ORIGINAL TO GENERAL FILES

D.O.T. 66

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

FILE P. I. No. 0000689, Camden County
IM-0000-00(689)
I-95 Camden County Welcome Center

OFFICE Preconstruction

DATE June 7, 2006

FROM Margaret B. Pirkle, P.E., Assistant Director of Preconstruction

TO SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT **APPROVED PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT**

Attached for your files is the approval for subject project.

MBP/cj

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION:

Brian Summers
Harvey Keepler
Ken Thompson
Jamie Simpson
Michael Henry
Keith Golden
Joe Palladi (file copy)
Paul Liles
Babs Abubakari
Brent Story
Glenn Durrence
BOARD MEMBER
FHWA

D.O.T. 66

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

FILE: P. I. No. 0000689, Camden County
IM-0000-00(689)
I-95 Camden County Welcome Center

OFFICE Preconstruction

DATE April 25, 2006

FROM Margaret B. Pirkle, P.E., Assistant Director of Preconstruction

TO David E. Studstill, Jr., P.E., Chief Engineer

SUBJECT PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT

This project proposes the complete reconstruction of the northbound welcome center in Kingsland and Camden County in south Georgia just north of the Florida/Georgia border along I-95. Improvements will address the substandard parking, structural and space deficiencies, poor layout and sight distance from the interstate entry ramps.

The existing welcome center is too small to handle the existing and projected growth in traffic and visitors on I-95. Currently, the 5,520 square foot welcome center is located on 32 acres and handles approximately 1.6 million visitors per year with 143 parking spaces for passenger vehicles (including 14 truck/trailer spaces). Entering the facility from I-95 is confusing with poor sight distance, and the entry/exit configuration creates a dangerous weaving movement. The facility currently handles an average of 1,400 vehicles per day with an average occupancy of 3.0 persons per vehicle (hours of 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., with staffing and restrooms available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week). Parking spaces are often not available for travelers, especially in the peak spring and summer travel seasons. The building is deteriorating with a leaking roof, and HVAC facilities are inadequate for the existing/projected visitors. There are also existing flooding and sanitary sewer problems caused by the low building elevation. Additional passenger vehicle and truck parking and an increase in facility size, including additional restrooms to accommodate the projected increase in travelers are needed. Projected vehicle traffic into the welcome center based on recent history, indicates the welcome center will receive 1,648 vehicles per day (AADT) in 2008 and a projected 2,011 vehicles per day in 2028. Truck traffic is also increasing due to the presence of the Georgia Ports facilities in Brunswick and Savannah to the north as well as similar facilities in Jacksonville. In addition, truck traffic is increasing along interstates at a rate which is greater than the rate of passenger car traffic.

The proposed project consists of the complete reconstruction of the welcome center site and facilities. The proposed exit ramp from I-95 will be moved approximately 1600' south to separate it from the Saint Mary's Road exit. The existing building will be demolished and reconstructed approximately 200' to the south. The proposed building and site elevation will be raised approximately 3' above the existing site to correct existing flooding and sanitary sewer problems. Approximately 100 car and 50 truck parking spaces will be provided. The merge length between the cars and trucks exiting the facility will be lengthened by approximately 500'.

P. I. No. 0000689, Camden
April 25, 2006

Environmental concerns include requiring a Categorical Exclusion be prepared; a public hearing open house is not required; time saving procedures are appropriate.

The estimated costs for this project are:

	PROPOSED	APPROVED	FUNDING	PROG DATE
Construction (includes E&C and inflation)	$13,782,000	$11,745,000	L010	2009
Right-of-Way	$ 80,000	$ 257,000	L010	2007
Utilities	$ 90,000	-----		

I recommend this project concept be approved.

MBP:JDQ/cj

Attachment

CONCUR _____
Buddy Gratton, P.E., Director of Preconstruction

APPROVE _____
For Robert M. Callan, Administrator, FHWA

APPROVE _____
David E. Studstill, Jr., P.E., Chief Engineer

D.O.T. 66

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

MAR 27 2006

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

FILE: IM-0000-00(689) Camden County
P.I. # 0000689

Office: Road Design

Date: March 27, 2006

FROM: Brent A. Story, P.E., State Road and Airport Design Engineer BAS

TO: Margaret B. Pirkle, P.E., Assistant Director of Preconstruction

SUBJECT Project Concept Report

Attached is the original copy of the Concept Report for your further handling for approval in accordance with the Plan Development Process (PDP).

BAS:JSS:

Attachments

cc: Brian Summers, w/att.
Harvey Keepler, w/att.
Keith Golden, w/att.
Joe Palladi, w/att.
Jamie Simpson, w/att.
Glenn Durrance, w/att.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

Office of Road and Airport Design

PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT

I-95 Camden County Welcome Center
Project Number: IM-0000-00(689)

County: Camden
P. I. Number: 0000689

Federal Route Number: I-95
State Route Number: 405
County Road Number: N/A

SEE PAGE 2 FOR REGIONAL MAP & PROJECT LOCATION SKETCH

Recommendation for approval:

DATE 3-27-06 _____ Clay C. Bates
Project Manager

DATE 3-27-06 _____
State Road and Airport Design Engineer

The concept as presented herein and submitted for approval is consistent with that which is included in the Regional Transportation Program (RTP) and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

DATE _____ _____
State Transportation Planning Administrator

DATE _____ _____
Office of Financial Management Administrator

DATE _____ _____
State Environmental/Location Engineer

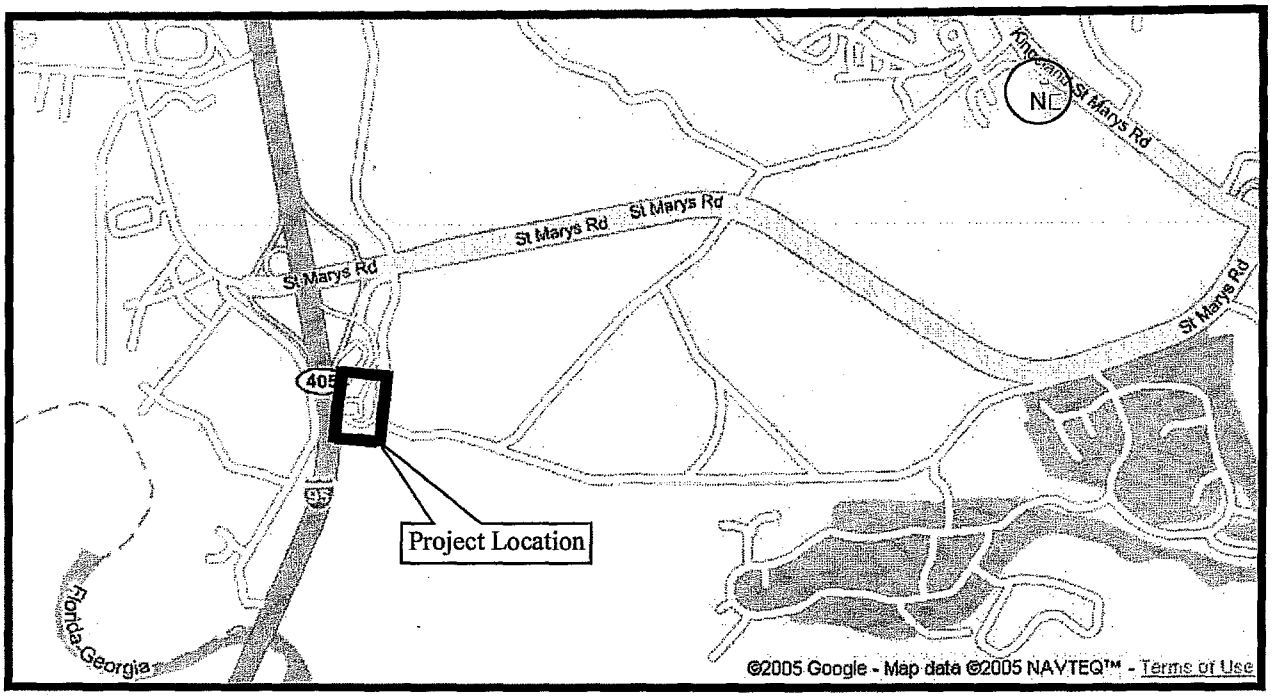
DATE _____ _____
State Traffic Safety & Design Engineer

