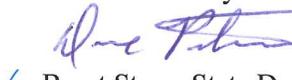


**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

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

FILE P.I. # 0003625 **OFFICE** Design Policy & Support
STP00-0003-00(625)
Bleckley County
GDOT District 2 - Tennille **DATE** January 24, 2013
SR 87 from 0.2 Miles North of CR 141/Foskey
Road to CR 166/Dykes Circle

FROM  Brent Story, State Design Policy Engineer

TO SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT APPROVED DETOUR REPORT

Attached is the approved Detour Report with Notice of Detour Approval for the above subject project.

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION:

Bobby Hilliard, Program Control Administrator
Genetha Rice-Singleton, State Program Delivery Engineer
Glenn Bowman, State Environmental Administrator
Ben Rabun, State Bridge Engineer
Andy Casey, State Roadway Design Engineer
Kathy Zahul, State Traffic Engineer
Phil Copeland, State Right-of-Way Administrator
Lisa Myers, State Project Review Engineer
Paul Tanner, Asst. State Transportation Data Administrator
Attn: Systems & Classification Branch
James Smith, District Engineer
Neal O'Brien, District Preconstruction Engineer
Jamie Lindsey, District Design Engineer
Vonda Everett, District Planning & Programming Engineer
Daniel Smith, Area Engineer - D2, A7
Bruce G. Anderson, Project Manager
BOARD MEMBER - 8th Congressional District

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

FILE STP00-0003-00(625) Bleckley **DATE** January 14, 2013
PI 0003625
SR 87 FM 0.2 Mi N of CR 141/Foskey Rd to CR 166/Dykes Circle

FROM *Vonda S. Everett*
Neal O'Brien, District Preconstruction Engineer

TO Brent Story, State Design Policy Engineer
Attention: Kim Phillips

SUBJECT **Detour Approval**

Description of Project Proposal: The project proposes to widen State Route (SR) 87/the Cochran Bypass in Bleckley County from one 12-foot lane in each direction to two 12-foot lanes in each direction separated by a 14-foot flush median with 10-foot rural shoulders (4 feet paved) throughout the project except in the area of the railroad bridge where the median and shoulders are reduced to four and eight feet respectively. An overpass bridge will be constructed at the railroad crossing. The project begins at approximately MP 4.10 at an existing 5-lane section south of Cochran to approximately MP 8.50 at an existing 4-lane section north of Cochran for a total length of approximately 4.4 miles.

Concept or Concept Update Approval Date: Revised Concept Approval 02/11/2011.

Reason a detour is required: The original concept report proposed a temporary on-site detour be constructed; however a Value Engineering (VE) Study completed in February 2010 suggested that the on-site detour be removed and a temporary off-site detour be utilized, saving \$916,741 in construction cost. The detour would also reduce local disruption caused by the hauling, grading and compaction of 460,000 CY of import material at the crossing. The temporary off-site detour is expected to last approximately 12 months.

Environmental Assessment of the proposed detour route: The Office of Environmental Services is currently in the process of completing the environmental document for the proposed project. Evaluation of the detour route will be included in this documentation. No impacts are anticipated at this time. The route is currently a functioning state route/U.S. route and should not require any improvements. The environmental document is anticipated to be approved by December, 2013.

Public Information Meeting for Proposed Detour (Detour Meeting) Results:

- Detour Meeting – November 8, 2012
 - A joint PIOH and Detour Open House were held on November 8, 2012 at the Bleckley County High School. The total number in attendance was 46, resulting in nine comments, eight in support and one against. The comments were 1) explain the need and purpose of the project, 2) explain the environmental process, 3) discuss public transportation plans, 4) evaluate the need for a signal at Cook Road and 5) evaluate the need for left-turn signals at SR 26 and SR 87. The following officials attended the meeting: Chris Coley, Cochran Police Department; Mike Smith, Cochran-Bleckley EMA; Robert Brockman, Bleckley County Sole Commissioner. No

NOTICE OF DETOUR APPROVAL

*STP00-0003-00(625) BLECKLEY COUNTY
P.I. NO. 0003625*

Notice is hereby given that the Georgia Department of Transportation has approved the use of and the routing of a detour of this project.

