



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

February 22, 2023

Re: Responses to Public Information Open House Comments for PI# 0007836, Bartow and Cherokee Counties, State Route (SR) 20 from I-75 to I-575

Dear Commenter:

Thank you for your comments concerning the proposed SR 20 Widening project. The proposed project would widen SR 20 from just east of I-75 in Bartow County to the intersection of Hickory Flat Hwy/Marietta Hwy/I-575 in Cherokee County. The proposed 17-mile project would consist of widening the corridor to four 11–12-foot (ft.) travel lanes with a 20 ft. raised, 12-24 ft. raised, or a 32 ft. depressed median, 5 ft. sidewalk on both sides of the road, and roundabouts at several SR 20 intersections. The proposed widening would improve anticipated congestion, provide operational improvements to traffic flow, and reduce crash frequency along the corridor.

We appreciate your participation and the input received as a result of the virtual Public Information Open House (PIOH) that was held between June 6 and July 22, 2022. Every written, electronic, and verbal comment will be made part of the project's official record. There was a total of 9,102 views of the website. Of the 371 respondents who formally commented, 108 were in support of the project, 89 were opposed, 27 were uncommitted, and 147 expressed conditional support.

Those persons submitting comments within the comment period raised a number of questions. Due to the volume and breadth of comments, the project team is still developing responses to ensure that the response letter is as comprehensive as possible. Therefore, the Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) has provided an initial overview of comments and responses herein to allow the commenters to be made aware of the nature of the comments received. Please note that this is not the final response letter. The final response letter will be uploaded to the website for the general public and mailed or emailed to those who formally commented in Spring 2023. The SR 20 Widening response letter will be available at <https://sr-20-from-i-75-bartow-to-i-575-cherokee-0007836-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>.

The categories into which comments fall are noted below (the general category is noted in *italics*, followed by details of the comments and, in some cases, by preliminary responses and/or by links to additional information). Please note that many topics are interrelated and may be found under multiple category headings:

- *Project Information and Schedule – Information about the project timeline.* The proposed project is currently in the concept phase of development. The concept phase defines the existing issue seeking to be resolved along with a proposed solution that will meet the community's needs.
- *Design Considerations* – Information about the alternatives reviewed for the project, inclusion of left-turn access, sidewalks, and criteria used to choose the proposed project.
- *Access Changes* – Information about the proposed Right-In, Right-Out (RIRO) access changes, potential U-Turn locations, and more.
- *Information about Roundabouts* – General information on roundabouts, how they operate in high traffic areas, large vehicle movements, and more. There is information on roundabouts including a video on how to navigate roundabouts already available on the PIOH website located here: <https://sr-20-from-i-75-bartow-to-i-575-cherokee-0007836-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>.



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- **Construction** – Information about the construction phase of the project including construction timeline, construction inconveniences and access limitations during construction, and importance of communication between the contractor and local communities throughout construction. The proposed Let date is September 2027 and will be refined as the project advances, which will inform when Let to construction is anticipated.
- **Right-of-Way (ROW)** – Information on Georgia DOT's ROW and property acquisition process, proposed ROW, schedule for ROW acquisition, and property appraisals. For more information on the Georgia DOT's ROW process, please visit one of the following links below:
 - For English:
<https://www.dot.ga.gov/AboutGeorgia/Documents/Publications/Program%20Brochures/ROWBrochure-English.pdf>
 - For Spanish:
<https://www.dot.ga.gov/AboutGeorgia/Documents/Publications/Program%20Brochures/ROWBrochure-Esp.pdf>
- **Environmental Impacts** – Information about possible impacts to the natural environment, such as streams, air quality, run off, and more.
- **Community** – Information on impacts to communities and community resources along the project corridor including, traffic flow, visual impacts, safety, emergency services, and more.
- **Noise** – Information about the noise analysis Georgia DOT uses as a part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and potential noise abatement measures (i.e. barriers). Once the project has reached the preliminary phase of project development, the need for a noise impact analysis will be determined. For general information regarding Georgia DOT Air and Noise procedures ensuring compliance with laws and regulations related to air quality and transportation noise please follow this link: <https://www.dot.ga.gov/GDOT/Pages/AirNoise.aspx>.

Again, thank you for your comments. Comments are under review and responses under development by subject matter experts. We take your comments seriously and we want the opportunity to provide comprehensive responses to your questions and concerns.

Should you have further questions, comments, or concerns please contact the Georgia DOT Project Manager Ashley Brown at abrown@dot.ga.gov or 404-631-1586, or the environmental analyst Katelyn Davis at kdavis@dot.ga.gov or 678-932-2208.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Eric Duff'.

Eric Duff
State Environmental Administrator

ED/JK

Cc: Ashley Brown, Georgia DOT Project Manager (via email)
PDF for Project File