

# 16@95 Improvement Projects

Major Mobility Projects — P.I. Numbers: 0012757 and 0012758

## Frequently Asked Questions

## Project Overview

### About the Projects

The 16@95 Improvement Projects will improve traffic flow and enhance safety along I-16 and I-95, one of Georgia's busiest freight corridors as well as the gateway to Georgia's growing port in Savannah, by reconstructing the interchange at I-16 and I-95 in Chatham County to increase operational efficiency and safety of passenger cars and trucks and widening I-16 to relieve traffic congestion.

All current project layouts and alignments are available in the Document Library on the project web page: <https://majormobilityga.com/projects/i1695improvements/>

### What is the MMIP?

The Major Mobility Investment Program, or MMIP, is a grouping of projects expected to yield a significant reduction in congestion along key freight and passenger corridors. The projects will create additional capacity, improve the movement of freight, provide operational improvements and efficiencies, enhance safety, and decrease travel times. More information on the MMIP is located at <http://www.dot.ga.gov/IS/MMIP>.

### The 16@95 Improvement Projects will consist of:

- Widening I-16 mainline corridor toward the inside median from two to three lanes in each direction from I-95 to I-516
- Replacing the existing I-95 southbound to I-16 eastbound and the I-16 westbound to I-95 southbound loop ramps located on the west side of I-95 with 'partial turbine' configuration ramps to provide smoother, more direct connections
- Adding a connecting lane on I-95 northbound to help improve traffic flow and safety to and from I-16 and I-95
- Adding lighting at the I-16/I-95 Interchange
- Installing Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technology, including cameras, and changeable message signs to provide real-time driving conditions
- Installing ramp meters at SR 307/Dean Forest Road and Chatham Parkway on-ramps

- Constructing a two-lane, emergency-use median crossover on I-16 between I-95 and SR 307/Dean Forest Road to aid in evacuations; Existing I-16 crossovers will remain operational until the new, two-lane crossover becomes operational
- Constructing/rehabilitating 12 bridges

## Project Location



### What are Georgia DOT's goals for these projects?

The 16@95 Improvement Projects will reduce congestion and enhance safety along I-16 and I-95 in Chatham County. The project is part of Georgia DOT's Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP), which includes large-scale projects that will build a better Georgia by enhancing mobility and safety, fueling economic growth, and improving Georgians' quality of life.

### What is the schedule for these projects?

Construction began in Q1 2020. Motorists will continue to see construction activities along I-16 through the I-516 Interchange as well as bridge replacement work of the I-95 bridge within the I-16/I-95 Interchange. The overall project is anticipated to be complete in late spring 2025. Georgia DOT will open newly constructed sections of the project as they are completed.

### Who is the contractor for the projects?

Georgia DOT is the project owner. The Design-Build team includes Savannah Mobility Contractors, JV (SMC) as the lead contractor. SMC is a joint venture between Dragados USA, Inc. and Prince Contracting, LLC. The lead design firm is Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.

### What are the construction hours?

The project will consist of nighttime and daytime work on week days and weekends. Construction activities that will require traffic interruptions will not occur on I-16 or I-95 during the morning and evening peak commute hours nor during other designated high traffic periods such as holidays, Saint Patrick's Day, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day weekend, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. Motorists are advised to expect delays, exercise caution, reduce their speed while traveling through work zones, stay alert, expect lane shifts and watch for workers. Before heading out, get real-time information on work status and traffic conditions. Call 511, visit 511ga.org, or download the Georgia 511 app. Traffic Impact Reports are distributed via email to provide advance notice about potential traffic impacts. Sign up to receive notifications on the project website at <https://majormobilityga.com/projects/i1695improvements/>.

## Improvements and Impacts

### What improvements will the traveling public see?

The project adds new lane miles on I-16 in metropolitan Savannah. The completed project is expected to add highway capacity for more than 100,000 vehicles. The improvements will reduce traffic congestion and improve safety in the area. Motorists will also see new lighting at the I-16/I-95 Interchange and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technology linked to Georgia NaviGator 511 along the corridor.

### What are the traffic impacts?

Travelers will experience lane closures along the project corridor and detours when construction is underway. Georgia DOT works diligently to minimize impacts to travelers, commuters, and businesses. The project team will communicate proactively with stakeholders, the media, transit agencies, and local organizations about any lane changes and closures in advance of construction activity. These construction notices will be communicated through the projects' web page, email announcements, Georgia NaviGator 511, social media, and traditional media. Sign up to receive notifications on the project website at <https://majormobilityga.com/>

[projects/i1695improvements/](https://majormobilityga.com/projects/i1695improvements/).