The date of detour approval is January 24, 2013.

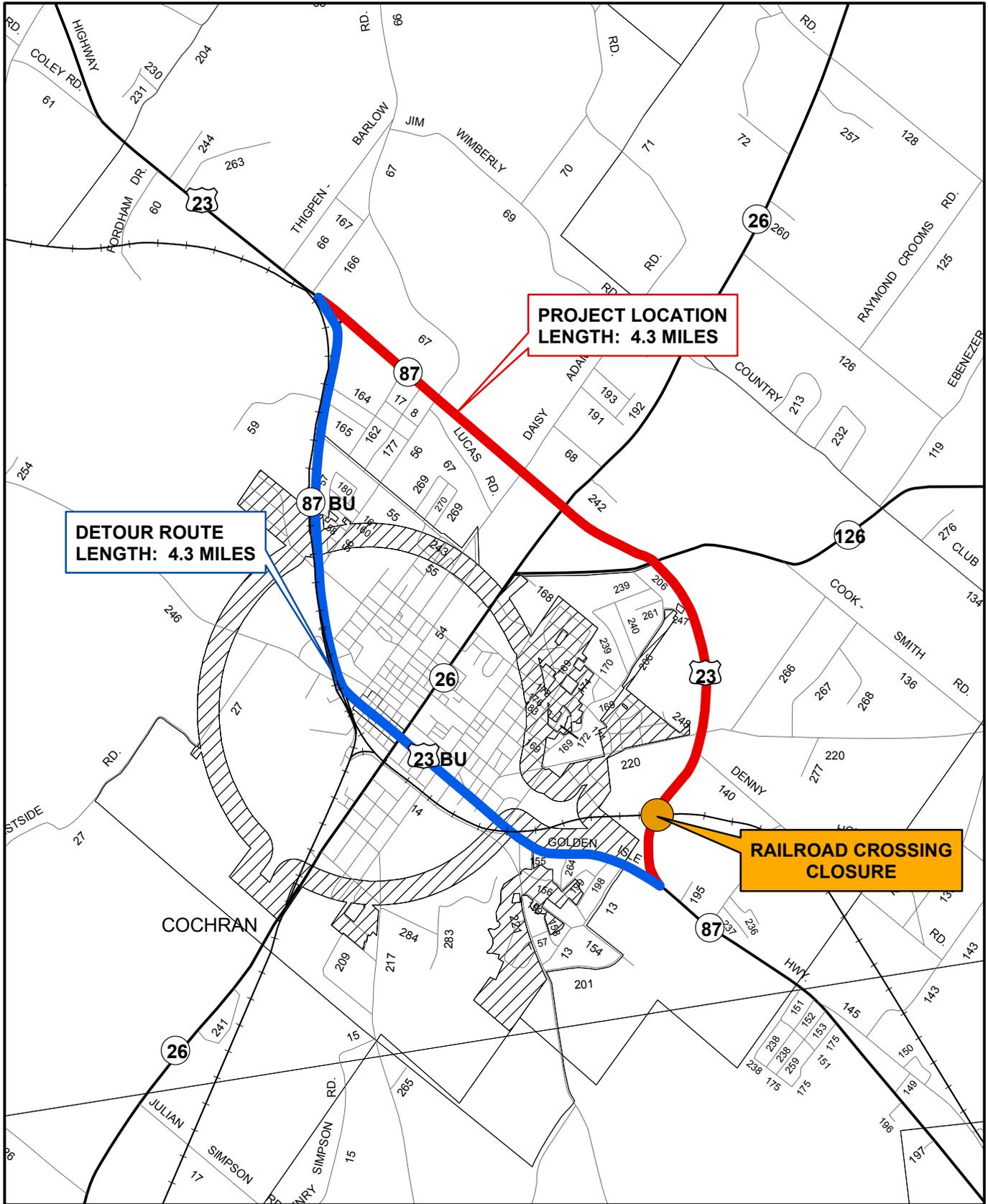
Project STP00-0003-00(625), Bleckley County, is the widening and reconstruction of the Cochran Bypass (State Route 87/US 23) from approximately Mile Post 4.10 at an existing 5-lane section south of Cochran to approximately Mile Post 8.50 at an existing 4-lane section north of Cochran for a total length of approximately 4.4 miles. The project also includes a railroad overpass bridge at the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

During construction of the overpass bridge, the railroad crossing will be closed and through traffic will be detoured along State Route 87 Bus./U.S. 23 Bus. The length of the Covington Bypass is approximately 4.3 miles and the length of the detour is approximately 4.3 miles.

