

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**OFFICE OF DESIGN POLICY & SUPPORT
INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE**

FILE P.I. #0000762 **OFFICE** Design Policy & Support
NHS00-0000-00(762)
Lowndes County
GDOT District 4 - Tifton **DATE** May 16, 2014
I-75 Improvements from North of
SR 133 to the Cook County Line

FROM  for Brent Story, State Design Policy Engineer

TO SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT APPROVED LOCATION & DESIGN REPORT

Attached is the approved Location and Design Report with Notice of Location & Design Approval for the above subject project.

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION:

Glenn Bowman, Director of Engineering
Joe Carpenter, Director of P3/Program Delivery
Genetha Rice-Singleton, Assistant Director of P3/Program Delivery
Albert Shelby, State Program Delivery Engineer
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Jerry Hughes, Area Engineer - D4, A1
Aghdas Ghazi, Project Manager
BOARD MEMBER - 8th Congressional District

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
LOCATION AND DESIGN REPORT**

FILE P.I. 0000762 **OFFICE** Program Delivery
NHS00-0000-00(762)
Lowndes County **DATE** May 12 , 2014
Widening of I-75 from North of S.R. 133 to Cook
County Line- Phase II

FROM Albert V. Shelby , III, State Program Delivery Engineer 

TO Brent Story, P.E., State Design Policy Engineer
Attn: Dave Peters, State Conceptual Design Group Manager

SUBJECT Request for Location and Design Approval

Description and Project Proposal: Project NHS00-0000-00 (762), PI No. 0000762 is Phase II of Project NH-75-1(203), PI No. 410500 the 13.40 mile widening of I-75 from north of SR 133 to Cook County Line in Lowndes County, Georgia. The project proposes to widen 1.0 miles of SR 7 (Shiloh Road/N Valdosta Road) and 0.7 miles of SR 122 (Main Street) and reconstruct their interchanges with I-75. The I-75/ SR 7 Interchange, Exit 22, is located approximately 4 miles northwest of the City of Valdosta, Georgia. The I-75/ SR 122 Interchange, Exit 29, is located within the westernmost city limits of Hahira, Georgia.

Interstate 75/SR 7 (Shiloh Road/North Valdosta Road) Interchange Exit 22

The I-75/SR 7 (Shiloh Road/North Valdosta Road) interchange, Exit 22, reconstruction begins on Shiloh Road just east of the Frank's Creek bridge approximately 3322 feet west of I-75. With proposed improvements, the existing two-lane Shiloh Road would transition to and become a four-lane divided roadway with a 20-foot raised concrete median and rural 6 1/2-foot outside paved shoulders. The existing I-75 southbound ramps constructed under Project NH 75-1(203), P.I. No. 410500 would be tied to the proposed SR 7 improvements. The project would include a new bridge over I-75 and reconstruct the I-75 northbound ramps as a conventional diamond interchange. The I-75/SR 7 interchange reconstruction on SR 7 (N. Valdosta Road) ends just east of the existing signalized intersection at Coleman Road (CR 553) approximately 1953 feet east of I-75 where the project would tie to the existing four-lane divided rural roadway with a forty-foot depressed grass median.

Interstate 75/SR 122 (Main Street) Interchange Exit 29

The I-75/SR 122 (Main Street) Interchange, Exit 29, reconstruction begins on Main Street just east of the Frank's Creek bridge approximately 1782 feet west of I-75. With proposed improvements, the existing two-lane SR 122 would transition to and become two eastbound lanes and one westbound lane separated by a variable width flush median with rural 6 1/2-foot outside paved shoulders approaching the intersection of relocated Morven Road and a proposed access road serving the parcels of land on the north side of SR 122 approximately 986 feet west of I-75. SR 122 would continue as a four-lane divided roadway with a 20-foot raised concrete median and rural 6 1/2-foot outside paved shoulders to the intersection of relocated Union Road approximately 1063 feet east of I-75. SR 122 would continue as one lane in each direction separated

by a variable width flush median. The I-75/SR 122 Interchange reconstruction on Main Street ends approximately 1848 feet east of I-75 where the project would tie to the existing two-lane rural roadway.

The project would include a new bridge over I-75 and reconstruct the I-75 ramps as a conventional diamond interchange. Approximately 0.7 miles of Morven Road (CR 782) and 0.7 miles of Union Road (CR 38) would be relocated to intersect reconstructed SR 122 to provide maximum median opening spacing with the proposed I-75 ramps while minimizing impacts to the surrounding area.

Concept Approval Date: October 19, 1999 under Project NH-75-1(203) Lowndes County Phase II
August 17, 2007 Approved Revised Concept Report

Concept Update: None

Environmental Document:

Document Type: Categorical Exclusion

Approval Date: 5/12/2014

Temporary State Route Needed: No Yes Undetermined

Public Involvement:

Hearing results: A public hearing is not required

- **Public Information Open House results:**

A public information open house was held on September 5, 2006 at Valdosta Technical College, 4089 Val Tech Road, Bldg 500, Valdosta, Georgia 31602-0929

- Concerns regarding economic impact on the community and need for proposed traffic light at the Shiloh Road/Val Tech Rd intersection.
- Eleven comment forms and no verbal comments at meeting with twelve additional comments received during ten day period September 5, 2006 to September 15, 2006.
- Comment Summary: 9 support, 4 conditional, 1 uncommitted and 9 opposed
- Attendees: total 30, 7 public officials
- The major change made as a result of comments received is the redesign of the I-75/SR 122 Interchange to a conventional diamond interchange which resulted in reducing the construction limits on the west side of I-75 by approximately 510 feet thus eliminating the widening of the Franks Creek bridge and on the east side of I-75 by approximately 646 feet. The use of retaining walls at the bridge end bents resulted in proposed ramp and relocated Morven Road and Union Road alignments that reduced required right of way impacts.

