

Public Hearing: December 17, 2024 – Joint Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: 1999 Riverbend Road Dalton, GA

Call to Order: 10:02 A.M.

Adjournment: 10:32 A.M.

I. Meeting Minutes December 2024

- 1) Kent Benson called the meeting to order at 10:02.
- 2) There was a quorum of five voting PC members in attendance as follows.
 1. Bob Sivick – Administrator, Whitfield County
 2. Ken Gowin – Mayor, City of Tunnel Hill
 3. Tom Dickson – Mayor, City of Varnell
 4. Andrew Parker – Administrator, City of Dalton
 5. Mike Brown - Administrator, City of Varnell
- 3) Action Item: Consideration to approve meeting minutes from November 19, 2024 as presented.
 - Motion was made by: Ken Gowin
 - Seconded by: Tom Dickson
 - Vote: 5-0

II. Presentations

1) GDOT Status Report – District 6 Representative Kayla Husted

*-The following information was provided by District 6 Representative Kayla Husted via email as GDOT's status report **there are no changes from November:***

***M006202_** SR 1;SR 2;SR 3;SR 20 & SR 286 @ 8 LOCS - BRIDGE PRESERVATION_
Catoosa, Floyd, Whitfield_ Let Date: 8/16/2024. Current Completion Date: 1/31/2026

The work involves Bridge Preservation Applying a polymer overlay and replacing joints. The bridge preservation work will take place on (8), State Route bridges in Catoosa, Floyd and Whitfield Counties.

2 Locations in Whitfield County:

1. SR 286 OVER SMITHEY BRANCH, Whitfield
2. US 41/SR 3 OVER CR 307-CSX RR, Whitfield

***M006589_** I-75 @ SR 201 - BRIDGE REHABILITATION, ITB Project and proposed for FY2024 (HB170 project)

***0019241_ OFF-SYSTEM SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS @ 4 LOCS IN DALTON - VRU_ Let Date: 8-16-2024 (100% Federal Funds)**

Completion Date: 9/30/25

Project Description-

Pavement Markings

Locations:

1. Glenwood Avenue, SR 52 to SR 3
2. Abutment Road, SR 3 to SR 52
3. South Tibbs Road, SR 52 to Shugart Road
4. Tony Ingle Parkway, College Drive to Pavement Joint

***0019962_ OFF-SYSTEM SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS @ 39 LOCS IN WHITFIELD COUNTY_ Signing_ Let Date: 6/15/2025. 100% Federal Funds.**

Beaverdale Rd	667	Cleveland Hwy SR 71	Hwy 2
Corporate Dr	488	S. Dixie Hwy	Dead End
Hopewell Rd	187	Cohutta Beaverdale Rd	Old Dalton Cleveland Hwy
Lake Kathy Rd	221	Tunnel Hill Varnell Rd	Catoosa Co Line
McGaughey Chapel Rd	677	Cleveland Hwy SR 71	Cohutta Beaverdale Rd
Mill Creek Rd	319	Utility Rd	Old LaFayette Rd
Ridge Rd	674	S. Dalton Bypass	Sane Rd
Riverbend Rd	35	S. Dalton Bypass	City Limits
S. Dug Gap Rd	16	N. Dug Gap Rd	Carbondale Rd
S. Riverbend Rd	1095	Raider Dr	Dead End
Waring Rd	1069	Cleveland Hwy SR 71	Rauschenberg Rd
Utility Rd	343	Walker Co. Line	LaFayette Rd
Bear Creek Rd		Abutment Rd	Antioch Rd
Brickyard Rd	48	S. Dixie Hwy	Antioch Rd
Brooker Dr	115	Dawnville Rd	Pleasant Grove Dr
Conasauga Rd	37	S. Dalton Bypass	S. Riverbend Rd
Crider Rd	356	Utility Rd	Mill Creek Rd
Dogwood Valley Rd	333	Houston Valley Rd	Catoosa Co Line
E. Emerson Rd	171	Keith Valley Rd	Mt. Pleasant Rd
Haigmill Rd	668	Waring Rd	Cleveland Hwy
Lake Francis Rd	154	Beaverdale Rd	Hwy 2
Lowe Rd	209	Catoosa Co. Line	Cohutta Varnell Rd
Lower Dug Gap Rd	378	Old Dug Gap Rd	S. Dixie Hwy
Maple Grove Rd	225	Rauschenberg Rd	Cleveland Hwy
Old Grade Rd	72	E. Walnut Ave	Tibbs Bridge Rd
Poplar Springs Rd	239	Crow Valley Rd	Waring Rd

