

Project Update

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) invites you to review updated project information online for the State Route (SR) 44 Improvements project from Harmony Rd/Old Phoenix Rd in Putnam County to Athens Tech Drive/(Proposed) East Greensboro Bypass in Greene County at:

<https://0019696-0019697-0006253-gdot.hub.arcgis.com>

At this website, you can review current project information.

Updates since the 2020 PIOH include:

- The SR 44 project was split from one project, Project ID Number (PI #) 0006253, into three projects with two new PIs:
 1. PI# 0019696 (Phase I): SR 44 from south of King Drive to East Greensboro Bypass (*Greene*)
 - Proposed Let Date for Construction: December 2024
 2. PI# 0019697 (Phase II) : from Carey Station Rd to south of King Drive (*Greene*)
 - Proposed Let Date for Construction: December 2025
 3. PI# 0006253 (Phase III): from Harmony Rd/Phoenix Rd to Carey Station Rd (*Putnam and Greene*)
 - Proposed Let Date for Construction: December 2026
- The following intersections along SR 44 have been updated to roundabouts: Harmony Plaza, Scott Rd, Merchant St, Linger Longer Rd, Carey Station Rd, and Richland Connector.
- **Enhancements:**
 - Phase I: Project would add stamped red colored concrete in the median.
 - Phase II: Landscaping plans are being developed with input from the Counties.
 - Curb and Gutter Sections (Phase I & III): Projects would include sidewalk sod beauty strips.

A Public Information Meeting will be held on **May 7, 2024** from **5:00-7:00 PM**, at Putnam County Administration Building, **117 Putnam Drive, Eatonton, GA 31024**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are found on the reverse.

For more information, contact:
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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is 44 to remain a two-lane highway with just the widening of it to include a center turning lane?

A: No, this project will widen SR 44 from Old Phoenix Road/Harmony Road to Athens Tech Drive/(proposed) East Greensboro Bypass in Greene County from two to four lanes. The project would be approximately 10.5 miles in length.

Q: Where will there be traffic lights along the Parkway?

A: Traffic signals are proposed at the following locations: Old Phoenix/Harmony Road, Meadow Crest Road, I-20 Eastbound Ramp, and I-20 Westbound Ramp.

Q: How many roundabouts would there be on the Parkway to ease traffic flow?

A: Six (6) - A roundabout at Linger Longer Road was agreed to at a citizens' meeting in February 2021. Through continued public communications and outreach with public officials, the Department re-evaluated four (4) additional intersections within the Phase III project, PI 0006253 (two [2] in Putnam County & two [2] in Greene County). The Department will also evaluate one (1) additional intersection within the Phase II project, PI 0019697 (Greene County). As a result, roundabouts are currently being designed and will be added to the layouts on the project website for the following SR 44 intersections: Harmony Plaza (Putnam County); Scott Road (Putnam County); Merchant Street (Greene County); Linger Longer Road (Greene County), Carey Station (Greene County), and Richland Connector (Greene County). The Department has added "draft" roundabouts at all six (6) intersections mentioned above to the public layouts on the project website while the project team begins design of the roundabouts for each specific intersection. The "draft" roundabouts do not represent the final impacts or the amount of right of way that will be needed at these intersections.

Q: Does the DOT recommend a lower speed limit be along the Parkway stretch?

A: The Department does not plan to lower the existing speed limit. The posted speed limit would be 55 mph along SR 44 for the rural sections. The proposed improvements have been designed to match the existing speeds in the urban areas of Reynolds Plantation and the I-20 interchange where the existing speed is 45 mph.

Q: As we once discussed, measures like these would hopefully encourage the big 18-wheeler trucks to use Highway 441 as their primary route from the Savannah port.

A: SR 44 is on the State Route system and as such cannot preclude trucks. There are several projects currently underway to provide improvements along US 441. Georgia DOT PI#'s 0013617, 0013613, and 0015925 propose to improve US 441 from the Madison Bypass in Morgan County to south of Astondale Road in Oconee County. Georgia DOT PI#'s 0013614 and 0013615 propose to improve US 441 from Eatonton to Madison. Funding for these projects has already been allocated and does not impact the funding for other roadway projects.

Q: Has there been a new concept report created for the project since the old one years ago?

A: No, there has not been any revised concept reports for the project. There was an updated Location and Design Report approved in July 2021 updating the project limits to what is currently being designed; SR 44 from Old Phoenix Road to East Greensboro Byp/Greene.

Q: What can you tell us about median openings and access points?

A: Based on design criteria and traffic median openings, the Department's preferred standard spacing on rural areas is 1,320 feet and in urban areas is 1,000 feet.

Q: How long do we anticipate construction to last?

A: Construction time will vary between the three (3) project phases due to the time needed for the Utility Relocations in each phase. Phase I: 18-24 months, Phase II: 40-48 months, Phase III: 52-60 months

Q: Based on traffic analysis and current growth, why is this project needed?

A: This project is needed to address current and future capacity deficiencies on State Route (SR) 44. Projected traffic volumes along SR 44 would greatly exceed the capacity of the two-lane roadway and excessive delays along the corridor would be experienced. In 2018, the Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) measured at stations along this segment ranged from 11,000 to 15,900, equivalent to a level of service (LOS) "D" on a two-lane roadway. LOS "D" is considered unacceptable with regards to statewide LOS performance measures as referenced in the 2005-2035 Statewide Transportation Plan (SWTP). The proposed widening project would add more capacity to mitigate projected traffic congestion for travelers from Putnam County to Greene County via SR 44. The project would help enhance economic development and reduce crash frequency.