DATE _____ _____
Project Review Engineer

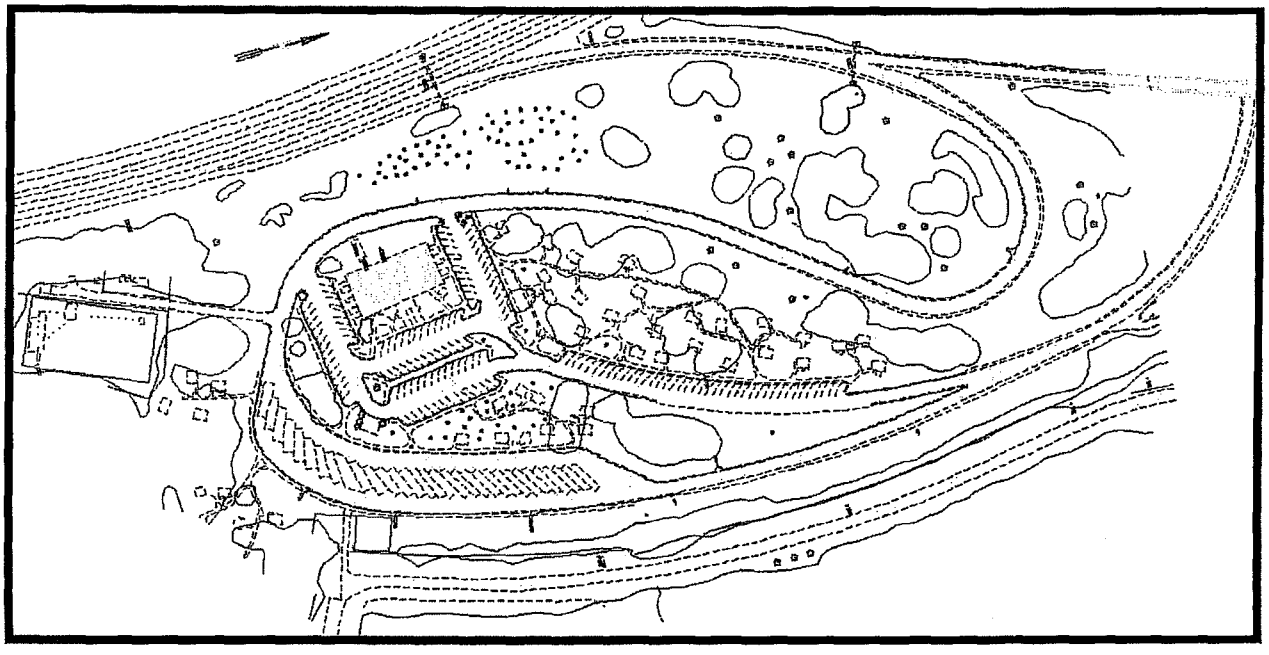
DATE _____ _____
District Engineer

Project Concept Report Page 2
Project Number: IM-0000-00(689)
P. I. Number: 0000689
County: Camden

Regional Map



Project Location Sketch



Need and Purpose:

The statewide planning process recommended reconstructing and enlarging the I-95 Welcome Center (northbound) just north of the Georgia/Florida line near St. Mary's Road in Kingsland to better provide traveler information and services. The Department included the project in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in 2000. Preliminary engineering was authorized in 2001 with construction scheduled for 2008. The Welcome Center (also known as a Visitor's Information Center) is operated by the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

The project area corresponds to mile point 0.78 to mile point 1.09 along I-95 northbound in the vicinity of the entry ramp to the Welcome Center and St. Mary's Road, in Kingsland. Traffic counts (TC) along this segment of I-95 northbound include TC 218 near the Welcome Center at St. Mary's Road. GDOT traffic count data indicate Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) of 54,400 at TC 218 (two way traffic counts) on this section of I-95 in 2004. Historical traffic counts at TC 218 show an 18.0 % increase in traffic over the most recent five year period; with an average annual increase of 2.0 to 4.0% over the period. Assuming a conservative rate of traffic growth of 4.0 % per annum to 2025 (from a base year of 2001), projected traffic along this section of I-95 is likely to reach 125,177 vehicles in 2025. Projected vehicle traffic into the Welcome Center based on recent history indicates the Welcome Center will receive 1648 vehicles per day (AADT) in 2008; and a projected 2011 vehicles per day in 2028. Truck traffic is also increasing due to the presence of the Georgia Ports facilities in Brunswick and Savannah to the north as well as similar facilities in Jacksonville. In addition, truck traffic is increasing along interstates at a rate which is greater than the rate of passenger car traffic.

The existing Welcome Center is too small to handle the existing and projected growth in traffic and visitors on I-95. Currently, the 5,520 square foot (SF) Welcome Center is located on 32 acres and handles approximately 1.6 million visitors per year with 143 parking spaces for passenger vehicles (including 14 truck/trailer spaces). Entering the facility from I-95 is confusing with poor sight distance and the entry/exit configuration creates a dangerous weaving movement. The facility currently handles an average of 1,400 vehicles per day with an average occupancy of 3.0 persons per vehicle (hours of 7 am to 11 pm, with staffing available and restrooms are available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week). Parking spaces are often not available for travelers, especially in the peak spring and summer travel seasons. The building is deteriorating with a leaking roof, and HVAC facilities are inadequate for the existing/projected visitors. There are also existing flooding and sanitary sewer problems caused by the low building elevation. Additional passenger vehicle and truck parking and an increase in facility size, including additional restrooms to accommodate the projected increase in travelers are needed. The reconstructed facility will also need to meet the standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The project's termini are logical because I-95 near/north of the Florida border near St. Mary's Road in Kingsland is a logical location for visitors/travelers entering the State of Georgia from Florida in the northbound lanes along I-95.

The ~~need exists~~ to reconstruct, update and expand the northbound Welcome Center in Kingsland and Camden County in South Georgia just north of the Florida/Georgia border along I-95 (near St. Mary's Road). Improvements will address the sub-standard parking, structural and space deficiencies, poor layout and sight distance from the interstate entry ramps. The facility will allow improved ingress/egress from the I-95 northbound lanes with better sight distance and visibility. The Welcome Center provides information and services to northbound travelers and visitors. I-95 serves as an interstate principal arterial for north/south traffic into and through the region. This segment of I-95 is regionally significant in that it provides through access to/from the Savannah and Brunswick metropolitan areas and S. Carolina and Camden, Glynn, McIntosh, Liberty and Bryan counties to the north, and Jacksonville, St. Augustine/Daytona Beach and locations in Florida to the south. The Savannah region attracts an estimated 6.0 million visitors per annum. The latest available data states the Welcome Center reported receiving 1.6 million visitors in FY 2004. Projections indicate the Welcome Center will receive 2.2 million visitors by 2028.

Description of the proposed project:

The proposed project consists of the complete reconstruction of the Welcome Center site and facilities. The proposed exit ramp from I-95 will be moved approximately 1600 feet south to separate it from the Saint Mary's Road exit. The existing building will be demolished and reconstructed approximately 200 feet to the south. The proposed building and site elevation will be raised approximately 3 feet above the existing to correct existing flooding and sanitary sewer problems. Approximately 200 car and 50 truck parking spaces will be provided. The merge length between the cars and trucks exiting the facility will be lengthened by approximately 500 feet. The proposed site and architectural concept drawings are attached.

Is the project located in a non-attainment area?

_____ **Yes** __X__ **No**

PDP Classification:

Minor

Federal Oversight:

Full Oversight (X), Exempt( ), State Funded( ), or Other ( )

Functional Classification:

Rural Principal Arterial

U.S. Route Number(s): I-95 **State Route Number(s):** 405

Welcome Center Vehicular Traffic (AADT):

Current Year: (2008) 1648 Design Year: (2028) 2011

Existing design features:

- Typical Section:

  Ramps: 16-foot wide travel-way with 4-foot paved inside shoulder and 6-foot paved outside shoulder. An additional 2-foot unpaved shoulder is provided outside of the paved shoulders.

  Parking: 24-foot wide travel-way with 20-foot wide, 60 degree parking areas on either side. 10.5 –foot shoulders consist of 30-inch curb and gutter, 6-foot sidewalk at the back of curb, and 2-foot grassed strip behind the sidewalk.

