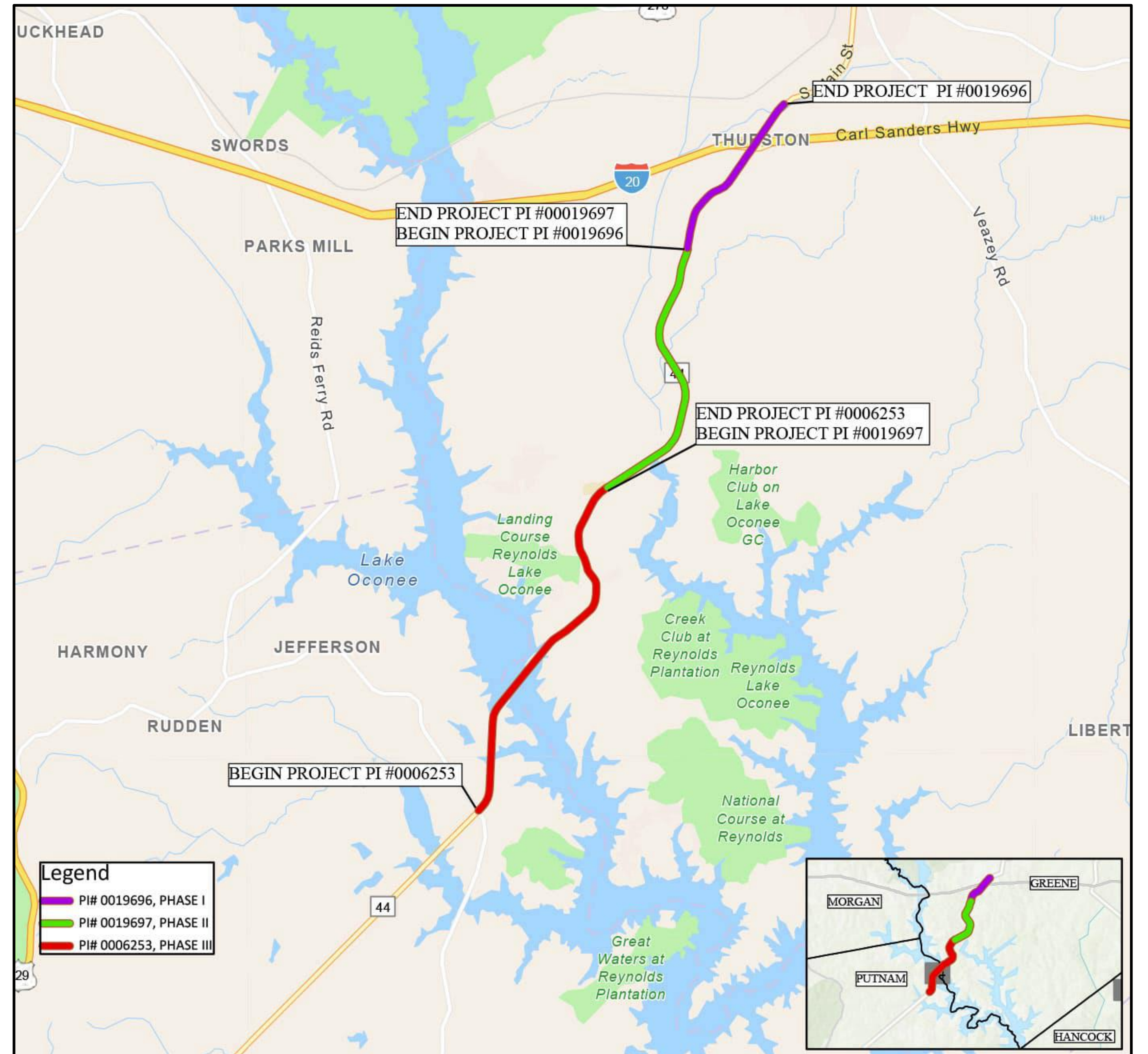


WHY ARE WE HERE?

To provide project updates to the proposed improvements of State Route (SR) 44 in Putnam and Greene Counties.
(PI #s 0019696, 0019697, 0006253)



Thank you for your support!