## Design Concept

### How will the new turbine ramps be constructed over the existing on/off-ramps?

The new interchange design is commonly known as a "partial-turbine interchange." This is the first of its kind in Georgia! A turbine interchange, also known as a whirlpool interchange, has two or three levels with ramps forming a spiral around the interchange's center. Two of the four existing cloverleaves will be converted into turbine bridges spanning over I-95 and I-16.

### Why is the full interchange not being replaced?

A full interchange replacement was considered, but it was determined, based on benefit/cost analysis, that a full replacement was not fiscally responsible. The proposed combination of turbine ramps on the west side and a new collector-distributor (CD) roadway, or connecting lane, and bridge on the east side will improve safety and efficiency. The connecting lane will separate traffic that is exiting and/or entering I-95 northbound from the northbound through traffic, which will allow the through traffic to move without interruption of the weaving area associated with the loop ramps.

### What are connecting lanes?

Connecting lanes run parallel to the main travel lanes of an interstate or highway, connecting them to access roads or entrance ramps in order to improve traffic flow, speed, and safety.

### Will the hurricane crossovers remain?

The planned enhancements for emergency crossover are features of the 16@95 Improvement Projects. Georgia DOT will replace the two existing one-lane, emergency-use median crossovers with one, two-lane, emergency-use median crossover between I-95 and SR 307/Dean Forest Road. The existing crossovers will not be removed until the new crossover is functional.

## What is the design for I-16?

### I-16 West of SR 307/Dean Forest Road

- Mainline: 10-foot paved inside shoulder, 50.5-foot median, two 12-foot general purpose lanes west of I-95/I-16 Interchange, three 12-foot general purpose lanes between I-95/I-16 Interchange and SR 307/Dean Forest Road, 10-foot paved outside shoulder.
- Cable barrier or double-faced guardrail to prevent vehicle interactions across the median, except where the emergency crossover is located.

### I-16 East of SR 307/Dean Forest Road

- Mainline: Shoulder widths vary. Typical section is 12-foot inside shoulder (10-foot paved), three 12-foot general purpose lanes, 12-foot outside shoulder (10-foot paved).
- Cable barrier or concrete median barrier to prevent vehicle interactions across the median.

## When I-16 transitions from three lanes to two lanes, won't this cause an issue with congestion?

The transitions from three to two lanes will occur at transitions to other interstates (i.e., I-516 and I-95). Lanes will transition as exit/entrance ramps. In other words, instead of three lanes of traffic merging into two lanes of traffic, the third lane will be an entrance/exit to another portion of the interstate system. This new lane configuration, which avoids the use of a merge lane, accounts for the traffic volumes at each interchange and provides the necessary traffic movements to accommodate those volumes more efficiently than the current interchanges.

## Air/Noise

### How does Georgia DOT determine where noise walls will be placed?

The feasibility and reasonability for constructing noise abatement such as noise walls is based on the Georgia DOT Highway Noise Abatement Policy for Federal-Aid Projects (2/26/2018). Factors that go into this evaluation include the amount of noise reduction, constructability, safety, and cost.

## Adjacent Projects

### Is the SR 307/Dean Forest Road project part of this project?

Additional activities for SR 307/ Dean Forest Road are programmed as a separate Georgia DOT project (GDOT P.I. No. 0013727).

## Stay Connected

### How do I stay informed about the project?

Georgia DOT will provide regular updates through the project web page, Georgia NaviGator 511, social media, newsletters, media announcements, and community outreach events. By bookmarking the project web page to phones/tablets and computers, travelers can stay updated throughout the project duration. Project representatives are also available to speak to groups. A speaker's request form can be sent to the project email at [1695improvements@dot.ga.gov](mailto:1695improvements@dot.ga.gov). To be added to the project visit the project website at <https://majormobilityga.com/projects/>.

### Stay Connected



<https://majormobilityga.com/projects/i1695improvements/>

[1695improvements@dot.ga.gov](mailto:1695improvements@dot.ga.gov) (email)

912-480-9625 (project hotline)

### 16@95 Improvement Projects Field Office

20 Martin Court | Savannah, GA 31419

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