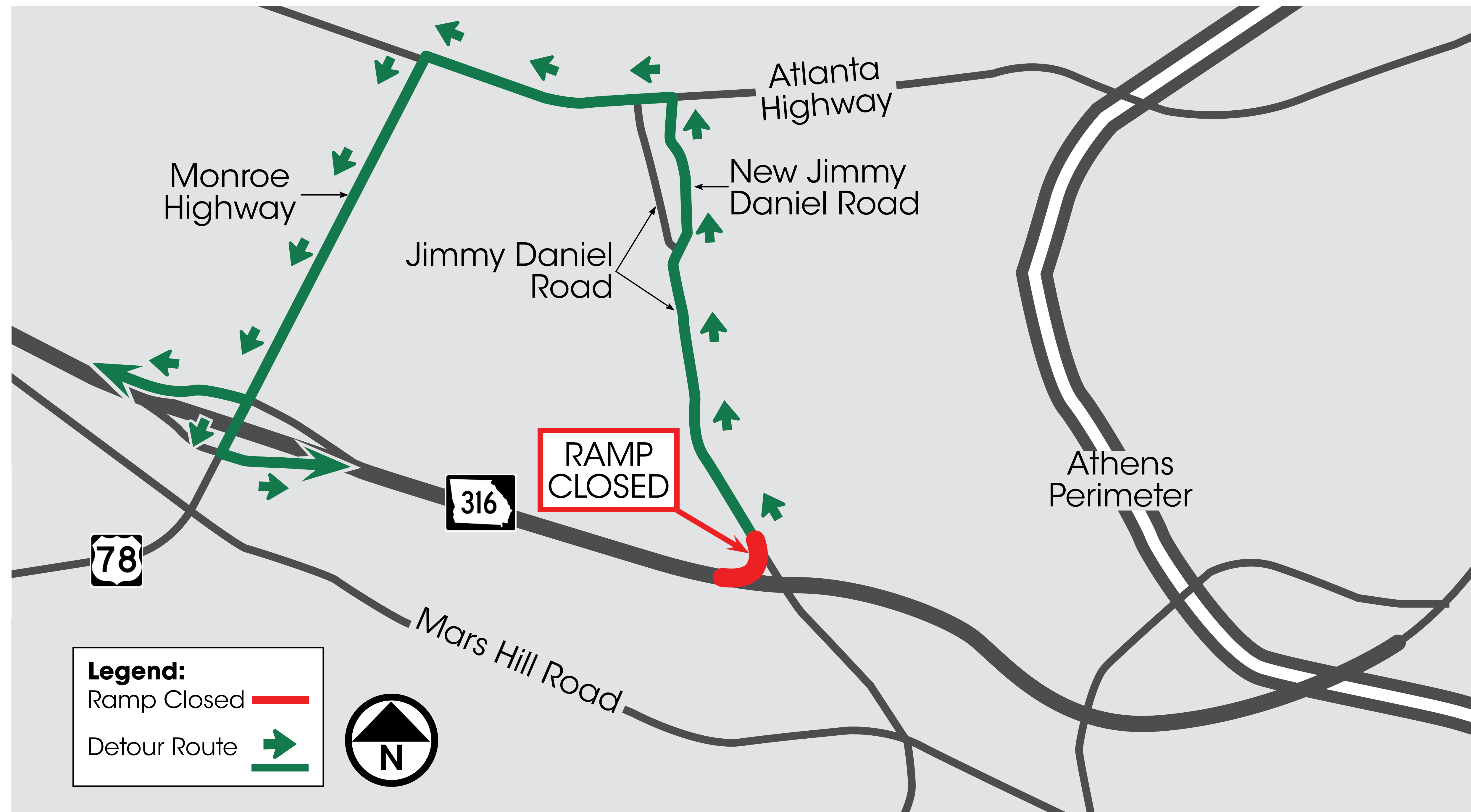
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

*Mr. Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308*

# Potential Temporary Detour



The project detour map is for a potential temporary detour for traffic from Jimmy Daniel Road entering State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/US 29 westbound.

Published Q4 2023



Georgia Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
600 WEST PEACHTREE STREET, NW  
ATLANTA, GA 30308

PRRTSTD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ATLANTA, GA

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*

Postal Customer

# WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK:

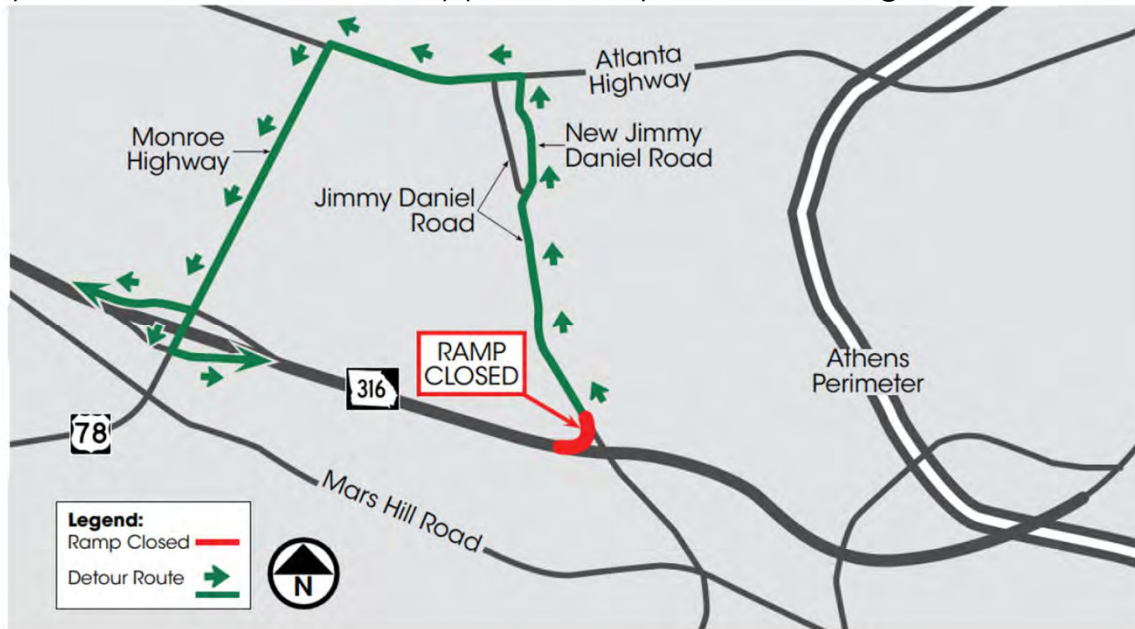
## State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road

### P.I. No. 0013767 | Oconee County



#### Proposed Project:

As part of Georgia Department of Transportation's (Georgia DOT's) effort to improve mobility, reduce the potential for crashes, promote safety, and improve traffic flow conditions along SR 8/SR 316/US 29, the current at-grade crossing of Jimmy Daniel Road is being considered for improvements. These proposed improvements consist of reconstructing the at-grade crossing at SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and Jimmy Daniel Road and creating a grade-separated diamond interchange. Additional public outreach is being conducted at this time because the potential need for a detour during construction was identified. Traffic from Jimmy Daniel Road entering SR 8/SR 316/US 29 westbound may be detoured for a maximum of 45 days during construction. The posted detour would be approximately 3.84 miles long.



#### Questions or Concerns:

(404) 631-1733 (voicemail)

[P3Division@dot.ga.gov](mailto:P3Division@dot.ga.gov)



Scan for project website

#### Project Timeline:

Dates subject to change



**2021-2024**  
Environmental  
Process



**2024**  
Design-Build  
Team Selection



**2025**  
Construction  
Begins



**2028**  
Substantial  
Completion

**Web Page:** <https://tinyurl.com/JimmyDanielRd>

**On the Web Page:** Review the proposed detour route with an opportunity to comment on the detour.

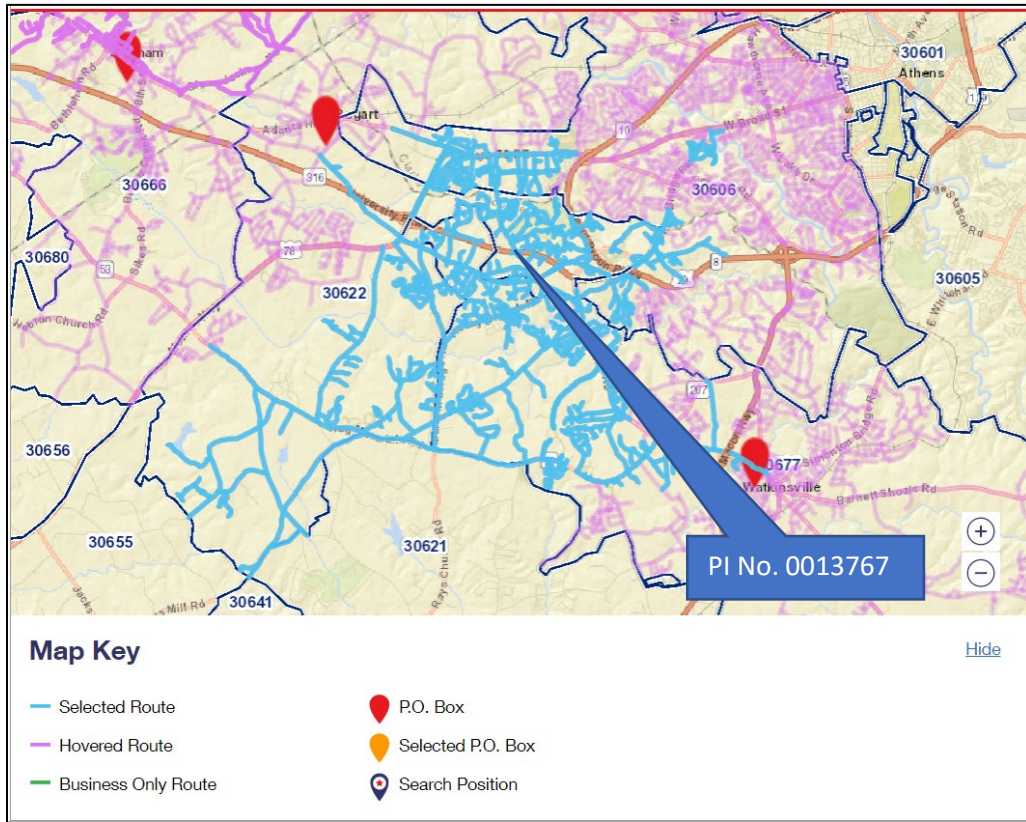
**Comment Period:** October 25 through November 15, 2023

EDDM postal routes for detour outreach postcard SR 316 Bundle 2  
(PI No. 0013767, Oconee)

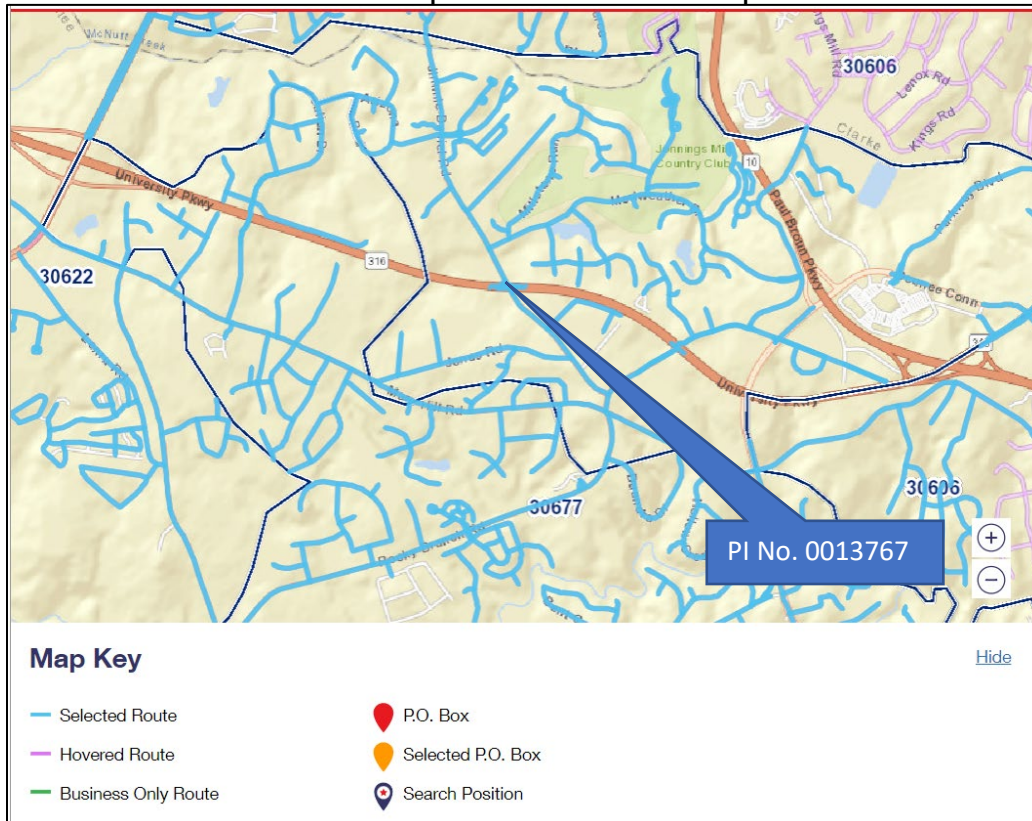
Zip/Route #	Total # of Postcards Per Route
30606-R007	545
30606-R016	741
30606-R017	916
30622-PBOX	360
30622-R002	659
30622-R004	688
30677-PBOX	966
30677-R304	609
30677-R306	599
30677-R312	549
30677-R313	550
30677-R314	623
30677-R315	204
Total	8009



Selected routes zoomed out



Selected postal routes close up





**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

September 26, 2022

Re: Responses to *Public Information Open House* (PIOH) Comments for PI#s: 0013768 and 0013769, Oconee County, State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/US 29 at County Road (CR) 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road and SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector

Thank you for your feedback concerning the proposed projects referenced above. We appreciate your participation in the virtual PIOH and submitting questions and comments during the PIOH comment period. Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) and representatives of the project team also hosted a live, virtual question and answer session on June 22, 2022, as an opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the projects. As the projects develop, proposed project plans may need to be revised. If there are significant changes to what was shown on the projects' websites, there will be additional public outreach. If no significant changes are proposed, the projects will proceed to right-of-way acquisition and final design. Following the completion of all right-of-way acquisitions, the project designs would be finalized, and the projects would advance to construction.

Every comment provided during the projects' comment period beginning on June 16, 2022, and ending on July 13, 2022, will be made part of the projects' official record. The projects' website received **948** page views in total, and **16** people attended the live, virtual question and answer session hosted by the project team. Of the **8** respondents who formally commented for SR 316 at Virgil Langford Road (PI# 0013768), **5** were in **support** of the project, **1** was **opposed**, and **2** expressed **conditional support**. Of the **8** respondents who formally commented for SR 316 at Oconee Connector (PI# 0013769), **5** were in **support** of the project and **3** expressed **conditional support**.

The Georgia DOT has prepared a single response letter that addresses all questions and comments received during the comment period which are summarized below (in *italics*) followed by our response.

**Comments regarding SR 316 at Virgil Langford Road, PI# 0013768:**

- *Comments were received offering general support for the proposed project. The comments noted that the flyover would provide better access to the quickly developing medical area of the county for all citizens, and, most importantly, for EMS from the county's new fire station. Comments also noted that the proposed project and others along SR 316 are greatly needed as traffic continues to increase and that this should have been done long ago.*

Response: Thank you for your support of this project.

- *A comment was received about designing Virgil Langford Road as right-in and right-out and integrating this into the Oconee Connector ramp structure, providing lower speed interference and maintaining limited access routing for SR 316. The comment noted that this would save the state millions of dollars, avoid displacing a medical office space, and avoid other property access impacts while improving traffic by allowing east-west SR 316 traffic to flow freely.*

Response: The goal of the Virgil Langford Road grade-separation project is to remove any at-grade access to and from SR 316 due to the transformation of SR 316 to a Freeway classified road. Information about roadway classifications is available online: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/processes/statewide/related/highway\\_functional\\_classifications/section03.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/processes/statewide/related/highway_functional_classifications/section03.cfm). Introducing access locations onto ramps at locations other than at the ramp termini does not conform to Georgia DOT and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) design guidelines.

- *Comments were received that these projects are a waste of taxpayer dollars and not best for the community if it is going to raise taxes.*

Response: Transportation projects developed and built do not raise property taxes. Local and state municipalities set tax assessments. Please contact your local officials for more information regarding local taxes. The Oconee County Tax Commissioner has information available online at <https://www.oconeecounty.com/394/Tax-Commissioner>.

- *A comment was received that Georgia DOT needs to learn to be efficient and reduce vehicle miles traveled, not increase it. It was indicated that the project would take money not in the budget to maintain the perceived oversized infrastructure.*

Response: The proposed projects would not add Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), and the Virgil Langford Road grade separation would reduce VMT and expand both connectivity and accessibility by connecting both sides of Virgil Langford Road. Because SR 316 is being transformed to a limited access road, many existing accesses are being removed. Locations of access points to be retained are carefully planned and vetted. The Virgil Langford Road access was chosen to be removed because it was a local road with relatively low traffic volumes compared to the adjacent Oconee Connector and Jimmy Daniels Road. Early project alternatives for Virgil Langford Road were to eliminate access at Virgil Langford Road via a cul-de-sac on both sides of SR 316. It was later determined that this would increase VMT and diminish mobility. It was decided that a grade separation would be a cost-effective solution to increase mobility and provide new connectivity to the immediate transportation network thereby reducing overall VMT. The cost of the project design, construction, and maintenance factor into the planning process. Alternatives are evaluated during project development taking into consideration the need and purpose for the project, the potential project impacts, and the project cost.

- *A comment was received that 12-foot vehicle lanes next to 4-foot bike lanes is inviting the murder of cyclists. The comment noted that bike infrastructure should be designed for 8-year-olds and 80-year-olds, and sidewalks should be turned into multiuse paths with buffer from the roadway.*

Response: There are no existing or proposed bike lanes on Virgil Langford Road. The proposed Oconee Connector lane configuration matches the existing configuration which includes 12-foot travel lanes and 4-foot bike lanes with separate sidewalks. The use of a 4-foot bike lane is compatible with the current Georgia DOT Design



Policy for roadways classified as Arterials. For more information, the Complete Streets section of the Georgia DOT Design Policy Manual is available online at <https://www.ghmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Georgia-Department-of-Transportation-PDF.pdf#>.

- *A comment was received expressing concern about access to a business. The comment asked how the changes in elevation on Virgil Langford Road would affect access to the business.*

Response: The elevation changes due to the construction of the grade separation results in the expansion of construction limits on both sides of Virgil Langford Road. This grade separation also requires the elevation increases to Langford Drive with similar results in expansion of construction limits. The preferred alternative was developed to minimize impacts to properties; however, it does result in the direct impact to Parcel 13, requiring a full displacement of the business (Athens Oconee Dentistry) located on this parcel.

Please note that the proposed project alignment has not yet been finalized and the proposed right-of-way (ROW) shown on the plans may be reduced or perhaps eliminated. In the event your property is required in total or in part, a certified appraiser from Georgia DOT's appraiser prequalification list will make a fair market value appraisal of the area to be acquired, including any damages to the remainder of the land, if applicable. The appraisal will also include values for improvements required or damages that may be applicable.

Should you be required to relocate as part of this project, a Georgia DOT representative will assist you during your relocation. Information about the ROW process is included in the Right-of-Way Brochure on the ROW Acquisition Process area on the project website: <https://sr316-oconee.scoutfeedback.com/>.

- *A comment was received about not liking roundabouts.*

Response: No roundabouts are currently proposed as part of the SR 316 at Virgil Langford Road project or as part of the SR 316 at Oconee Connector project. Your comment was forwarded to the project team for the SR 316 project at CR 55/Jimmy Daniel Road, PI# 0013767. Should you have further questions about the Jimmy Daniel Road project, you may contact the project manager, Iheanachor "Achor" Njoku Sr., at 404-631-1550

**Comments regarding SR 316 at Oconee Connector, PI# 0013769:**

- *Comments were received offering general support for the proposed project. The comments noted that this intersection upgrade is crucial for vehicle safety in the Oconee County area and the improvement is needed. A comment also expressed support for the median break on the Oconee Connector between SR 316 and Mars Hill Road/Daniels Bridge Road remaining as it is. Comments noted that this looks appropriate and should have been done a few years ago.*

Response: Thank you for your support of this project.

- *Comments were received expressing concerns about the number of traffic lights on the Oconee Connector reducing traffic flow onto and off SR 316. The comments suggested that reducing the number of traffic lights or combining access points with other existing intersections would be better solutions for the county because there would otherwise be four lights on Oconee Connector starting at the Virgil Langford Road intersection and Mars Hill Road.*

Response: On the Oconee Connector, the project proposes to add two, new traffic lights at the entrance/exit ramps and remove one existing traffic light at SR 316. Early in Concept Development, a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI) that would have created a single signalized intersection for the new interchange, was evaluated. The SPUI would have cost more than double the partial cloverleaf interchange that is currently proposed. Additionally, the westbound exit ramp for a SPUI would not have provided enough weaving distance for the vehicles entering the ramp from SR 316 and those exiting the ramp from SR 10 Loop. This deficiency of weaving distance for the westbound ramp is a common issue with all diamond interchange configurations at this location including the SPUI. The SPUI was eliminated from consideration because of the additional costs and the deficient weaving distance.

- *Comments were received expressing concerns about the proposed commercial development in the project area. Comments included support for the project if there were no new entrances, traffic signals, or interchanges added for the proposed Publix shopping center at Mars Hill Road and Oconee Connector. Numerous comments expressed opposition to the proposed commercial space.*

Response: This project will add two, new signalized intersections at the proposed ramp entrances/exits on Oconee Connector and remove the existing traffic signal at SR 316. This project does not propose to add a signalized intersection at any other location along the Oconee Connector.

Land use and zoning decisions in Georgia are made by county or local governments. Georgia DOT coordinates with these entities to ensure that traffic projections consider planned developments. In this case, traffic forecasts and design took into consideration extensive development in the project area, including large retail and commercial facilities. Any questions specifically regarding the development of concern can be directed to the county's planning or zoning department (<https://www.oconeecounty.com/367/Planning-Code-Enforcement>).

- *A comment was received asking about the timing for the detour. The comment noted that timing of the construction is difficult to pinpoint but suggested that the detour be implemented mid-May through July when traffic is reduced in the area, which would lessen the potential of speeding cars through the Jimmy Daniel Road and Mars Hill Road area near a retirement home, a church with a preschool, and several neighborhoods.*

Response: The proposed detour has a limited time constraint of 45 days should the contractor choose to implement it. The exact time of the year when the detour would be installed is not be constrained.



- *Comments were also received that the detour would be inconvenient but brief in the overall context of the project. The comments noted that Georgia DOT should take steps to keep large trucks off Mars Hill Road and expressed an interest in learning about how much traffic is expected on the detour based on today's traffic pattern.*

Response: The detour would split the traffic sending northbound Oconee Connector traffic onto Virgil Langford Road going over SR 316, and southbound Oconee Connector onto Mars Hill Road. The contractor would be required to remove the temporary detour within 45 days from implementation. Traffic along Virgil Langford Road and Mars Hill Road, including truck traffic, would be expected to increase during the duration of the detour.

Recognizing the hardship that an off-site detour can have on residents and businesses, the Georgia DOT attempts to utilize on-site detours when circumstances are favorable. Unfortunately, conditions on some projects do not lend themselves to an on-site detour. Any additional questions concerning the Georgia DOT's policy on detour routes should be directed to Darryl VanMeter, the State Alternative Delivery Administrator, at (404) 631-1703.

Again, thank you for your feedback. Should you have further questions or comments, please call the project manager, Iheanachor "Achor" Njoku Sr., at 404-631-1550 or the environmental analyst, Allie Nelson, at 404-631-1224.