- Posted speed:

  70 mph (interstate)
  10 mph (parking area)

- Minimum radius for curve:

  150 feet

- Maximum grade:
  1.00%

- Width of right of way:
  Varies

- Major structures:
  Existing Welcome Center Building

Accident History:
N/A

Proposed Design Features:

- Proposed typical section:
  Ramps: 16-foot wide travel-way with 4-foot paved inside shoulder and 6-foot paved outside shoulder. An additional 2-foot unpaved shoulder will be provided outside of the paved shoulders.

  Parking: 24-foot wide travel-way with 20-foot wide, 60 degree parking areas on either side. 12 –foot shoulders consist of 30-inch curb and gutter, 6-foot sidewalk at the back of curb, and 3.5-foot planted or grassed strip behind the sidewalk.

- Proposed design speed:
  70 mph (interstate)
  35 mph (ramps)
  10 mph (parking area)

- Proposed maximum grade: 1.00% Maximum grade allowable: 4.00%

- Proposed maximum driveway grade: N/A

- Proposed minimum radius for curve: 350' Minimum radius allowable: 350'

- Proposed maximum super-elevation rate for curve: 8.00%

- Proposed maximum degree of curve: 16° 22' 13" Max degree allowable:16° 22' 13"

- Right of way.
  Widths: Variable width R/W will be required
  Easements: Temporary ( ), Permanent (X), Utility ( ), Other ( ).
  Type of access control: Full (X), Partial ( ), By Permit ( ), Other ( ).
  Number of parcels: 1 Number of displacements:
  - Business: 0
  - Residences: 0
  - Mobile homes: 0
  - Other: 0

- Structures:
  New Welcome Center Building

- Traffic control during construction:
  Facilities will remain open during construction. Three stages of construction will be required for the site. Several on-site detours will be required.

- Design exceptions to controlling criteria anticipated:

	UNDETERMINED	YES	NO
HORIZONTAL ALIGNMENT:			X
ROADWAY WIDTH:			X
SHOULDER WIDTH:			X
VERTICAL GRADES:			X
CROSS SLOPES:			X
STOPPING SIGHT DISTANCE:			X
SUPERELEVATION RATES:			X
HORIZONTAL CLEARANCE:			X
SPEED DESIGN:			X
VERTICAL CLEARANCE:			X
BRIDGE WIDTH:			X
BRIDGE STRUCTURAL CAPACITY:			X

- Design variances:
  None
- Environmental concerns:
  Possible wetland impacts along new exit ramp alignment.
- Level of environmental analysis:
  - Are Time Savings Procedures appropriate? Yes (X), No ( )
  - Categorical Exclusion (Yes),
  - Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (No)
  - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (No)

- Utility involvements:
  - GDOT will coordinate with utility companies during design phase.

Project responsibilities:
- Design- Consultant
- Right of Way Acquisition- GDOT
- Relocation of Utilities- GDOT
- Letting to contract- GDOT
- Supervision of construction- GDOT
- Providing material pits- Contractor
- Providing detours- Contractor

Coordination
- Initial concept meeting date: June 23, 2005
- Concept meeting date: February 16, 2006
- Conforms to TIP / STIP: Yes
- Meets Logical Termini Requirements: Yes
- PAR meetings, dates and results: None required
- Permits Required (FEMA, TVA, USCG, 404): Possible depending on wetland impacts.

- Level of public involvement: 2 meetings with local officials and center employees
- Local government commitments: N/A
- Other projects in the area: P.I. 511072 will widen I-95 from six to eight lanes from the Florida/Georgia line to Harriet's Bluff Rd., about 7.0 miles to the north. Preliminary engineering (PE) and construction are in Long Range.
- Other coordination to date: None
- Railroads: None

Scheduling – Responsible Parties' Estimate

- Time to complete the environmental process: __4__ Months.
- Time to complete preliminary construction plans: __8__ Months.
- Time to complete right of way plans: __4__ Months.
- Time to complete final construction plans: __8__ Months.
- Time to purchase right of way: __8__ Months.

Other alternates considered:

1) No build
2) Linear parking – Alternate consisted of a reconstructed site and building with a linear parking lot. This alternate was not desirable because it did not allow for recirculation of traffic. See alternates 1 and 2 attached to initial concept meeting minutes.
3) Building Renovation – Alternate consisted of keeping much of the site as it and renovating the existing building. This alternate was not selected because it did not correct the existing flooding, sanitary sewer, or interstate ramp problems.

Comments:

Attachments:

1. Cost Estimates:
    a. Construction including E&C,
    b. Right of Way, and
    c. Utilities.
2. Site Concept Display
3. Architectural Concept Drawings
4. Typical Sections
5. Minutes of Initial Concept Meeting
6. Minutes of Concept Team Meeting
7. Location and Design Notice

PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE

PROJECT NUMBER: IM-0000-00(689) **COUNTY: Camden**

DATE: November 7, 2005 **ESTIMATED LETTING DATE: 2008**

PREPARED BY: ARCADIS **PROJECT LENGTH: 0.40 mi**

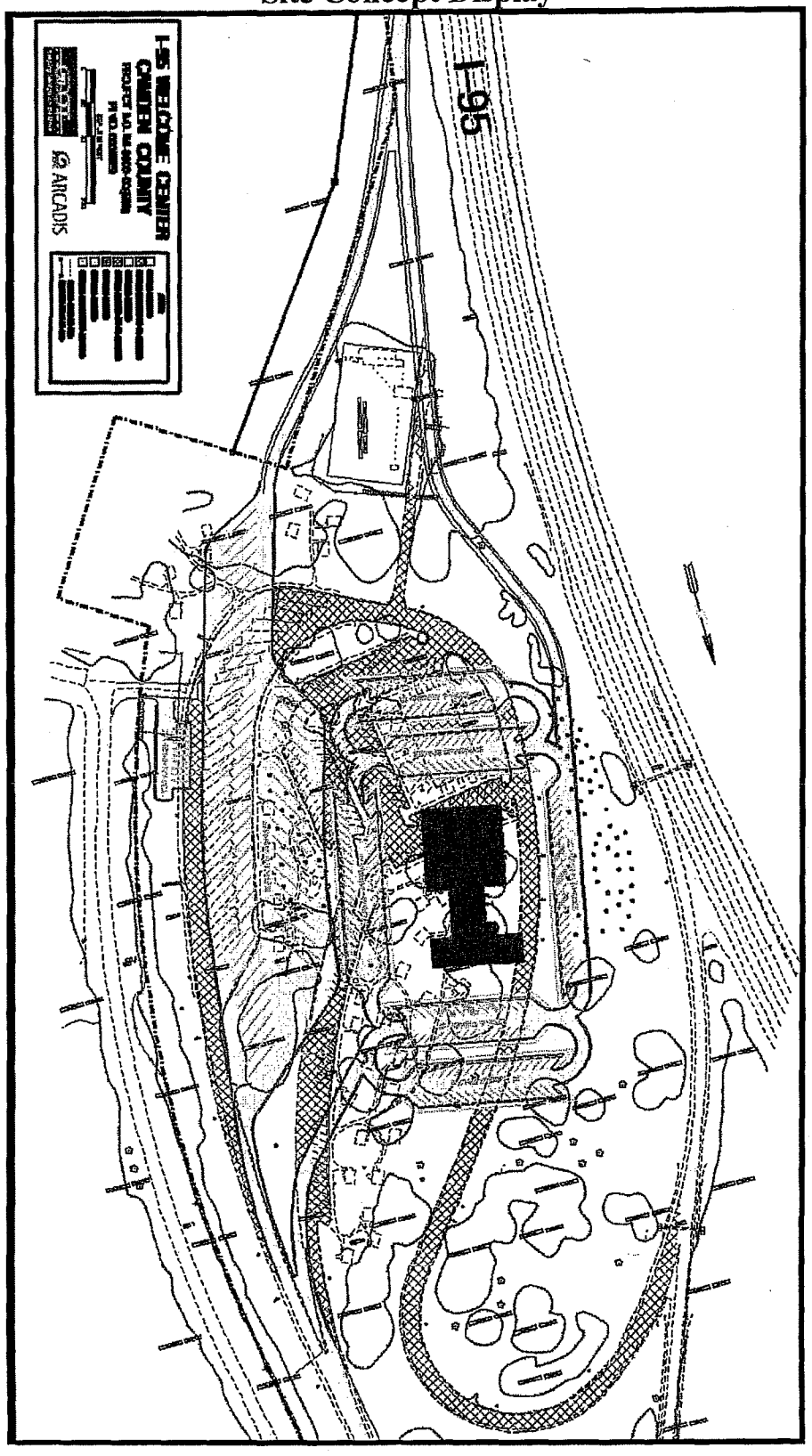
( ) PROGRAMMING PROCESS **(X) CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT** **( ) DURING PROJECT DEV.**