The temporary off-site detour is expected to last approximately 12 months.

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:

Bruce Anderson, Project Manager
branderson@dot.ga.gov
Georgia Department of Transportation
801 Highway 15 South (P.O. Box 8)
Tennille, Georgia 31089
(478) 538-8595



**LOCATION/DETOUR MAP
 STP00-0003-00 (625) BLECKLEY
 WIDENING OF COCHRAN BYPASS**



**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

FILE STP00-0003-00 (625), Bleckley County **DATE** November 26, 2012
P.I. No. 0003625
FROM *GB* Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator
TO Distribution Below

SUBJECT **Summary of Comments
Received During the Public Comment Period – 11/8/12 - 11/19/12**

COMMENT TOTALS:

A total of 46 people attended the joint public information open house/detour open house held for the subject project on November 8, 2012.

From those attending, eight comment forms, zero letters and one verbal statement were received. No additional comments were received during the ten-day comment period following the public information open house/detour open house, for a total of nine comments. They are summarized as follows:

<u>No. Opposed</u>	<u>No. In Support</u>	<u>Uncommitted</u>	<u>Conditional</u>
1	8	0	0

MAJOR CONCERNS:

1. One comment was made about the Need and Purpose of the project. The Need and Purpose was not available to provide to the citizen. The same citizen also asked about public transportation plans and the environmental process.
2. One comment advised of a need for a traffic signal at Cook Road.
3. One comment advised of a need for a traffic signal with left-turn signals at the intersection of SR 26 and GA 87.

OFFICIALS:

Officials attending included the following:
Chris Coley, Cochran Police Department
Mike Smith, Cochran-Bleckley EMA
Robert Brockman, Bleckley County Sole Commissioner

MEDIA:

None

DISPOSITION OF COMMENTS:

The following represents a breakdown of a review of comments by the offices to which they pertain. The project manager will review all responses.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	COMMENT #	NATURE OF COMMENT
Design	3	Need a traffic signal at Cook Road.
	6	Need a traffic signal with dedicated left-turn signals.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	COMMENT #	NATURE OF COMMENT
Right-of-Way		

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	COMMENT #	NATURE OF COMMENT
Traffic Operations	3	Need a traffic signal at Cook Road.
	6	Need a traffic signal with dedicated left-turn signals.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	COMMENT #	NATURE OF COMMENT
Planning	2	"What happened to public transportation plans?"
	2	"What is the <u>need</u> for widening the bypass?"

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	COMMENT #	NATURE OF COMMENT
Environmental Services		"What happens environmentally?"

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE	COMMENT #	NATURE OF COMMENT
Environmental Services	All Letters	<p>Thank you for your comments concerning the proposed project referenced above. We appreciate your attendance and all of the input that was received as a result of the November 8, 2012 (PIOH/Detour Open House). Every comment will be made part of the official record of the project.</p> <p>The attendees of the PIOH raised the following questions and concerns. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has prepared this one response letter that addresses all comments received so that everyone can be aware of the concerns raised and the responses given. Please find the comments summarized below (<i>in italics</i>) followed by our response.</p>

Please review the comments and email responses to Vonda Everett at veverett@dot.ga.gov by December 3, 2012.

Summary of Comments
STP00-0003-00 (625), Bleckley
November 26, 2012
Page 3

Attached is a complete transcript of the comments received during the comment period and a copy of the joint public information open house/detour open house handout.

If you have any questions about the comments, please either email or call Vonda Everett at (478) 552-4631.