Sincerely,



Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

ED/AN/epei-jeb

cc: Jamie Boswell, GDOT Board Member (District 10)  
Trey Rhodes, State Representative (District 120)  
Bill Cowsert, State Senator (District 46)  
Achor Njoku, GDOT Project Manager (via email)  
PDF for Project File

Do you support the project, SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at Virgil Langford Road (P.I. No. 0013768)?	Please share your comments about the project
For	
For	I believe the flyover will provide better access to the quickly developing medical area of the county for all citizens and, most importantly, for EMS from the county's new fire station.
Against	This is a waste of taxpayer dollars. GDOT needs to learn to be efficient and REDUCE VMT, not increase it. I guarantee you you'll be whining several years down the line about the money you don't have to maintain this oversized infrastructure. Also, 12-ft vehicle lanes next to 4-ft bike lanes is inviting the murder of cyclists. Design your bike infrastructure for eight-year olds and eighty-year olds. Turn the sidewalks into multi-use paths and provide more buffer from the roadway. Thank you and please feel free to reach out.
For	
For	Should have been done long ago.
Conditional	I am not a fan of roundabouts. Regardless of what you say, the roundabout at Hwy 81 and Bold Springs Rd is a nightmare. People don't slow down as they're approaching it, they fail to yield, and they fly through the roundabout. For those of us that live off of Hwy 81 on either side of the roundabout, we face a continuous, non-ending amount of traffic on 81, as we try to get out onto the highway from our streets, homes, and subdivisions.

Conditional	The coordinated cross over at the Oconee Connector could make improvements to area traffic by allowing E/W 316 traffic to flow freely particularly during AM/PM rush times.
For	Converting intersections to overpass along 316 is greatly needed now, and traffic continues to increase. I support the project plans.

Do you support the project, SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at Oconee Connector (P.I. No. 0013769)?	Please share your comments about the project	Provide comments on the proposed detour
Conditional (I would support th	<p>The Oconee Connector is a major entrance and exit point for much of the county residents. With the proposed two traffic lights by GDOT, there would be four lights on Oconee Connector starting at the Virgil Langford intersection and Mars Hill. I question how similar this setup would be to the one at Hwy 138 and I-20 in Conyers with the four traffic lights in sequence on 138. This area is significantly snarled by traffic most times of the day. Additionally, the corner property at Mars Hill/Oconee Connector/316 held by Maxie Price would require access for future development. The past request was an additional light on Oconee Connector just before the Oconee Connector/316 intersection. This would add a fifth light potentially.</p> <p>In short, I am very concerned about traffic flow on Oconee Connector and access to and from 316 with this proposed intersection.</p>	<p>Please see comments above.</p>
For		
For	<p>This is a terrible intersection. This improvement is desperately needed. I am particularly pleased with the response of Chris Edmondson that the median break on the Oconee Connector between SR 316 and Mars Hill Road/Daniells Bridge Road will remain as it is. He said this several times. This is an important point, and I'm very pleased he was so clear about the plans. In the ideal, this median break would be removed. But it has a base in the ROW acquisition for SR 316 and the Oconee Connector going back many years. What is important is that the median break remains as is, rather than be expanded.</p>	<p>This will be an inconvenience. But the duration is brief in the overall context of the project.</p>

For

Please keep as proposed. I am opposed to suggested additions of an interchange for new commercial development on the west side of the connector.

Conditional (I would support th

I am OK with the bridge going in, though it should have been done back when the intersection was redone a few years ago. I am against anything supporting the proposed shopping center.

Conditional (I would support th

I missed the information concerning a detour, but I would support it if in conjunction with the overpass and new exchange at 316 and Ocone Connector while construction takes place.

For

Should have been done long ago.

For

When driving to soccer practice and games along Ocone Connector, it usually takes about 3 light cycles to cross 316. This is greatly needed and plans look appropriate.

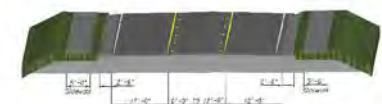




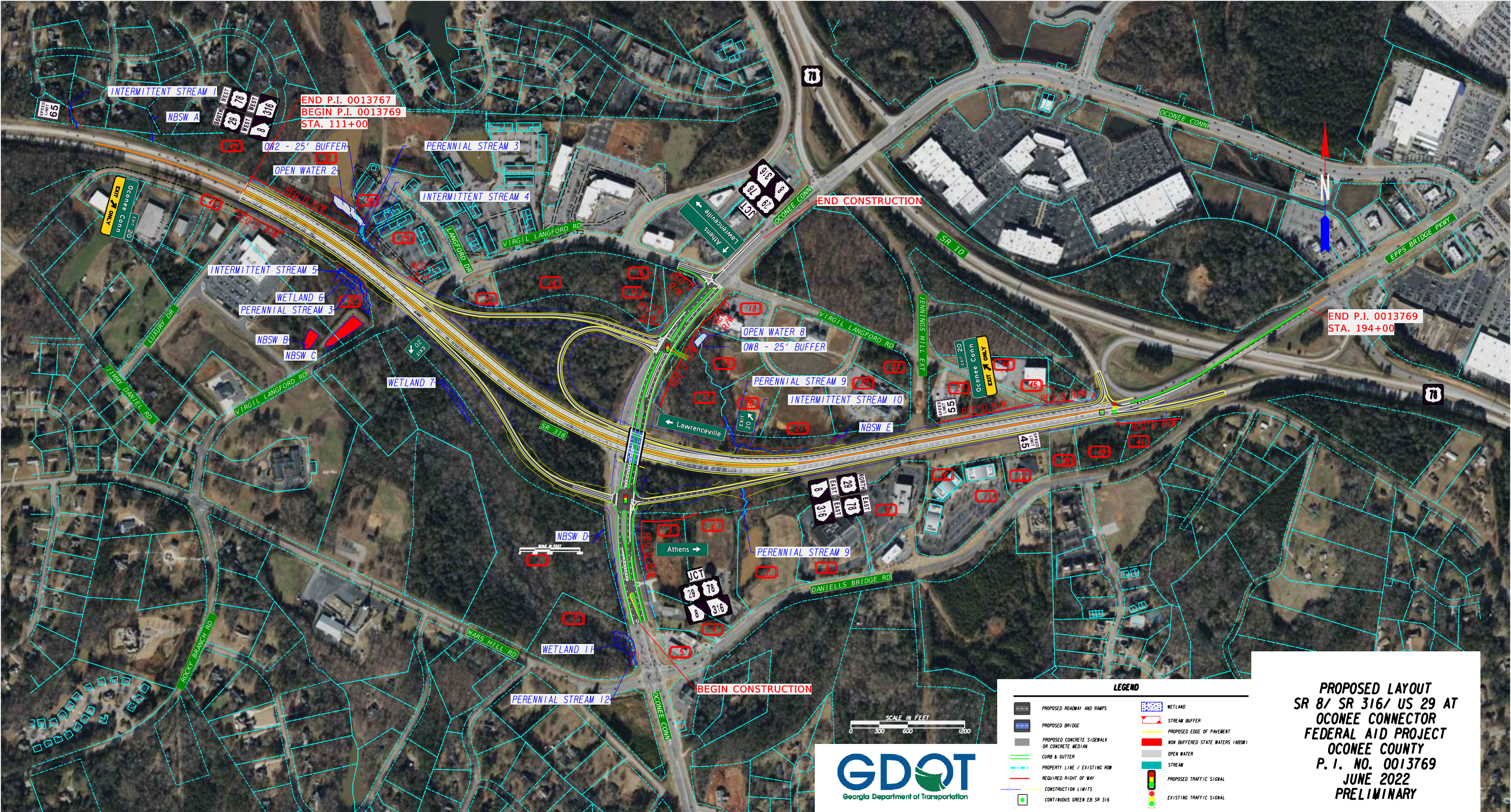
**PROPOSED LAYOUT**  
**SR 8/ SR 316/US 29 AT**  
**VIRGIL LANGFORD ROAD**  
**FEDERAL AID PROJECT**  
**OCONEE COUNTY**  
**P. I. NO. 0013768**  
**JUNE 2022**  
**PRELIMINARY**



LEGEND	
	PROPOSED ROADWAY AND RAMPS
	PROPOSED BRIDGE
	PROPOSED CONCRETE SIDEWALK OR CONCRETE MEDIAN
	CURB & GUTTER
	PROPERTY LINE / EXISTING ROW
	REQUIRED RIGHT OF WAY
	CONSTRUCTION LIMITS
	DISPLACED PROPERTY
	WETLAND
	STREAM BUFFER
	PROPOSED EDGE OF PAVEMENT
	NON BUFFERED STATE WATERS (NBSW)
	OPEN WATER
	STREAM
	PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL
	EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL

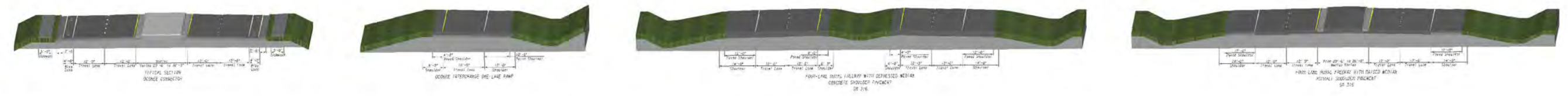






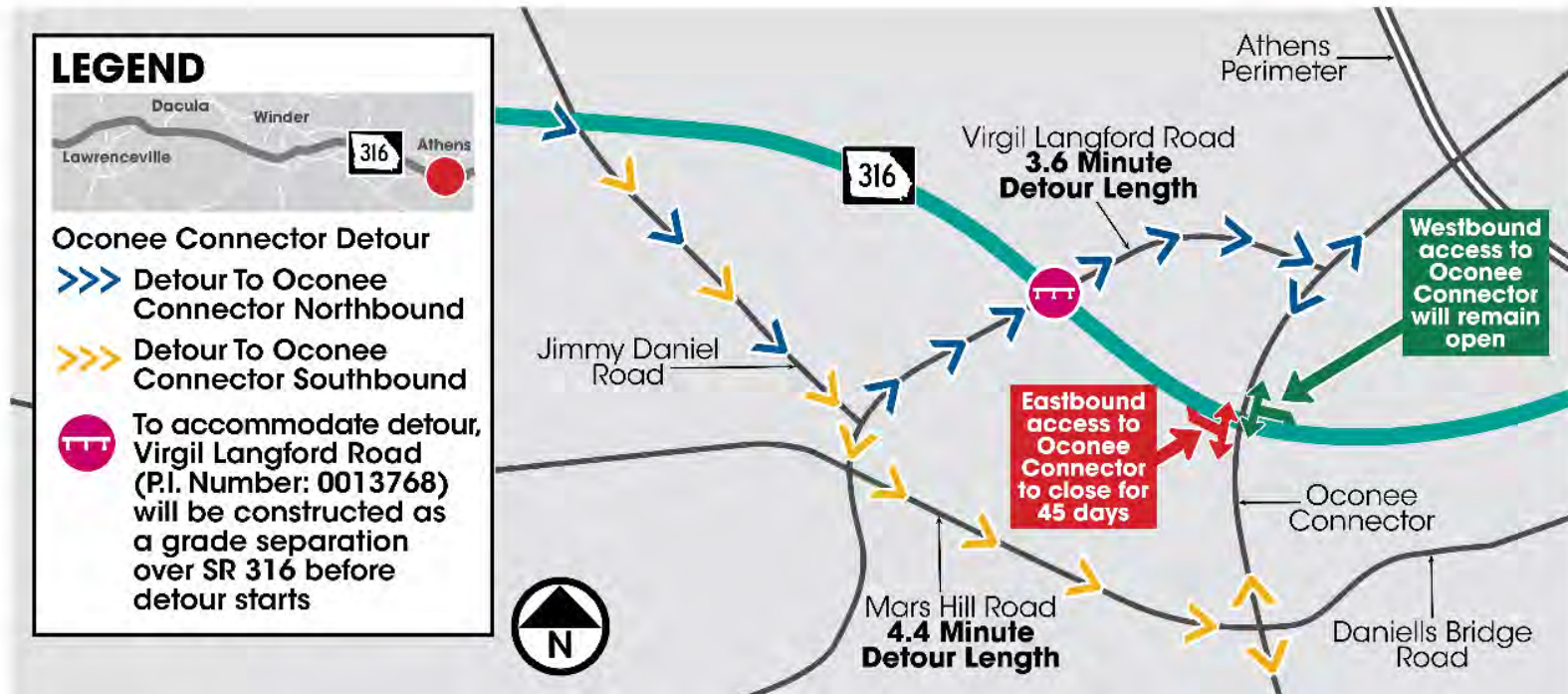
LEGEND	
	PROPOSED ROADWAY AND RAMP
	PROPOSED BRIDGE
	PROPOSED CONCRETE SIDEWALK OR CONCRETE MEDIAN
	CURB & GUTTER
	PROPERTY LINE / EXISTING ROW
	REQUIRED RIGHT OF WAY
	CONSTRUCTION LIMITS
	CONTINUOUS GREEN EB SR 316
	WETLAND
	STREAM BUFFER
	PROPOSED EDGE OF PAVEMENT
	NON-BUFFERED STATE WATERS (NBSW)
	OPEN WATER
	STREAM
	PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL
	EXISTING TRAFFIC SIGNAL

**PROPOSED LAYOUT**  
**SR 8/ SR 316/ US 29 AT**  
**OCONEE CONNECTOR**  
**FEDERAL AID PROJECT**  
**OCONEE COUNTY**  
**P. I. NO. 0013769**  
**JUNE 2022**  
**PRELIMINARY**





# Potential Temporary Detour



The project detour map is for a potential temporary detour for eastbound SR 316 traffic to northbound or southbound Oconee Connector.

Published Q2 2022



**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

### **Why are we here and what is the issue we are seeking to address within your community?**

The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) is seeking feedback about a proposed solution to improve mobility, potentially reduce crashes, and improve traffic flow conditions along approximately 0.4 miles of State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/US 29 and the current at-grade intersection with County Road (CR) 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road in Oconee County.

### **Current conditions along the SR 8/SR 316/US 29 corridor:**

- SR 8/SR 316/US 29 is a four-lane rural divided highway with four, 12-foot concrete/asphalt travel lanes (two lanes in each direction), 44-foot depressed (grassed) median, 10-foot outside shoulders (4 feet paved), and 6-foot inside shoulders (4 feet paved).
- There is currently one at-grade, unsignalized intersection within the project limits. This intersection consists of SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road.
- South of SR 8/SR 316/US 29, CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road consists of two, 11-foot travel lanes (one lane in each direction) with narrow grass shoulders. North of SR 8/SR 316/US 29, CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road consists of two, 12-foot travel lanes with sidewalk and bike lanes.

### **Without this Project (No-Build):**

- SR 8/SR 316/US 29 would remain a four-lane rural divided highway with four 12-foot concrete/asphalt travel lanes (two lanes in each direction), 44-foot depressed (grassed) median, 10-foot outside shoulders (4 feet paved), and 6-foot inside shoulders (4 feet paved).
- The intersection of SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road would remain an at-grade, unsignalized crossing.
- The average daily traffic on SR 8/SR 316/US 29 is expected to be 24,825 in 2026 and 35,825 in 2048. The average daily traffic on CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road is expected to be 3,825 in 2026 and 5,175 in 2046. Because traffic volumes are expected to increase, the number of crashes occurring in the future is also likely to increase.

### **Proposed Solution: (Also See Project Location Map attached)**

The proposed improvements would be a continuation of a series of reconstruction projects along SR 8/SR 316/US 29, from SR 20 in Gwinnett County to SR 10 in Athens/Oconee County that would improve mobility, potentially reduce crashes, and improve traffic flow conditions. PI No. 0013678 proposes the following:

- Remove the existing at-grade, unsignalized intersection at CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road.
- Construct a grade separation at CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Lanford Road with removal of direct access to and from SR 8/SR 316/US 29. The proposal consists of constructing a new bridge that would connect CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road across SR 8/SR 316/US 29.

### **Benefits of Project Implementation:**

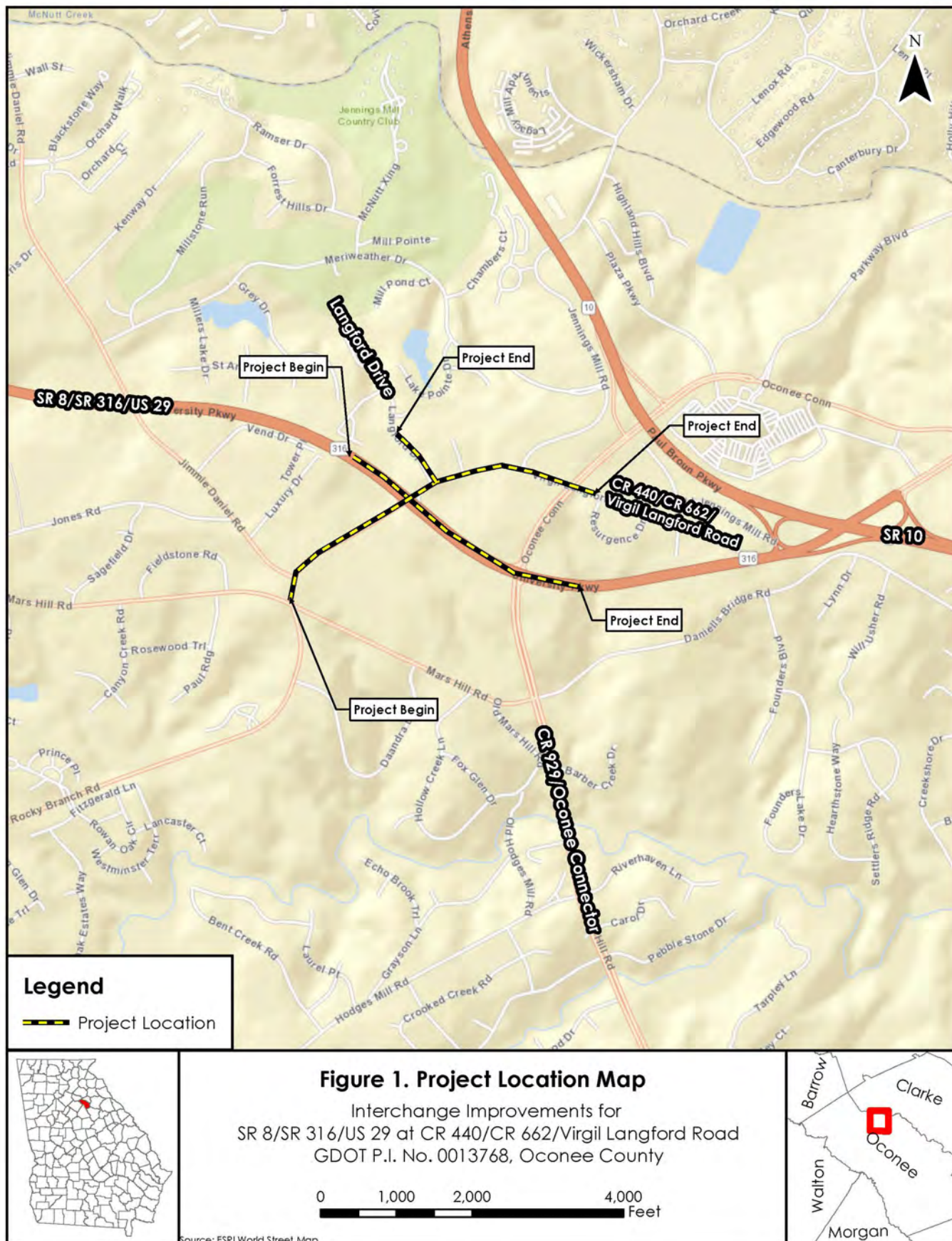
- The proposed project would be a continuation of the goal to improve SR 8/SR 316/US 29 as a key transportation facility in the region.
- Within the project corridor, congestion would be reduced and traffic flow improved.
- Eliminating the at-grade intersection would reduce the number of vehicle conflict points; therefore, reducing the potential number of crashes at the intersection.

**How Can You Assist:** Please provide feedback about our proposed solution as well as information about any resources important to you or to the community. Are there events that future construction may affect once it begins?

**Where is this project in the process?** This project is currently in the concept phase. The concept phase defines the existing issue seeking to be resolved along with a proposed solution that will meet the community's needs.

**What are the Next Steps?** After the public meeting is held, feedback will be assessed, revisions may occur to the proposed plan initially brought to the public or the No-Build alternative will be selected. Comments and questions received during the public comment period will be addressed in a response letter that will be provided within 30 days of the end of the public comment period. If major changes occur to what was previously shown to the community, additional public outreach would occur. If no major changes are proposed, the project would advance to right-of-way acquisition and into final design. After all right-of-way acquisition occurs, project design is finalized, and the project would advance to construction.









**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

### **Why are we here and what is the issue we are seeking to address within your community?**

The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) is seeking feedback about a proposed solution to improve mobility, potentially reduce crashes, and improve traffic flow conditions along approximately 1.6 miles of State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/US 29 and the current at-grade intersection with County Road (CR) 929/Oconee Connector in Oconee County. A potential detour may be needed for a short-term period up to 45 days for eastbound SR 316 traffic needing to exit onto the Oconee Connector.

### **Current conditions along the SR 8/SR 316/US 29 corridor:**

- SR 8/SR 316/US 29 is a four-lane rural divided highway with four, 12-foot concrete/asphalt travel lanes (two lanes in each direction), a 44-foot depressed (grassed) median west of CR 929/Oconee Connector and a raised median east of CR 929/Oconee Connector, 10-foot outside shoulders (4 feet paved), and 6-foot inside shoulders (4 feet paved).
- There is currently one at-grade, signalized intersection within the project limits. This intersection consists of SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector.
- CR 929/Oconee Connector is a four-lane roadway with 12-foot lanes (two in each direction), a 20-foot to 32-foot raised median, bike lanes, and sidewalk.

### **Without this Project (No-Build):**

- SR 8/SR 316/US 29 would remain a four-lane rural divided highway with four, 12-foot concrete/asphalt travel lanes (two lanes in each direction), 44-foot depressed (grassed) median west of CR 929/Oconee Connector and a raised median east of CR 929/Oconee Connector, 10-foot outside shoulders (4 feet paved), and 6-foot inside shoulders (4 feet paved).
- The intersection of SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector would remain an at-grade, signalized crossing.
- The average daily traffic on SR 8/SR 316/US 29 is expected to be 24,825 in 2026 and 35,825 in 2048. The average daily traffic on CR 929/Oconee Connector is expected to be 14,350 in 2026 and 20,700 in 2048. Because traffic volumes are expected to increase, the number of crashes occurring in the future is also likely to increase.

### **Proposed Solution: (Also See Project Location Map attached)**

The proposed improvements would be a continuation of a series of reconstruction projects along SR 8/SR 316/US 29, from SR 20 in Gwinnett County to SR 10 in Athens/Oconee County that would improve mobility, potentially reduce crashes, and improve traffic flow conditions. PI No. 0013769 proposes the following:

- Remove the existing at-grade, signalized intersection at CR 929/Oconee Connector.
- Create a grade-separated partial cloverleaf interchange at CR 929/Oconee Connector.

### **Potential Detour: (Also See Potential Temporary Detour Map attached)**

A potential detour may be needed for a short-term period of up to 45 days for eastbound SR 8/SR 316/US 29 traffic needing to exit onto CR 929/Oconee Connector. The detour is 2.1 miles long and may be needed to allow for the completion of a small section of the proposed eastbound SR 8/SR 316/US 29 exit ramp to CR 929/Oconee Connector. Eastbound SR 8/SR 316/US 29 traffic wanting to access the Oconee Connector would need to exit at CR 55/Jimmy Daniels Road southbound and travel to the intersection of CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road. Traffic would either turn left on CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road headed north or turn right toward Mars Hill Road. At Mars Hill Road, traffic would turn left to head east toward CR 929/Oconee Connector. The proposed grade separation project at CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road would be opened to traffic prior to implementation of the potential detour so that access over SR 8/SR 316/US 29 to points north would be available.