PROJECT COST	
A. RIGHT-OF-WAY:	
1. PROPERTY (LAND & EASEMENT)	$50,000
2. DISPLACEMENTS; RES: 0, BUS: 0, M.H.: 0	$0
3. OTHER COST (DAMAGES, ADM. / COURT, INFL., ETC.)	$29,750
SUBTOTAL: A	$79,750
B. REIMBURSABLE UTILITIES:	
1. TRANSMISSION LINES	$0
2. DISTRIBUTION LINES	$90,000
3. OTHER UTILITIES	$0
SUBTOTAL: B	$90,000
C. CONSTRUCTION:	
1. MAJOR STRUCTURES:	
VISITOR CENTER BUILDING	$4,504,423
SUBTOTAL: C-1	$4,504,423
2. GRADING AND DRAINAGE:	
a. EARTHWORK	$1,500,000
b. DRAINAGE	$340,000
SUBTOTAL: C-2	$1,840,000
3. BASE AND PAVING:	
a. GR AGGR BASE CRS - ($20 / ton)	$275,382
b. 9" PCC PAVEMENT - ($65 / SY)	$2,173,549
c. 12.5 mm Superpave - ($50 / ton)	$8,730
d. 19 mm Superpave - ($50 / ton)	$11,640
e. 25 mm Superpave - ($50 / ton)	$23,280
SUBTOTAL: C-3	$2,448,931

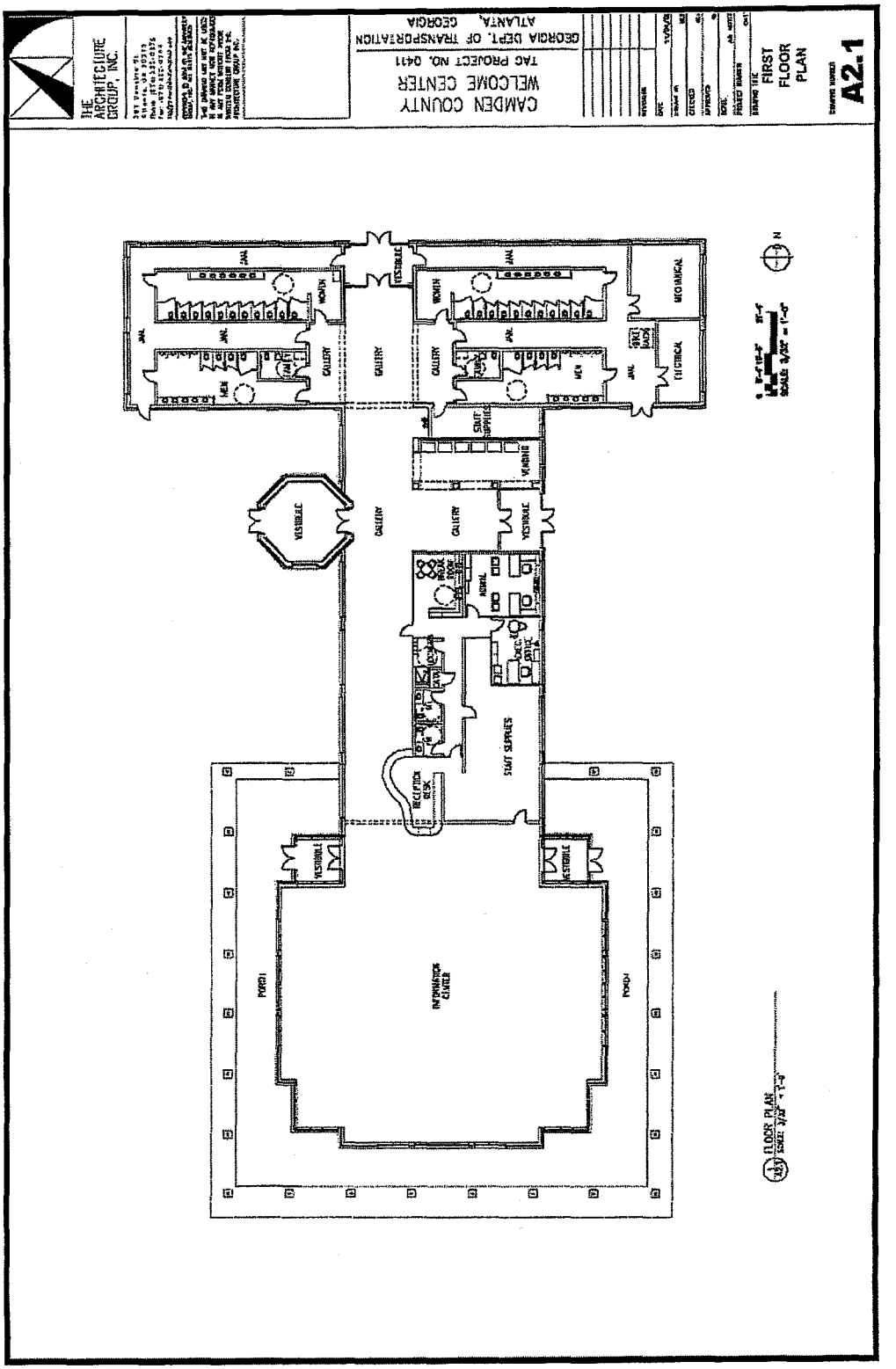
4. LUMP ITEMS:	
a. TRAFFIC CONTROL	$245,000
b. CLEARING AND GRUBBING	$156,000
c. GRASSING	$24,500
d. EROSION CONTROL	$210,000
e. SITE LIGHTING	$387,000
f. LANDSCAPING	$350,000
SUBTOTAL: C-4	$1,372,500
5. MISCELLANEOUS:	
a. SIGNING & STRIPING	$56,000
b. CONCRETE CURB AND GUTTER - ($20 / ft)	$163,600
c. 4" SIDEWALK - ($35 / SY)	$174,300
d. PICNIC TABLES AND OTHER MISC. HARDSCAPE	$250,000
e. FIELD OFFICE	$60,000
SUBTOTAL: C-5	$703,900

ESTIMATE SUMMARY		
A. RIGHT-OF-WAY:		$79,750
B. REIMBURSABLE UTILITIES:		$90,000
C. CONSTRUCTION:		
1. MAJOR STRUCTURES	$4,504,423	
2. GRADING AND DRAINAGE	$1,840,000	
3. BASE AND PAVING	$2,448,931	
4. LUMP ITEMS	$1,372,500	
5. MISCELLANEOUS	$703,900	
SUBTOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST	$10,869,754	
E. & C. (15%)	$1,630,463	
INFLATION (5% PER YEAR, 2 YEARS)	$1,281,272	
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST	**$13,781,490**	
TOTAL PROJECT COST		**$13,951,240**

