

Russell McMurry, P.E., Commissioner



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

One Georgia Center, 600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Telephone: (404) 631-1000

January 24, 2017

Re: PI#: 0012870, Fulton County, State Route (SR) 9/US 19/Peachtree Road from Deering Road to Pharr Road

Dear Sir or Madam:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a proposed change by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to the subject project and to solicit further comment from interested stakeholders on this change. You are receiving this letter because you commented on the project following the Public Information Open House (PIOH) held on October 29, 2015.

At the time of the PIOH, the project proposed to restripe Peachtree Road (SR 9/US 19) from Deering Road north to Pharr Road, which would create a continuous left turn lane for the entire corridor length and include left turn bays at signalized intersections where turn bays did not currently exist. The striping plan by GDOT proposed two travel lanes south and three travel lanes north through the southern portion of the corridor (between East Wesley Road/West Wesley Road and Deering Road) switching to three travel lanes south and two travel lanes north for the northern portion (between East Wesley Road/West Wesley Road and Pharr Road). A center turn lane was to be converted from a northbound travel lane between Deering Road and West Wesley Road, and a southbound travel lane from West Wesley Road to the project terminus at Pharr Road. Bike lanes were also proposed from Deering Road to Peachtree Battle Avenue for the project. Immediately following the PIOH, the bike lanes were removed from the project based on public opposition. No other changes to the project were made at that time.

As a result of recent public input and updated traffic volumes, the project has been extended south to Buford Spring Connector and the proposed lane configuration has been modified. The proposed project would convert one northbound travel lane into a two-way continuous left turn lane between the intersection of Pharr Road and the southern on-ramp to Buford Spring Connector. The resulting configuration for Peachtree Road/SR 9/US 19 from Pharr Road to the southern on-ramp to Buford Spring Connector would include three 10-foot southbound lanes, a 10-foot two-way continuous left turn lane, and two 10-foot northbound lanes. No bike lanes would be included in the project. Along the entire project corridor, left turn storage would be developed at each signalized intersection where it does not already exist. The proposed project would be completed in conjunction with the street resurfacing and would be comprised only of pavement resurfacing and restriping the roadway.

This proposed change was considered based on feedback from community groups including, but not limited to: Ardmore Park neighborhood, Brookwood Hills neighborhood, Cornerstone Development Partners, Piedmont Atlanta Hospital, Shepherd Center, and The Brookwood Condominiums. GDOT welcomed this feedback and collaborated in an effort to evaluate the community's concerns and the existing conditions, limitations, and challenges of the restriping project along the Peachtree Road corridor. While evaluating the concerns of the community, GDOT worked in partnership with community groups to develop innovative ideas to improve the traffic conditions in the most effective way possible.

As a result of collaborative efforts with the community and the need to update traffic volume data, the various ideas for how to restripe the corridor were incorporated into the GDOT Peachtree Road traffic model. This revised design was rigorously evaluated and resulted in about a 5% decrease in average travel

time during both the morning and evening peak hour along Peachtree Road. The proposed project is expected to result in faster trips with less delay.

GDOT is proud to have partnered with the surrounding neighborhoods and businesses to develop a plan that improves traffic flow along the Peachtree corridor connecting Midtown Atlanta and Buckhead, and takes into consideration the concerns of stakeholders. If you have any comments to this proposed change, please send those comments to Mr. Eric Duff, Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308, by February 16, 2017.

GDOT appreciates your recent input on the proposed project. Should you have further questions, comments, or concerns related to the revised design, please call the project manager, Carleton Fisher, at (404) 631-1981 or the environmental analyst, Aaron Burgess, at (404) 631-1159.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Duff" followed by a stylized monogram "CB".

Eric Duff
State Environmental Administrator

cc: Carleton Fisher, GDOT Project Manager (via email)
Aaron Burgess, GDOT Environmental Analyst (via email)
PDF for Project File