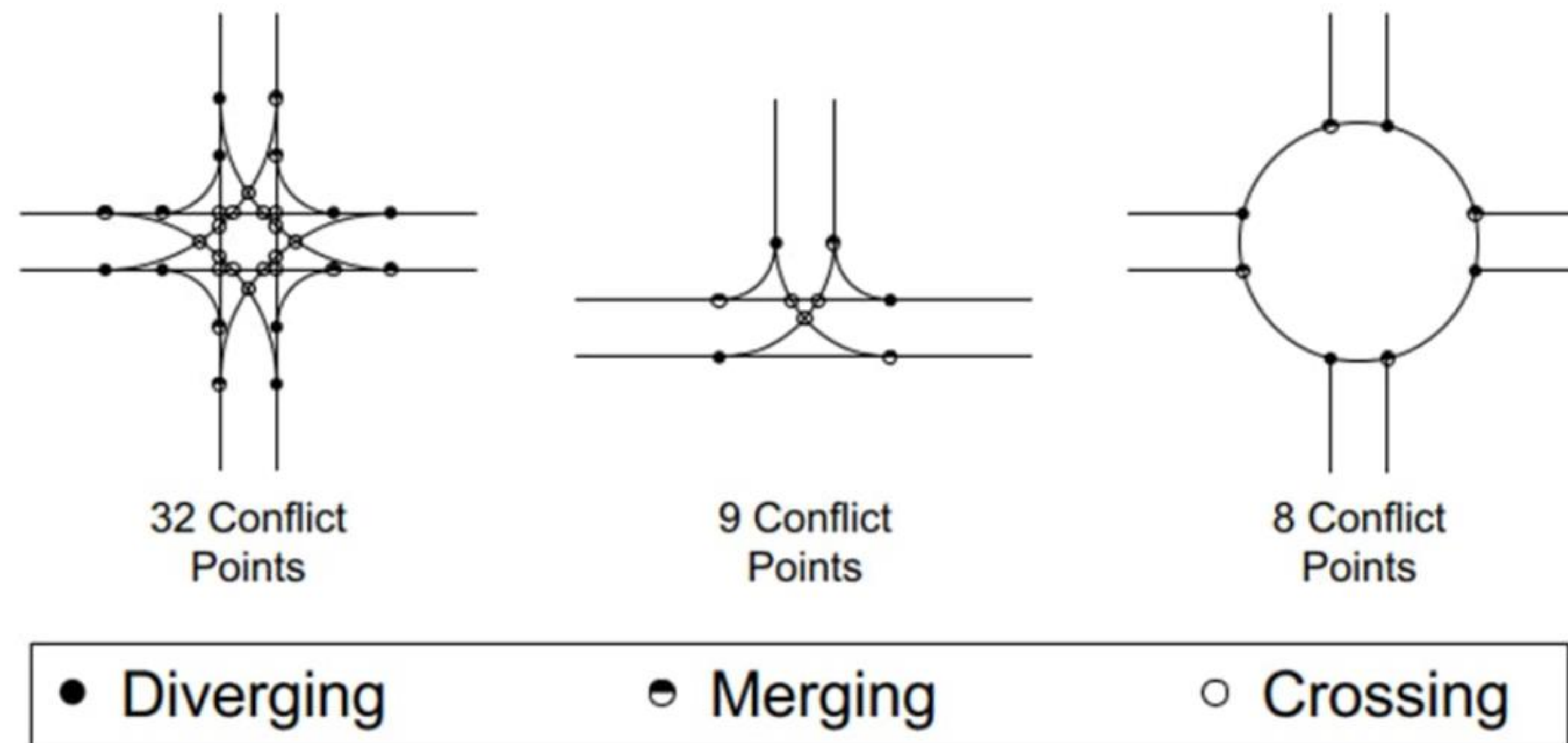
Updates since the 2020 PIOH

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

Roundabout Benefits

- **Improves** Safety and Operations
 - **Promotes** lower speeds and traffic calming
 - **Increases** efficiency and **reduces** congestion
 - **Reduces** number of conflict points
 - **Creates** nodes that can be landscaped
- **Studies have shown that roundabouts:**
 - **Reduce** crashes by **35%****
 - **Reduce** severity of crashes
 - **90% reduction** in fatalities**
 - **76% reduction** in injuries**

**<https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/roundabouts/fhwasa08006.pdf>



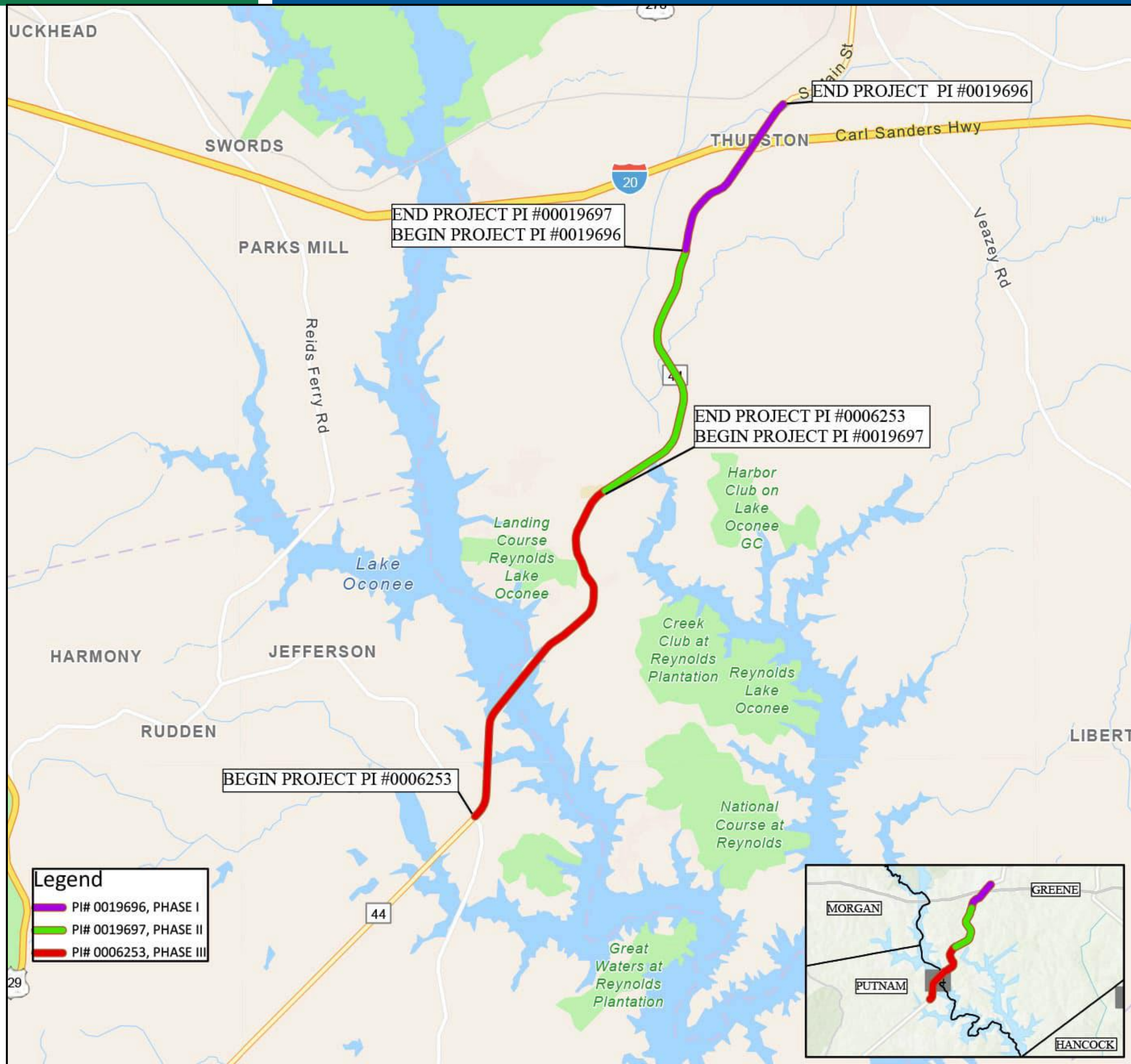
To Learn More about Roundabouts:

<https://www.dot.ga.gov/GDOT/pages/Roundabouts.aspx>

Check out how to use a Roundabout:

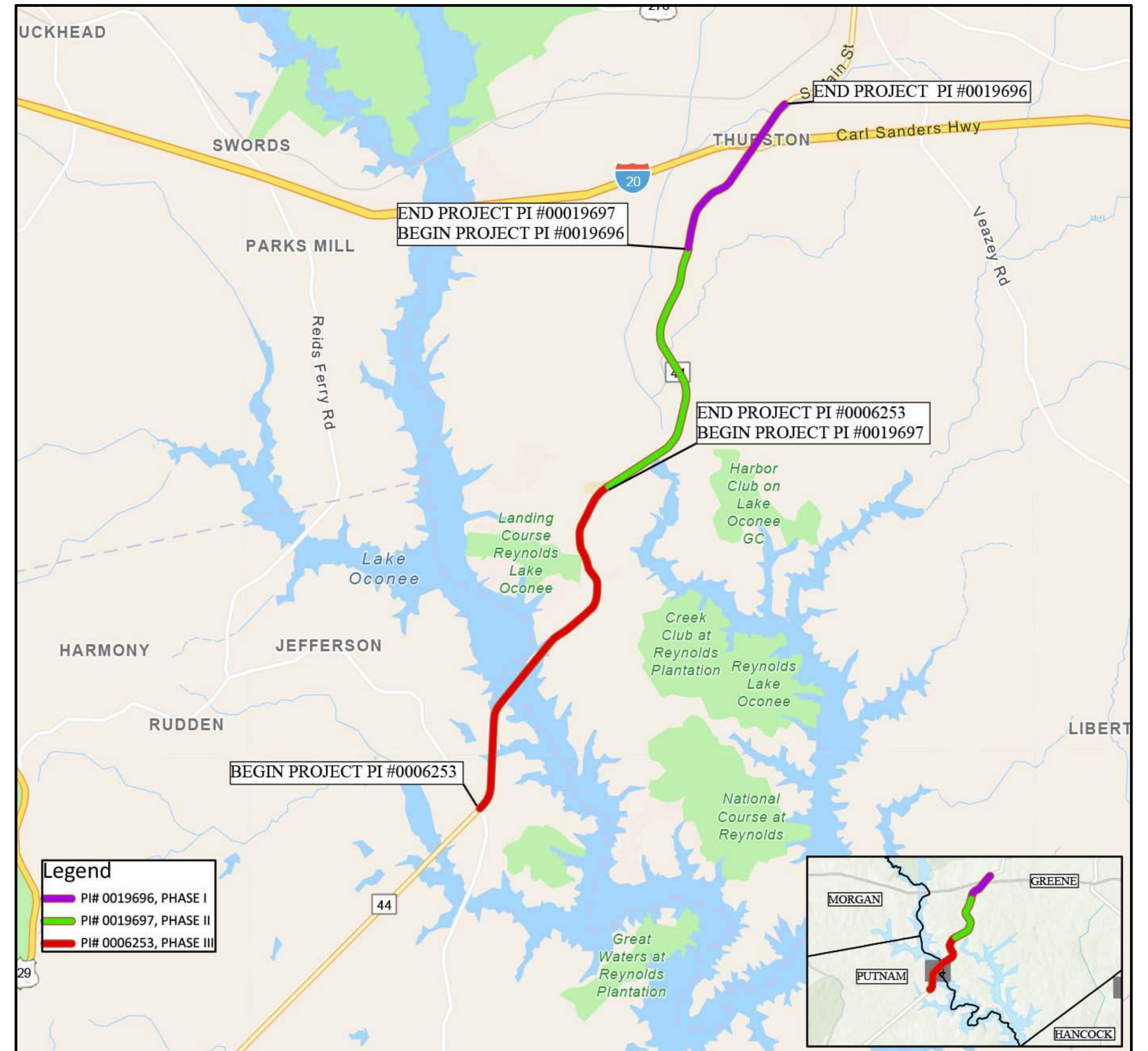
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peUf2NRdWxs>





Why do we need this project?

- The communities around SR 44 in Greene and Putnam Counties have experienced **substantial growth** in the past decade.
- These expansions, both in **population and development**, are expected to increase in the near future.
- The proposed project is expected to **accommodate current and future growth** by **improving safety** and **efficient travel** within the communities.



Recent and Current Developments (Greene County)

Towne Center Parkway



- *Greene County Primary School*, recently completed construction. The school accommodates 876 Pre-K through 5th grade students.
- Other recent developments, but not limited to:



Club Dr & Richland Connector



- *BMC Building Store* under construction
- 
- *Bobcat Dealership* under construction

Carey Station Road



- *Traditions at Carey Station*, has expanded its development by adding several homes and lots that are on market available for buyers



- *Del Webb at Lake Oconee*, a retirement community is expanding and constructing **122** more new homes

Linger Longer Rd



- *Reynolds Lake Oconee*, has constructed over **600** homes recently
- Several commercial businesses have been constructed in the area including the following, but not limited to:



Upcoming Developments

(Greene County)

Towne Center Parkway



- Weyerhaeuser, developing **1,500 – 2,000** new homes



- Lake Oconee Village, developing **760** homes and **328,000**sq ft of commercial space

- Other developments:



Holiday Inn



Club Dr & Richland Connector



- Kolter Homes, developing **1,454** new homes near Harbor Club

Carey Station Road

- Several new housing subdivisions are planned for future and old developments are expanding including the below, but not limited to:

- Bayside (66 homes)
- Sunset Bluff (58 homes)
- Traditions at Carey Station (63 homes)
- The Bluffs at Carey Station (344 homes)
- Oakdale Forest subdivision (186 homes)
- Del Webb at Lake Oconee (301 homes)

Linger Longer Rd

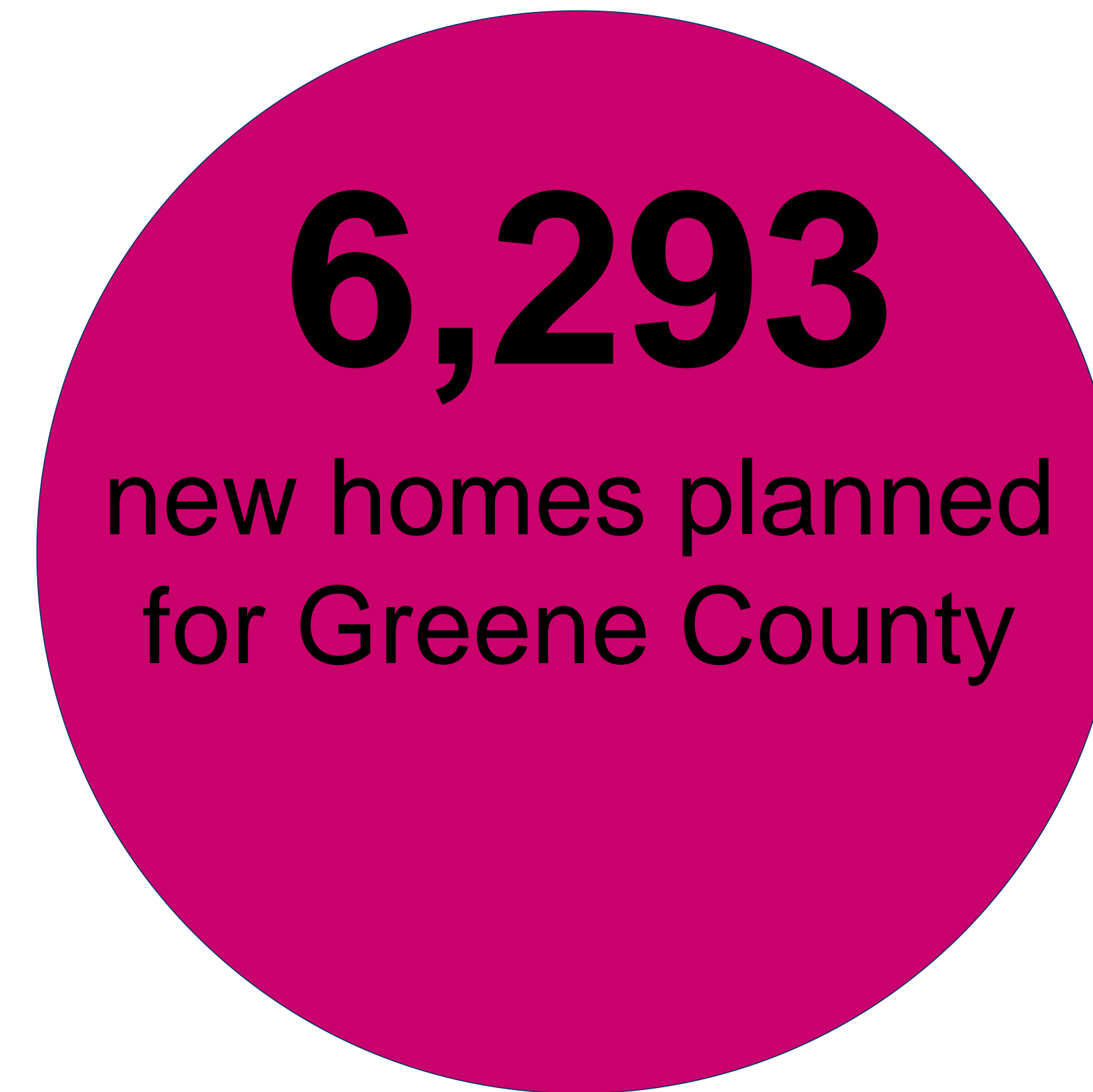
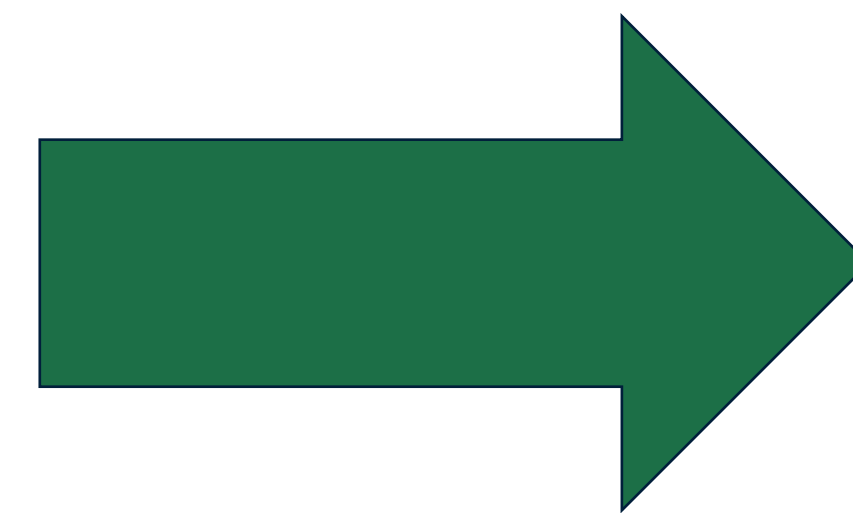
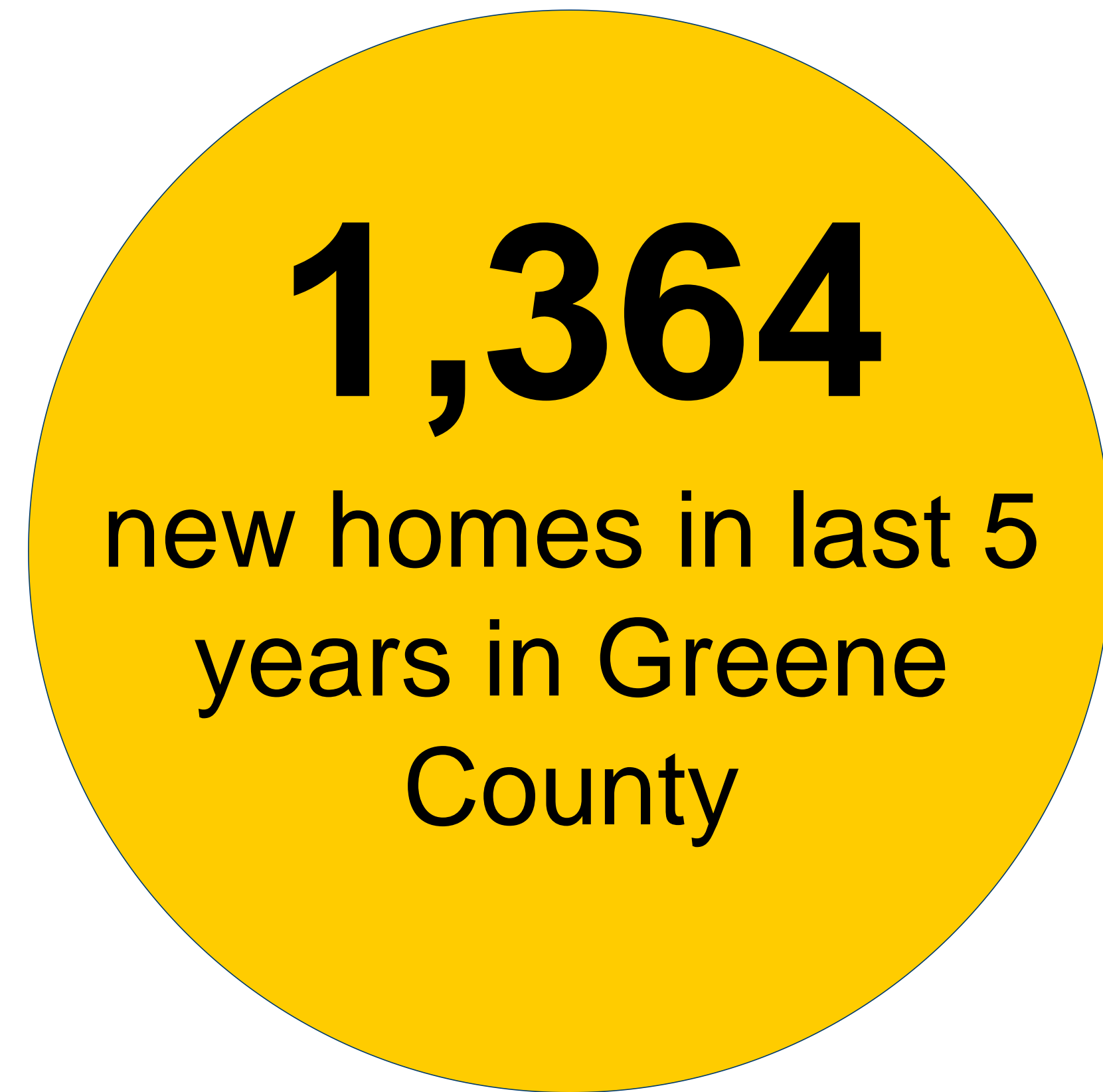