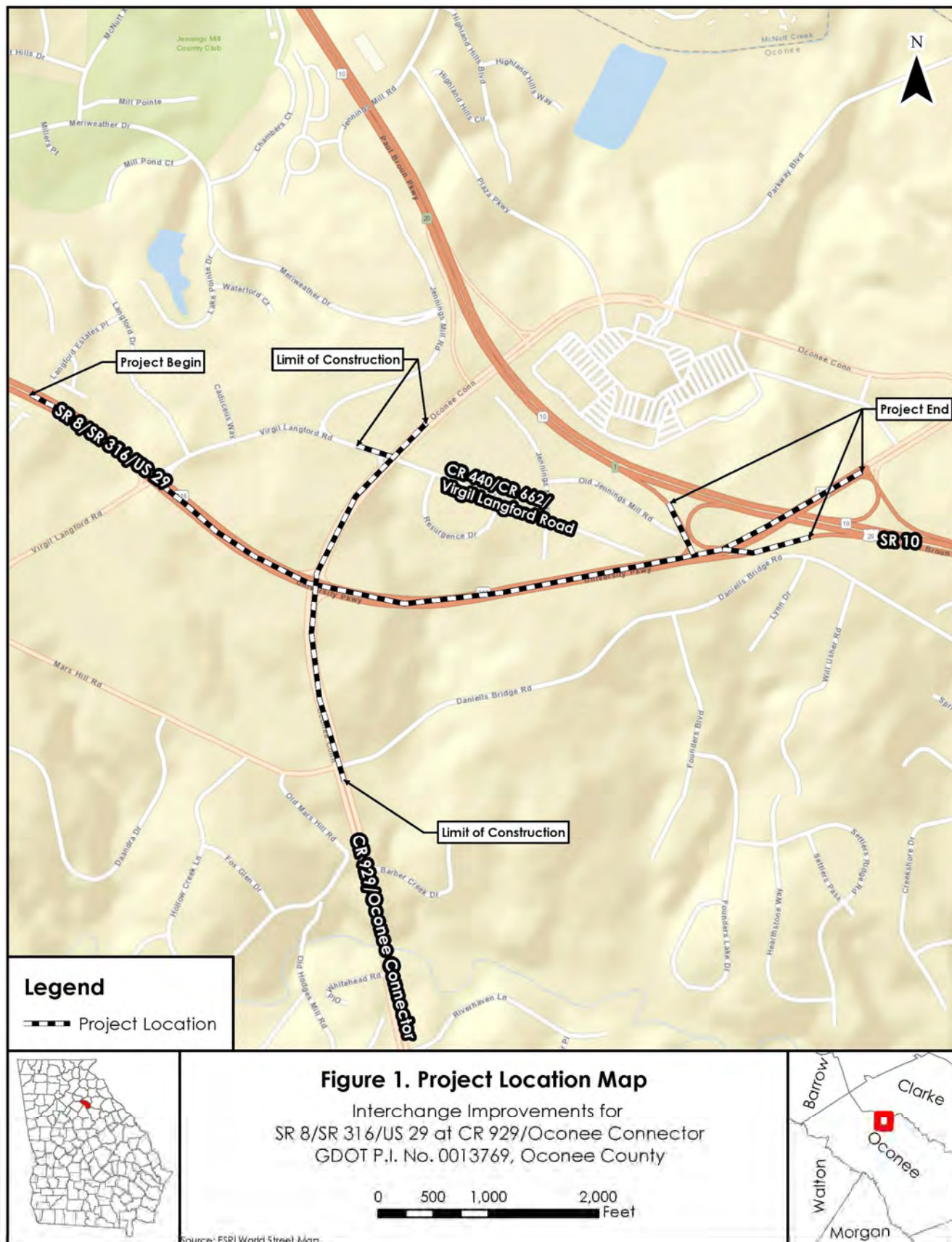
**Benefits of Project Implementation:**

- The proposed project would be a continuation of the goal to improve SR 8/SR 316/US 29 as a key transportation facility in the region.
- Within the project corridor, congestion would be reduced and traffic flow improved.
- Eliminating the at-grade intersection would reduce the number of vehicle conflict points; therefore, reducing the potential number of crashes at the intersection.

**How Can You Assist:** Please provide feedback about our proposed solution as well as information about any resources important to you or to the community. Are there events that future construction may affect once it begins?

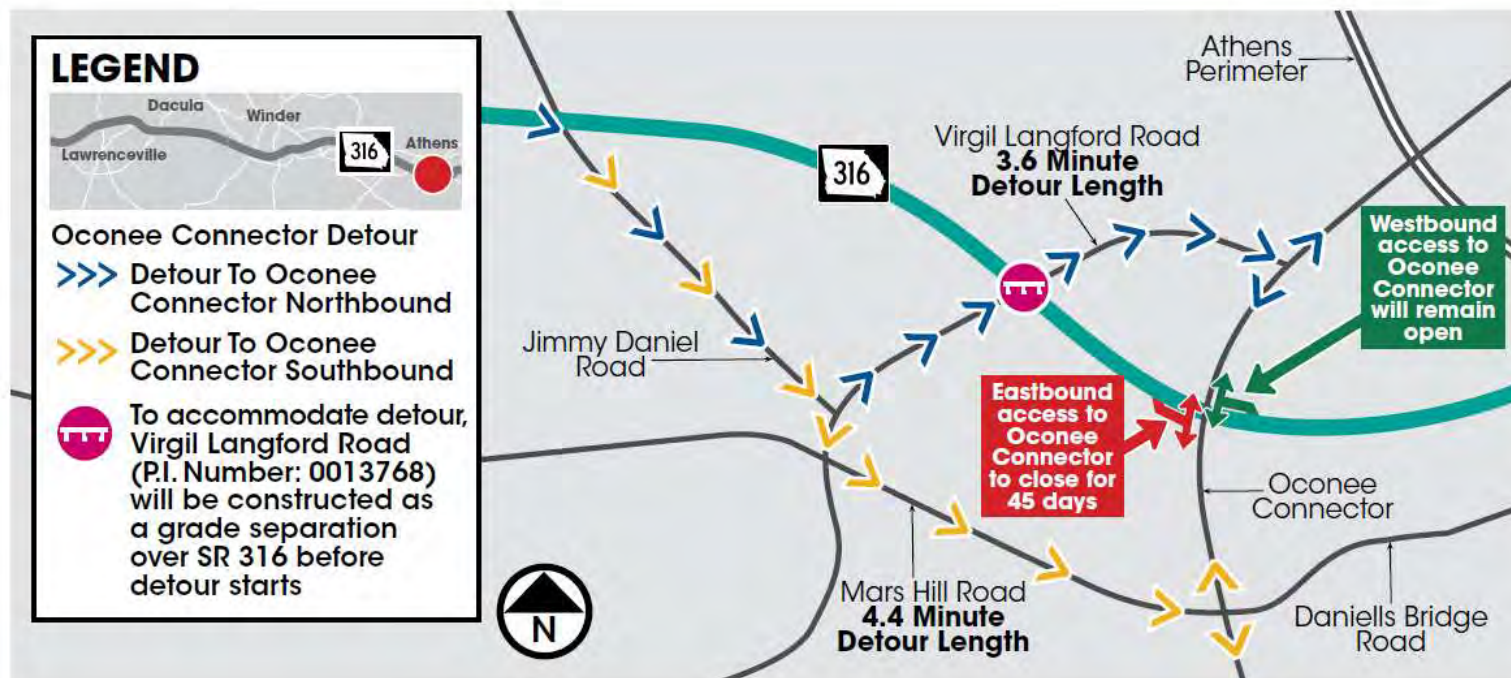
**Where is this project in the process?** This project is currently in the concept phase. The concept phase defines the existing issue seeking to be resolved along with a proposed solution that will meet the community's needs.

**What are the Next Steps?** After the public meeting is held, feedback will be assessed, revisions may occur to the proposed plan initially brought to the public or the No-Build alternative will be selected. Comments and questions received during the public comment period will be addressed in a response letter that will be provided within 30 days of the end of the public comment period. If major changes occur to what was previously shown to the community, additional public outreach would occur. If no major changes are proposed, the project would advance to right-of-way acquisition and into final design. After all right-of-way acquisition occurs, project design is finalized, and the project would advance to construction.





# Potential Temporary Detour



The project detour map is for a potential temporary detour for eastbound SR 316 traffic to northbound or southbound Oconee Connector.

Published Q2 2022



## SR 8/SR 316/US 29

PI No. 0013768: SR316 @ Virgil  
Langford Road (Grade Separation)

PI No. 0013769: SR 316 @ Oconee  
Connector (New Interchange)

### Virtual Presentation and Q&A

June 22, 2022, 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

*This project is part of the SR 316 Bundle 2 Design-Build projects. The SR 316 Bundle 2 includes three Georgia DOT projects, which have been packaged together for procurement and construction.*





## Tips to Navigate this Virtual Presentation and Q&A

### Rules for the Q&A

- Please submit your question using Microsoft Teams Live **Q&A** feature.
- You will be in “listen only” mode and remain muted throughout the Q&A.
- Please keep questions concise, project-specific, and appropriate.
- Moderator will read the questions for the project team to respond to.
- Similar questions may be grouped.
- If we are not able to answer your question today, please provide your contact information and we will respond within 3 business days.

### Internet Connection

- Bandwidth will impact your experience so be sure to have strong Wi-Fi or a reliable wired connection.

### Elected Officials

- If you're an elected official, please send us your name and office in the chat for our records.


A recording of this virtual event will be posted on the project website by **Tuesday, May 31, 2022.**  
**<https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com>**





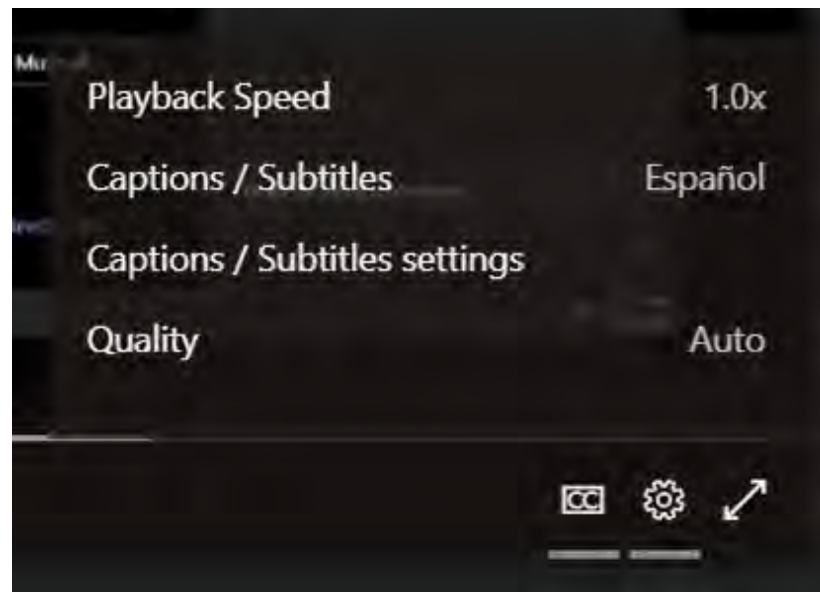
**SCAN ME**

## Tips to Navigate this Virtual Presentation and Q&A

### Closed Captioning/Subtitles in Multiple Languages

Closed captioning is available by **clicking on the ** at the bottom right corner of your page.

To **change the language**, click **on the ** to the right of the  and select the language of your choice.





## SR 8/SR 316/US 29

PI No. 0013768: SR316 @ Virgil  
Langford Road (Grade Separation)

PI No. 0013769: SR 316 @ Oconee  
Connector (New Interchange)

**Achor Njoku, Sr.**  
OAD Project Manager

*All materials presented are subject to change,  
pending concept and environmental evolution.*



## Project Overview & Location

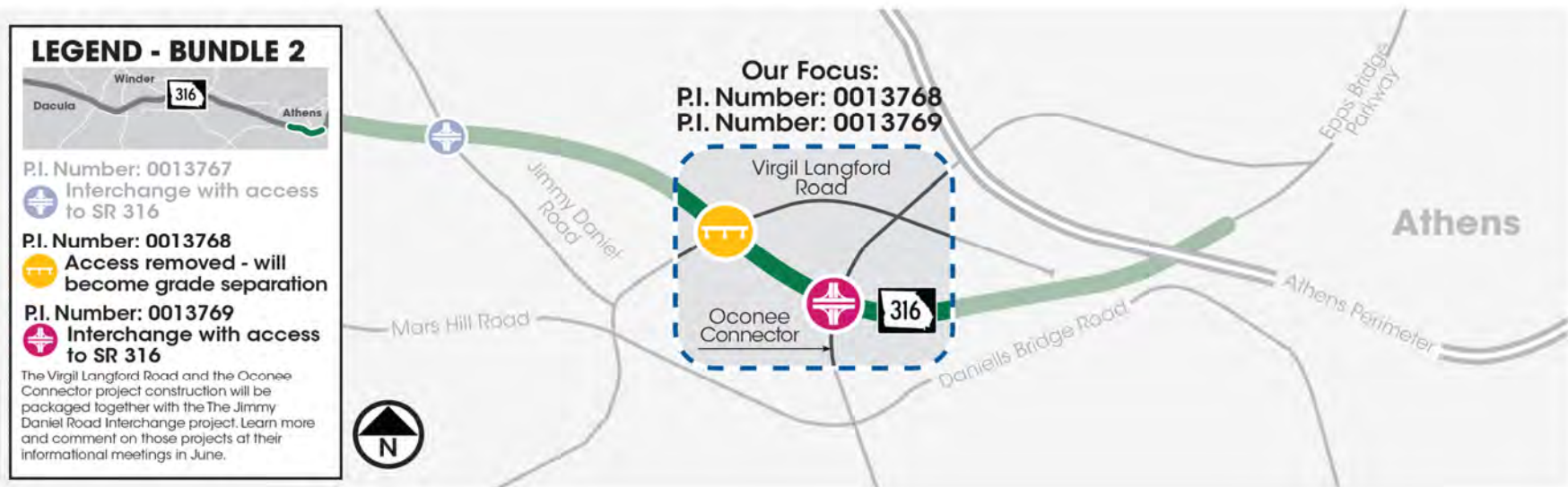
### Proposed Improvements

#### PI 0013768

- Remove the existing at-grade access points to SR 316 and construct a grade separation at SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and Virgil Langford Road.

#### PI 0013769

- Remove existing signalized, at-grade intersection at SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and Oconee Connector.
- Construct an at grade-separated fully directional Partial Cloverleaf interchange.





## Proposed Concept Layout – PI 0013768

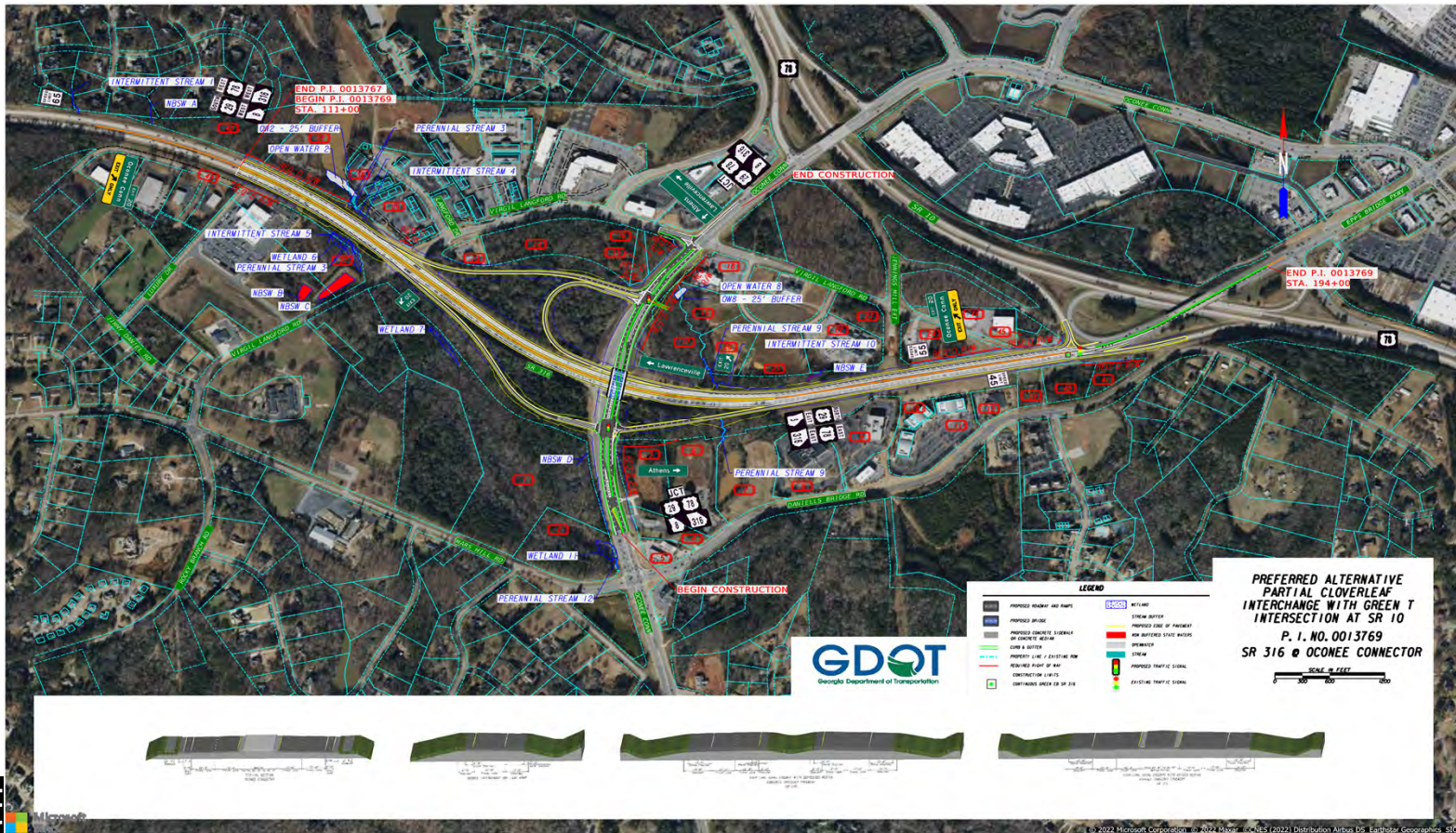


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To learn more, visit  
<https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com>



# Proposed Concept Layout – PI 0013769

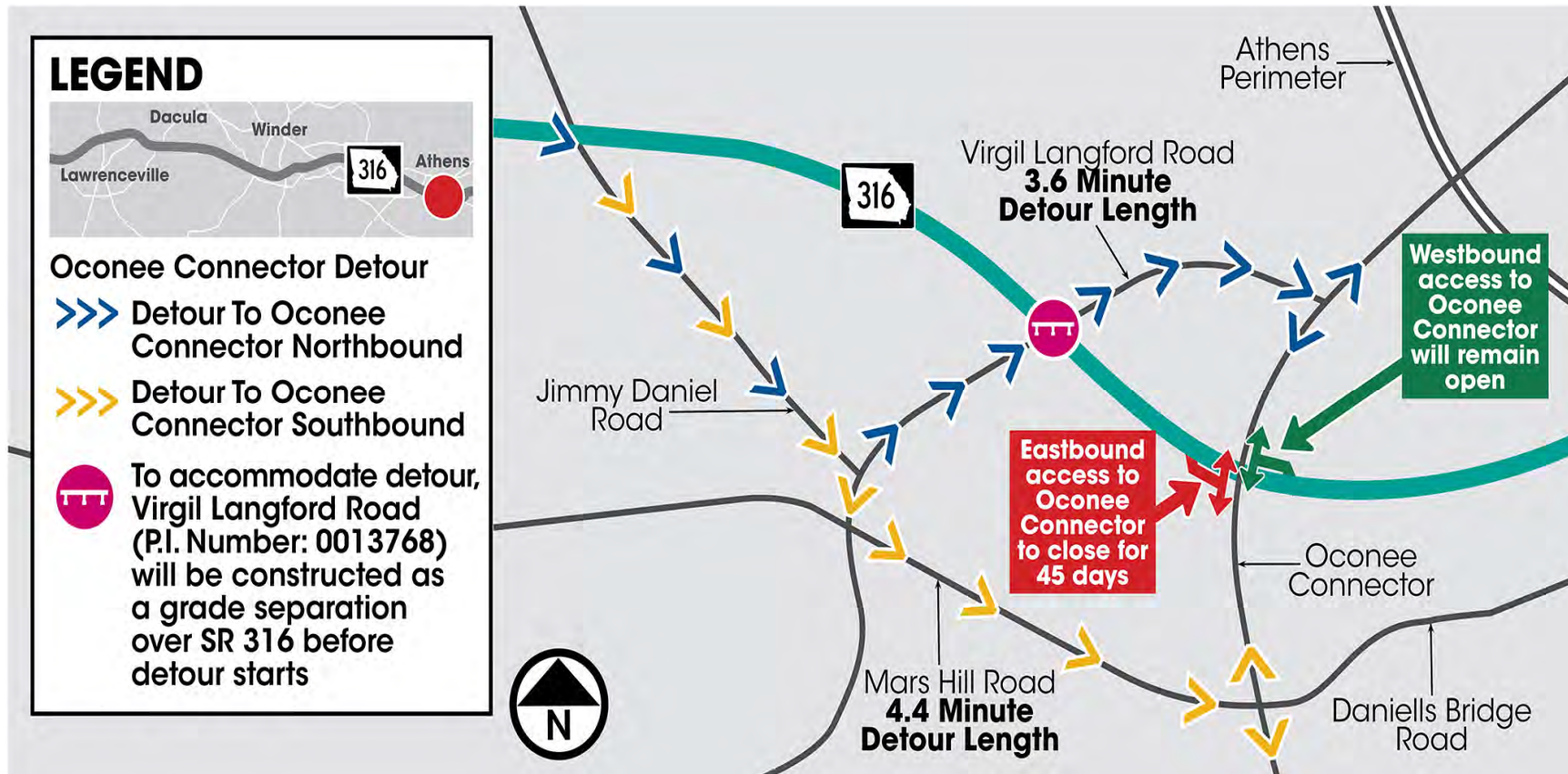


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<https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com>



## Oconee Connector (Potential) Detour – PI 0013769



## PI 0013768 Existing Conditions

### Traffic Volumes

- This portion of SR 316 serves approximately **21,325 vehicles per day**, with truck traffic representing **6 percent** of the total volume.
- Virgil Langford Road serves **2700 vehicles per day**, with truck traffic representing **2 percent** of the total volume.

### Vehicle Incidents

- Crash data from 2016 to 2020 indicated that **191 crashes** occurred in the vicinity of the project intersection.

### Connectivity Issues

- Currently there's no through access to Virgil Langford Rd. across SR316

## PI 0013769 Existing Conditions

### Traffic Volumes

- This portion of SR 316 serves approximately **22,025 vehicles per day**, with truck traffic representing **6 percent** of the total volume.
- Oconee Connector serves **13,250 vehicles per day**, with truck traffic representing **6 percent** of the total volume.

### Vehicle Incidents

- Crash data from 2016 to 2020 indicated that **269 crashes** occurred in the vicinity of the project intersection.

### Congestion Issues

- Based on 2020 Level of Service (LOS), a measurement of traffic congestion, The Oconee Connector performs at **LOS E in the AM peak hour** and **LOS E in the PM peak hour**.