Quarles Rd	350	Mill Creek Rd	Utility Rd
Sane Rd	53	Airport Rd	Ridge Rd
Threadmill Rd	361	Dug Gap Rd	S. Dixie Hwy
Wagner Dr	576	Hill Rd	S. Dalton Bypass
Airport Rd	664	E. Walnut Ave	Murray Co. Line
Carbondale Rd	665	Gordon Co. Line	Cavalier Way
Chattanooga Rd	19	Catoosa Co. Line	Wolfe St
Cohutta Beaverdale Rd	167	Cleveland Hwy SR 71	Hwy 2
Cohutta Varnell Rd	206	Village Dr	Wolfe St
Dawnville Beaverdale Rd	145	SR 286	Beaverdale Rd
Dug Gap Battle Rd	848	Hurricane Rd	Battlefield Dr
Dug Gap Rd	1	SR 3	Dalton City Limits
Keith Valley Rd	174	Cohutta Beaverdale Rd	TN State Line

***M006552_** SR 61/US 411 FROM SR 282 TO CHATSWORTH CITY LIMITS_ Resurface and Maintenance_ Let Date:10/18/2024

*** M006510_** I-75 FROM SR 156/GORDON TO SR 3/WHITFIELD_ Pavement Markings_ Let Date: 4/15/2025
(100% Federal Funds)

***0013693_** PEDESTRIAN UPGRADES @17 LOC IN CATOOSA; MURRAY & WHITFIELD-VRU_ Let Date: 7/19/2024_
Project on schedule. NTP: 9/13/24. Current Completion: 11/30/2025

Project Description-

The proposed project will provide Pedestrian & Signal Upgrades at 17 LOCS in Murray, Whitfield, Catoosa Counties in GDOT district 6. Murray (3) SR 2/3rd Ave at SR 52 Alt/E Fort St SR 2/3rd Ave at Market St SR 61/Hill Street at Duvall Road Whitfield County (9) SR 3 Conn/S. Bypass at Dug Gap Rd. SR 3 Conn/S. Bypass at I-75 NB Exit 328 SR 3 Conn/S. Bypass at I-75 SB Exit 328 SR 3 Conn/S. Bypass at Lower Dug Gap Rd. SR 201/Tunnel Hill Varnell Rd. at Reed Rd. SR 3/N. Bypass at Haig Mill Lake Rd. SR 71/Cleveland Hwy. at Waring Rd. SR 3/Chattanooga Rd at SR 201/Tunnel Hill Church St. SR 3/Chattanooga Rd at Cottonwood Mill Rd. Catoosa County (5) SR 2/Battlefield Pkwy at I-75 NB Exit 350 SR 2/Battlefield Pkwy at I-75 SB Exit 350 SR 3/Chattanooga Rd at I-75 NB Exit 345 SR 3/Chattanooga Rd at I-75 SB Exit 345 SR 3/Chattanooga Rd at Armstrong Rd.

***0016529_** SR 61 @ PERRY CREEK 6.3 MI N OF CRANDALL_ Bridge Replacement_ Anticipated Let Date: 5/16/2025

***0017234_** SR 225 @ PINHOOK CREEK_ Bridge Culvert Replacement

Proposed Let Date: 2/15/2026

Offsite Detour_ No risk at this time.

***0017233_** SR 2 @ CONASAUGA RIVER & @ CONASAUGA RIVER OVERFLOW_ Bridge Replacement.

Environmental/ecology delays. New ROW AUTH date February 2025. New anticipated Let Date: 3/15/26

***0017235_** SR 225 @ SUMAC CREEK_ Bridge Replacement_ ROW Date: 12/15/2024. Anticipated Let Date: 3/15/2026_

Onsite Detour

***0017964_ SR 286 @ CR 670/DAWNVILLE ROAD_ Intersection Improvement_ Single Lane Roundabout**
ROW Date: 8/15/2025_ Let Date: 8/15/2026_ Next Milestone – Final Field Plan Review on 1/15/26

Project Description:

This project will construct a single lane Roundabout at the intersection of SR 286 and Dawnville Rd.

***0016528_ SR 2/SR 61 @ SUMAC CREEK 1.6 MI N OF CRANDALL_ Bridge Replacement_ Let Date: 9/15/2026_ No Detour (revised temp bridge location)**

***0019358_ SR 61 FROM SR 52 TO CS 603/OLIVE STREET_ Drainage Improvements_ Let Date shifted: 2/15/2028**

Project Description:

Drainage improvements along SR 61 from SR 52 to CS 603/Olive Street. TIP amendment completed on 2/1/24.

***0019062_ SR 282/US 76 @ SR 61_ Turn Lanes. FO/RD Project. Concept Team Meeting held 8/29/24. Next Milestone- PM to submit concept report on 11/15/24. No Let Date yet. CST \$ programmed in 2027.**

***0019187_ CR 309/OLD US 411 @ WILLBANKS BRANCH 10 MI SE OF CHATSWORTH_ Bridge replacement_ Consultant selected. NTP July 2025. Anticipated Let Date: 1/15/2029**

***0019188_ CR 299/CCC CAMP ROAD @ EMERY CREEK 6.5 MI SE OF CRANDALL_ Bridge Replacement_ Consultant selected. September 2025 NTP. Anticipated Let Date: 8/15/2029**

***0019190_ CR 256/HASSLERS MILL RD @ MILL CREEK 5.1 MI NE OF CHATSWORTH_ Bridge Replacement_ Let Date: 1/15/2028_ On track for concept report submittal in Feb 2025. Traffic forecast report in progress**