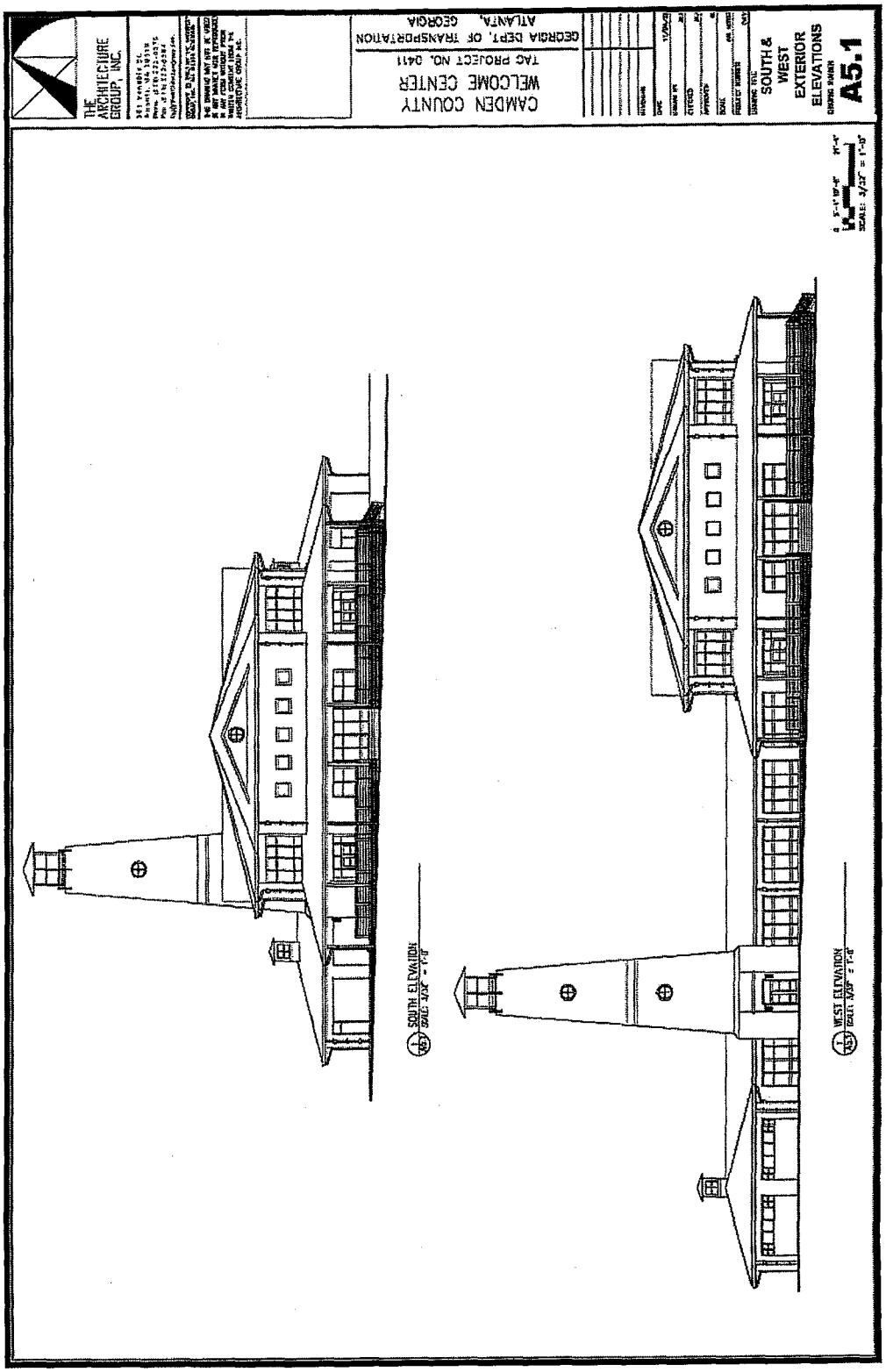
Site Concept Display



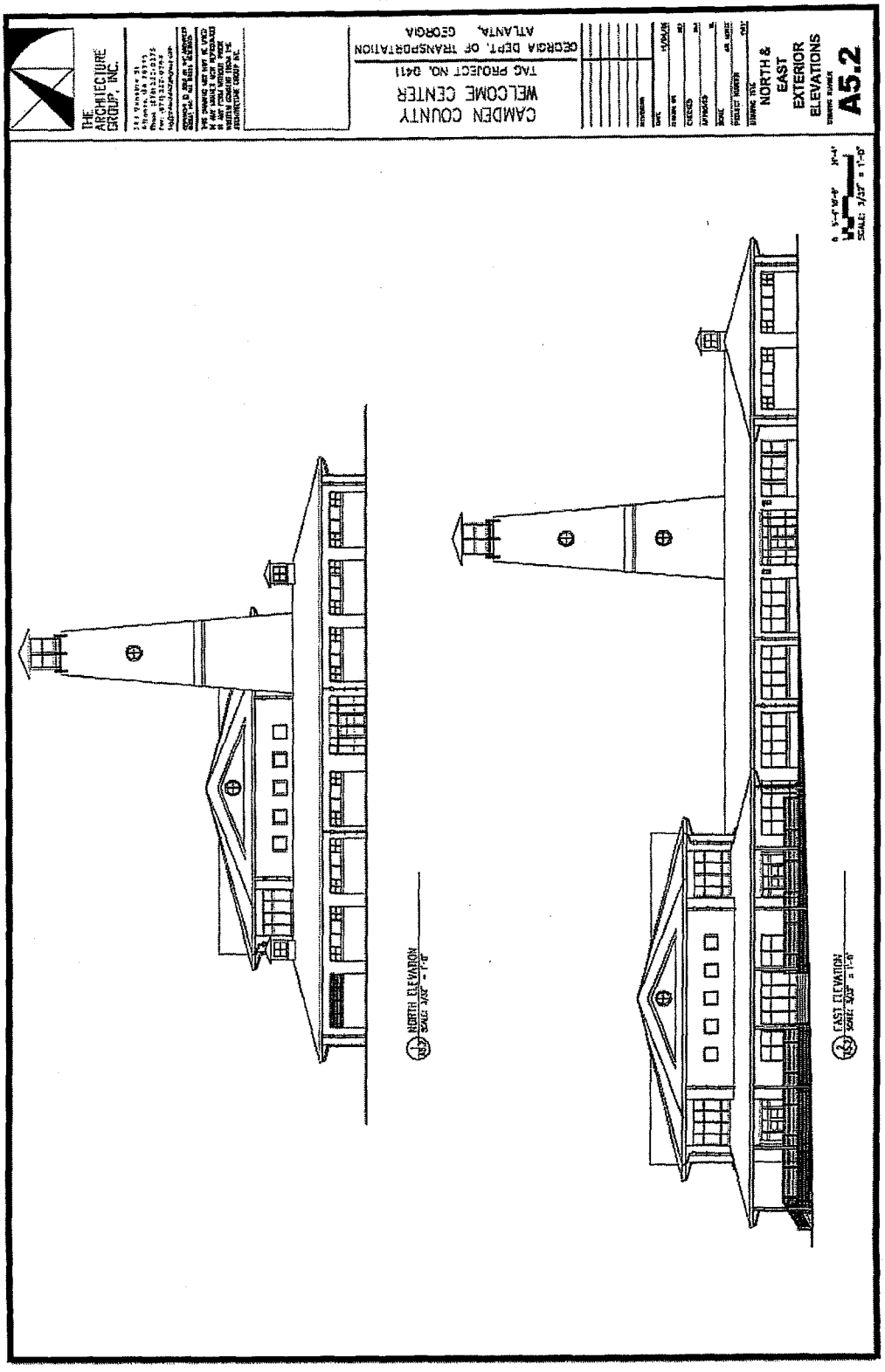
Architectural Concept Plan



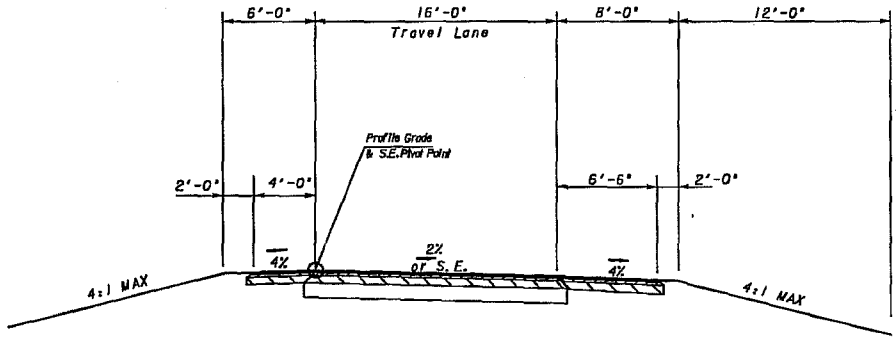
Architectural Concept Elevation (south and west)



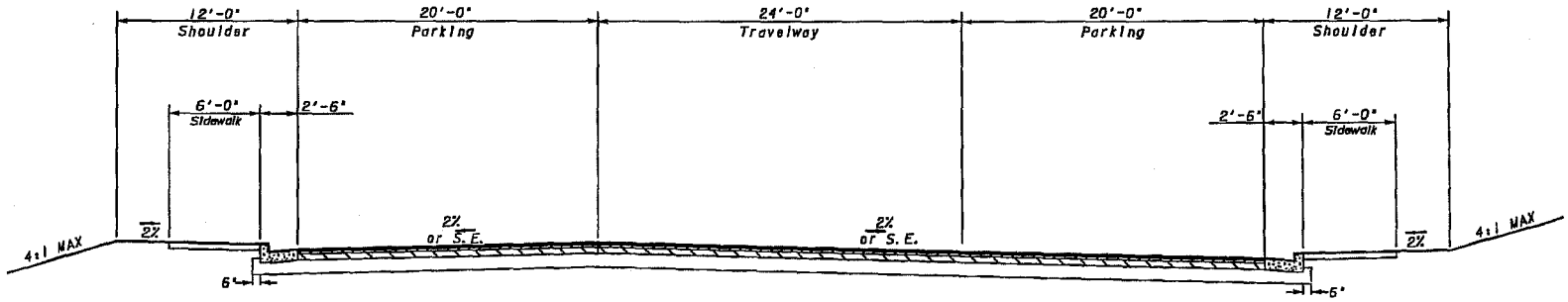
Architectural Concept Elevation (north and east)