## PI 0013768 Project Benefits



Improve  
Connectivity and  
Mobility



Improve Traffic Flow  
Conditions



## PI 0013769 Project Benefits



Improve  
Mobility



Reduce the Potential,  
Severity and  
Frequency of Crashes



Improve Traffic Flow  
Conditions

## Project Schedule



### Continuous Stakeholder Engagement and Community Involvement

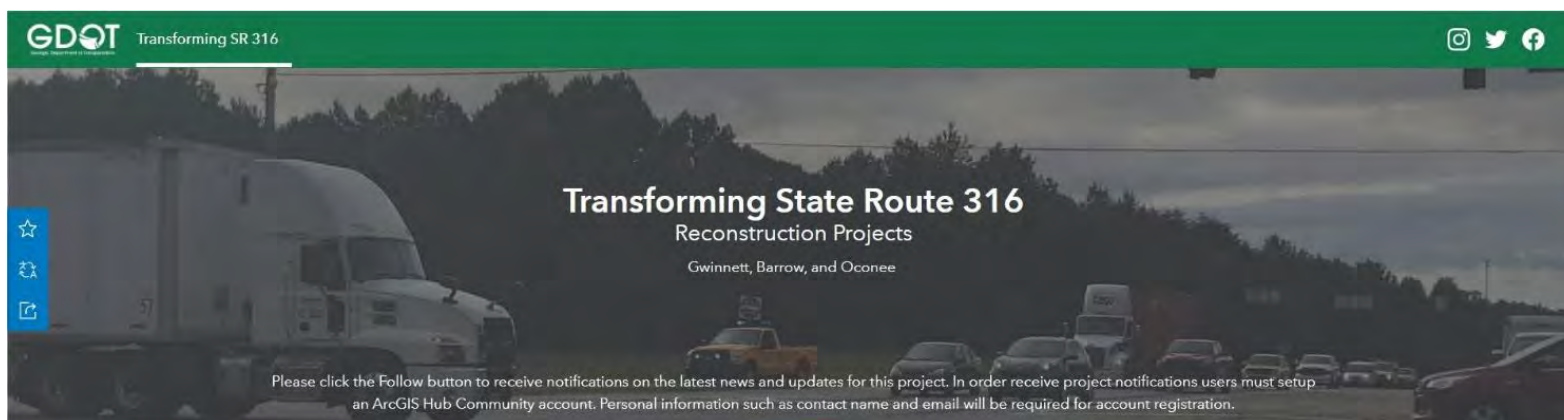
The project schedule is for **SR 316 Bundle 2 Design-Build projects**:

- SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road (P.I. No. 0013767)
- **SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 440/CR 662/Virgil Langford Road (P.I. No. 0013768)**
- SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 929/Oconee Connector (P.I. No. 0013769)

These three projects have been packaged as a bundle for procurement and construction. Project schedule and dates are subject to change.

# Virtual Public Information Open House (PIOH)

Project website: <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com>



The virtual meeting room platform provides the same materials found at an in-person PIOH...



.. from videos, fact sheets, handouts, and project maps ...



... to visualization, right-of way and environmental displays ...



... to a dedicated comment station to receive your feedback

## Ways to Submit Comments



Leave your comments on project web page  
**(Comment Station in the Virtual Meeting Room platform)** at  
<https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com>



Email your comments to [P3Division@dot.ga.gov](mailto:P3Division@dot.ga.gov)



Leave your comments at **(404) 631-1733** (voicemail)



Mail in your comments to Georgia DOT:  
Mr. Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

**Comment period open until June 10, 2022**



## Stay Connected

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 @GADeptofTrans

 @gadeptoftrans

 [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov)



Scan to access  
project web page

# Thank You

For Viewing

**Project Web Page:**

<https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com>

**Phone:** (404) 631-1733

**Email:** [P3Division@dot.ga.gov](mailto:P3Division@dot.ga.gov)





Office of Alternative Delivery Project  
P.I. Numbers 0013768 and 0013769

# SR 8/SR 316 at Virgil Langford Road Grade Separation and at Oconee Connector Proposed Interchange

## **Please Join Us for a Virtual Public Information Open House!**

The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) is hosting an online Public Information Open House (PIOH) to share information about the proposed SR 8/SR 316 at Virgil Langford Road Grade Separation Project and at Oconee Connector Interchange Project. The PIOH offers the public an opportunity to comment. The comment period opens June 16, 2022.

Visit <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com> to view the project materials typically shown at an in-person public meeting and provide comments.

On June 22, 2022, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm, Georgia DOT will host a live, virtual PIOH Presentation and Question & Answer Session. On the day of the event, access information will be posted on the project website, provided above.

**Please provide comments by July 13, 2022**

# The Ocoone Enterprise

Notice of Sale	Notice to Creditors	Notice to Creditors	Public Notice	Public Notice	Public Notice
<p><b>NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER.</b></p> <p>STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF OCOONE</p> <p>Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained with that certain Security Deed dated September 22, 2003, from Russell L. Gaynor and Marie B. Gaynor to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., recorded on October 15, 2003 in Deed Book 707 at Page 676 Ocoone County, Georgia, records, having been first sold, assigned, transferred and conveyed to Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Secured Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2019-2, by Assignment and said Security Deed having been given to secure a note dated September 22, 2003, in the amount of \$110,000.00, and said Note being in default, the undersigned will sell at public outcry during the legal hours of sale before the door of the courthouse of Ocoone County, Georgia, on August 2, 2022 the following described real property (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"): <b>ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, TOGETHER WITH IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE 221ST DISTRICT OF OCOONE COUNTY, GEORGIA, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 7, BLOCK E, WINOY CREEK SUBDIVISION, PHASE II, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SURVEY ENTITLED "SURVEY FOR RUSSELL L. AND MARIE B. GAYNOR," PREPARED BY RAY NUNOUCS, RLS, DATED SEPTEMBER 12, 1986, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 12, PAGE 304, OCOONE COUNTY RECORDS AND INCORPORATED HEREIN, BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED BY DEED RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 86, PAGE 803, S4B RECORDS, THE DWELLING SITUATE UPON THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS KNOWN AS 1130 CREEK BRIDGE DRIVE ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF NUMBERING HOUSES IN OCOONE COUNTY, GEORGIA.</b> The debt secured by the Security Deed and evidenced by the Note and has been, and is hereby, declared due and payable because of, among other possible events of default, failure to make the payments as required by the terms of the Note. The debt remaining is, in default, and this sale will be made for the purpose of paying the Security Deed and amount of, and all expenses of the sale, including attorney's fees. Notice of intention to collect attorney's fees has been given as provided by law. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, the person(s) in possession of the property is/are Russell L. Gaynor and Marie B. Gaynor. The property, being commonly known as <b>1130 Creek Bridge Dr., Watkinsville, GA, 30677</b> in Ocoone County, will be sold as the property of Russell L. Gaynor and Marie B. Gaynor, subject to the outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien and not yet due and payable, any matters affecting title to the property which would be disclosed by accurate survey and inspection thereof, and all assessments, liens, encumbrances, restrictions, covenants, and matters of record to the Security Deed, Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 44-16-1622, the name, address and telephone number of the individual or entity who shall have the full authority to negotiate, amend or modify all terms of the above described mortgage is as follows: Specialized Loan Servicing, LLC, 8742 Lucet Blvd Suite 300, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129, 726-947-7261. The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing in O.C.G.A. Section 44-16-1622 shall require the secured creditor to negotiate, amend or modify the terms of the mortgage instrument. The sale will be conducted pursuant to (1) to confirmation that the sale is not in violation under U.S. Bankruptcy code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Security Deed, Abertell Law Attorney for Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, as Trustee for the benefit of the Secured Credit Risk Transfer Trust, Series 2019-2 at Attorney at Fact for Russell L. Gaynor and Marie B. Gaynor 100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 860 Atlanta, GA 30339 Phone: 770-373-4242 By Rohan Rupani For the Firm THIS FIRM IS ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ☐. 20-011913 A-4752125 07/07/2022, 07/14/2022, 07/21/2022, 07/28/2022</p> <p>SUP-77,714,2128</p> <p><b>Incorporation</b></p> <p>APPLICATION TO REGISTER A BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED UNDER TRADE NAME, PARTNERSHIP OR OTHERS</p> <p>STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY OF OCOONE</p> <p>The undersigned does hereby certify that JORDAN AP INC conducting a business at Jordan Air and Plumbing in the City of Watkinsville County of Ocoone in the State of Georgia, under the name of Jordan Air and Plumbing and that the nature of the business is a HVAC and Plumbing services and that the names and addresses of the persons, firms or partnership owning and carrying on said trade or business are Jordan Air Inc, 1165 Athens Rd Crawfords, GA 30630</p> <p>Is/ Donnie Jordan President, Jordan Air</p> <p>Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of June, 2022 Angela Taylor, Notary Public</p> <p>Filed in office this 24th day of June, 2022 Jessica Hall, Deputy Clerk</p> <p>Superior Court, Ocoone County, Ga.</p> <p>TN: 630,77</p>	<p>Address: 3065 Mercer University Dr., Ste. 200, Regent Centre, Atlanta, GA 30341</p> <p>NTC: 630,77,14,21</p> <p>STATE OF GEORGIA OCOONE COUNTY</p> <p><b>NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS</b></p> <p>All creditors of the estate of ANNIE BETH PAYNE BARTON, deceased, are hereby notified to render an account of their demands to the undersigned, and all debtors are required to make immediate payment.</p> <p>This 5th day of June, 2022.</p> <p>Patricia Leadwith Degan, Executor of the Estate of LARRY EARL SNIPES</p> <p>Richard J. Connolly Jr., Hudson, Montgomery, Kalkreuth and Connolly Post Office Box 8360 Athens, GA 30603 Phone: 706/549-9823 Fax: 706/593-9534</p> <p>NTC: 623,30,77,14</p> <p>OCOONE COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA</p> <p><b>NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS</b></p> <p>All creditors of the estate of HUGH E. USRY, deceased, are hereby notified to render an account of their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.</p> <p>This 20th day of June, 2022.</p> <p>Rhonda Henning and Sheryl Sirt Personal Representatives of the estate of ANNIE BETH PAYNE BARTON 1151 Long Road Watkinsville, GA 30677</p> <p>NTC: 623,30,77,14</p> <p><b>NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS</b></p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF TIMOTHY J. GALVIN</p> <p>All creditors of the estate of TIMOTHY J. GALVIN, late of Ocoone County, deceased, are hereby notified to render an account of their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.</p> <p>This 20th day of June, 2022.</p> <p>Deborah L. Galvin 1750 Flat Rock Road Watkinsville, GA 30677</p> <p>NTC: 623,30,77,14</p> <p>EXECUTOR: Pamela Lohr Hendrix 1151 Thornwood Dr. Watkinsville, GA 30677</p> <p>NTC: 623,30,77,14</p> <p>OCOONE COUNTY</p> <p><b>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</b></p> <p>All creditors of the Estate of LINDA E. HARMON, deceased, are hereby notified to render an account of their demands to the undersigned, and all debtors are required to make immediate payment.</p> <p>This 16th day of June, 2022.</p> <p>Philip E. Hammond Executor of the Estate of LINDA E. HARMON, deceased</p> <p>Robert N. Whinnies, III Forsten, Bentley and Griffin, P.A. 2500 Daniels Bridge Road Building 200, Suite 3A Athens, Georgia 30606</p> <p>NTC: 623,30,77,14</p> <p>STATE OF GEORGIA OCOONE COUNTY</p> <p><b>NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS</b></p> <p>All creditors of the Estate of PATRICIA ANN MCCLAIN LOVELL, deceased, are hereby notified to render an account of their demands to the undersigned, and all debtors are required to make immediate payment.</p> <p>This 7th day of June, 2022.</p> <p>Abert David Lovell Administrator of the Estate of PATRICIA ANN MCCLAIN LOVELL</p> <p>Daniela L. Grayson, Esq. Ocoone Law Firm, P.C. P.O. Box 1615 Watkinsville, GA 30677</p> <p>NTC: 616,23,30,77</p> <p>STATE OF GEORGIA OCOONE COUNTY</p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF ERIC LUND, DECEASED</p> <p>All creditors of the Estate of ERIC LUND, deceased, late of Ocoone County, Georgia, are hereby notified to render an account of their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.</p> <p>This 13th day of June, 2022.</p> <p>Susan Bethel-Larmer, Executor Jon Mills Jordan &amp; Mills, PC 1551 Jennings Mill Road #22008 Watkinsville, GA 30677 (706) 346-0470 jovill@jordanmills.com</p> <p>NTC: 616,23,30,77</p> <p>GEORGIA OCOONE COUNTY</p> <p><b>NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS</b></p> <p>All creditors of the Estate of ADRIENNE W. O'DILLON, deceased, are hereby notified to render an account of their demands to the undersigned, and all debtors are required to make immediate payment.</p> <p>This 22nd day of June, 2022.</p> <p>Lee E. O'Dillon Executor of the Estate of ADRIENNE W. O'DILLON</p> <p>Dennis L. Grayson, Esq. Ocoone Law Firm, P.C. P.O. Box 1615 Watkinsville, GA 30677</p> <p>NTC: 630,77,14,21</p> <p>GEORGIA OCOONE COUNTY</p> <p><b>NOTICE TO ALL DEBTORS AND CREDITORS</b></p> <p>All creditors of the Estate of ADRIENNE W. O'DILLON, deceased, are hereby notified to render an account of their demands to the undersigned, and all debtors are required to make immediate payment.</p> <p>This 30th day of June, 2022</p> <p>Thane: Shannon M Vogt Title Attorney</p>	<p>All creditors of the Estate of LARRY EARL SNIPES, deceased, are hereby notified to render an account of their demands to the undersigned, and all debtors are required to make immediate payment.</p> <p>This 5th day of June, 2022.</p> <p>Patricia Leadwith Degan, Executor of the Estate of LARRY EARL SNIPES</p> <p>Richard J. Connolly Jr., Hudson, Montgomery, Kalkreuth and Connolly Post Office Box 8360 Athens, GA 30603 Phone: 706/549-9823 Fax: 706/593-9534</p> <p>NTC: 623,30,77,14</p> <p>OCOONE COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA</p> <p><b>NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS</b></p> <p>All creditors of the estate of HUGH E. USRY, deceased, are hereby notified to render an account of their demands to the undersigned according to law, and all persons indebted to said estate are required to make immediate payment.</p> <p>This 10th day of June, 2022.</p> <p>Hugh E. Usry Executor of the Estate of HUGH E. USRY</p> <p>Jack Emerson, Attorney Fleming &amp; Morgan, LLC 524 Hill Street Athens, Georgia 30606</p> <p>NTC: 616,23,30,77</p> <p>OCOONE COUNTY</p> <p><b>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</b></p> <p>All creditors of the Estate of GENE GUTHRIE WEEKS, deceased, are hereby notified to render an account of their demands to the undersigned, and all debtors are required to make immediate payment.</p> <p>This 9th day of June, 2022.</p> <p>Elizabeth Weeks Leonard, Executor of the Estate of GENE GUTHRIE WEEKS, deceased</p> <p>Robert N. Whinnies, III Forsten, Bentley and Griffin, P.A. 2500 Daniels Bridge Road Building 200, Suite 3A Athens, Georgia 30606</p> <p>NTC: 623,30,77,14</p> <p>IN THE PROBATE COURT OF OCOONE COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA</p> <p>IN RE: ESTATE OF AUBRY IRVIN ALLEN, deceased.</p> <p>Herberty Noe, A-228</p> <p><b>NOTICE</b></p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given to Michael Allen, Amanda Allen and Matthew Allen and any interested or affected party of service by publication in A-228, a Petition To Probate Will in Solemn Form in the Probate Court of Ocoone County filed on January 21, 2022, and pending before the Honorable Mike Hunsinger, who ordered on 22 day of June, 2022 that service by publication be allowed in said action. This Petition To Probate Will in Solemn Form is brought by Kathleen Allen, Michael Allen, Amanda Allen and Matthew Allen, or any interested or affected party to this file as an indigent party, and commanded by the authority of the Honorable Mike Hunsinger, to file with the Clerk of Probate Court for Ocoone County within 60 days of the date of the order for service by publication and serve upon attorney for Petitioner at the following address:</p> <p>Adam L. Hebbard THE LAW OFFICES OF ADAM L. HEBBARD, LLC PO Box 69 Athens, Georgia 30603 706-549-9610, office adam@hebbardlaw.com</p> <p>Clerk of Probate Court Ocoone County State of Georgia</p> <p>PN:630,77,14,21</p> <p><b>NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC</b></p> <p>The Ocoone County Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing and First Reading of an amendment to the Noise Ordinance at the Agenda Meeting on July 28, 2022, with a Second Reading and Second Reading at its Regular Meeting on August 2, 2022.</p> <p>The Ocoone County Board of Commissioners 23 North Main Street Watkinsville, Georgia www.ocoonecounty.com</p> <p>PN: 77</p> <p><b>NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC</b></p> <p>The Ocoone County Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing and First Reading of an amendment to the Noise Ordinance at the Agenda Meeting on July 28, 2022, with a Second Reading and Second Reading at its Regular Meeting on August 2, 2022.</p> <p>The Ocoone County Board of Commissioners 23 North Main Street Watkinsville, Georgia www.ocoonecounty.com</p> <p>PN: 77</p> <p><b>NOTICE</b></p> <p>GEORGIA, OCOONE COUNTY PROBATE COURT</p> <p>TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:</p>	<p>The petition of Harriette M. Browning for a year's support from the estate of CLARENCE MILLARD BROWNING, deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before July 25, 2022, why said petition should not be granted.</p> <p>All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections must be signed in the presence of a notary public or probate clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.</p> <p>Hon. Mike Hunsinger Judge of the Probate Court</p> <p>By: Julie Jackson Probate Clerk P.O. Box 54 Watkinsville, GA 30677 (706) 769-3636</p> <p>PN: 630,77,14,21</p> <p><b>NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA</b></p> <p>IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY CASE NO. 20-CVS-10180</p> <p>GATEWAY WEST-PCA, LLC v. BALFOUR BEATTY CONSTRUCTION, LLC v. AP FRANKING, INC. AMERICAN RESIDENTIAL SERVICES, LLC and PHOENIX FRAMING, LLC and PHOENIX FRAMING, LLC, Fourth-Party Plaintiff v. ANGELIA GOMEZ RANGEL, ACC CONSTRUCTION, ELMER CHIRINO, ANTONIO TORRES LOPEZ, SONIA FUENTES DE JIMENEZ, WOI GENERAL SERVICES, INC., SORCORO CASTILLO MONTEIL, JOANNYS OLIVERA, HARDWARE INSTALLERS CORP., MARIO SOTO GARCIA, GARGLES FRAMING CO, INC., EVERARDO MAZARI CONSTRUCTION, LLC, JOSE MAZ, HEBERTO GARCIA, Fourth-Party Defendants.</p> <p>To: Heberto Garcia</p> <p>Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-captioned action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: damages related to a scope of work you performed in connection with the Gateway West Urban Rail station complex located at 902 West Fourth Street, Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than 40 days after service hereof, and if you fail to answer the pleading within the time above said, judgment by default will be rendered against you for money damages and the relief demanded in said pleading.</p> <p>Julie Mathews R. Lancaster, Hedrick Gardner Kitchner &amp; Gaudin, LLP, 4001 Congress Street, Suite 300, Charlotte, North Carolina 28206. Phone: 704-319-6129; Fax: 704-402-4078. Attorney for Phoenix Framing, LLC.</p> <p>PN: 630,77,14</p> <p>IN THE PROBATE COURT OF OCOONE COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA</p> <p>IN RE: BRANTLEY VANCE KITCHING, deceased</p> <p>Estate No. K-145</p> <p><b>NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT</b></p> <p>The petition of Vicki Kitching for a year's support from the estate of BRANTLEY VANCE KITCHING, deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before July 25, 2022, why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections must be signed in the presence of a notary public or probate clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.</p> <p>Hon. Mike Hunsinger Judge of the Probate Court</p> <p>By: Julie Jackson Probate Clerk P.O. Box 54 Watkinsville, GA 30677 (706) 769-3636</p> <p>PN: 630,77,14,21</p> <p><b>NOTICE</b></p> <p>GEORGIA, OCOONE COUNTY PROBATE COURT</p> <p>TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:</p> <p>The petition of Rita A. Mobley for a year's support from the estate of RONNIE EUGENE MORLEY, AKA RONNIE E. MORLEY, deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before July 15, 2022, why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections must be signed in the presence of a notary public or probate clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.</p> <p>Hon. Mike Hunsinger Judge of the Probate Court</p> <p>By: Julie Jackson Probate Clerk P.O. Box 54 Watkinsville, GA 30677 (706) 769-3636</p> <p>PN: 623,30,77,14</p> <p><b>NOTICE OF PETITION TO FILE FOR YEAR'S SUPPORT</b></p> <p>The petition of Sammie Katherine Hattaway Reed for a year's support from the estate of JAMES BENJAMIN REED, deceased, for decedent's surviving spouse having been duly filed, all interested persons are hereby notified to show cause, if any they have, on or before July 25, 2022, why said petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed on or before the time stated in the preceding sentence. All objections must be signed in the presence of a notary public or probate clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.</p> <p>Hon. Mike Hunsinger Judge of the Probate Court</p> <p>By: Julie Jackson Probate Clerk P.O. Box 54 Watkinsville, GA 30677 (706) 769-3636</p> <p>PN: 630,77,14,21</p> <p><b>Notice of Name Change</b></p> <p><b>NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE</b></p> <p>STATE OF GEORGIA IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF OCOONE COUNTY</p> <p>IN RE: SUSAN PATRICIA THURMOND SAVAGE</p> <p>Civil Action File No. SUVCV2022000184</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that SUSAN PATRICIA THURMOND SAVAGE filed her Petition for Name Change in the Superior Court of Ocoone County, Georgia, on the 16th day of June, 2022, to change her name from Susan Patricia Thurmond Savage to Patzy Thurmond Savage. Notice is hereby given pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 16-12-1 to any interested or affected party to appear in said court under the objections to such name change. Objections must be filed with said court within thirty (30) days of the filing of said petition.</p> <p>Cakeo S. Davis Attorney for Petitioner Georgia Bar No. 191669 Office of Russell W. Wall, LLC 122 North Main Street Greensboro, Georgia 30642 (706) 453-0489</p> <p>NC: 623,30,77,14</p>	<p>date, if no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.</p> <p>By: Julie Jackson Probate Judge Mike Hunsinger Probate Judge</p> <p>23 North Main St. WATKINSVILLE, GA 30677 (706) 769-3636</p> <p>PN: 616,23,30,77</p> <p><b>NOTICE</b></p> <p>PROBATE COURT OF OCOONE, GEORGIA</p> <p>TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:</p> <p>Charles Koyama has petitioned to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of DANA DENISE KOYAMA, deceased, of said county. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-3-2014.) All interested parties are hereby notified to show cause why said Petition should not be granted. All objections to the petition must be in writing, setting forth the grounds of any such objections, and must be filed with the court on or before July 15, 2022. All pleadings/objections must be signed under oath before a notary public or before a probate court clerk, and filing fees must be tendered with your pleadings/objections, unless you qualify to file as an indigent party. Contact probate court personnel at the following address: telephone number for the required amount of filing fees. If any objections are filed, a hearing will be scheduled at a later date. If no objections are filed, the petition may be granted without a hearing.</p> <p>By: Julie Jackson Probate Judge Mike Hunsinger Probate Judge</p> <p>23 North Main St. WATKINSVILLE, GA 30677 (706) 769-3636</p> <p>PN: 623,30,77,14</p> <p><b>NOTICE</b></p> <p>PROBATE COURT OF OCOONE, GEORGIA</p> <p>TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:</p> <p>Charles Koyama has petitioned to be appointed administrator(s) of the estate of SHERIE KOYAMA, deceased, of said county. (The Petitioner has also applied for waiver of bond and/or grant of certain powers contained in O.C.G.A. §53-3-2014.) 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**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Subject: SR 316 Bundle 2 Design-Build Projects - PI No. 0013768; PI No. 0013769

Good day,

I am writing as the Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) Design-Build Project Manager for two upcoming improvement projects in Oconee County: State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/US 29 at Virgil Langford Road (PI No. 0013768) and SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at the Oconee Connector (PI No. 0013769). As a key stakeholder in this corridor, you are receiving information about this project, including details about the virtual Public Information Open House that begins today.

These projects are among a series of improvements that will transform SR 316 in Gwinnett, Barrow, and Oconee counties. Once completed, these projects aim to improve mobility, reduce the potential for crashes, and improve traffic flow conditions on this critical vehicle and truck thoroughfare.

The virtual open house for this project runs from June 16 through July 13, 2022. The purpose is to present information to the public and provide an opportunity to comment on any aspect of the projects. The open house can be accessed at <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>.

In addition, Georgia DOT will host a virtual presentation and Q&A session on June 22, 2022, from 4-6 p.m. During this live, virtual session, the project team will review key aspects of the projects and give members of the public an opportunity to ask questions of designated subject-matter experts. A meeting link to the session will be posted on the project website on the day of the event.

The virtual meeting room platform, located on the project website, houses the same project information that you would find at an in-person Public Information Open House, from proposed design and concept layouts to potential property acquisitions and environmental resources such as noise and air impacts. The platform is open 24 hours a day, so members of the public can visit anytime and provide comments during the comment period.