GB/vle

Attachments

DISTRIBUTION:

Russell R. McMurry, w/attachments
Bruce Anderson, Project Manager, w/attachments
Angela T. Alexander, w/attachments
Kathy Zahul, w/attachments
Howard (Phil) Copeland (Attn: Troy Byers), w/attachments
Jonathan Cox, w/attachments
Jimmy Smith, District Two, w/attachments
Jamie Lindsey, Attention: Jason Brown, w/attachments
Vonda Everett, District Planning & Programming, w/attachments

CERTIFICATE

I, Cindy Grimes, hereby certify that I appeared and was available for public comments to be made on the record between the hours of 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. on November 8, 2012 at the Bleckley County High School, Cochran, Georgia.

I further certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken down and reduced to typewriting, and that the foregoing page represent a true, complete, and correct transcript of said proceedings.

This the 15th day of November, 2012.

Cindy Grimes, GCCR 2706

(SEAL)

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC HEARING

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

RE: STP00-0003-00 (625)
P.I. NO. 0003625

THE PROPOSED WIDENING OF THE COCHRAN BYPASS/STATE ROUTE
87/U.S. 23 JUST SOUTH OF THE INTERSECTION OF STATE ROUTE
87 BUSINESS AND EXTENDING TO JUST NORTH OF THE INTERSECTION
WITH STATE ROUTE 87 BUSINESS

NOVEMBER 8, 2012
4:00 P.M UNTIL 6:00 P.M.

BLECKLEY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
1 ROYAL DRIVE
COCHRAN, GEORGIA 31014

CINDY GRIMES
GEORGIA CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
123 ROZAR GOOLSBY ROAD
EASTMAN, GEORGIA 31023
478-893-0265

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

FILE P.I. No. 0003625

DATE November 13, 2012

FROM  Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator

TO See Distribution Below

SUBJECT PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE SYNOPSIS

PROJECT NO. & COUNTY:..... STP00-0003-00 (625) Bleckley

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Widening of the Cochran Bypass (SR 87/US 23)

DATE: November 8, 2012

NUMBER IN ATTENDANCE:..... 46

FOR: 7

CONDITIONAL:..... 0

UNCOMMITTED:..... 0

AGAINST:..... 1

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:..... Chris Coley, Cochran Police Department

Mike Smith, Cochran-Bleckley EMA

Robert Brockman, County Commissioner

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:..... N/A

PREPARED BY: Vonda L. Everett

TELEPHONE NO.:..... 478-552-4631

cc: Jim Cole, Board Member
Gerald M. Ross
Russell McMurray
Hiral Patel
Glenn Bowman
Keisha Jackson
Cynthia Vandyke
Jimmy Smith
Neal O'Brien
Vonda L. Everett
Bruce Anderson
Karlene Barron
Kelly Wade, FHWA



November 8, 2012

Thank you for attending the combined public information open house and detour open house for GDOT Project STP00-0003-00 (625) Bleckley County, P.I. No. 0003625, the proposed widening of the Cochran Bypass/State Route 87/U.S. 23 just south of the intersection of State Route 87 Business and extending to just north of the intersection with State Route 87 Business. In this handout package you will find a project description, detour/project location map, and comment card.

As you enter the room, you will notice displays of the proposed project, as well as the project's proposed detour route. Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) representatives, who can be identified by the nametags they are wearing, are available to discuss the project and answer your questions. Please take this opportunity to discuss the project with a GDOT representative. There will be no formal presentation.

A court reporter will be available for those persons who would like to make a verbal statement about the project. You may also complete a comment card and deposit it into the box provided here, or send in written comments about the project until November 19, 2012. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator, Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308. Comments can also be made via the web at www.dot.ga.gov. Click on **Public Outreach** from the **Information Center** dropdown menu at the top right side of the page. All comments will be made a part of the project record. We hope you will take advantage of one of these opportunities to let GDOT know your view of the proposal.

The displays and plans will be available for review for ten days after the public information open house at the Georgia Department of Transportation Area Engineers Office located at 2003 Highway 441 South, Dublin, Georgia 31021. A copy of all comments received will be available for public review at this same location and at the Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Environment Services, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308, as soon as compilation is completed.

Again, thank you for attending this public information open house and for giving us your comments. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact Bruce Anderson, Project Manager, at (478) 538-8595 or Vonda Everett, District Planning and Programming Engineer, at 478-552-4631 or 478-232-3322 (Cell).