- Reynolds Lake Oconee, is expanding and developing new homes near Richland Pointe, Landing Parkway, and other areas



- Airabella Lake Oconee, developing **411** homes, a **125**-room hotel, **200,000** sq ft of commercial space, and a 9-hole golf course. It is located along SR 44 (currently in second phase of development)

Recent Population and Traffic Trends (Greene County)



14.9% increase*

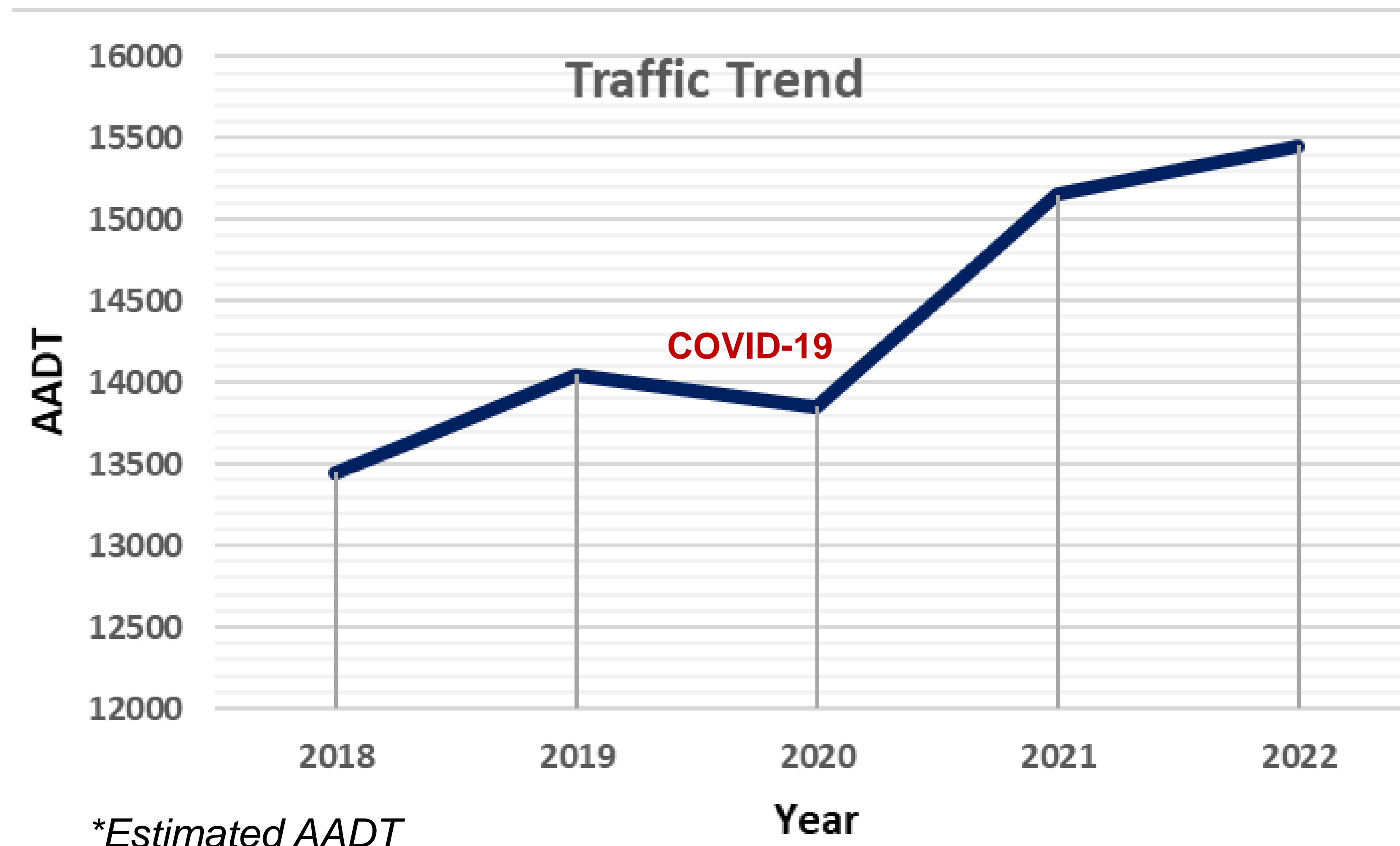
in Annual Average Daily Traffic*
between 2018 and 2022