DATE/TIME$$$	TIME$$$	PRF	DGN	COUNTY	PROJECT NUMBER	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
$USER$		$$PENTABLE$$		CAMDEN	IM-0000-00(689)		



Ramp



Parking Area

PRELIMINARY

REVISION DATES			

ARCADIS

STATE OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE: ROAD AND AIRPORT DESIGN

TYPICAL SECTIONS

I-95 CAMDEN COUNTY
WELCOME CENTER

DRAWING NO. 5-01

ARCADIS

ARCADIS G&M, Inc.
2849 Paces Ferry Road
Suite 400
Atlanta
Georgia 30339
Tel 770 431 8666
Fax 770 435 2666

MEETING REPORT

Subject:
Pre-Concept Team Meeting
I-95 Welcome Centers
IM-0000-00(689), Camden County
IM-0000-00(690), Chatham County

Department:
Transportation

ARCADIS Project No.:
GA063281.CM01.000PM

Place/Date of Meeting:
GDOT District 5 Office – Jesup, Georgia
June 23, 2005

Report No.:
1

Minutes by:
Matt McDow

Issue Date:
June 28, 2005

Participants:
Jerry Morris, GDOT
Clay Bastian, GDOT
James Brown, GDOT
Tony Collins, GDOT
Karon Ivery, GDOT
Cynthia Phillips, GDOT
Slade Cole, GDOT
Jeffery Walker, GDOT
Howard Gray, GDOT
Bryan Czech, GDOT
Gordon Jett, GDOT
Sheree Smart, GDOT
Nora Varasse, GDOT
Linda Brewer, GDECD
Sheryl Johnson, GDECD
Jeffery Tatum, GDECD
Hilda Seymore, GDECD
Elizabeth Boles, GDECD
Bobbie Unger, The Architecture Group
Bryan Craft, The Architecture Group
Ryan Graves, ARCADIS
Matt McDow, ARCADIS

Representatives from ARCADIS and The Architecture Group presented rough concepts for reconstruction of the I-95 Welcome Centers in Chatham and Camden counties. The Chatham concept that was presented proposed no change to the entrance and exit ramps and proposed construction of a new building and parking area to the northwest of the existing building (see attached concept display). The Camden concept that was presented proposed modifying the existing interstate exit ramp to separate it from the St. Mary's Road exit and providing an acceleration lane to improve the merge between cars and trucks on the interstate entrance ramp. Two Camden site alternatives also were presented showing construction of the new building and parking areas to the east and northeast of the existing building (see attached concept displays).

The reconstructed building footprints for both the Chatham and Camden sites are based on the Augusta Welcome Center and will be customized based on input from local representatives. The group also presented an "alternate B" for each site, which consisted of renovating the existing buildings and constructing a new addition on one side. Following are a list of key decisions and items discussed for each site.

Items Applicable to Both Sites

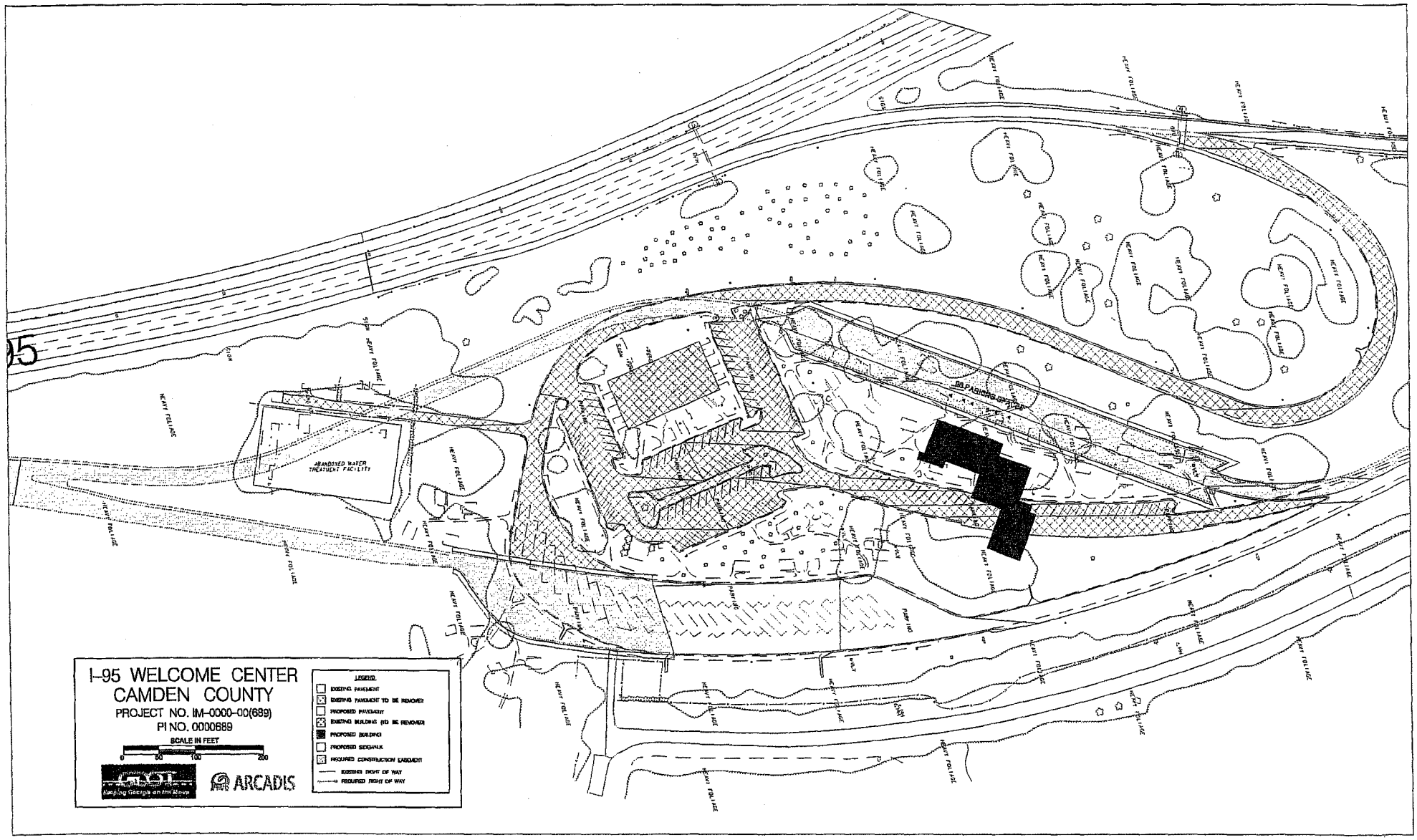
1. The group agreed that the concepts presented do not provide adequate visibility from the interstate. The reconstruction alternatives will be revised so that the new facility is as close as possible to the interstate.
2. The group agreed that the existing facilities should remain open during construction. Several phasing alternatives will be considered by the design team to allow use of the existing building for both the reconstruction and renovation alternatives.
3. The local representatives noted that the existing car parking capacity of approximately 140 spaces is not sufficient. The design team will maximize the car parking areas to provide at least 200 spaces. The team will also consider allowing for future parking expansion.
4. The group agreed that a circular-flow parking lot is preferable. The design team will revise the concepts to allow for circular traffic flow, keeping the parking as close as possible to the building. The team will also consider using existing parking areas where possible.
5. The local representatives noted that the Augusta facility space is adequate, but requested that windows be added to the exhibit area so that Welcome Center workers can monitor parking areas.
6. The design team will consider adding a separate maintenance building to both sites.
7. The local representatives noted that the number of picnic areas can be reduced.
8. The local representatives requested that the building layout be modified to allow visitors to pass through the exhibit area to get to the restrooms.
9. The group agreed that wireless internet access will be provided at both sites.
10. The local representatives noted that the existing dump station is a maintenance problem. The design team will remove the dump station from the site, pending FHWA approval.