Sincerely,

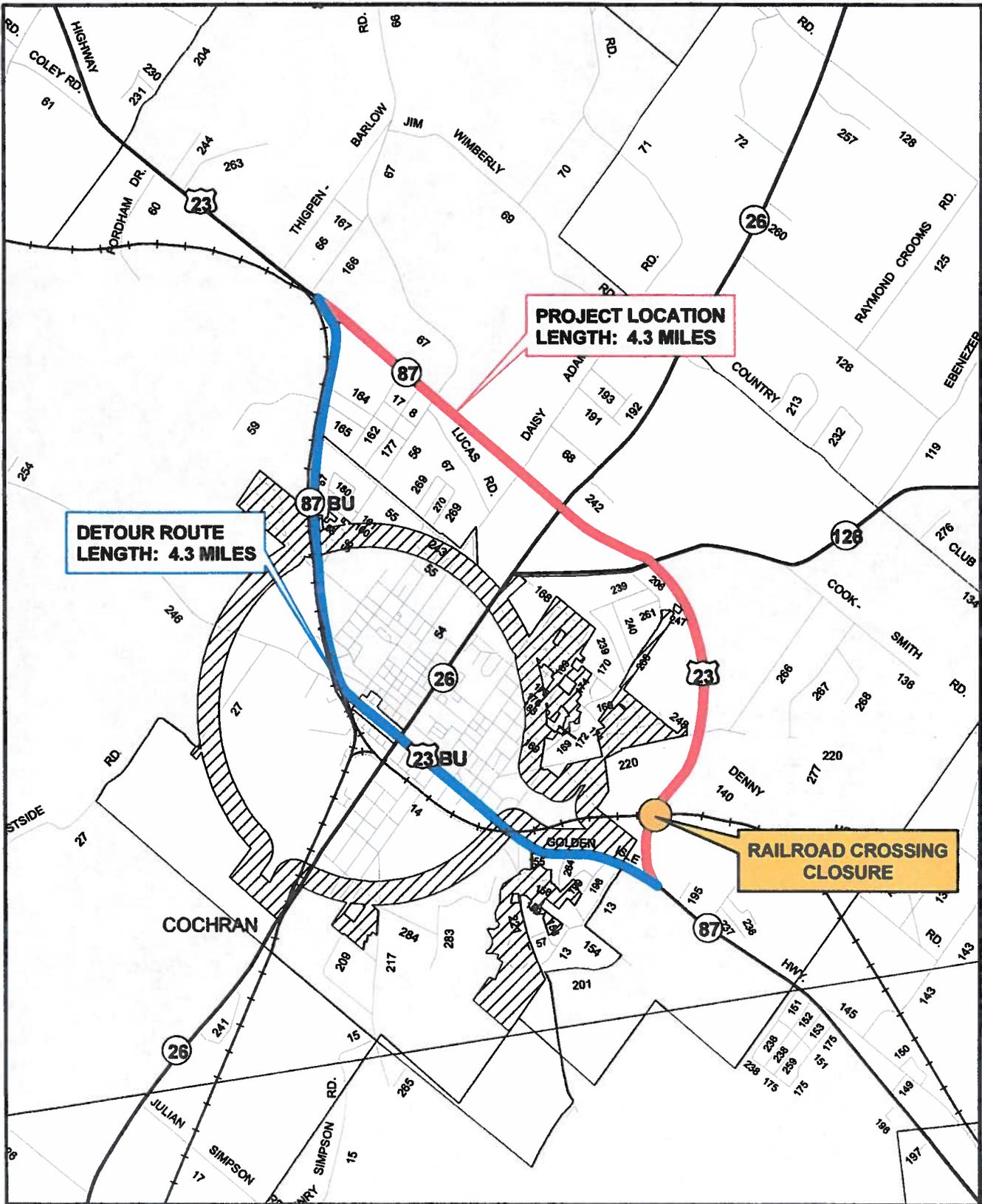
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James H. Smith".