21.6% increase

in registered voters in Greene County
between 2018 and 2022

1,000,000 sq.ft

of commercial space added and currently planned



Recent Population and Traffic Trends (Putnam County)

Top Ten Largest Employers (2023**)

- Aalto Scientific, Ltd
- Bist Operating Company, LLC
- Gro Tec, Inc.
- Ingles Markets, Inc.
- Legacy Housing of Georgia, LLC
- McDonalds
- Rayonier Wood Products, LLC
- Rose Acre Farms, Inc.
- UFP Eatonton, LLC
- Walmart



Updated: Feb 2024

***Note: Represents employment covered by unemployment insurance excluding all government agencies except correctional institutions, state and local hospitals, state colleges and universities. Data shown for the Third Quarter of 2023. Employers are listed alphabetically by area, not by the number of employees. Source: Georgia Department of Labor*

Top Number of Employees (3d Quarter 2023)

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting – **236** employees

Construction – **383** employees

Manufacturing – **651** employees (**451** in Wood products)

Retail Trade – **823** employees

Accommodation and Food Services – **630** employees

Recent Population and Traffic Trends (Putnam County)

315
Building Permits
Putnam Area
Oct-Dec 2023

19.9% increase*

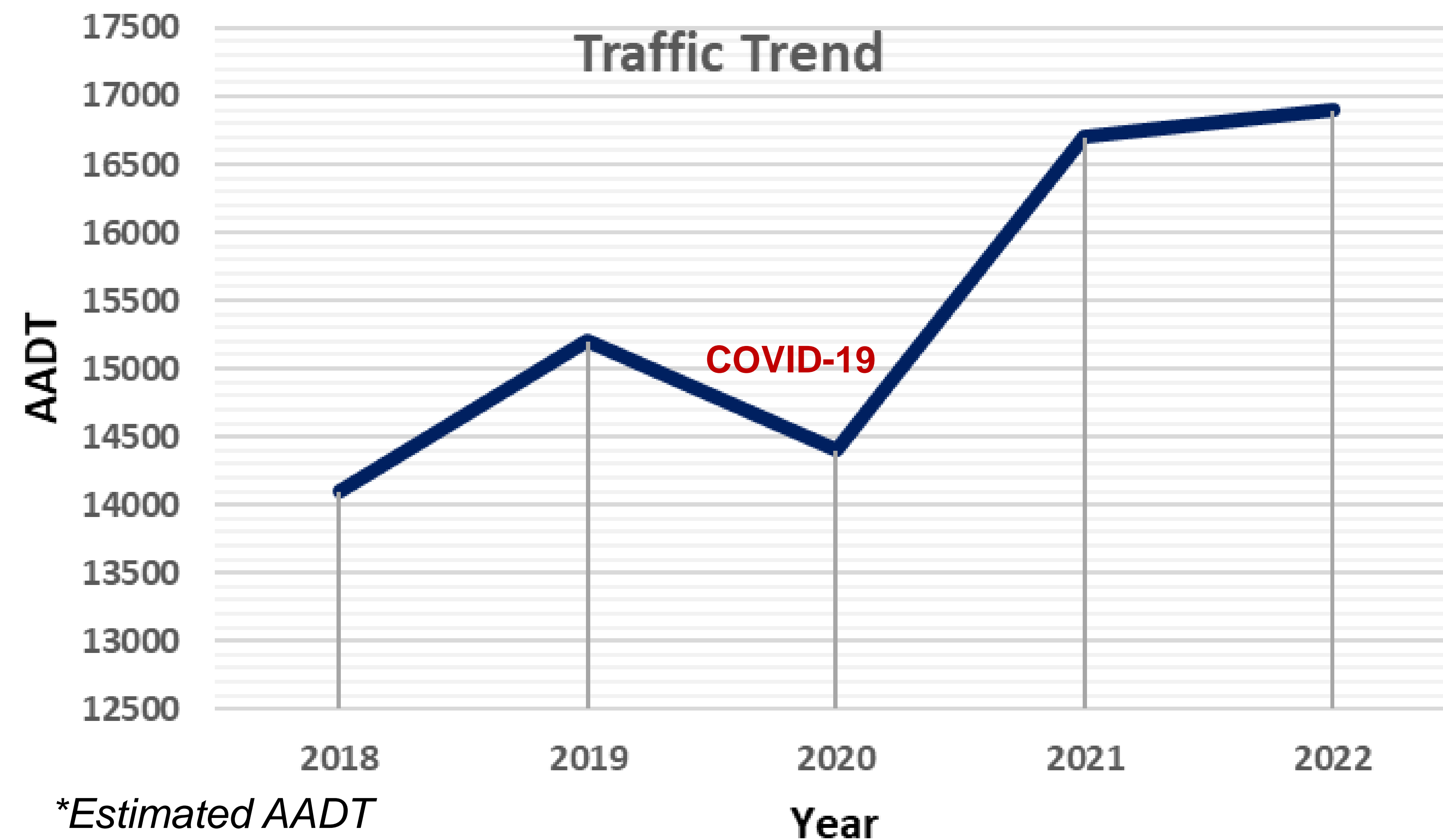
in Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT)*
between 2018 and 2022