The public can also provide comments in the following ways:

1. Emailing comments to [P3Division@dot.ga.gov](mailto:P3Division@dot.ga.gov)
2. Calling 404-631-1733 to leave a voicemail
3. Submitting written comments to the following address:  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
Attention: Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator  
600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30308

Attached you will find an informational Partner Toolkit, which you can share with your constituents and the community. The toolkit provides an overview of the project and a series of social media posts to include in any of your communications.

If you would like additional information or have questions, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached via email at [injoku@dot.ga.gov](mailto:injoku@dot.ga.gov) or by phone at 404-631-1550. Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you as these projects move forward.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Iheanachor Njoku Sr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Iheanachor "Achor" Njoku Sr.  
Design-Build Project Manager

# Partner Toolkit

SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at Virgil Langford Road and Oconee Connector  
SR 316 Bundle 2 Design-Build Projects

## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (Georgia DOT) PARTNER TOOLKIT

Please use this toolkit to support communication efforts for the proposed improvements along State Route (SR) 316 at Virgil Langford Road and SR 316 at Oconee Connector, part of Georgia DOT's series of improvements for the SR 316 corridor in Gwinnett, Barrow, and Oconee counties. Georgia DOT wants to keep the community informed and is distributing a project update through its own channels and also wants to share information that may be beneficial to followers of your organization. Copy and paste these communication assets into your organization's email announcements, social media networks, and other communication channels so individuals can learn more about the SR 316 improvement projects and how to view updated information and submit comments.

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE/EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) will host a virtual Public Information Open House (PIOH) for the proposed improvements to the existing at-grade intersections of SR 316 at Virgil Langford Road (PI No. 0013768) and at CR 929/Oconee Connector (PI No. 0013769), part of SR 316 Bundle 2 Design-Build projects.

In 2015, Georgia DOT announced plans to reconstruct intersections along the SR 316 corridor to grade separations or grade separated interchanges to improve connectivity, reduce the potential for crashes and improve mobility in this growing corridor. These two projects are moving forward in the project development process.

The proposed projects would replace the existing intersections with a grade separation at Virgil Langford Road, and a grade separated interchange at CR 929/Oconee Connector. Both intersections are located approximately one mile west of the existing SR 10 loop interchange in Oconee County. Georgia DOT has published information related to the proposed projects on a website (<https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com>) and is seeking public comment for the two projects through Wednesday, July 13, 2022.

Georgia DOT will also host a live, virtual presentation and Q&A session on June 22, 2022, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Interested parties may join the virtual event by visiting the project website on the day of the event to access the meeting login credentials: <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com>. A recording of the presentation will be uploaded to the project website after the meeting.

## LIVE, VIRTUAL PRESENTATION AND Q&A

### SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at Virgil Langford Road and Oconee Connector

Please visit the project website between June 16, through July 13, 2022, to review the proposed concepts and submit your comments.

#### Project Location Map



#### PROPOSED SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

- Improved traffic flow and reduced conflict points are two important benefits of @GADeptofTran's proposed #SR316 projects. Learn more about two of the projects at a Virtual Open House.

Check it out 🖱️ [https://bit.ly/SR316-Oconee\\_01](https://bit.ly/SR316-Oconee_01)

- Curious to know what the #SR316 at Virgil Langford Road and Oconee Connector projects will look like when complete? Visit @GADeptofTran's Virtual Open House to check it out and submit feedback.

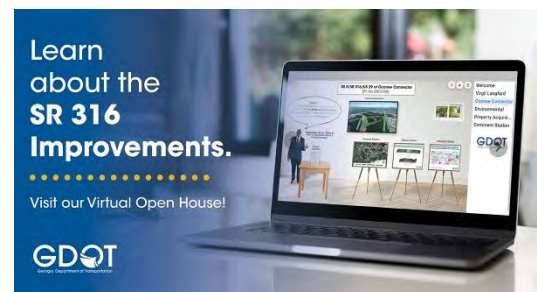
Comment period ends July 13<sup>th</sup>. [https://bit.ly/SR316-Oconee\\_01](https://bit.ly/SR316-Oconee_01)

- Is the SR 316 corridor part of your daily commute? @GADeptofTran's proposed #SR316 improvements will pave the way for improved mobility, potentially reduce crashes, and improve traffic flow.

Learn more by visiting their open house. 🖱️  
[https://bit.ly/SR316-Oconee\\_01](https://bit.ly/SR316-Oconee_01)

- Don't miss your chance to provide feedback on @GADeptofTran's proposed #SR316 at Virgil Langford Road and SR 316 at Oconee Connector projects! The comment period ends July 13.

Visit their Virtual Open House now: [https://bit.ly/SR316-Oconee\\_01](https://bit.ly/SR316-Oconee_01)



## LIVE, VIRTUAL PRESENTATION AND Q&A

SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at Virgil Langford Road and Oconee Connector

- The #SR316 improvements are part of a larger scale effort to improve traffic flow and safety in Gwinnett, Barrow, and Oconee counties. Visit @GADeptofTran's Virtual Open House to learn more about two of the proposed projects and provide your feedback by July 13<sup>th</sup>. [https://bit.ly/SR316-Oconee\\_01](https://bit.ly/SR316-Oconee_01)



- @GADeptofTran's wants to hear from YOU! They are seeking feedback on the proposed #SR316 improvements. Visit their Virtual Open House to learn more about the projects and provide your feedback. The comment period ends July 13<sup>th</sup>. [https://bit.ly/SR316-Oconee\\_01](https://bit.ly/SR316-Oconee_01)

## IMAGES AND VISUAL ASSETS

Access to all the images and graphics above can be obtained using the following link:  
<https://tinyurl.com/SR316-Partner-Toolkit>

## QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Contact Georgia DOT by email at [P3Division@dot.ga.gov](mailto:P3Division@dot.ga.gov), call the project hotline at 404-631-1733, or visit the project website at <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>





**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

August 26, 2022

Re: Responses to Open House Comments for PI No: 0013767, Oconee County, State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/United States (US) 29 at County Road (CR) 55/Jimmy Daniel Road

Thank you for your comments concerning the proposed project referenced above. We appreciate your participation and the input that was received as a result of the *May 26, 2022, Virtual Public Information Open House (VPIOH or open house)*. Every written comment received during the comment period (May 17 – June 10, 2022) will be made part of the project's official record.

A total of **3,683** people viewed the VPIOH website during the comment period. Of the **35** respondents who formally commented, **16** were in **support** of the project, **6** were **opposed**, **7** were **uncommitted**, and **6** expressed **conditional support**.

The attendees of the open house and those persons sending in comments within the comment period raised the following questions and concerns. The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) has prepared this one response letter that addresses all comments received so that everyone can be aware of the questions raised and the responses given. Please find the comments summarized below (in *italics*) followed by our response.

1. *Comments noting support for the proposed interchange to improve traffic flow and safety.*

Response: Thank you for your comment and support of the proposed project.

2. *Comment noting opposition to the proposed project.*

Response: Thank you for your comment. Your opposition to the project has been made part of the project record.

3. *Comment concerning other intersections that need improvement before improvements are made at Jimmy Daniel Road.*

Response: The proposed project is needed to improve mobility, reduce the potential for crashes, and improve traffic flow at the SR 316/Jimmy Daniel Road intersection. Georgia DOT is completing a series of reconstruction projects along the SR 316 corridor from SR 20 in Gwinnett County to SR 10 in Oconee County to reduce crash frequency and severity and improve traffic operations and mobility through the corridor. More information on the proposed series of improvements along the SR 316 corridor can be found by visiting [Transforming State Route 316 \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com).

4. *Comments related to existing and future noise levels and noise abatement in Jennings Mill and Deerbrook.*

Response: As part of the project's development, a Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) will be prepared to document and evaluate existing, future no-build, and future build sound levels (with future no-build and future build sound levels being based on projected 2048 traffic volumes). The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Traffic Noise Model version 2.5 (TNM 2.5) will be used to determine existing and future noise levels using

inputs related to existing and proposed roadway geometry, traffic volumes, and terrain. Any property where the future build sound level approaches (within one decibel) or exceeds the FHWA Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC, 23 CFR 772) for their associated activity category will be assessed for noise abatement in the form of noise barriers.

Final noise abatement measures cannot be determined until the final design plans have sufficiently progressed to a point where the barrier analysis can be conducted; after which, public outreach for all feasible and reasonable barriers will be completed. Georgia DOT's Noise Abatement Policy can be viewed at: [GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY NOISE ABATEMENT POLICY FOR FEDERAL AID PROJECTS \(ga.gov\)](https://www.dot.ga.gov/GeorgiaDOT/TransportationHighwayNoiseAbatementPolicyForFederalAidProjects.aspx).

Please note that Deerbrook is located outside of the limits for PI 0013767 but would be located within the limits of PI 0013766. PI 0013766 is a programmed project that proposes to grade separate the intersection of SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 20/Julian Drive. Noise analysis for impacts and abatement would occur as part of that project. For more information on PI 0013766, please contact the Georgia DOT project manager Courtney Cedor at (404) 865-3467 or [CCedor@dot.ga.gov](mailto:CCedor@dot.ga.gov).

5. *Comments about the safety of the proposed roundabouts.*

Response: Roundabouts demonstrate several safety and operational benefits over traditional stop-controlled and traffic light-controlled intersections by eliminating crossing movements. Roundabouts, by their nature, allow for a steadier traffic stream (as opposed to signals or all-way stops) and allow for a more efficient traffic operation while still reducing the potential for crashes. Traffic signals do not eliminate crossing movements nor force drivers to slow down through the intersection, leaving the potential for high-speed angle crashes. Roundabouts have fewer conflict points compared to a conventional traffic light-controlled intersection, have lower speeds, and have been found to reduce crashes, crash severity, traffic delays, fuel consumption, and air pollution. More information regarding roundabouts and their benefits can be viewed at <https://www.dot.ga.gov/GDOT/Pages/AlternativeIntersections.aspx>.

6. *Comments concerning property impacts resulting from the westbound exit ramp from SR 316 to Jimmy Daniel Road.*

Response: The proposed project is currently in the concept development phase and refinements to the design will continue throughout the preliminary engineering phase. As design progresses, Georgia DOT will continue to make every effort to avoid or minimize project impacts to the adjacent properties throughout the project corridor to the extent practicable. This includes the proposed westbound SR 316 exit ramp and ramp terminal with Jimmy Daniel Road.

7. *Comment suggesting alternative proposals for the improvements at SR 316 at Jimmy Daniel Road.*

Response: Thank you for your suggestions of a single, clover leaf interchange configuration along with the chicane alternative for the SR 316 westbound exit ramp to Jimmy Daniel Road.

The single, clover leaf interchange would require construction of the SR 316 westbound to Jimmy Daniel Road movement as a loop ramp in the northwest quadrant of the proposed interchange. The area needed to construct a loop ramp that would meet

design standards for speed and grade would result in fill to jurisdictional wetlands and streams that are currently unimpacted by the preferred alternative. This alternative would also result in a shift in the location and size of the proposed roundabout at the ramp terminal, north towards the Jennings Mill subdivision entrance at Meriweather Drive. This shift would be expected to result in impacts to the subdivision entrance and further impact the properties located adjacent to the Meriweather Drive and Jimmy Daniel Road intersection. The chicane alternative does not meet American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) design criteria.

8. *Comment regarding the impact on traffic operations along Jimmy Daniel Road and SR 316 because of the proposed interchange and roundabouts.*

Response: The proposed project was identified to address existing mobility and operational concerns at the existing SR 316 and Jimmy Daniel Road intersection, as well as to enhance safety. The proposed new interchange will allow for free flow movement along SR 316 and provide a grade separated crossing of Jimmy Daniel Road over SR 316. The proposed ramp terminals at SR 316 and Jimmy Daniel Road were evaluated to determine the most appropriate intersection control based on future (2048) traffic volumes. As a result, roundabouts are proposed and demonstrate several safety and operational benefits over traditional stop-control and traffic signal-control intersections. Roundabouts, by their nature, allow for a steadier traffic stream (as opposed to signals or all-way stops) and allow for a more efficient traffic operation while still reducing the potential for crashes.

9. *Comment regarding the need for a bridge not a roundabout at the intersection of SR 316 and Jimmy Daniel Road.*

Response: The project proposes to construct a new interchange at SR 316 and Jimmy Daniel Road by bridging Jimmy Daniel Road over SR 316 and providing entrance and exit ramps to/from SR 316 eastbound and westbound. The roundabout proposed would be located at the ramp terminals of SR 316 at Jimmy Daniel Road and were determined to be the most appropriate intersection control.

10. *Comment regarding what surface (asphalt or concrete) will be used on the ramps.*

Response: Concrete is proposed for the new SR 316 exit/entrance ramps, and asphalt is proposed for the short section of Jimmy Daniel Road where improvements are planned to tie into existing conditions. The difference in coloring noted on the conceptual displays was intended to denote proposed improvements (i.e., exit and entrance ramps) versus existing conditions where no improvements are proposed (i.e., SR 316 and portions of Jimmy Daniel Road).

11. *Comment concerning if rumble strips will be included as part of the project.*

Response: Rumble strips have been identified by Georgia DOT as having substantial importance to the operational and safety performance of a roadway. Rumble strips would be implemented along the shoulders of SR 316 and the SR 316 ramps.

12. *Comment concerning displacement of Mars Hill disposal site and future location.*

As proposed, the project would result in removal of this site, and due to access control requirements, the site cannot be relocated in the same general area. The new location for this site will be determined by the county in the future.

*13. Comment concerning the lighting plan for the intersection.*

Response: As proposed, high-mast lighting will be included for the roundabouts located along Jimmy Daniel Road at the top of each entrance/exit ramp to SR 316. No other lighting is currently proposed.

*14. Comment concerning the duration of construction and inconvenience to the county residents along with suggestions for incentives for contractor early completion.*

Response: The proposed project would be delivered via Design-Build methodology which is intended to expedite project delivery including construction timelines. For more information on Georgia DOT's Design-Build program, please visit:  
<https://www.dot.ga.gov/GDOT/pages/DesignBuild.aspx>.

*15. Comment regarding cyclist accommodations.*

Response: The proposed project does not include bicycle lanes, as this project does not lie along a state, federal or local bicycle route. However, bicyclists may ride on any road legally open to bicycles – regardless of the presence or absence of specific bicycle accommodations or designations.

*16. Comment regarding the use of traffic signals rather than roundabouts at the top of the SR 316 ramps and Jimmy Daniel Road.*

Response: The proposed ramp terminals at SR 316 and Jimmy Daniel Road were evaluated to determine the most appropriate intersection control. As a result, roundabouts are proposed and demonstrate several safety and operational benefits over traditional stop-control and traffic light-controlled intersections. Roundabouts eliminate crossing movements and, by their nature, allow for a steadier traffic stream (as opposed to signals or all-way stops) and allow for a more efficient traffic operation while still reducing the potential for crashes. Traffic signals do not eliminate crossing movements nor force drivers to slow down through the intersection, leaving the potential for high-speed angle crashes. Roundabouts have fewer conflict points compared to a conventional traffic light-controlled intersection, have lower speeds, and have been found to reduce crashes, crash severity, traffic delays, fuel consumption, and air pollution.

*17. Comment requesting proposed right-of-way (ROW) and cut/fill lines be marked along the property.*

Response: The proposed project is currently in the concept development phase and proposed ROW and cut/fill limits are preliminary in nature. Refinements to the design will continue throughout the preliminary engineering phase, and Georgia DOT will make every effort to avoid or minimize project impacts to the adjacent properties to the extent practicable.

*18. Comment concerning the intersection of Meriweather Drive and Jimmy Daniel Road.*

Currently, no traffic signal or all-way stop control is proposed at the intersection of Meriweather Drive and Jimmy Daniel Road. However, traffic analysis is still in progress which may also include further evaluation of this intersection. It should be noted that the roundabout proposed would be expected to reduce the speed of vehicles travelling from Jimmy Daniel Road south of Meriweather Drive.

*19. Comment concerning erosion and sedimentation control during construction of the project.*

Response: The project is currently in the concept development phase, and erosion and sedimentation control plans will be developed as part of the project's final design. Georgia DOT and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division takes drainage, erosion, and sedimentation control very seriously, and a large component of transportation projects is the capture, control, and containment of runoff. Transportation projects are designed in such a way as to accommodate the increase in drainage due to the proposed roadway and added impervious surface. A pre/post hydraulic analysis will be completed for the project and Best Management Practices will be provided to ensure that no excess runoff is directed onto adjacent properties.

More detailed information on erosion and sedimentation control will be available during final design, which is not scheduled to begin until 2024.

*20. Comment regarding the limits of the earthen berm constructed when SR 316 was originally constructed.*

Response: The earthen berm resulting from the original construction of SR 316 was not intended to serve as any form of noise abatement. As noted, sound levels and noise abatement will be evaluated as part of the proposed project's development (see comment 3).

*21. Comment concerning Dials Mill Road and coordination with the public.*

Response: PI Nos. 0007685 and 0013763 are currently in the preliminary design phase. The Concept Report has been approved and can be viewed by visiting <http://www.dot.ga.gov/applications/geopi/Pages/Dashboard.aspx?ProjectId=0013763>.

Public input on the proposed projects will be sought through a Public Information Open House (PIOH). The PIOH has not yet been scheduled; however, the Georgia DOT is targeting the second half of 2022 or the first half of 2023. The PIOH will be advertised in various ways (postcards, signs, social media, newspaper, etc.) at least 30 days in advance. For more information on PI Nos. 0007685 and 0013763, please contact the Georgia DOT project manager Bridget Thomas at (478) 757-2601 or [BriThomas@dot.ga.gov](mailto:BriThomas@dot.ga.gov).

*22. Comments requesting improvements at the Julian Drive/SR 316 intersection and the intersection of Virgil Langford Road, Mars Hill Road, and Jimmy Daniel Road.*

Response: Georgia DOT PI 0013766 is a programmed project that proposes to grade separate the intersection of SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at CR 20/Julian Drive. Preliminary engineering for this project is expected to begin in 2024 with construction in 2028. For more information on PI 0013766, please contact the Georgia DOT project manager Courtney Cedor at (404) 865-3467 or [CCedor@dot.ga.gov](mailto:CCedor@dot.ga.gov).

More information on the proposed improvements along the SR 316 corridor can be found by visiting [Transforming State Route 316 \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com).

Any improvements to the intersection of Virgil Langford Road, Mars Hill Road, and Jimmy Daniel Road would be the responsibility of Oconee County. Please contact Oconee County Public Works at (706) 769-2937.



*23. A comment regarding the need for a traffic light at Killarney West.*

Response: This intersection is outside of the project limits and the scope of the proposed project. Concerns regarding this intersection may be directed to Oconee County Public Works at (706) 769-2937.

*24. Comment requesting help relocating from current residence.*

Response: The property in question is not located within the limits of the proposed project and would not be impacted or displaced because of the project.

*25. Comment regarding opening video not working on project website.*

Response: Thank you for your feedback on the project website. The opening video is now functional and can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPT036V7dWA>. We apologize for the issue and appreciate your input. We are constantly evaluating methods to create a website platform to further enhance outreach to the public.

Again, thank you for your comments. Should you have further questions or comments, please contact the Georgia DOT Project Manager, Achor Njoku, at [INjoku@dot.ga.gov](mailto:INjoku@dot.ga.gov) or the Environmental Analyst, Alexandra Nelson, at [anelson@dot.ga.gov](mailto:anelson@dot.ga.gov).

Sincerely,



Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator

ED/RT

cc: Jamie Boswell, GDOT Board Member (District 10)  
Houston Gaines, State Representative (District 117)  
Bill Cowsert, State Senator (District 46)  
Achor Njoku, GDOT Project Manager (via email)  
PDF for Project File

0013767 Comments

Support	Oppose	Conditional	Uncommitted	Comment
	X			there are more important intersections that need improving before this is even considered an option
X				
X				Post card was a great way to get the word out on the project. On-line info very helpful.
X				I generally like the idea. My one concern is according to the visualization, the Mars Hill disposal site is going to be eliminated. It is extremely convenient to me to dispose of recyclables and trash. Will this project create a new space at same general area?
X				
	X			It seems GDOT has already made plans for Dials Mill Rd with NO regards to the public.  I cannot believe that these type plans for construction are pressed forward with no regards to the people it affects. Especially when there is such a conflict of interest with the ownership of the surrounding land (Boswell Properties and Jamie Boswell). Complete and utter abuse of power.

0013767 Comments

X				
		X		<p>Awesome job guys!!!</p> <p>I'm generally VERY much in favor of this project. I think that it would be INCREDIBLE if you guys would consider combining this with doing something at the Julian Dr/316 intersection. The speed limit is still 65 at that point and eastbound traffic is coming over a hill. It is terrible and very dangerous (IMO). Of course, that is probably in your longer range planning.</p>
X				<p>The proposed design looks great, particularly the roundabouts at entrance/exit ramps and the additional lane each direction back to Ocone Connector. All we can say is please hurry -- it should have been built this way from the start.</p>
X				
X				
X				<p>What is the lighting plans for this intersection? The intersections on the state and county roadways are very poorly illuminated at the present. We have crosswalks that are not illuminated so it would be easy to strike a pedestrian. Also it is frequent for wildlife such as deer to be struck by vehicles on Jimmy Daniel. Illumination should be well planned.</p>

0013767 Comments

X				I wonder how is this project going to impact us the cyclist who currently ride this route to cross the 316 from Jimmy Daniel side to Virgil Langford side? Is there going to be a particular bicycle lane taken into consideration to be added to this elevation?
		X		Overall, the project appears sound and will benefit safety and traffic flow. My concern relates to road noise in the Jennings Mill Subdivision, which is already significant - at least on our side of the subdivision - and I anticipate will be worsened by the proposed changes. Please include sound abatement walls!
		X		Please help with the noise in Deerbrook. Thank you for the improvements.
	X			I am not an engineer and so don't have a grasp on what exactly a diamond one lane roundabout is supposed to actually be. I think a roundabout of any variety seems unwise. Like the brilliant plan to remove the turn lane for the QT access off Daniels Bridge Road. There are countless numbers of near accidents daily. Do any of you actually drive these roads?
X				

0013767 Comments

		X		<p>In general, I support this entire road improvement program for its much-needed safety and service benefits, and I accept that some amount of eminent domain will be necessary to complete the project. But I am concerned over the westbound exit lane leading to the north roundabout. Its proposed alignment carries it very close to several occupied homes - substantially reducing their lot sizes, back yards, and tree screen to the roadway. To minimize both state expenditure on ROW acquisition and impact on my neighbors, I would ask for assurance that the state has done *everything it possibly can* to reduce the amount of land needed for the exit lane. Can it run closer to the roadway and then turn more sharply so as to stay farther away from the Barfield and Dunham properties? Can it enter the roundabout a bit further south? Can anything else be done? I am less concerned about the Boswell properties, as the structure has been abandoned for some time and the other is undeveloped.</p>
X				
		X		<p>I like the idea of exits along 316, but the roundabouts at the top of the Jimmy Daniel exit seem to only bring trouble. I would rather have stop lights at the top of each ramp.</p>
X				



0013767 Comments

	X			
	X			I am not in favor of taking resiential property to do this. There are ways to do the project without doing that. Your proposal is having the loss of land at significant percentages of total property for some. The project is too close to existing homes. The noise will be a major issue for even more residents. There has to be a better way.
			X	
X				Open8ng video did not work on 6June. Overall a great project that will significantly improve the safety of that crossing. County needs to add another roundabout and rework the Virgil lankford/Jimmy Daniel/ Mars Hill intersections to complement DOT improvements.
<u>X</u>	-	-	-	I'm a local land surveyor. Plan looks excellent! Well thought out and I'm looking forward to it's implementation.
	X			Overall against. Separate comment card submitted with alt. proposals. Our comments (questions) are: 1a) What surface will be used on the ramps? The concept display has JD and the ramps in a different color than 316 so will ramps & JD be asphalt and 316 is concrete? This seems contrary to the images at the bottom of the concept display which indicate concrete ramps. 1b) What determines concrete vs. asphalt for ramps? 1c) Asphalt is proven quiter. If asphalt is being used on the ramps, what type will it be? HMA? OGFC? Other? Quiet as possible is desired! 3. Are shoulder rumble strips planned for 316? Ramps? Are perpendicular rumble strips planned (the ones you sometimes see/hear when approaching stop signs)?

