



Pleasant Hill Community Meeting

LH Williams Elementary School

December 8, 2008

5:00pm to 7:00 pm

Thank you for attending today's meeting to discuss the current status of the I-16/I-75 Improvement Project. GDOT appreciates the opportunity that we have had to work closely with your community to ensure that the I-16/I-75 project is a success for everyone and especially the Pleasant Hill Community. Below is a brief agenda that we hope to follow for this meeting:

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
Ben Buchan, GDOT
- 2. Overview of Project Status**
Brad Hale, Project Consultant Team
- 3. Mitigation Plan for Pleasant Hill**
Todd Hill, Project Consultant Team
- 4. Open House Q & A**

Thank you again for taking time to meet with the GDOT staff to continue moving the I-16/I-75 project forward. After this meeting should you have any further questions concerning this project, please call the Department's Project Manager Nicoe Alexander at (404) 631-1717 or Melanie Nable of the Office of Environment/Location at (404) 699-4436.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James B. Buchan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

James B. Buchan, P.E.
State Urban Design Engineer

Mitigation Plan-

The following is a brief description of the main actions proposed to mitigate for the impacts of the I-16/I-75 Interchange Improvement project that have been developed through coordination and consultation by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) with the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood Improvement Group (PHNIG), the City of Macon and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division (HPD). FHWA and GDOT will ensure that the following commitments are implemented:

Green Space

- Graded slopes rather than retaining walls are to be used to create a more useable green space within the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood.
- The existing open channel concrete drainage ditch in the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood will be replaced with a concrete culvert structure to be covered with grass and included in the neighborhood green space.

Linear Park

- A linear park, which will include a multi-use trail, will be constructed on the east side of I-75 within the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood.
- Signage/kiosks will be incorporated into the streetscaping and landscaping of the linear park.

Walnut Street Bridge

- A 10-foot wide sidewalk will be added across the Walnut Street Bridge.
- Roadway work will be staged to avoid closing Walnut Street Bridge during construction.

David Lucas Pedestrian Bridge

- The existing pedestrian bridge over I-75 will be replaced and upgraded.
 - Design features will include curved walkways and safety lighting to help eliminate blind spots along the feature to improve safety.
- A 10-foot wide multi-use trail along with landscaping within the green space will be constructed with a connection to the upgraded pedestrian bridge on the west side of I-75.

Jefferson Long Park

- On the west side of I-75 a passive park (Jefferson Long Park) will be created between Pursley Street and Craft Street at First Avenue adjacent to the Pleasant Hill community garden.

Community Resource Center

- The house affiliated with Mr. Richard Penniman (aka "Little Richard") or one of the other historic structures will be moved to a location deemed appropriate for its use as a neighborhood resource center associated with the Heritage Tour plan.

Photographic Documentation of Historic Resources

- Prior to project implementation, the impacted areas of the Pleasant Hill Historic District inclusive of the structures, streetscape, and the larger setting, including the half house at 1613 Middle Street Place, and the Little Richard house located at 1540 Fifth Avenue will be documented with digital and medium format photography.

Oral Community History

- Current and past residents of the Pleasant Hill community will be interviewed regarding the history of the neighborhood and its residents. This history will then be provided to the community, local schools, libraries, historical societies, and other appropriate entities in the form of a document and DVD of the interviews.

National Register Nomination Update

- The National Register nomination for the Pleasant Hill Historic District will be updated to incorporate new information as a result of the oral interviews and other researched history.

Relocation of Structures

- Twenty (20) historic structures that would be displaced by the project have been identified as structurally feasible to relocate. As part of the right-of-way phase of this project, a detailed plan for the relocation of these structures will be developed by GDOT that will be implemented in consultation with the Georgia HPD and the PHNIG.
- GDOT will make a good faith effort to relocate people within the Pleasant Hill Historic District displaced by the project into one of the relocated and rehabilitated structures. Residents and owners of the 20 structures that were determined feasible to be relocated within the community will be afforded three options during the right-of-way phase of this project: (1) to be relocated along with their house to another vacant lot within the community, (2) to be relocated to an existing vacant home in the community, (3) or to be relocated following the standard GDOT right-of-way process, which follows the Federal Uniform Relocation and Real Property Acquisitions Policies Act (Uniform Act).

For the options involving relocation to an existing house either within or outside of the community, the relocation would follow the standard GDOT right-of-way process. For residents that decide to move with their house, the process would be completed in accordance with the standard GDOT process where feasible; however, GDOT will also make arrangements for temporary housing for the individuals while their house is being moved and rehabilitated to decent, safe, and sanitary conditions.

Initially, GDOT will hold group property owner meetings to explain the overall relocation process and what the potential options are under the Uniform Act. Following these meetings, GDOT right-of-way personnel will meet with individual property owners and tenants to discuss further details regarding each family's options regarding relocation.

- Property Tax Abatement Program - Assistance will be provided to owners of houses to be relocated in completing the application process for the State Preferential Property Tax Abatement Program, which is designed to provide tax relief to owners of rehabilitated historic properties by freezing property tax assessments for eight (8) years.

Pavement Rehabilitation

- The pavement on First and Second Avenues from the Frontage Road to Pursley Street will be completely reconstructed.

Middle Street Extension

- Middle Street will be extended northward to Walnut Street, which will include the construction of a new sidewalk to improve access to Walnut Street residents in this area.

Noise and Visual Barriers

- Noise and visual barriers will be constructed within the Pleasant Hill neighborhood along both the east and west sides of I-75.

Heritage Tour

- The following streets would be upgraded with streetscaping features (new curbs, sidewalks, street lights, limited signage and landscaping), and would provide the pedestrian path for the Heritage Tour:

West Pleasant Hill

- Pursley Street from the southern limit of the proposed Jefferson Long Park north to Walnut Street.
- First Avenue from Pursley Street north along the Frontage Road (adjacent to I-75 southbound), to Third Avenue.
- Guyton Street from Pursley Street to Second Avenue.
- Second Avenue from Guyton Street to Pursley Street.
- Third Avenue from Culver Street to the Frontage Road (adjacent to I-75 southbound).
- Walnut Street from Culver Street to I-75.

East Pleasant Hill

- First Avenue from Middle Street to Monroe Street.
- Monroe Street from First Avenue to Fifth Avenue.
- Stewart Lane from Monroe Street to Madison Street.
- Fifth Avenue from Middle Street to Monroe Street.
- Madison Street from Stewart Lane to Walnut Street.
- The proposed Fifth Avenue extension from Middle Street to Walnut Street.
- Walnut Street from I-75 to Madison Street.
- Middle Street from First Avenue to Fifth Avenue.

I-16 / I-75 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLEASANT HILL CONCEPT MITIGATION PLAN

NOTE:
THIS DRAWING REPRESENTS A PRELIMINARY DESIGN FOR THE PLEASANT HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ADJACENT TO I-75. COORDINATION WITH THE PLEASANT HILL COMMUNITY IS ONGOING. AS SUCH, THIS DRAWING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

LEGEND

- PROPOSED BRIDGES
- PROPOSED LOCAL STREET IMPROVEMENTS
- PROPOSED CULVERT
- PROPOSED MULTI-USE PATH
- PROPOSED LOCAL STREET REHABILITATION
- PROPOSED GREENSPACE / PARKS / STREET SCAPING
- PROPOSED STREET SCAPING (HERITAGE TOUR)
- PROPOSED LIMITED ACCESS
- EXISTING PROPERTY LINES
- POTENTIAL DISPLACEMENTS 32 WITHIN PLEASANT HILL DISTRICT