30.0% decrease

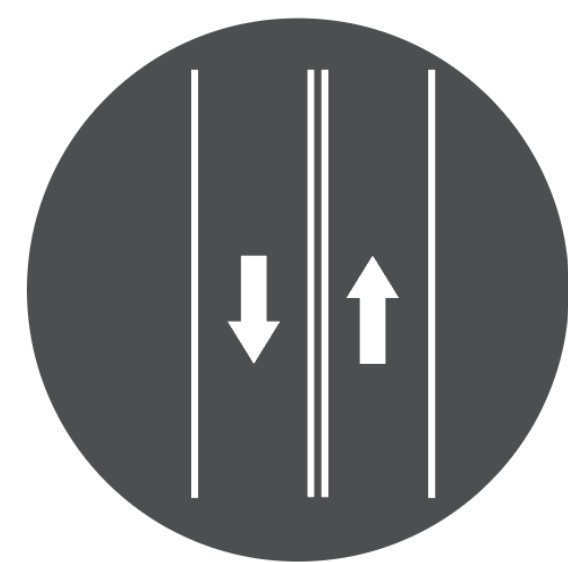
in unemployment (2018-2022)

23.6% increase

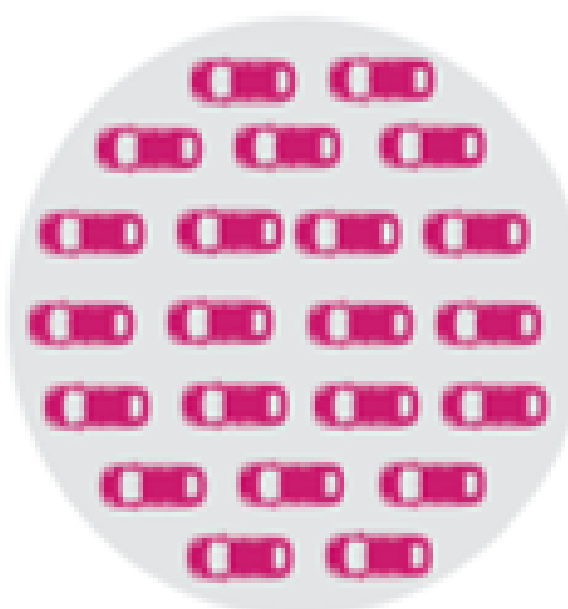
in household consumption (2018-2022)



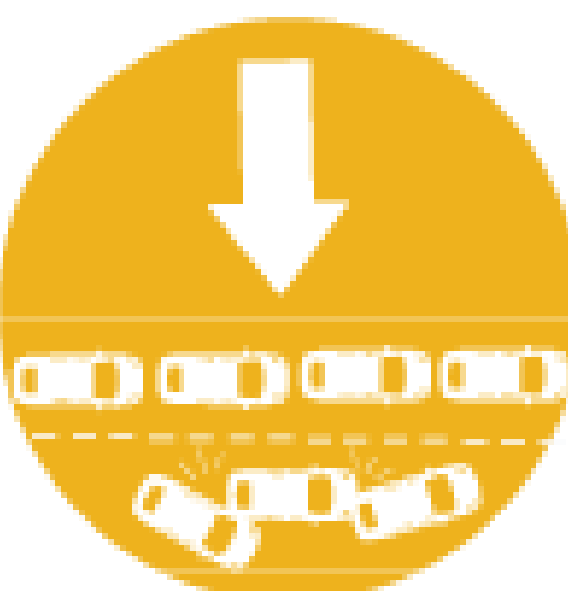
Existing Conditions



- SR 44 corridor has a two-lane layout with rural and urban section



- Average Annual Daily Traffic along this segment equivalent to a Level of Service “D” for a two-lane roadway which is considered unacceptable



- Crash rates in some areas are at or above Georgia’s average for this type of two-lane road

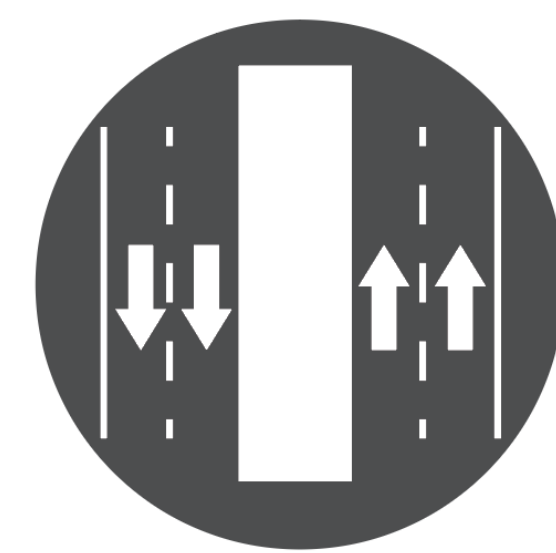


- Conflicting traffic at traffic signals



- No pedestrian or bicycle accommodations

Proposed Improvements



- Widen SR 44 corridor to a four-lane layout and achieve an acceptable Level of Service that will meet needs for the future traffic volumes



- Intersection improvements including Roundabouts



- Improve access to businesses in the area



- Upgrade bridges at Lake Oconee, Richland Creek, and Little Creek, I-20



- Sidewalks with Improved Americans with Disability Act (ADA) access and bicycle access



- Improve Safety by reducing turning conflicts at intersection

Existing Traffic Crashes

389

Crashes in
3 years

(2018-2020)

- Crash rates **exceed** Georgia's average for similar functionally classified road of two-lane road (389 crashes in the project area from 2018 to 2020).