James H. Smith, P.E.
District Engineer

JHS:vl
Attachments

**Public Information Open House
Detour Open House
Project No. STP00-0003-00 (625) Bleckley County
PI No. 0003625
November 8, 2012**

GDOT Project STP00-0003-00 (625), Bleckley County is the widening and reconstruction of the Cochran Bypass/State Route (SR) 87/US 23 from just south of the intersection of SR 87 Business and extending to just north of the intersection with SR 87 Business. The project limits will connect the four-lane section with 14-ft. flush median on the south side of Cochran to the existing four-lane section to the north of Cochran. The project will also provide a grade-separated crossing (railroad overpass bridge) at Norfolk Southern Railroad. The proposed roadway shall consist of two 12-ft. travel lanes in each direction separated by a 14-ft. flush median with 10-ft rural shoulders. Four feet of the shoulder will be paved. During construction, traffic will be detoured off site while the bridge over the Norfolk Southern Railroad crossing is being completed.



**LOCATION/DETOUR MAP
 STP00-0003-00 (625) BLECKLEY
 WIDENING OF COCHRAN BYPASS**



Georgia Department of Transportation

Public Information Open House/Detour Open House Comment Card

Project STP00-0003-00 (625), Bleckley County, P.I. No. 0003625

November 8, 2012

Please print responses.

Name _____

Address _____

Do you support the project? For Against Conditional Uncommitted

Comments _____

How did you hear about this meeting? Radio Newspaper Signs Word of Mouth
 Other _____

Was the location of the meeting convenient for you to attend? Yes No

If no, please suggest a general location that is more convenient to your community.

Was the time of the meeting convenient for you to attend? Yes No

If no, please suggest a time frame that is more convenient for you. _____

Were your questions answered by GDOT personnel? Yes No

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting? Yes No

Please share your suggestions on improving the way GDOT conducts public meetings.

Mail To:

Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Summary of Comments
STP00-0003-00(625) PI No. 0003625,0003625 County
June 28, 2011
Page 2

DISPOSITION OF COMMENTS: NA

If you have any questions or concerns, please either email or call Jim Kitchings at (478) 553-2283.

GB/JK

Attachments

DISTRIBUTION:

Gerald M. Ross, P.E., w/attachments

Sean Bush

Keisha Jackson, w/attachments

District 2 Attn: James H. Smith, P.E., w/attachments

Vonda Everett,

Kathy Zahul, P.E., w/attachments

Howard (Phil) Copeland (Attn: Troy Byers), w/attachments

Tim
Kitchings

PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE COUNTY/CITY OFFICIALS SIGN IN SHEET

PROJECT: STP00-0003-00(625)
Bleckley County
PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS: 0003625

Name	Affiliation	Address	Phone No.
Bob Brockman	County Commissioner	112 N. Second St., Cochran, Ga.	478-934-3200
Diane Smith	County Clerk	Same	"
Mike Smith	EMA # E911	"	478-236-7300



June 30, 2011

Tosha Price
186 Purser-Braddy Road
Cochran, GA 31014

Re: STP00-0003-00(625), Bleckley County - P.I. No. 0003625
Widening SR 87/Cochran Bypass from US 23 Business to Existing 4 lane Section

Dear Citizen:

Thank you for your comments concerning the proposed project referenced above. We appreciate all of the input that was received as a result of the June 14, 2011, Detour Open House (DOH), and every comment will be made part of the official record of the project.

A total of 6 people attended the DOH. No written comments were received the day of the open house; however, 18 written comments were submitted during the 10-day comment period. All comments were opposed to the proposed detour.

The attendees of the DOH and those persons sending in comments afterwards raised the following question and concern: The Georgia Department of Transportation has prepared one response letter that addresses this comment so that everyone can be aware of the concern raised and the response given. Please find the comment summarized below (*in italics*) followed by our response.

1) The proposed detour route would cause too much of an inconvenience to the traveling public.

Response: The decision was made to use an off-site detour in order to avoid excessive cost and increased construction times involved with an on-site detour.

Thank you again for your comments. Should you have any further questions concerning this project, please call Sean Bush, Project Manager, at (478) 552-4641 or Jim Kitchings, District Environmentalist, at (478) 553-2283.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Bowman /tlp".

Glenn Bowman, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator

GB/jk/tlp

cc: Sean Bush, Georgia DOT Project Manager