A second public information open house was held on March 29, 2007 at Valdosta Technical College, 4089 Val Tech Road, Bldg 500, Valdosta, Georgia 31602-0929

- Concerns of loss of municipal tax revenue, access to or displacement of businesses, need for proposed traffic signals at ramp intersections and scope of project being disproportionate to community it will serve.
- Fifteen comment forms and one verbal comment at meeting with one additional comment received during ten day period March 29, 2007 to April 19, 2007.
- Comment Summary: 11 support, 3 conditional, 0 uncommitted and 2 opposed
- Attendees: total 49, 6 public officials
- No major changes made as a result of comments received.

Public Outreach signs were posted and a Public Outreach Flyer was distributed on November 1, 2013

- Concerns to add a traffic signal at intersection of Shiloh Road/ S.R.7/ Amber Drive/ I-75 southbound and northbound ramps, a median opening at intersection S.R. 7/ Northlake

Drive, noise abatement along the I-75 northbound on-ramp from S.R. 7, Interchange lighting and video detection cameras for ramps and provide a timeline for the proposed project.

- o Twenty e-mail comments were received during ten day period November 1, 2013 to November 15, 2013.
- o Comment Summary: 2 support, 9 conditional, 9 uncommitted and 0 opposed
- o No major changes made as a result of comments received. A proposed median opening at the S.R. 7/ Northlake Drive/ relocated Flythe Road intersection and a sound barrier along I-75 northbound on-ramp from S.R. 7 are a part of the project.

A third public information open house was held on December 17, 2013 at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, 4089 Val Tech Road, Bldg 500, Valdosta, Georgia 31602-0929

- o Concerns for proposed concrete median that affects access to existing businesses along S. R. 122, to add Interchange lighting in project and provide a timeline for the proposed project.
- o Three comment forms and three verbal comments (one of which also filled out a comment card) at meeting with one additional comment received during ten day period December 17, 2013 to January 2, 2014.
- o Comment Summary: 1 support, 2 conditional, 3 uncommitted and 0 opposed
- o Attendees: total 37, 4 public officials
- o No major changes made as a result of comments received.

Consistency with Approved Planning: The design description as presented herein and submitted for approval is consistent with the approved Concept Report.

Recommendations: Recommend that the location and design for the project be approved and that the attached Notice be approved for advertising.

CONCUR: 
GDOT Director of Engineering

APPROVE:  5-16-14
GDOT Chief Engineer Date

DATE OF LOCATION AND DESIGN APPROVAL: May 16, 2014

Attachments:

- Sketch Maps
- Construction Cost Estimates
- Utility Cost Estimates
- Notice of Location and Design Approval

NOTICE OF LOCATION AND DESIGN APPROVAL

NHS00-0000-00(762), Lowndes County

P. I. NUMBER 0000762

Notice is hereby given in compliance with Georgia Code 22-2-109 and 32-3-5 that the Georgia Department of Transportation has approved the Location and Design of this project.

The date of location and design approval is: May 16, 2014.

Project NHS00-0000-00 (762) is Phase II of Project NH-75-1(203), PI No. 410500 the 13.40 mile widening of I-75 from north of SR 133 to Cook County Line in Lowndes County, Georgia. The proposed project consists of widening 1.0 miles of SR 7 (Shiloh Road/N Valdosta Road) and 0.7 miles of SR 122 (Main Street) and reconstructing their interchanges with I-75. The I-75/ SR 7 Interchange, Exit 22, located in the 12th Land District, Land Lots 36, 57, 58, and 82 is 100 percent in Congressional District No. 8. The I-75/ SR 122 Interchange, Exit 29, located in 12th Land District, Land Lots 95, 96 and 135 is within the Hahira City Limits and is 100 percent in Congressional District No. 8.

Interstate 75/SR 7 (Shiloh Road/North Valdosta Road) Interchange Exit 22

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The project would include a new bridge over I-75 and reconstruct the I-75 ramps as a conventional diamond interchange. Approximately 0.7 miles of Morven Road (CR 782) and 0.7 miles of Union Road (CR 38) would be relocated to intersect reconstructed SR 122 to provide maximum median opening spacing with the proposed I-75 ramps while minimizing impacts to the surrounding area.

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

Jerry Hughes, Area Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation
1411 Madison Highway
Valdosta, Georgia 31601-6505
iehughes@dot.ga.gov
229-333-5287

Any interested party may obtain a copy of the drawings or maps or plats or portions thereof by paying a nominal fee and submitting a written request to:

Albert V. Shelby, III, State Program Delivery Engineer
Georgia Department of Transportation
Office of Program Delivery 25th Floor
600 West Peachtree Street NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
ashelby@dot.ga.gov
404-631-1758

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.