0013767 Comments

	X			Please refer to the attached ppt presentation for two alternative proposals
	X			I am writing to protest the building of a grade separated diamond interchange at the intersection of JD Rd and US 29. This will slow traffic substantially on an already clogged thoroughfare. All traffic circles slow traffic and few know how to enter the circle courteously. This will create long backups at this intersection both on JD and on 29. It would be far better to create an overpass than to slow an already busy intersction. The light works fine. Leave well enough alone please.
			X	need a bridge not a roundabout

0013767 Comments

				<p>There is little doubt that the proposed changes will finally achieve the desired new unimpeded traffic flow but at what cost in terms of inconvenience for the County Residents? We have all seen similar changes being made farther west on 316. Each new interchange seems to take years to construct and the disruption has substantial negative impact on the quality of life of residents. The contractors performing the work seem to have little or no real incentive to meet either contract cost or schedule. The project contract should be awarded on a competitive basis to the qualified bidder with the lowest price for a FPIF type contract. A Fixed Price Incentive Fee contract can be provided that sets both a fixed price for the work and an established schedule and also give the contractor a funding incentive for better performance. The contractor completes a percentage of the work and comes in under the plan cost target - he is given a profit bonus. The contractor completes a percentage of the work and comes in under the plan scheduled time - he is given a profit bonus.</p>
	X			<p>Can someone come out to our property (1010 St Andrews Dr) and mark where the proposed required ROW line is? And where the proposed cut-fill line is? We're trying to get a feel for where trees could be cut and how close to our fenced back yard you're coming.</p>
X				<p>Progress is good and the interchanges you are planning on sound great. This is an opportunity to also construct a sound barrier wall on 316 that protects all the homes in the Jennings Mill Subdivision that have backyards that back up to 316. The noise is unbelievable. I hear it every day on my morning walk. I know some ppl in the past have tried selling their homes but the sound was an issue. These homes are valued starting at \$500,000 so you can imagine this issue with the noise can be a detriment to a home sale. I live in the neighborhood and my house does not even back up to 316. I can hear cars and motorcycles racing at all hours.</p>

			X	<p>#1: Our home in Jennings Mill backs up to 316. We have been in the house for 20 years and bought it as new construction. GDOT did a huge disservice to several homeowners when the current road was put in. When heading west on 316, you constructed an earthen barrier which began on the property right next to ours(which has been a vacant lot since we moved here in 2002). This barrier continued towards the light at Jimmy Daniel. I am not certain why you did not extend that barrier all across the back of the JM neighborhood properties that back up to 316. Perhaps at the time, no houses were built on some of those properties so nobody challenged you.</p> <p>The noise from the road definitely, currently, impacts all of us who have property at the end of the cul-de-sacs that back up to 316, especially during evening rush hour. In your You Tube, you talk about giving a letter of A-F concerning safety issues. You have said that if nothing is done to the intersection, it will become an F during the evening rush hour. Well, it is my opinion that if you used the same gradient, we presently have an F right now for noise level. I would be happy to provide video with audio for you anytime you would like it! I, personally, have spent thousands of dollars trying to create a visual barrier with landscaping to at least cut down on having to watch this every night and also to see if it might provide some type of sound buffer. So far, the sound has not been reduced. I would hope to be informed when this noise impact study happens.</p> <p>#2: You have done a good job of answering a lot of questions that I had and helping me to visualize the round-about. It might have been helpful for you to post pictures of what the intersection that was mentioned (I-75 at Carbondale Road, south of Dalton) looked like since this round-about design is a fairly new one to be used in Georgia. I understand that the elevation coming north on Jimmy Daniel will end at Meriweather. However, you seem to say....that's it! All will be fine! Really? No traffic light or anything? Right now, Meriweather can be pretty dangerous when trying to turn left at various times of the day. I hope you have researched this.</p>
--	--	--	---	---

0013767 Comments

			X	<p>Referencing the Jimmy Daniels and 316 interchange, my concern is erosion and sedimentation (E&amp;S) control during design and construction phases of the project. I have watched the virtual meeting and Q&amp;A session, and reviewed the available information in the virtual meeting room. I have also reviewed a letter from Achor Njoku to Dean Turpin summarizing a 9/9/21 phone call.</p> <p>In that letter Achor states that of E&amp;S, “control measures are a part of final design and would be addressed during construction.” In the virtual meeting it was mentioned that the stream was buffered, and the nearest pond was some distance away.</p> <p>My specific concerns are:</p> <p>At what point(s) can the public review E&amp;S control design drawings and provide input? (Hopefully this is before final design.) And, how will these documents be made available to the public?</p> <p>In the meeting there were some comments by GDOT personnel that may have implied that the buffering of the stream and the distance to the nearest pond were such that they were not of much concern and were not being considered in the planning and design. Perhaps I am assuming too much here, but with the amount of fill and soil disruption, length of the project and variability of the weather, I would think that these resources will be impacted at some level. It is a straight shot from the road to the stream to the pond.</p> <p>I would very much like to understand better how the stream and pond will be considered in the design and construction of this project.</p>
			X	<p>My comment is that it took many years of growth to generate trees capable of dampening the sounds of the highway. Cutting many of these trees down and bringing exiting traffic physically closer to our houses requires a sound barrier to maintain the sense of neighborhood that has been built here. A sound barrier is especially important as the traffic light is the only thing keeping traffic at 55 mph in this section. When the light is green for extended periods traffic moves much closer to 65 mph, increasing the noise. A noise barrier should be considered a requirement if the stop light is going to be removed, tress that naturally dampen the sound cut down, and exiting traffic now closer to houses.</p>
			X	<p>Traffic light is needed at Kilarney West below the service station across from the Old Oconnee Bank and Zaxbys. Cars can't get out in the am or pm</p>
			X	<p>Home owner needs to get out of the home she is living in and she needs help finding a new place to live.</p>

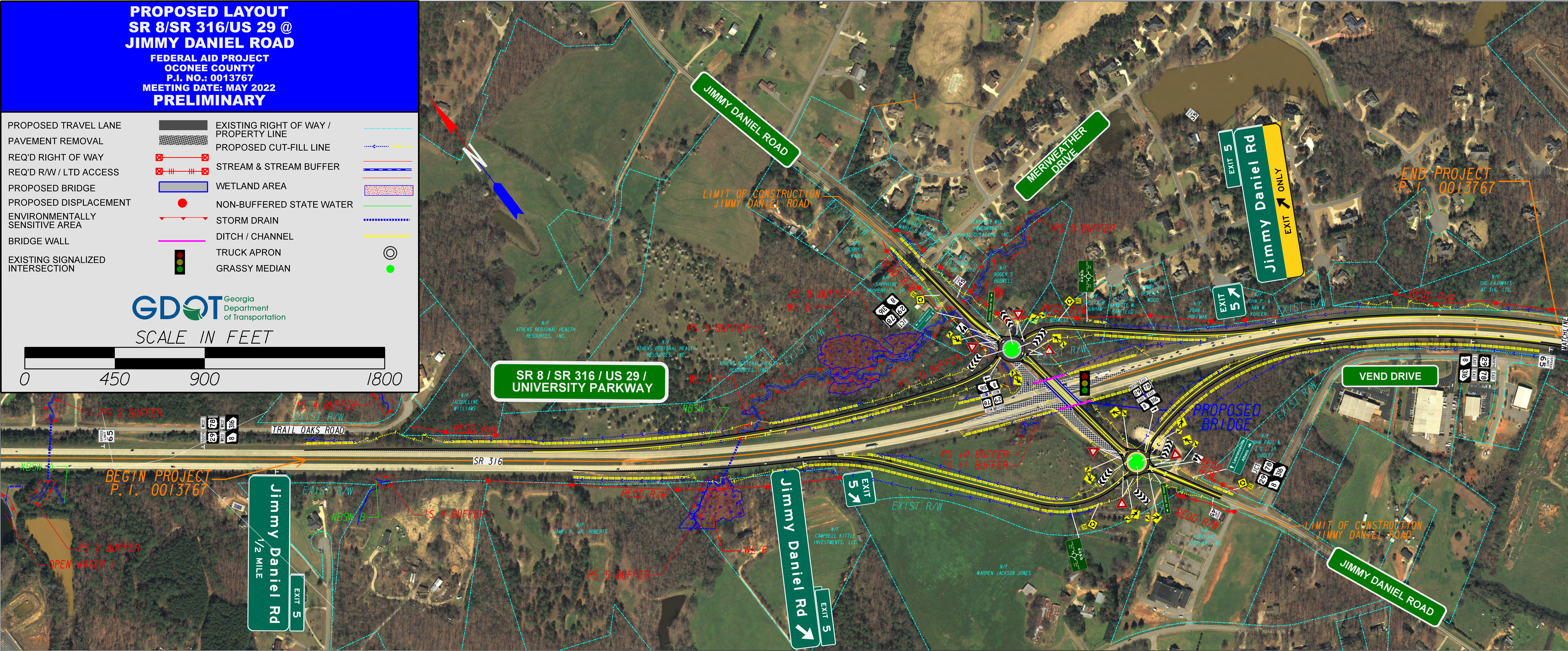
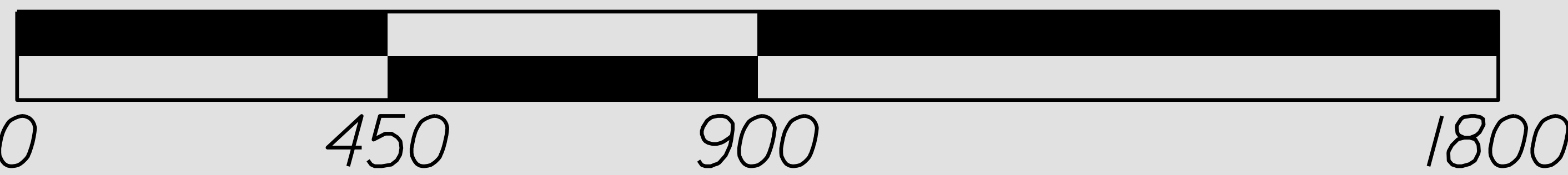


**PROPOSED LAYOUT**  
**SR 8/SR 316/US 29 @**  
**JIMMY DANIEL ROAD**  
FEDERAL AID PROJECT  
OCONEE COUNTY  
P.I. NO.: 0013767  
MEETING DATE: MAY 2022  
**PRELIMINARY**

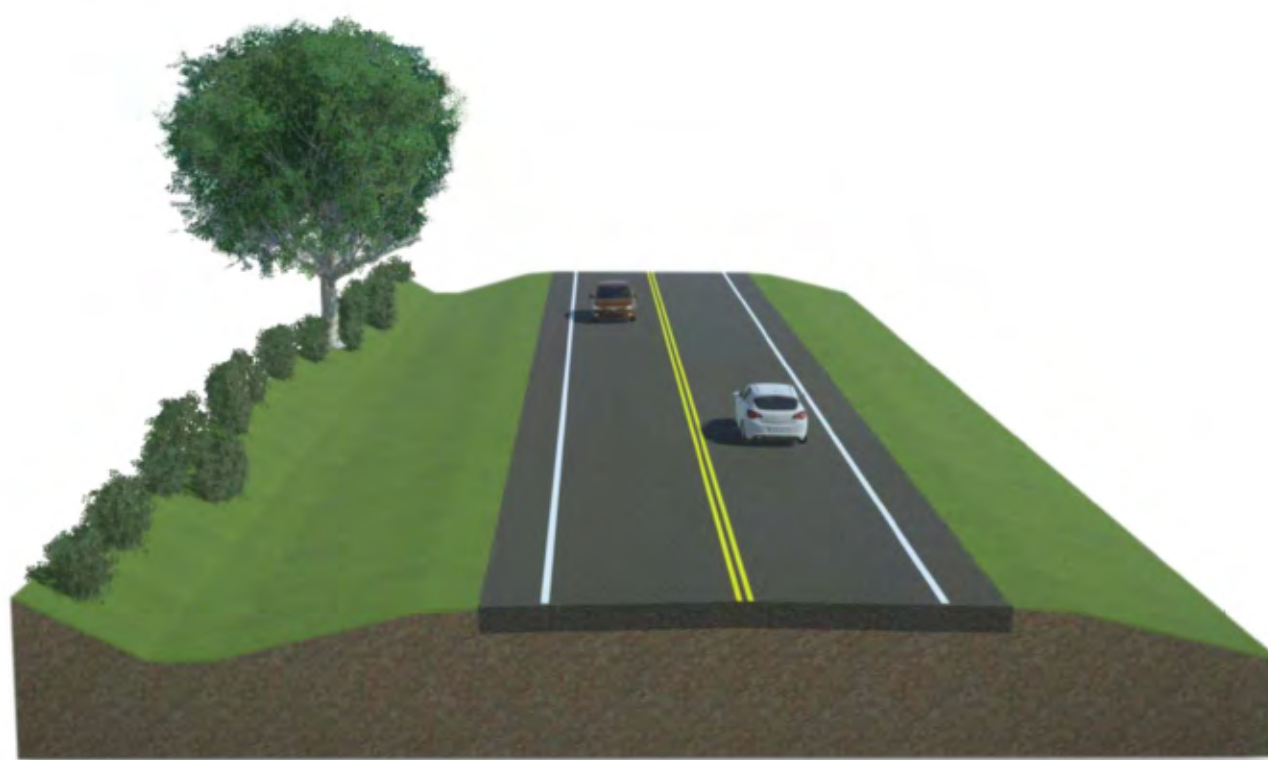
PROPOSED TRAVEL LANE		EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY / PROPERTY LINE	
PAVEMENT REMOVAL		PROPOSED CUT-FILL LINE	
REQ'D RIGHT OF WAY		STREAM & STREAM BUFFER	
REQ'D R/W / LTD ACCESS		WETLAND AREA	
PROPOSED BRIDGE		NON-BUFFERED STATE WATER	
PROPOSED DISPLACEMENT		STORM DRAIN	
ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA		DITCH / CHANNEL	
BRIDGE WALL		TRUCK APRON	
EXISTING SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION		GRASSY MEDIAN	

**GDOT** Georgia  
Department  
of Transportation

SCALE IN FEET



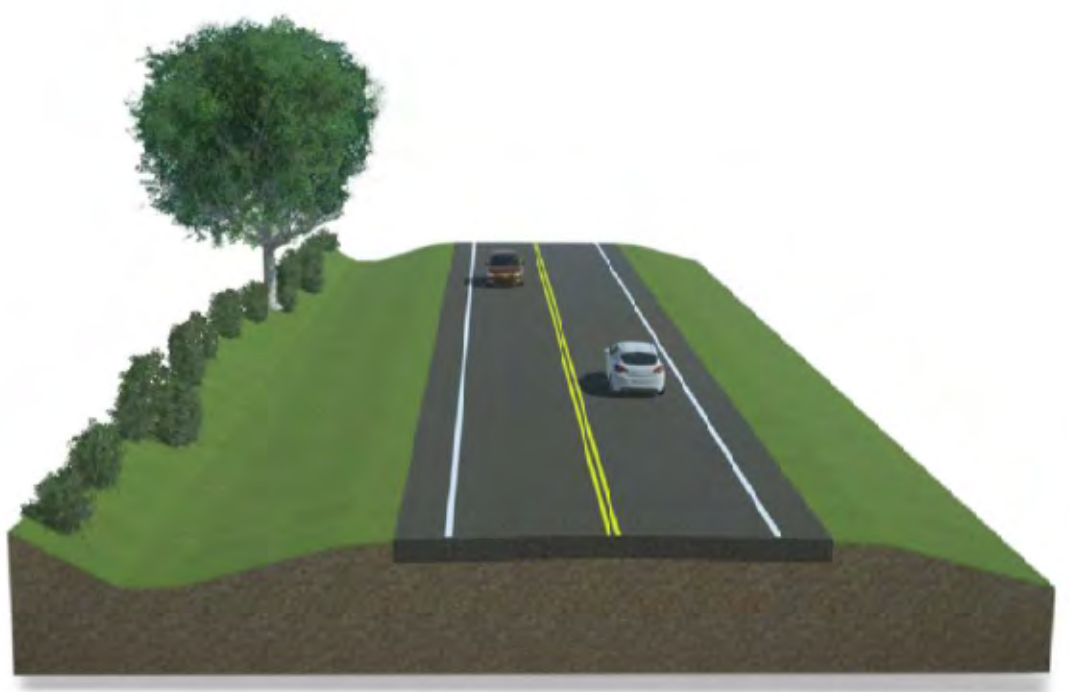
TYPICAL SECTION 1:  
FOUR-LANE RURAL FREEWAY WITH DEPRESSED MEDIAN  
SR 316



TYPICAL SECTION 2:  
TWO-LANE RURAL MINOR ARTERIAL  
JIMMY DANIEL RD



TYPICAL SECTION 3:  
ONE-LANE SERVICE RAMP (CONCRETE PAVEMENT)



TYPICAL SECTION 5:  
TWO-LANE RURAL MINOR ARTERIAL  
JIMMY DANIEL ROAD





**Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner**  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree NW  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
(404) 631-1990 Main Office

Thank you for visiting the public meeting website for the proposed State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/United States (US) 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road Reconstruction Project, PI Number 0013767. The goals of this website are two-fold: 1) to provide information on the proposed project and 2) to provide you an opportunity to give us your comments. In this handout package, you will find a description of the project, a location map, and a comment card.

This website is designed to look and feel like an in-person open house with various subject rooms representing key areas of the project development. You may tour through each of the subject rooms (Welcome, Project Design, etc.), just as you would the stations at an in-person meeting. In each subject room, you may click on project staff avatars, displays, handouts, posters, and/or videos for information.

After reviewing the information, we hope you will take the opportunity to tell the Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) what you think of the project. Your comments are important to us and, should you provide comments by one of the methods noted below, we will respond to you in writing within approximately 30 days of the close of the comment period. All comments will become part of the project's official record.

You can **provide your comments by** June 10, 2022, by any of the following methods:

- Submit comments through the survey link on the public meeting webpage:  
<https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com>
- Print and fill out the comment card in this handout and submit:
  - By mail to the following address:  
Mr. Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation,  
600 West Peachtree Street NW,  
16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308
  - By email to [P3Division@dot.ga.gov](mailto:P3Division@dot.ga.gov)
- Call the project hotline at (404) 631-1733 to leave a message with your comment.

Following the public comment period, a copy of all comments received will be available by request at the Atlanta address listed above.

The project displays and plans will be available for comment at <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com> until June 10, 2022. If you would like to review paper copies of the materials posted online, please contact the Georgia DOT District 1 Preconstruction Engineer, SueAnne Decker, at (770) 533-8490 to make arrangements.

Georgia DOT will host a virtual presentation and Q&A session on May 26, 2022, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Interested parties may join the virtual event by visiting <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com>. A recording of the presentation will be uploaded to the project website following the virtual meeting.

Again, thank you for visiting this public meeting webpage. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact the project team at [P3Division@dot.ga.gov](mailto:P3Division@dot.ga.gov) or (404) 631-1733.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Duff / DB". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric Duff  
State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation

### **Why are we here and what is the issue we are seeking to address within your community?**

Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) is seeking feedback about a proposed solution to improve mobility, reduce the potential for crashes, and improve traffic flow conditions along approximately 1.2 miles of State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/United States (US) 29 and the current at-grade, signalized intersection with Jimmy Daniel Road in Oconee County.

### **Current conditions along the SR 8/SR 316/US 29 corridor:**

- SR 8/SR 316/US 29 is an east-west running highway consisting of four, 12-foot concrete travel lanes (two lanes in each direction), a 44-foot depressed (grassed) median, 10-foot outside shoulders (4-foot paved) and 8-foot inside shoulders (4-foot paved). There is currently one, at-grade intersection within the project's limits. This intersection consists of SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road.
- According to the Traffic Analysis and Data Application (TADA), this portion of SR8/SR 316/US 29 in Oconee County serves approximately 42,750 vehicles per day with 6 percent of that total volume being truck traffic.
- Crash data from 2015 to 2019 indicated that 118 crashes occurred in the vicinity of the project intersection. Of those crashes, rear end crashes accounted for 75% of all crashes, angle crashes accounted for 15% of the crashes, non-vehicle collisions were 6% of all crashes, sideswipe collisions accounted for 3% of all crashes, and head-on collisions consisted of 1% of all crashes.
- Existing year (2020) Level of Service (LOS), which is a measurement of traffic congestion, was analyzed and determined that Jimmy Daniel Road currently performs at LOS C in the AM peak hour and LOS D in the PM peak hours. [For more information on LOS ratings, click here.](#)
- According to traffic data collected in 2020, the average morning (AM) peak hour delay on Jimmy Daniel Road at its intersection with SR 8/SR 316/US 29 is approximately 30.9 seconds per vehicle and the average PM peak hour delay is approximately 50.0 seconds per vehicle.

### **Proposed Solution: (Also See Project Location Map attached)**

The proposed improvements would be a continuation of a series of reconstruction projects along SR 8/SR 316/US 29, from SR 20 in Gwinnett County to SR 10 in Athens/Oconee County that would improve mobility, reduce the potential for crashes, and improve traffic flow conditions. PI No. 0013767 proposes the following:

- Remove the existing signalized, at-grade crossing at SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and Jimmy Daniel Road.
- Create a grade-separated diamond interchange with a single-lane roundabout to be located at the SR 8/SR 316/US 29 eastbound ramp intersection with Jimmy Daniel Road and the westbound ramp intersection with Jimmy Daniel Road.

### **Without this Project (No Build):**

- SR 8/SR 316/US 29 would remain a four-lane highway with a grassed median, 10-foot outside shoulders (4-foot paved) and 8-foot inside shoulders (2-foot paved). The intersection of SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road would remain a signalized, at-grade crossing.
- Because traffic volumes are expected to increase in the future, the number of crashes occurring in the future are also likely to increase.
- This portion of SR 8/SR 316/US 29 in Oconee County is expected to serve approximately 49,400 vehicles in the project's open year (2028) and approximately 70,550 vehicles per day in the project's design year (2048).
- In the open year (2028), the intersection of SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and Jimmy Daniel Road is expected to perform at LOS E in the AM peak hour and LOS F in the PM peak hour. In the design year (2048), the intersection of SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and Jimmy Daniel Road is expected to perform at a LOS F in the AM peak hour and LOS F in the PM peak hour.
- In the design year (2048), vehicle delays would continue to increase for the intersection of SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and Jimmy Daniel Road. At the intersection, the average peak hour delay in 2048 is expected to be approximately 223.2 seconds per vehicle in the AM peak hour and approximately 319.0 seconds per vehicle in the PM peak hour.

**Benefits of Project Implementation:**

- The proposed project would be a continuation of the goal to improve SR 316 as a key transportation facility in the region.
- Within the project corridor, congestion would be reduced and traffic flow improved.
- Eliminating the at-grade intersection would reduce the number of vehicle conflict points; therefore, potentially reducing the number of crashes at the intersection.
- In the open year (2028), the SR 316 eastbound ramp intersection and the SR 316 westbound ramp intersection with Jimmy Daniel Road would operate at a LOS A.
- In the open year (2028), the proposed project would reduce the delays experienced by drivers traveling through the SR 316 eastbound and westbound ramp intersections with Jimmy Daniel Road. For example, the average delay per second at the SR 316 eastbound ramp intersection with Jimmy Daniel Road would be 5.2 seconds per vehicle in the AM peak hour and 6.5 seconds per vehicle in the PM peak hour. Additionally, the average delay per second at the SR 316 westbound ramp intersection with Jimmy Daniel Road would be 5.5 seconds per vehicle in the AM peak hour and 8.0 seconds per vehicle in the PM peak hour.
- In the design year (2048), the SR 316 eastbound ramp intersection and the SR 316 westbound ramp intersection with Jimmy Daniel Road would operate at a LOS A to LOS C.
- In the design year (2048), the proposed project would reduce the delays experienced by drivers traveling through the SR 316 eastbound and westbound ramp intersections with Jimmy Daniel Road. For example, the average delay per second at the SR 316 eastbound ramp intersection with Jimmy Daniel Road would be 7.2 seconds per vehicle in the AM peak hour and 10.4 seconds per vehicle per vehicle in the PM peak hour. Additionally, the average delay per second at the SR 316 westbound ramp intersection with Jimmy Daniel Road would be 7.9 seconds per vehicle in the AM peak hour and 25.3 seconds per vehicle in the PM peak hour.