86%

Accidents were
intersection
related**

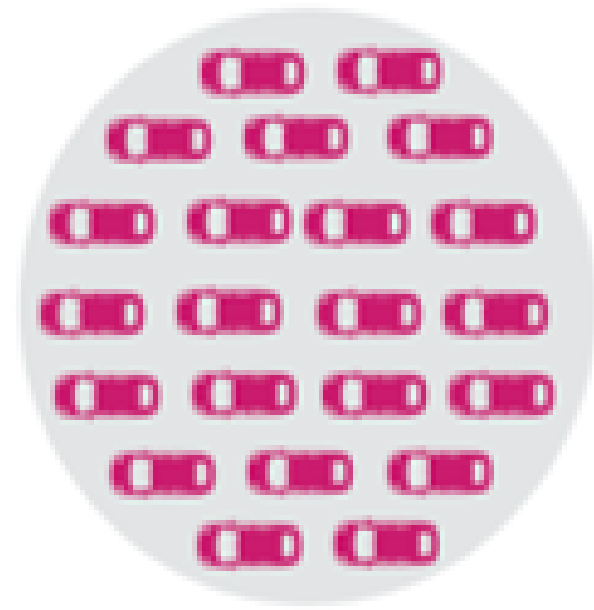
** last 6 years (2018-2023)

Crash Summary			
	2018	2019	2020
Total crashes	127	147	115
Injury Cashes	21	41	34
Fatal Crashes	1	0	1
Total Crash Rate*	259	287	233
Statewide Crash Rate*	162	160	NA

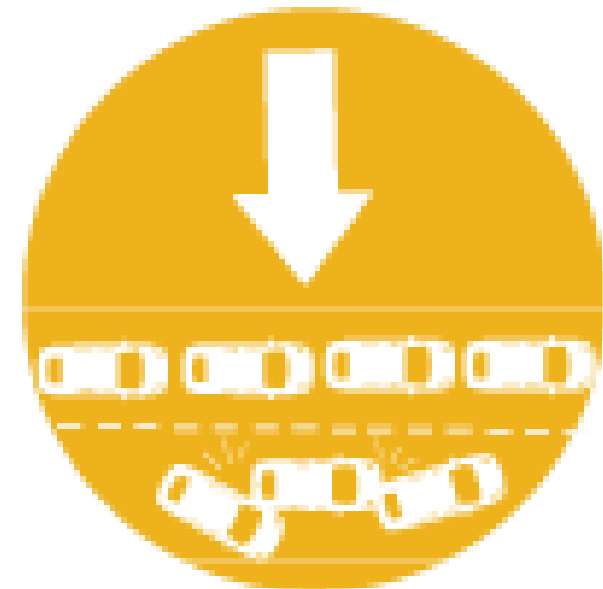
*crash rate for total crashes (per 100 million vehicle miles)

NA: Not available

Without this Project



- **Excessive delays** along the corridor would be experienced due to continued growth in traffic volumes and a gradual worsening of traffic conditions would result in future **traffic congestion**



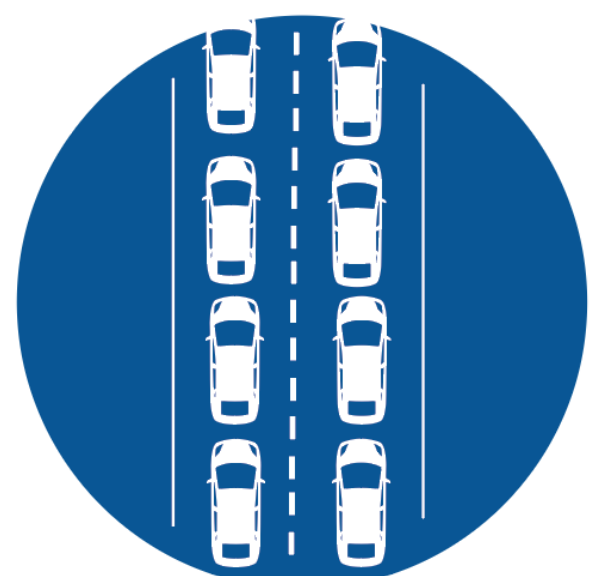
- **Level of Service** along the corridor would **Fail “F”**
- **Increase** in the **crash rate** would be expected on the already congested roadway when the traffic volumes increase as projected



- **No pedestrian safety** improvements would be implemented, and the area will lack sidewalks



- **No intersection improvements** would occur, including turn lanes, signal upgrades, or improved intersection design (roundabouts)



- Traffic flow between the cities of Eatonton and Greensboro **would not be improved** and access to businesses and shorter commute times along the corridor **would not be enhanced**

Project Summary

PI#	PI# 0019696	PI# 0019697	PI# 0006253
Current Proposed Let to Construction Date	December 2024	December 2025	December 2026
Right of Way (ROW) Acquisition	Completion expected Late Fall 2024	Completion expected Late Fall 2025	Completion expected Late Fall 2026
Total Cost:			
➤ Construction	\$23.7 million	\$32 million	\$50.5 million
➤ Utilities	\$385,000	\$3.8 million	\$12.5 million
➤ ROW	Being purchased under PI 0006253	Being purchased under PI 0006253	\$61 million (all three phases)
Utility Relocation Time:	12 months	24 months	36 months
Construction Time:	12 months	24 months	24 months
Total Project Timeline:	± 24 months	± 48 months	± 60 months