***0019943_ CCC CAMP ROAD @ DILL CREEK 7 MI SE OF CRANDALL_ Bridge Replacement_ Scoping in progress. On track for December 2024 NTP. Anticipated Let Date: 7/15/28**

***631550_ SR 225 @ SR 52 ALT & @ CR 48/SPRING PLACE SMYRNA RD_ Roundabout. Next Milestone - Remove from ROW Shelf Sept. 2025_ Will take 8 months to update env. once pulled off shelf_ FY27 ROW funding at risk due to significant historical resource. No anticipated Let Date yet.**

***0019643_ SR 2 @ SR 201_ Intersection Improvement_ Proposed Roundabout_ Concept Team meeting was held May 28, 2024. Next step – submit concept report by 10/25/24. No anticipated Let date yet.**

***0019836_ SR 3/US 41 @ CR 666/FIVE SPRINGS ROAD_ Multi Lane Roundabout_ Project is on schedule for baseline_ PM request a preliminary field plan review to be completed by 2/4/25. Let Date:12-15-2026.**

***0019944_ MCGAUGHEY CHAPEL ROAD @ COAHULLA CREEK 3 MI NE OF VARNELL_ Bridge Replacement over Coahulla Creek, 3 miles east of Varnell. Project amended into TIP 5/16/24. On track for Dec 2024 NTP. Anticipated Let Date: 6/15/28**

***0020133_ SR 3/US 41 @ SR 52_ Multi-Lane Roundabout_ Next Step- PM to submit concept report. Targeting April 2025 NTP**

***0013095_ EBER ROAD & COVE ROAD EXT; INC 4 NS RR LOCS_ RRX Warning Devices_ Let Date moved out to: 2/21/25 from December 2024. Waiting on comments and signal agreements from Norfolk Southern.**

2) **Local Project Updates from Local Representatives:**

- Chad Townsend, City of Dalton, reported that the City has started street assessments for LMIG. Dalton Utilities -no update, Brian Brackett Whitfield County Public Works stated that the brine station has been completed. Kent Benson and Bob Sivick both gave kudos to Brian and his crew – they were able to pave 31 miles with the in house crew saving Whitfield tax payers a significant amount of money.

3) **Thrive Update:**

- Shannon Millsaps reported that Thrive was awarded a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission of which 5 million dollars will go towards Whitfield County, Thrive is grateful for the support from the local municipalities, they look to expand resilient communities, they have 10 new projects in new local communities for connectivity planning and digital equity planning. January 1, they look to start hiring some new employees.

4) **Greater Dalton MPO Status Report:**

- Staff has continued to compile information for Gresham Smith for the 2050 MTP update. The social pinpoint for the MTP went live December 1st and will run through December 31st, it is currently on the websites and social media for Whitfield County, City of Dalton and Murray County. Some meeting dates have been changed in 2025 to meet the strict schedule we are under for the 2050 MTP adoption we will be meeting on the second Tuesdays of April, May and June. Safety Performance Measures (PM1) is ready for PC and TCC review and approval and the TIP was updated to reflect the GDOT required amendments.

III. New Business

1) Action Item: TCC Final Approval for TIP amendment.

TCC Motion to approve was made by Jackson Shepard
Second: Brian Brackett
Vote: passes 4-0

2) Action Item: PC Final Approval for TIP amendment.

PC Motion to approve was made by Ken Gowin.
Second: Bob Sivick
Vote: passes 5-0

3) Action Item: TCC and PC Approval for Safety Performance Measures 1 (PM1).

TCC Motion to approve was made by Jackson Shepard
Second: Brian Brackett
Vote passes 4-0
PC Motion to approve was made by Bob Sivick
Second: Ken Gowin
Vote passes 5-0

IV. Open Discussion

- Dr. Karey Williams, Deputy Superintendent for Whitfield County Schools is concerned about the traffic conditions and flow around Northwest Highschool. More specifically on 201, 18 wheelers and heavy trucks have to lock their breaks to avoid the drop off and pick up line in the mornings and evenings, there have been quite a few near misses and it is very dangerous. There is a blind curve that makes things more difficult. She would like for a traffic study or something along that line to be completed to see what can be done about the problems. Ken Gowin says that the MPO is aware of the issue, several remedies have been tried already, the road is too narrow. Kent Benson states no studies have been completed but recommended that the school system use the social pinpoint for the 2050 MTP to voice their concerns so the issue may be added to the MTP. Kent also recommended reaching out to GDOT District 6 traffic operations, he will work on getting that coordinated. Dr. Williams also states that the flashing school traffic ahead light is inoperable as well so that could be adding to the problem. Jomar Pastorelle mentioned that Whitfield was recently awarded a grant to participate in the Safe Streets for All program – the grant could help with these issues as well.

V. Public Comment

- Kent Benson reminded everyone that the next meeting is scheduled for January 28th 2025.

VI. Adjournment

Kent Benson adjourned the meeting at 10:32 A.M.

Minutes submitted by: James Davis