**How Can You Assist:** Please provide feedback about our proposed solution as well as information about any resources important to you or to the community. Are there events that future construction may affect once it begins?

**Where is this project in the process?** This project is currently in the concept phase. The concept phase defines the existing issue seeking to be resolved along with a proposed solution that will meet the community's needs.

**What are the Next Steps?** After the public meeting is held, feedback will be assessed, revisions may occur to the proposed plan initially brought to the public or the no build alternative will be selected. Comments and questions received during the public comment period will be addressed in a response letter that will be provided within 30 days of the end of the public comment period. If major changes occur to what was previously shown to the community, additional public outreach would occur. If no major changes are proposed, the project would advance to right-of-way acquisition and into final design. After all right-of-way acquisition occurs, project design is finalized, and the project would advance to construction.



## Levels of Service (LOS)

### LOS A



Low volume,  
traffic flowing  
freely

### LOS B



Steady volume,  
other cars  
noticeable

### LOS C



Balance  
between the  
most cars and  
the highest  
speed

### LOS D



Heavier volume,  
speed &  
maneuverability  
restricted

### LOS E



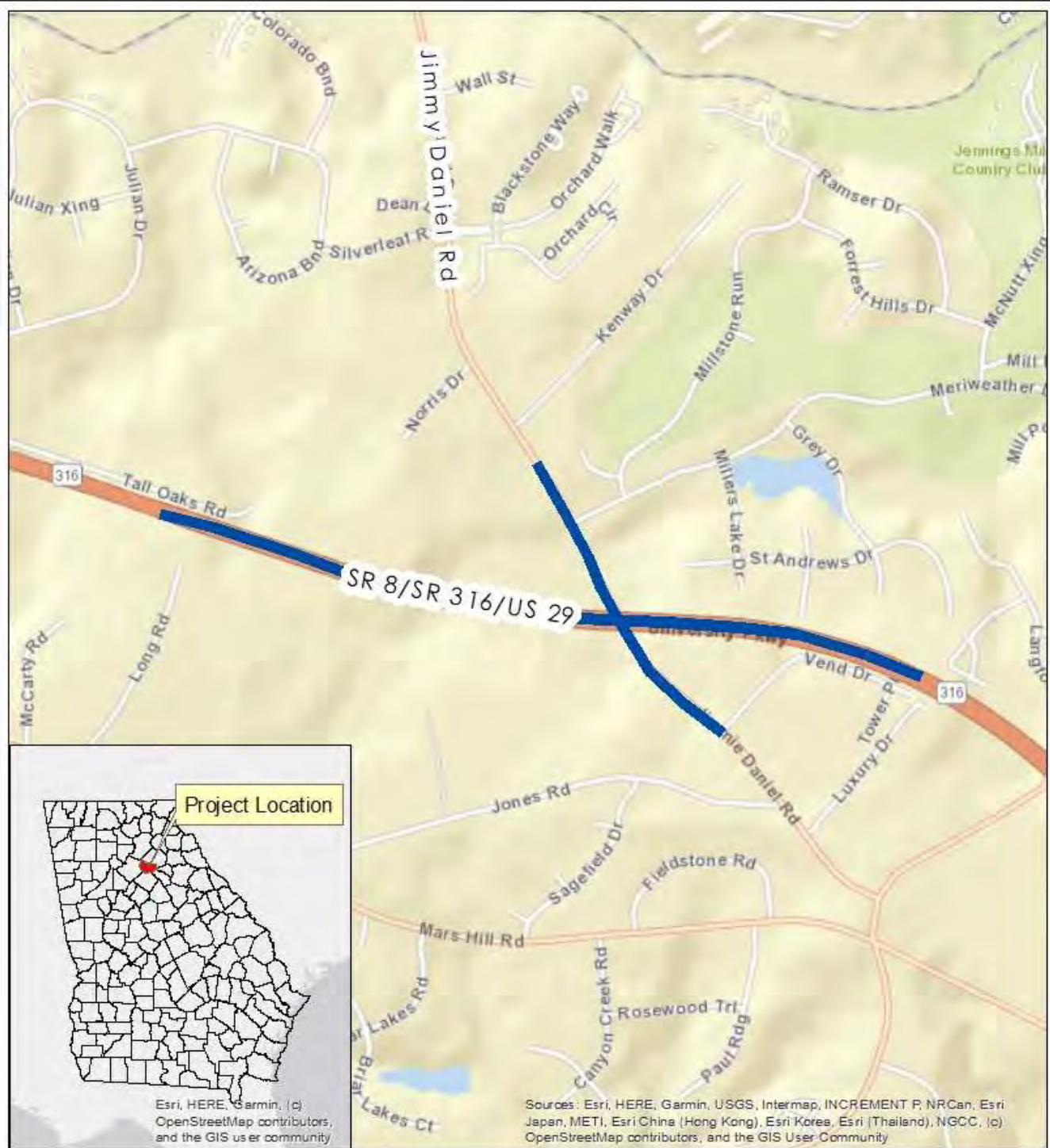
Volume at  
capacity,  
uniformly slow  
speed

### LOS F



Volume  
exceeds  
capacity,  
lengthy delays  
occur





**Figure 1. Project Location Map**  
 PI #: 0013767, Oconee County  
 SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road



0 0.3 0.6  
 Miles

**Legend**

Project Corridor

## Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you support the project? (check your response)

☐ **For**   ☐ **Against**   ☐ **Conditional (I would support this project if... describe below)**   ☐ **Uncommitted**

Comments:

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### **Help GDOT Improve Future Meetings:**

**Advertising:** How did you hear about the meeting: ☐ Newspaper   ☐ Signs   ☐ GDOT Website   ☐ Radio

☐ Word of mouth   ☐ Social Media   ☐ Post card   ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendance:** Did you visit the online information for the project?   ☐ Yes   ☐ No

<b>Questions:</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>If answer is no, please provide a suggestion/comment</b>
Was the website convenient?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Was the time convenient?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Were your questions answered?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Do you understand the project?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Were materials (in person or virtual) understandable?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Please share your suggestions on improving the ways GDOT conducts or advertises online open houses:

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Mail to:

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



# State Route (SR) 316 Bundle 2

P.I. Nos. 0013767, 0013768, and 0013769

Jennings Mill HOA Q&A  
Oct 3, 2023

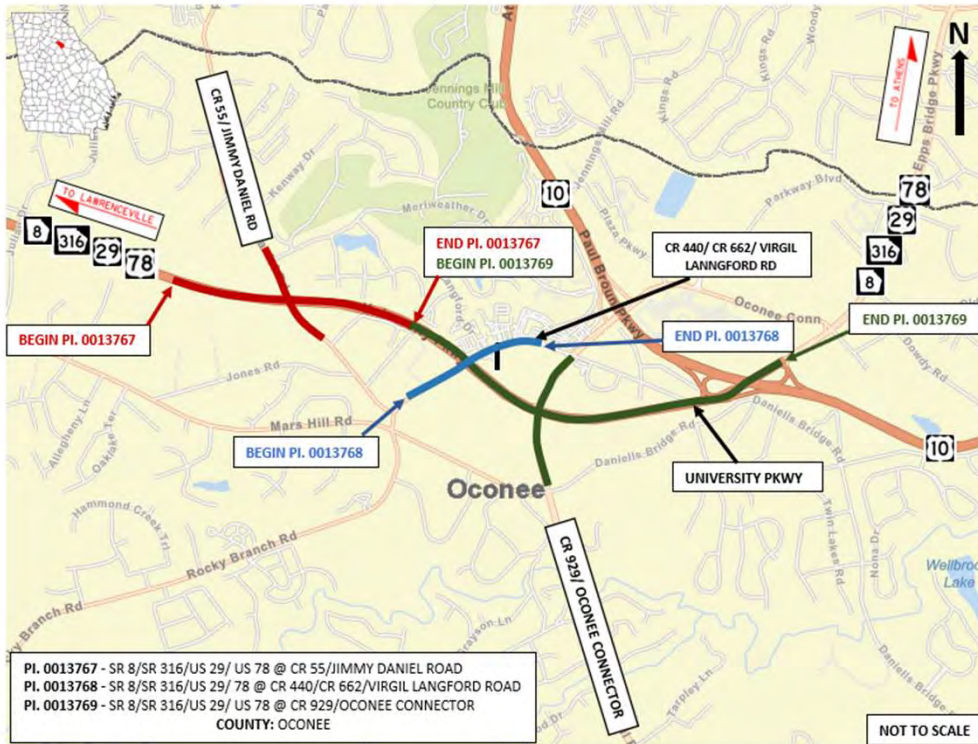




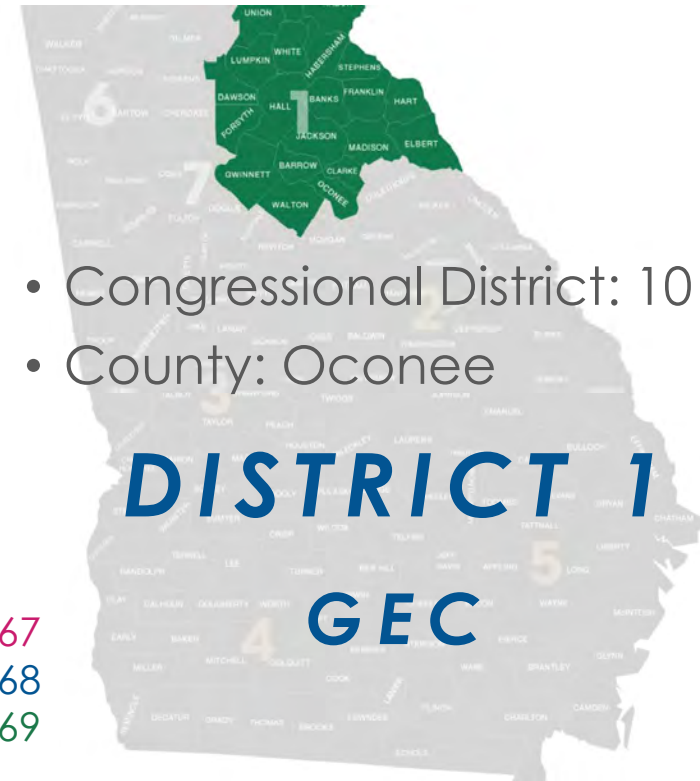
# Agenda

- Introductions/Roles and Responsibilities
- Project Overview
- Environmental
- Right-of-Way (ROW) Process
- Next Steps
- Questions and Follow-Up

# Project Location/Description



PI # 0013767  
 PI # 0013768  
 PI # 0013769



Source: <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>

LOCATION	PI#	Let	ROW	Construction
SR 316 at Jimmy Daniel Rd.	0013767	September 2024	\$1.5 M	\$42.5M
Virgil Langford Rd @ SR 316	0013768	September 2024	\$2.44M	\$8.3M
SR 316 at Oconee Conn.	0013769	September 2024	\$1.86M	\$56.3M

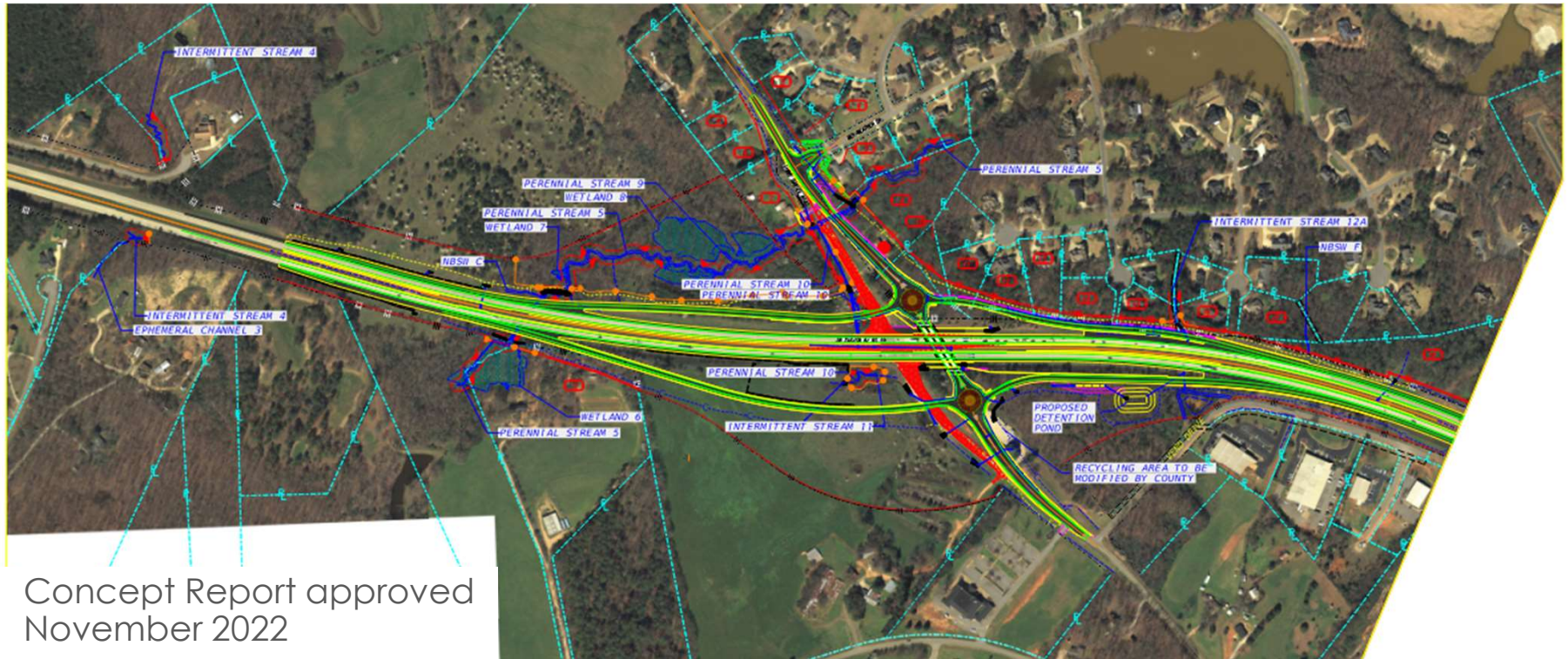


## Project purpose & Pre-Let Schedule Overview

Activity	Date
Issue Public Notice Advertisement (PNA)	January 04, 2024
Industry Forum	February 01, 2024
Issue Request for Qualifications (RFQ)	February 19, 2024
Receive Statement of Qualifications (SOQ)	March 15, 2024
Issue Notice to Finalists	March 29, 2024
Issue Request for Proposals (RFP)	April 02, 2024
GDOT Letting	September 27, 2024

*Note: Dates Subject to Change*

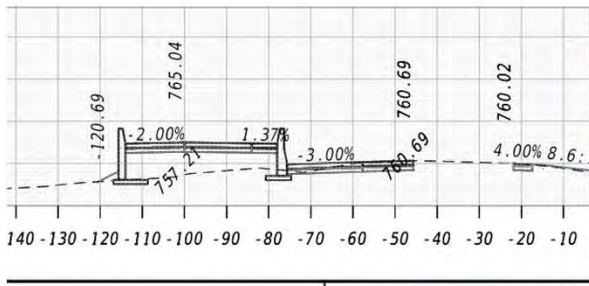
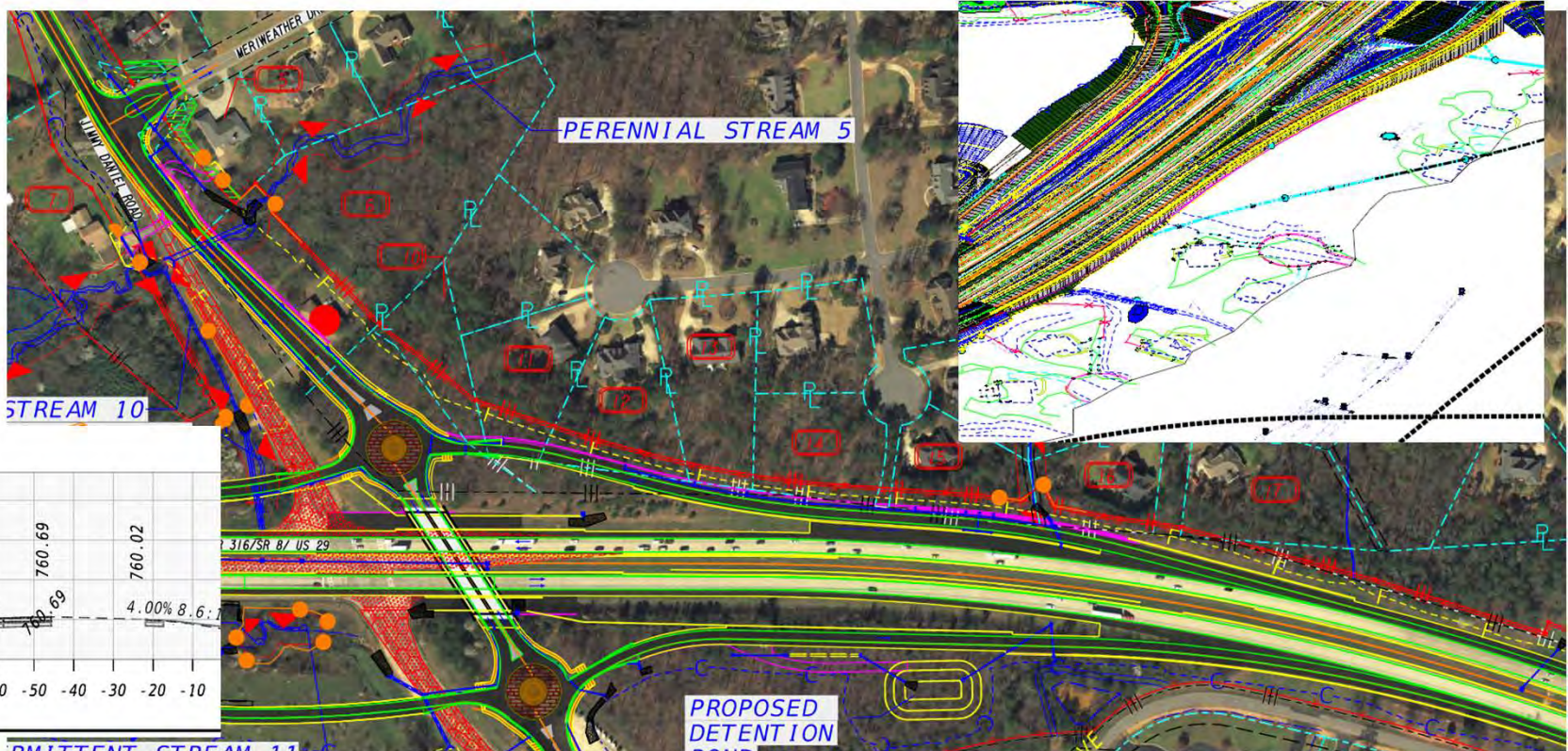
## P.I. No. 0013767 Project Layout





## Reduced ROW (Wall Added)

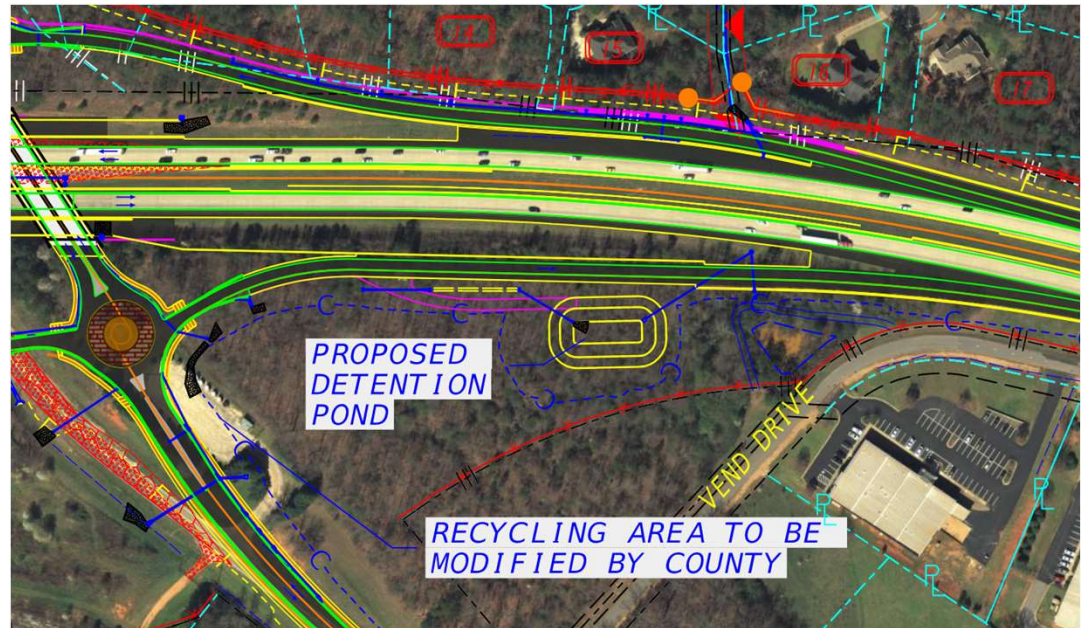
- Wall added along the SR 316 eastbound exit ramp to reduce ROW needs



# Drainage Surface Runoff: Stormwater Management Pond

## Proposed Detention Pond:

- Water is accumulated in a large collection area and then slowly drains through the outlet.
- Designed with an outlet to protect from the dangers of excessive rain and flooding
- Detention pond will remain dry until a storm occurs
- Slight increase in flow at one location and slight decrease at the other location is expected within the project





# Drainage: Erosion Control Measures

Erosion Control measures are more severe according to Environmental Protection Division

All design elements will be finalized before construction such as

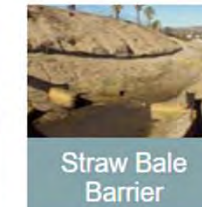
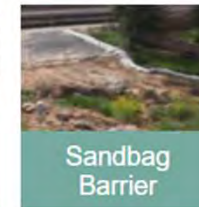
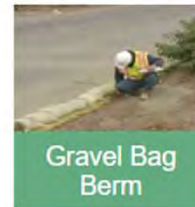
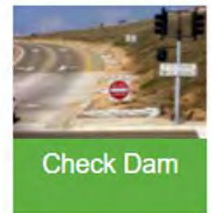
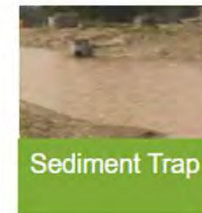
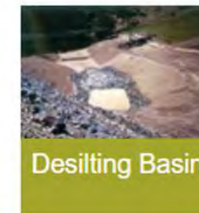
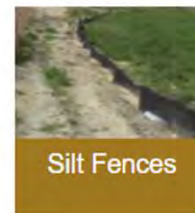
- Sediment Traps,
- Sediment Basins,
- Check dams, and
- Storm drain inlet protections

## Silt Fence Inspection and Maintenance

- Inspection
  - Before and after rainfall
  - Every 24 hours during exceeded rainfall
- Maintenance
  - Replace any torn or decomposed fence immediately
  - Remove sediment deposits once 1/3 the barrier height