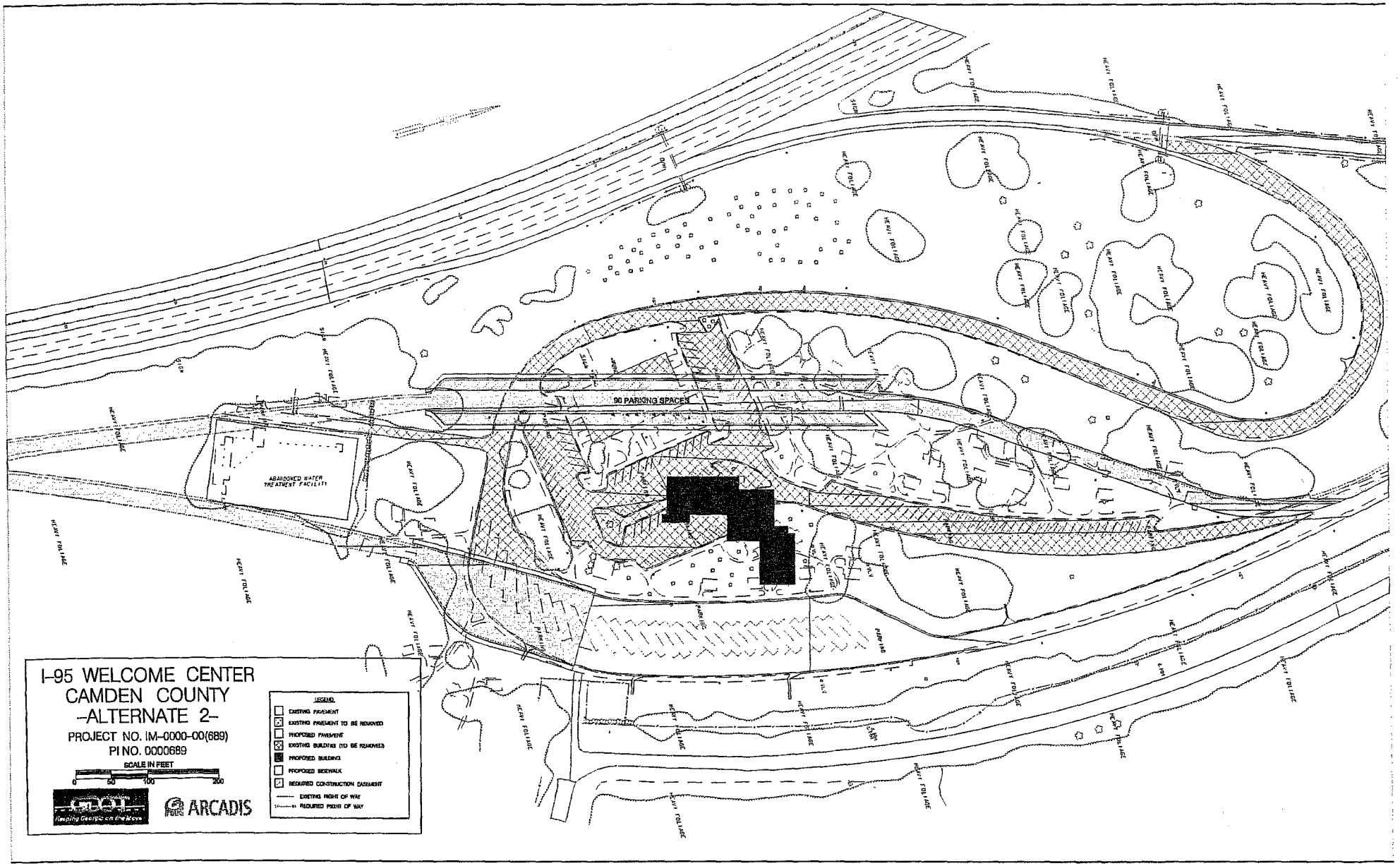
Items Applicable to the Chatham County Site

1. The group agreed that the "alternate B" renovation is a possibility for this site.
2. The local representatives noted that the existing truck and RV parking capacity is adequate, and additional capacity will not be required.
3. The local representatives requested that the new building face the east so that both interstate traffic and traffic entering the Welcome Center can see the front of the building.

Items Applicable to the Camden County Site

1. The group agreed that the separation of the Welcome Center exit from the St. Mary's Road exit is preferred.
2. The group agreed that the "alternate B" renovation is not a possibility for this site because of existing flooding and sanitary sewer problems. The design team will propose to raise the new building elevation to correct this problem.
3. The local representatives noted that the existing truck and RV parking capacity is not sufficient. The design team will increase the capacity of the truck and RV parking.
4. The local representatives requested that the new building face the southwest so that both interstate traffic and traffic entering the Welcome Center can see the front of the building.
5. The design team noted that the abandoned water treatment facility will be impacted. This issue will need to be addressed in the environmental document.
6. The local representatives noted that there is an existing access point from a side road to the truck parking area used by locals and visitors who bypass the interstate exit to go to St. Mary's Road. The design team will consider closing this access due to liability concerns.


I-95 WELCOME CENTER
CAMDEN COUNTY
PROJECT NO. IM-0000-00(689)
PI NO. 0000689
SCALE IN FEET
0 50 100 200
ARCADIS
LEGEND
EXISTING PAVEMENT
EXISTING PAVEMENT TO BE REMOVED
PROPOSED PAVEMENT
EXISTING BUILDING (TO BE REMOVED)
PROPOSED BUILDING
PROPOSED SIDEWALK
REQUIRED CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT
EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY
REQUIRED RIGHT OF WAY
ABANDONED WATER TREATMENT FACILITY
PARKING
HEAVY FOLIAGE
SIGN
95


I-95 WELCOME CENTER
CAMDEN COUNTY
-ALTERNATE 2-
PROJECT NO. IM-0000-00(689)
PI NO. 0000689
SCALE IN FEET
0 50 100 200
GDOT
Keeping Georgia on the Move
ARCADIS
LEGEND
EXISTING PAVEMENT
EXISTING PAVEMENT TO BE REMOVED
PROPOSED PAVEMENT
EXISTING BUILDINGS (TO BE REMOVED)
PROPOSED BUILDING
PROPOSED SIDEWALK
REQUIRED CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT
EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY
REQUIRED RIGHT OF WAY
90 PARKING SPACES
ABANDONED WATER TREATMENT FACILITY
HEAVY FOLIAGE
PARKING
SIGN

ARCADIS

ARCADIS G&M, Inc.
2849 Paces Ferry Road
Suite 400
Atlanta
Georgia 30339
Tel 770 431 8666
Fax 770 435 2666

MEETING REPORT

Subject:
Concept Team Meeting
I-95 Welcome Centers
IM-0000-00(689), Camden County
IM-0000-00(690), Chatham County

Department:
Transportation

ARCADIS Project No.:
GA063281.CM01.000PM

Place/Date of Meeting:
GDOT Brunswick Area Office
February 16, 2006

Minutes by:
Matt McDow

Issue Date:
February 21, 2006

Participants:
Clay Bastian, GDOT
Walt Taylor, GDOT
Jeffrey Walker, GDOT
John Wentworth, GDOT
Slade Cole, GDOT
Teresa Scott, GDOT
Tom Franklin, GDOT
Matt Bennett, GDOT
Stephen Thomas, GDOT
Nora Varasse, GDOT
Cynthia Phillips, GDOT
Donnie Boyd, GDOT
Bryan Czech, GDOT
Dorothy Davis, GA VIC (Savannah)
Bobbie Unger, The Architecture Group
Melody Harclerode, The Architecture Group
Jonathan Roland, ARCADIS
Matt McDow, ARCADIS

Clay Bastian, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) project manager for the projects, welcomed attendees to the meeting and reviewed the project schedule and other concept report data with the group. Matt McDow, with ARCADIS, described the roadway and site work required for the projects, and Melody Harclerode, with The Architecture Group, described the architectural concept for each project. Following is a list of key decisions and items discussed for each project.

Items applicable to the Camden County Site (IM-0000-00(689))

1. Mr. McDow noted that advance signing for the relocated Welcome Center exit ramp will be required across the Florida state line. The project team will coordinate with Florida DOT during the design phase.