## Inspection and Maintenance Examples





# Traffic Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)

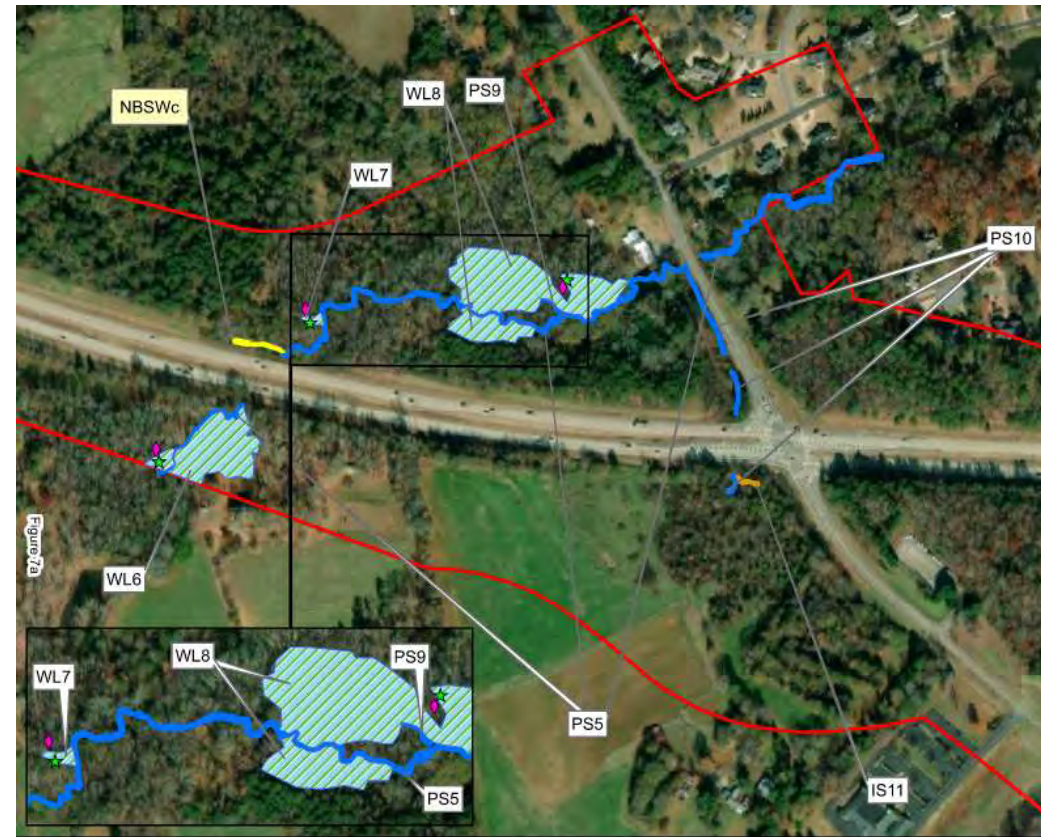
- SR 316/ SR 8/ US 29/ US 78
  - 42,750 vpd (2020) Current
  - 49,490 vpd (2028) Open
  - 70,550 vpd (2048) Design
  - 9.0% 24 HR Trucks
- CR 55/ Jimmy Daniel Road (P.I. 0013767)
  - 7,800 vpd (2020) Current
  - 9,200 vpd (2028) Open
  - 13,500 vpd (2048) Design
  - 3.0% 24 HR Trucks
- Oconee Connector (P.I. 0013769)
  - 26,500 vpd (2020) Current
  - 28,950 vpd (2028) Open
  - 41,850 vpd (2048) Design
  - 3.0% 24 HR Trucks
- Virgil Langford Road (P.I. 0013768)
  - 4,775 vpd (2020) Current
  - 4,050 vpd (2028) Open
  - 5,900 vpd (2048) Design
  - 3.0% 24 HR Trucks

VPD: Vehicles Per Day  
HR: Hour



# Environmental

- Ecological Resources:
  - 10 Streams, 1 Ephemeral Channel, 2 Open Waters and 4 Wetlands present on project
    - 2 wetlands and three streams located in northwest quadrant of proposed interchange
- History Resources:
  - No Historic Properties Affected
- Archaeology Resources:
  - No Archaeology Resources Identified



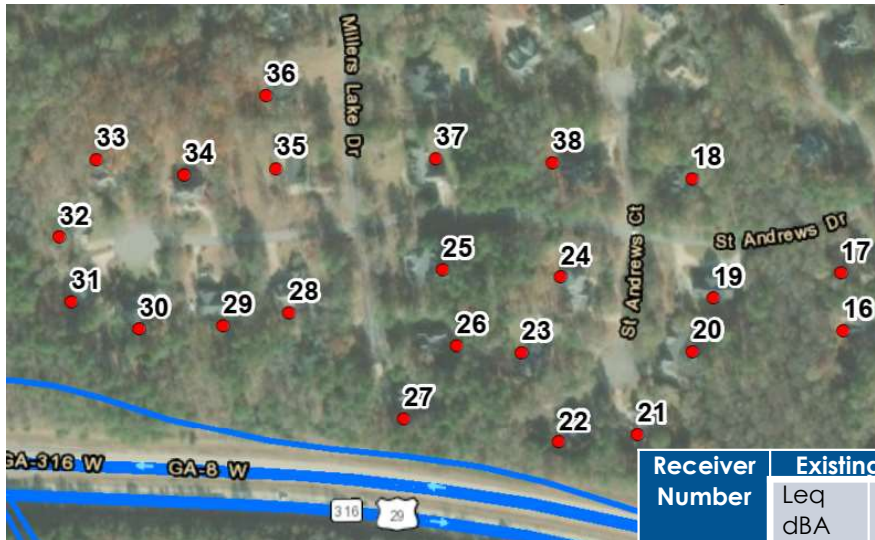
## Environmental: Noise

- An initial Noise Impact Assessment was completed in May 2023.
- The Noise Impact Assessment is based on:
  - Modeling using:
    - Existing and proposed roadways, terrain, and noise sensitive receivers
    - Existing and projected traffic volumes including vehicle types and their associated posted speeds
  - Field measurements that validated the modeled noise levels
- Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC) are impact criteria that, when approached or exceeded, require consideration of noise abatement. The NAC for residential land uses is 67 decibels (dBA).
- Georgia DOT defines a noise impacts as occurring when the design-year build levels are within 1 dBA below the NAC criteria (66 dBA for residential land uses).

## Environmental: Noise

- Findings:
  - No receivers would experience noise-related impacts in the design year (2048) build condition.
  - Some properties, such as 1111 Millers Lake Drive, would experience lower noise levels in the 2048 build condition than in the 2048 no-build condition.
  - The SR 316 westbound exit ramp to Jimmy Daniel Road northbound would be elevated and would block some of the SR 316 through-traffic noise from reaching areas within Jennings Mill.
- **No noise barriers are proposed** because there are not anticipated impacts in the build condition.
- A reevaluation of the noise analysis will occur during final design, should changes warrant a reevaluation.

# Environmental: Noise Impact Assessment Results



The Noise Impact Assessment contains the complete figures and tables.

Receiver Number	Existing (2020)		No Build (2048)			Build (2048)		
	Leq dBA	NAC*	Leq dBA	Difference from existing	NAC	Leq dBA	Difference from existing	NAC
21	60.6	---	62.7	2.1	---	62.2	1.6	---
22	59.5	---	61.6	2.1	---	62.7	3.2	---
26	55.5	---	57.6	2.1	---	56.9	1.4	---
27	66.3	Snd Lvl	68.4	2.1	Snd Lvl	62.1	-4.2	---
28	55.7	---	57.8	2.1	---	56.3	0.6	---
29	55.2	---	57.3	2.1	---	57.9	2.7	---
30	54.3	---	56.4	2.1	---	57.5	3.2	---
31	52.7	---	54.8	2.1	---	54.6	1.9	---
32	52.7	---	55.0	2.3	---	52.6	-0.1	---
33	51.4	---	53.8	2.4	---	51.2	-0.2	---

\*Exceeds Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC) Threshold



# ROW Process



## Pre-Acquisition Activities October – December '23

- Coordination with Special Assistant Attorney General (SAAG) to prepare Preliminary Title Reports
- Determination of types and number of appraisals required
- Outreach to property owners to explain Right-of-Way Plan and Acquisition Process, which includes letters, in-person meetings, among other ongoing communications



## Appraisals October – December '23

- Independent appraisers contact impacted property owners to schedule property inspection
- Appraisal report developed and shared with Georgia DOT for review
- Offer Package developed by Georgia DOT based on Appraisal report



## Negotiations to Purchase January - June '24

- The offer, referred to as Initiations of Negotiations, is presented to property owner in writing based on the Fair Market Value (FMV) appraisal
- Reasonable negotiation period is allowed for Good Faith Negotiations
- Settlement is reached



## Closing July - September '24

- Special Assistant Attorney General (SAAG) performs the closing at no cost to property owners
- Funds disbursed to owner (after satisfaction of any applicable liens)
- Property owner has a minimum of 60 days to vacate property after closing



## Relocation, if necessary October – December '24

- In the event that any person, family, business, or farm is displaced, they shall be offered relocation assistance services, or a Relocation Benefits Package at time of "Initiations of Negotiations"
- If property owners or tenants are required to relocate they will be treated fairly, equitable, and in compliance with the Uniform Act. Since relocation occupants vary, relocation benefits and payments may also vary. The property owner's assigned Relocation Agent will explain more specific benefits or payments for those that may be eligible for Relocation Advisory Services.

ROW Service Provider: Jennifer Sweigart, [Jennifer.sweigart@collierseng.com](mailto:Jennifer.sweigart@collierseng.com)

## Next Steps

- Finalization of Costing Plans
- Early ROW Acquisition
- NEPA Approval
- Developer Selection – Q4 2024
- Construction Activities Begin - Fall 2025 (Estimated 3 Year Construction Duration)

Questions?

# Partner Toolkit: Transforming SR 316

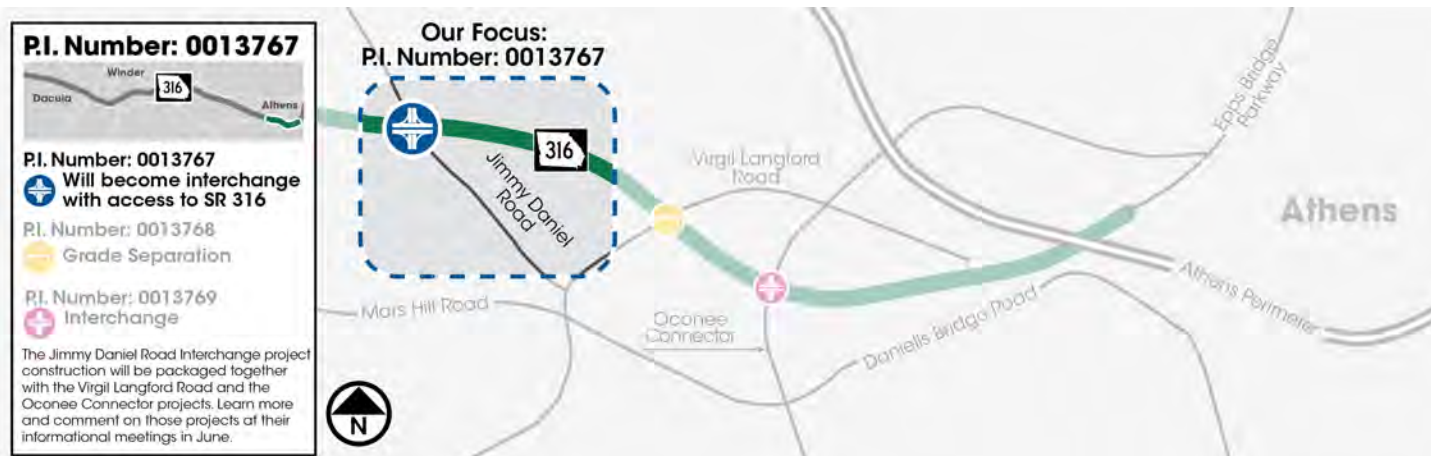
Project ID No. 0013767

## How To Use This Georgia Department of Transportation Partner Toolkit

Georgia DOT is developing a series of improvement projects along State Route (SR) 316 from SR 20 in Gwinnett County to SR 10 in Athens-Oconee County. Among these projects is SR 8/SR 316/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road (PI No. 0013767) in Oconee County.

We launched the project's virtual Public Information Open House (<https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>) on May 17, and we are reaching out to ask for your help in sharing information with and encouraging participation among your neighbors, constituents, and others in your community. Please feel free to use any of the information in this toolkit to share on your website, newsletter, and social media accounts. Our team is available to answer any questions throughout the life of this project. Please reach out using the contact information provided.

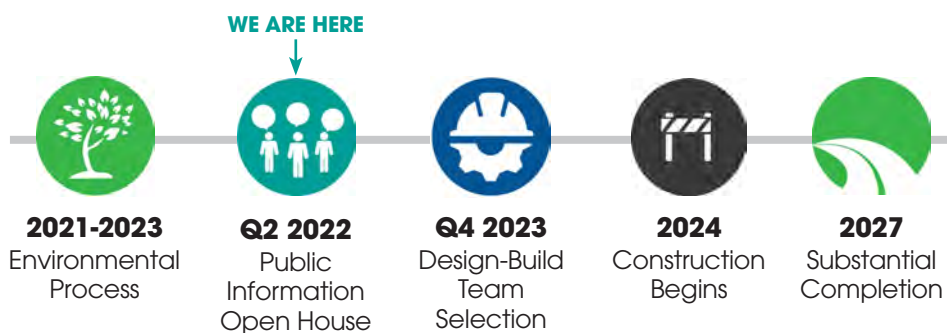
## Project Location



## Project Overview

- Proposed improvements consist of converting the at-grade crossing at SR 316 and Jimmy Daniel Road into a grade-separated diamond interchange with a single-lane roundabout at each exit/entrance ramp.
- The project aims to improve mobility, reduce the potential for crashes, and improve traffic flow.

## Project Schedule





## How To Help Spread the Word

Georgia DOT would like to enlist your help in sharing information about the project. To help spread the word, simply copy and paste one or more posts below to your social media network. The visuals that accompany each post are available to download at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yYsC5HqJyHKehAQMKj37O7BkExxuJB0>.



Oconee County, @gadeptoftrans's virtual open house is LIVE! Take part in the conversation about proposed #SR316 improvements at Jimmy Daniel Road! Join by computer or smart device at: <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>



Oconee County, join the conversation! Visit @gadeptoftrans's virtual open house to learn more about proposed #SR316 improvements at Jimmy Daniel Road. Go to: <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>



Oconee County, your feedback matters! Visit @gadeptoftrans's virtual open house to learn about proposed #SR316 improvements at Jimmy Daniel Road. The comment period is open! Go to: <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>



Oconee County, don't miss your chance to provide feedback to @gadeptoftrans on proposed #SR316 improvements at Jimmy Daniel Road! You have until June 10! Learn more at: <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>



Do you travel on #SR316 to get to work, home, or school? The proposed @gadeptoftrans project will pave the way for improved mobility, the potential for fewer crashes, and improved traffic flow. Visit: <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>



Join the conversation to drive #SR316 solutions! The proposed @gadeptoftrans project aims to improve mobility, reduce the potential for crashes, and improve traffic flow. Learn how at: <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>


## How To Participate in the Virtual Open House



Georgia DOT is conducting a virtual Public Information Open House to inform the community about the proposed project and provide an opportunity for public comments.

- Platform available at <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>
- Comment period runs from **May 17 to June 10, 2022.**
- A virtual presentation and Q&A will be held **May 26 (4 p.m. - 6 p.m.)** A link will be posted to the virtual platform on the day of the event.

## How To Contact Us

 (404) 631-1733 (voicemail)

 [P3Division@dot.ga.gov](mailto:P3Division@dot.ga.gov)

### Mailing address:

Georgia Department of Transportation  
16th Floor  
600 West Peachtree Street, NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Stay Connected:  @GeorgiaDOT  @GADeptofTrans  @gadeptoftrans





**The Oconee Enterprise**

Publication Name:

**The Oconee Enterprise**

Publication URL:

Publication City and State:

**Watkinsville, GA**

Publication County:

**Oconee**

Notice Popular Keyword Category:

Notice Keywords:

**0013767**

Notice Authentication Number:

**202207051158187979560****2405709068**

Notice URL:

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Notice Publish Date:

Thursday, May 19, 2022

**Notice Content**

Georgia Department of Transportation A Location and Design Public Information Open House For P.I. No. 0013767 Oconee County On May 17, 2022, the Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) will publish project information for review and feedback online to allow citizens to review and comment on the proposed project. We appreciate your participation in this process. Georgia DOT will publish information at (<https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com>) related to the proposed improvements to State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/United States (US) 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road. As part of Georgia DOT's effort to improve mobility, reduce the potential for crashes, and improve traffic flow conditions along SR 8/SR 316/US 29, the current at-grade crossing of Jimmy Daniel Road is being considered for improvements. These proposed improvements consist of replacing the existing at-grade signalized intersection with a grade-separated diamond interchange, including a single-lane roundabout at each exit/entrance ramp. The purpose of this internet posting is to replace an in-person meeting, while allowing the public to review the proposed project, provide feedback, or write in with questions. There will be a virtual presentation and Q&A session on May 26, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. to allow the public to ask questions of subject-matter experts. More details will be available at <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com>. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities contact the District Preconstruction Engineer, SueAnne Decker at [sdecker@dot.ga.gov](mailto:sdecker@dot.ga.gov) or 770-533-8490. Comments will be accepted concerning this project until June 10, 2022. Written statements may be submitted to: Mr. Eric Duff State Environmental Administrator Georgia Department of Transportation 600 West Peachtree Street, NW - 16th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30308 PN: 5/12,19

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**0013767**

Notice Authentication Number:

**202207051238577514429****2405709068**

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Notice Publish Date:

Thursday, May 12, 2022

**Notice Content**

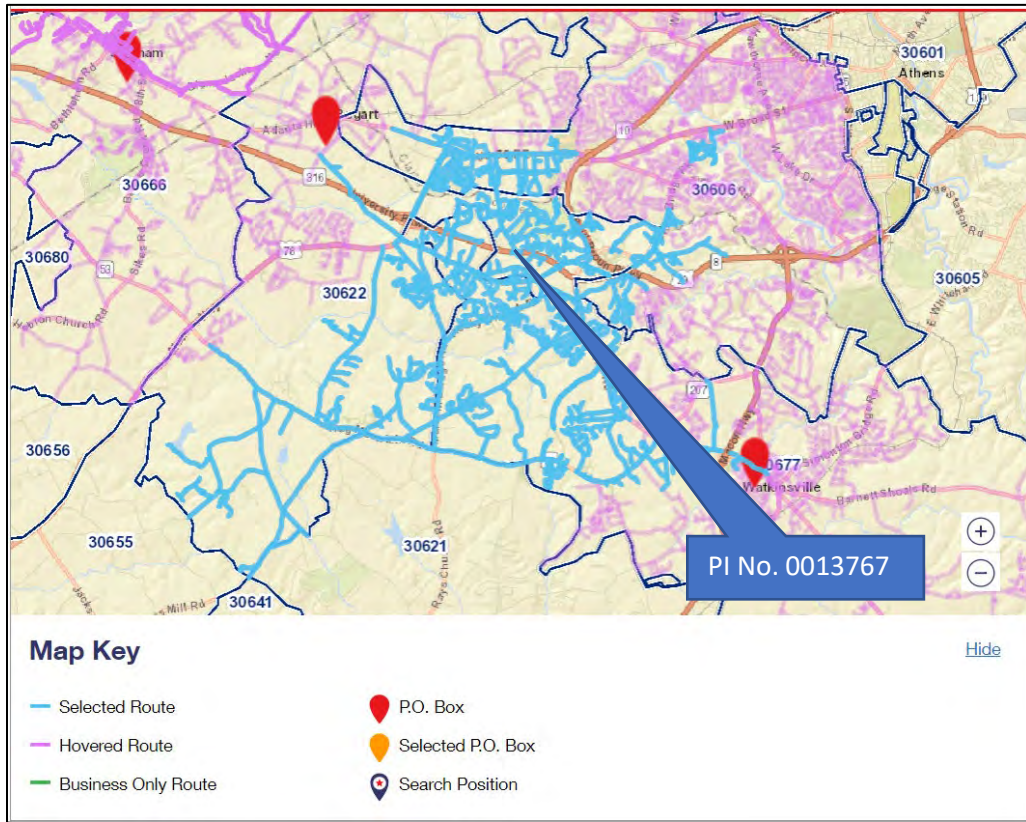
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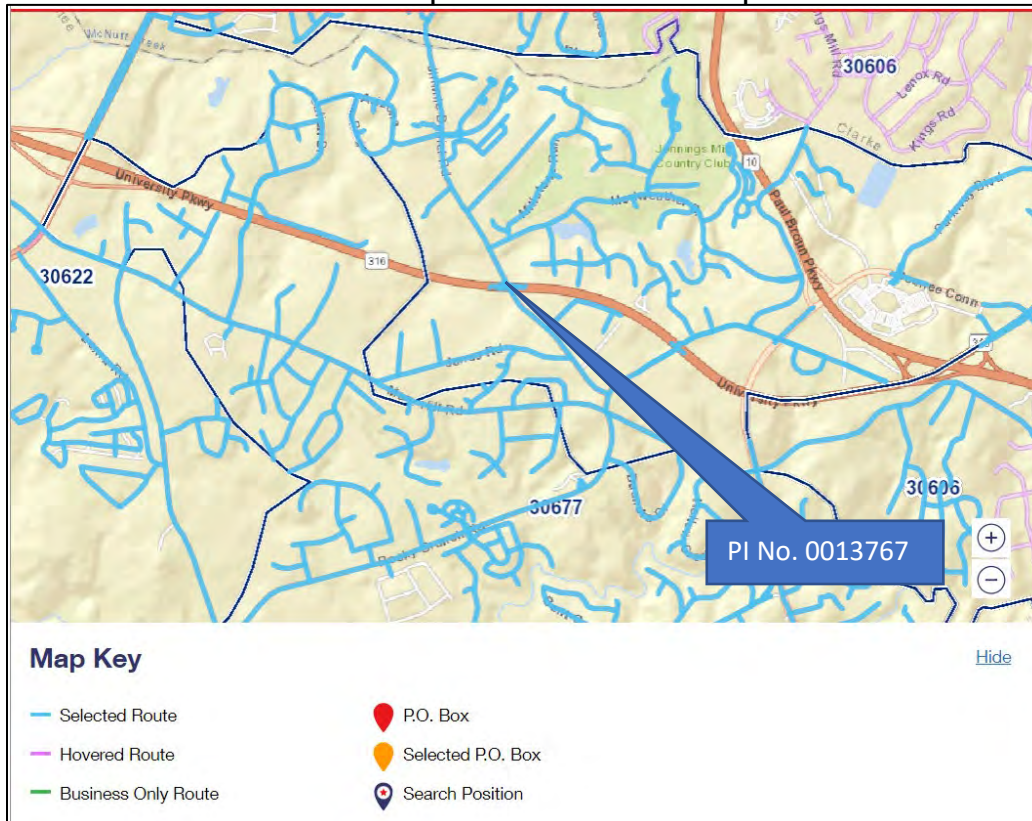
**Every Door Direct Mailer (EDDM) postal routes for SR 316 Bundle 2  
(PI No. 0013767, Oconee)**

<b>Route</b>	<b>Residences</b>	<b>Businesses</b>	<b>Total</b>
30606-R007	371	175	546
30606-R016	571	164	735
30606-R017	839	12	851
30622-PBOX			376
30622-R002	611	29	640
30622-R004	673	10	683
30677-PBOX			1054
30677-R004	582	18	600
30677-R006	536	59	595
30677-R012	484	64	548
30677-R013	532	10	542
30677-R014	489	107	596
30677-R015	80	119	199
<b>PO Box</b>			<b>1,430</b>
<b>Mailbox</b>			<b>6,535</b>
<b>Total Number of Postcards</b>			<b>7,965</b>

Selected routes zoomed out



Selected postal routes close up





OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
600 WEST PEACHTREE STREET, NW  
ATLANTA, GA 30308

Georgia DOT is seeking your  
feedback on a proposed project in  
your community (PI# 0013767).  
Scan the code  
to view the project  
web page and see  
reverse for project  
location and details.





# WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK:

## State Route (SR) 8/SR 316/US 29 at Jimmy Daniel Road

### Proposed Project (PI No. 0013767):

As part of Georgia DOT's effort to improve mobility, reduce the potential for crashes, promote safety, and improve traffic flow conditions along SR 8/SR 316/US 29, the current at-grade crossing of Jimmy Daniel Road is being considered for improvements. These proposed improvements consist of reconstructing the at-grade crossing at SR 8/SR 316/US 29 and Jimmy Daniel Road and creating a grade-separated diamond interchange with a single-lane roundabout at each exit/entrance ramp.

**Project Web Page:** <https://transformingsr316-gdot.hub.arcgis.com>

**On the Web Page:** Review the proposed design with an opportunity to comment on the project.

**Comment Period:** May 17 to June 10, 2022

### Questions or Concerns:

☎ (404) 631-1733  
(voicemail)

✉ [P3Division@dot.ga.gov](mailto:P3Division@dot.ga.gov)



Virtual Presentation and live Q&A: May 26, 2022 (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.). Visit the project web page for more details.