2. Mr. McDow noted that there are possible wetland impacts along the relocated exit ramp. The GDOT Office of Environment and Location will determine if mitigation is required for these impacts. If so, they can likely be mitigated on site.

3. It was noted that access will remain to Haddock Road, behind the Welcome Center, to allow for emergency vehicle and employee access.

4. John Wentworth, with the GDOT Maintenance Office, raised a concern about whether adequate storage area is provided in the janitor areas around the bathrooms. Ms. Harclerode gave the dimensions for the janitor areas and thinks that adequate storage space is provided.

5. Matt Bennett, with the GDOT – Brunswick Area Office, raised a concern about the distance between the interstate and the Welcome Center ramp and parking area. Mr. McDow replied that this will be reviewed in the design phase and the distance will be increased if needed.

6. Stephen Thomas, with GDOT District 5 Utilities, stated that only the Welcome Center's site utilities should be impacted by the project and that they can be replaced as needed as a part of this project.

7. It was noted that the easement type needs to be changed from temporary to permanent in the concept report.

8. Mr. Wentworth asked whether the dumping stations will be replaced for each project. Mr. Bastian replied that GDOT would like them removed. He will verify with FHWA to confirm whether this is acceptable.

9. It was suggested that concept displays be provided to the Camden Welcome Center operators for comments since representatives could not attend the meeting. Mr. Bastian confirmed that electronic copies could be sent.

Items applicable to the Chatham County Site (IM-0000-00(690))

1. It was noted that the old growth trees, anchor, and blue star highway sign should all remain. Mr. McDow confirmed that the trees will remain where possible and that the anchor and blue star highway sign will be relocated as needed.

2. Dorothy Davis, with the Savannah Visitor Information Center, asked if access can be provided between the truck parking area and the car parking area for visitors who mistakenly exit at the truck exit. Mr. McDow replied that this will be reviewed in the design phase.

3. Slade Cole, with the GDOT Savannah Area Construction Office, questioned whether the existing advance signing for the Weigh Station and Welcome Center is correct. It was decided that this will be reviewed by GDOT District 5 and will be corrected as soon as possible, if necessary.

4. Ms. Davis asked whether the pet walking area on the northeast side of the building will be impacted by the project. Mr. McDow confirmed it will be impacted, but will be replaced.

5. It was noted that the Welcome Center visibility is blocked by heavy foliage on the northeast side of the building. Mr. McDow replied that the design team will consider thinning this foliage to improve visibility.

6. There was a discussion about ways to reduce wrong-way traffic and traffic backup in the front parking lot. All suggestions will be considered during the design phase of the project. Suggested solutions included:

   a. Reverse the traffic flow around the building so that drivers make a right turn instead of a left turn in front of the building.

   b. Relocate the entrance ramp to force traffic into the parking loop around the building.

   c. Remove and relocate the front parking spaces to elsewhere on the site to force drivers into the parking loop around the building.

7. It was noted that space will need to be allotted within the building for the county's quilt currently within the facility. Ms. Harclerode confirmed that space will be provided.

8. Mr. Thomas noted that they are in the process of connecting the site to water and sewer. This should be complete before construction begins for this project.

9. Ms. Davis requested that the architect use the "GEORGIA" image on the Welcome Center's four main elevations.

NOTICE OF LOCATION DESIGN APPROVAL

IM-0000-00(689), CAMDEN COUNTY
P. I. No. 0000689

Notice is hereby given in compliance with Georgia Code 22-2-109 that the Georgia Department of Transportation has approved the Location and Design of the above project.

Date of Location Design Approval: JUNE 7, 2006

This project consists of the reconstruction of the I-95 Welcome Center in Camden County, GA. The project lies entirely within Camden County, Georgia Militia Districts 29 and 1606.

The proposed project consists of the complete reconstruction of the Welcome Center site and facilities. The proposed exit ramp from I-95 will be moved approximately 1600 feet south to separate it from the Saint Mary's Road exit. The existing building will be demolished and reconstructed approximately 200 feet to the south. The proposed building and site elevation will be raised approximately 3 feet above the existing to correct existing flooding and sanitary sewer problems. Approximately 200 car and 50 truck parking spaces will be provided. The merge length between the cars and trucks exiting the facility will be lengthened by approximately 500 feet.

Drawings of maps or plats of the proposed project, as approved, are on file and are available for public inspection at the Georgia Department of Transportation:

Bryan Czech, Area Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation
128 Public Safety Blvd.
Brunswick, Georgia 31520
E-mail: bryan.czech@dot.state.ga.us
Phone: (912) 264-7247

Any interested party may obtain a copy of the drawings or maps or plats or portions thereof by paying a nominal fee and requesting in writing to:

Clay Bastian, Project Manager
Georgia Department of Transportation
No. 2 Capitol Square, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
E-mail: clay.bastian@dot.state.ga.us
Phone: (404) 656-5400

Any written request or communication in reference to this project or notice SHOULD include the Project and P.I. Numbers as noted at the top of this notice.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

Office of Road and Airport Design

PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT

I-95 Camden County Welcome Center
Project Number: IM-0000-00(689)

County: Camden
P. I. Number: 0000689

Federal Route Number: I-95
State Route Number: 405
County Road Number: N/A

SEE PAGE 2 FOR REGIONAL MAP & PROJECT LOCATION SKETCH

Recommendation for approval:

DATE 3-27-06 Clay C. Bates
Project Manager

DATE 3-27-06
State Road and Airport Design Engineer

The concept as presented herein and submitted for approval is consistent with that which is included in the Regional Transportation Program (RTP) and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

DATE _____
State Transportation Planning Administrator

DATE _____
Office of Financial Management Administrator

DATE 3.31.06
State Environmental/Location Engineer

DATE _____
State Traffic Safety & Design Engineer

DATE _____
Project Review Engineer

DATE _____
District Engineer

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

Office of Road and Airport Design

PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT

I-95 Camden County Welcome Center
Project Number: IM-0000-00(689)

County: Camden
P. I. Number: 0000689

Federal Route Number: I-95
State Route Number: 405
County Road Number: N/A

SEE PAGE 2 FOR REGIONAL MAP & PROJECT LOCATION SKETCH

Recommendation for approval:

DATE 3-27-06 _____ Clay C. Boston
Project Manager

DATE 3-27-06 _____
State Road and Airport Design Engineer

The concept as presented herein and submitted for approval is consistent with that which is included in the Regional Transportation Program (RTP) and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

DATE _____ _____
State Transportation Planning Administrator

DATE _____ _____
Office of Financial Management Administrator

DATE _____ _____
State Environmental/Location Engineer

DATE 4-11-06 _____
State Traffic Safety & Design Engineer

DATE _____ _____
Project Review Engineer

DATE _____ _____
District Engineer

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

Office of Road and Airport Design

PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT

I-95 Camden County Welcome Center
Project Number: IM-0000-00(689)

County: Camden
P. I. Number: 0000689

Federal Route Number: I-95
State Route Number: 405
County Road Number: N/A

SEE PAGE 2 FOR REGIONAL MAP & PROJECT LOCATION SKETCH

Recommendation for approval:

DATE 3-27-06 Clay C. Bolton
Project Manager

DATE 3-27-06
State Road and Airport Design Engineer

The concept as presented herein and submitted for approval is consistent with that which is included in the Regional Transportation Program (RTP) and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

DATE 3/30/06 Joseph P Allen
State Transportation Planning Administrator

DATE _____
Office of Financial Management Administrator

DATE _____
State Environmental/Location Engineer

DATE _____
State Traffic Safety & Design Engineer

DATE _____
Project Review Engineer

DATE _____
District Engineer

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

Office of Road and Airport Design

PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT

I-95 Camden County Welcome Center
Project Number: IM-0000-00(689)

County: Camden
P. I. Number: 0000689

Federal Route Number: I-95
State Route Number: 405
County Road Number: N/A

SEE PAGE 2 FOR REGIONAL MAP & PROJECT LOCATION SKETCH

Recommendation for approval:

DATE 3-27-06 Clay C. Boston
Project Manager

DATE 3-27-06
State Road and Airport Design Engineer

The concept as presented herein and submitted for approval is consistent with that which is included in the Regional Transportation Program (RTP) and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

DATE _____
State Transportation Planning Administrator

DATE _____
Office of Financial Management Administrator

DATE _____
State Environmental/Location Engineer

DATE _____
State Traffic Safety & Design Engineer

DATE _____
Project Review Engineer

DATE 5/2/06
District Engineer