

D.O.T. 66

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

FILE CM-0004-00(505) Cobb County
P. I. No. 0004505

OFFICE Preconstruction

DATE December 29, 2003

FROM

Margaret B. Pirkle

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

TO

SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT APPROVAL

Attached for your files is the approval for subject project.

MBP/cj

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION:

David Mulling
Harvey Keeper
Jerry Hobbs
Percy Middlebrooks
Michael Henry
Phillip Allen
Joe Palladi (file copy)
Paul Liles
Brent Story
Ben Buchan
Buddy Gratton
BOARD MEMBER

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

FILE CM-0004-00(505) Cobb County **OFFICE** Preconstruction
P.I. No. 0004505

DATE December 10, 2003

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

TO Paul V. Mullins, P.E., Chief Engineer

SUBJECT PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT

This project is the "Rottenwood Creek Multi-Use Trail" which will provide a facility for alternative modes of travel for residents and visitors to Cobb County. The proposed multi-use trail will provide linkages to high density residences, office complexes, and commercial developments in the Cumberland-Galleria Activity Area.

The construction proposes a 12' wide multi-use path with 2' wide cleared shoulders along the banks of Rottenwood Creek. The project will begin at the National Park Service (NPS) Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA) adjacent to South Cobb Parkway (SR 41). From there, the proposed project will proceed north along the Rottenwood Creek corridor following a previously disturbed sewer line easement. The sewer line crosses the creek in several places and follows the creek to the Cumberland Boulevard bridge over Rottenwood Creek. The project will install nine (9) prefabricated truss bridges. The trail will be compacted aggregate from the confluence of Rottenwood Creek until the power line easement is reached, where the pavement is proposed to be concrete. The proposed project corridor will continue to follow Rottenwood Creek north under I-285, Windy Ridge Parkway, and Windy Hill Road, and ending at Terrell Mill Road. The project and design will accommodate the applicable accessibility requirements. The approximate project corridor is 4 miles in length.

Environmental concerns include requiring a COE 404 Permit; a Categorical Exclusion is anticipated; a public information meeting will be held; time saving procedures are not appropriate.

The estimated costs for this project are:

	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>	<u>PROG DATE</u>	<u>LET DATE</u>
Construction (includes E&C and inflation)	\$5,797,000	\$5,797,000	2004	2004
Right-of-Way & Utilities*	Local	Local		

*Cobb County signed PMA on 6-30-03 for PE, right-of-way, utilities and 20% of construction costs.

Paul V. Mullins

Page 2

CM-0004-00(505) Cobb

December 10, 2003

I recommend this project concept be approved.

MBP:JDQ/cj

Attachment

CONCUR



Thomas L. Turner, P.E., Director of Preconstruction

APPROVE

12/10/03 

Paul V. Mullins, P.E., Chief Engineer

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

FILE: CM-0004-00(505) Cobb
P.I. No.: 0004505
Rottenwood Creek Multi-Use Trail

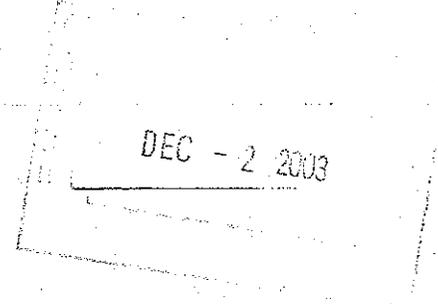
OFFICE: Engineering Services

DATE: December 1, 2003

FROM: David Mulling, Project Review Engineer *REW*

TO: Meg Pirkle, Assistant Director of Preconstruction

SUBJECT: CONCEPT REPORT



We have reviewed the Concept Report submitted November 26, 2003 by the letter from Buddy Gratton dated November 25, 2003 and have no comments.

The costs for this project are:

Construction	\$4,820,473
Inflation	\$494,098
E&C	\$482,047
Reimbursable Utilities	\$0
Right of Way	\$750,000

REW

c: Buddy Gratton, Attn: Key Phillips

SCORING RESULTS AS PER MOG 2440-2

Project Number: CM-0004-00(505)		County: Cobb		PI No.: 0004505	
Report Date: November 20, 2003		Concept By: DOT Office: District 7			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concept Stage		Consultant: Moreland Altobelli			
Project Type: Choose One From Each Column 		<input type="checkbox"/> Major <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> ATMS <input type="checkbox"/> Bridge Replacement <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Interchange Reconstruction <input type="checkbox"/> Intersection Improvement <input type="checkbox"/> Interstate <input type="checkbox"/> New Location <input type="checkbox"/> Widening & Reconstruction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Miscellaneous	
FOCUS AREAS		SCORE	RESULTS		
Presentation		100			
Judgement		100			
Environmental		100			
Right of Way		100			
Utility		100			
Constructability		100			
Schedule		100			

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE OF GEORGIA

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

FILE: CM-0004-00(505), Cobb County
Rottenwood Creek Multi-Use Trail
P.I. No. 0004505

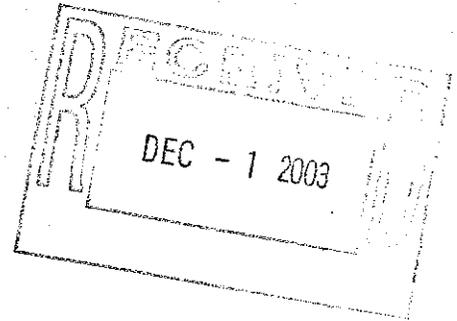
OFFICE: Chamblee/Metro

DATE: November 25, 2003

FROM: Buddy Gratton, Metro District Engineer

TO: Meg Pirkle, Assistant Director of Preconstruction

SUBJECT: PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT

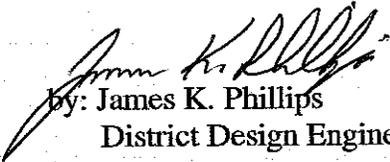


Attached is the original Concept Report for your further handling for approval in accordance with the Plan Development Process.

By copy of this letter, additional copies are being distributed to the list of names below for review and comment. Please return signed cover sheet and any comments to Meg Pirkle for further processing.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Key Phillips of this office at (770) 986-1050.

BGVKP/rlm


by: James K. Phillips
District Design Engineer

Attachment

cc: Joe Palladi, w/attachment
Harvey Keepler, w/attachment
Phillip Allen, w/attachment
Paul Liles, w/attachment
Percy Middlebrooks, w/attachment
David Mulling, w/attachment
File

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

District Seven

PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT

Project Number: CM-0004-00 (505)

County: Cobb

P. I. Number: 0004505

Federal Route Number: N/A

State Route Number: N/A

Rottenwood Creek Multi-Use Trail
from the Chattahoochee National Park to Terrell Mill Road

Recommendation for approval:

Date of Report: November 20, 2003

DATE 11/24/03

Bejan F. Peltax
Project Manager

DATE 11/26/03

Bobby Gratten BNL
Office Head/District Engineer

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

DATE _____

State Transportation Planning Administrator

DATE _____

Office of Financial Planning Administrator

DATE _____

State Environmental/Location Engineer

DATE _____

State Traffic Safety and Design Engineer

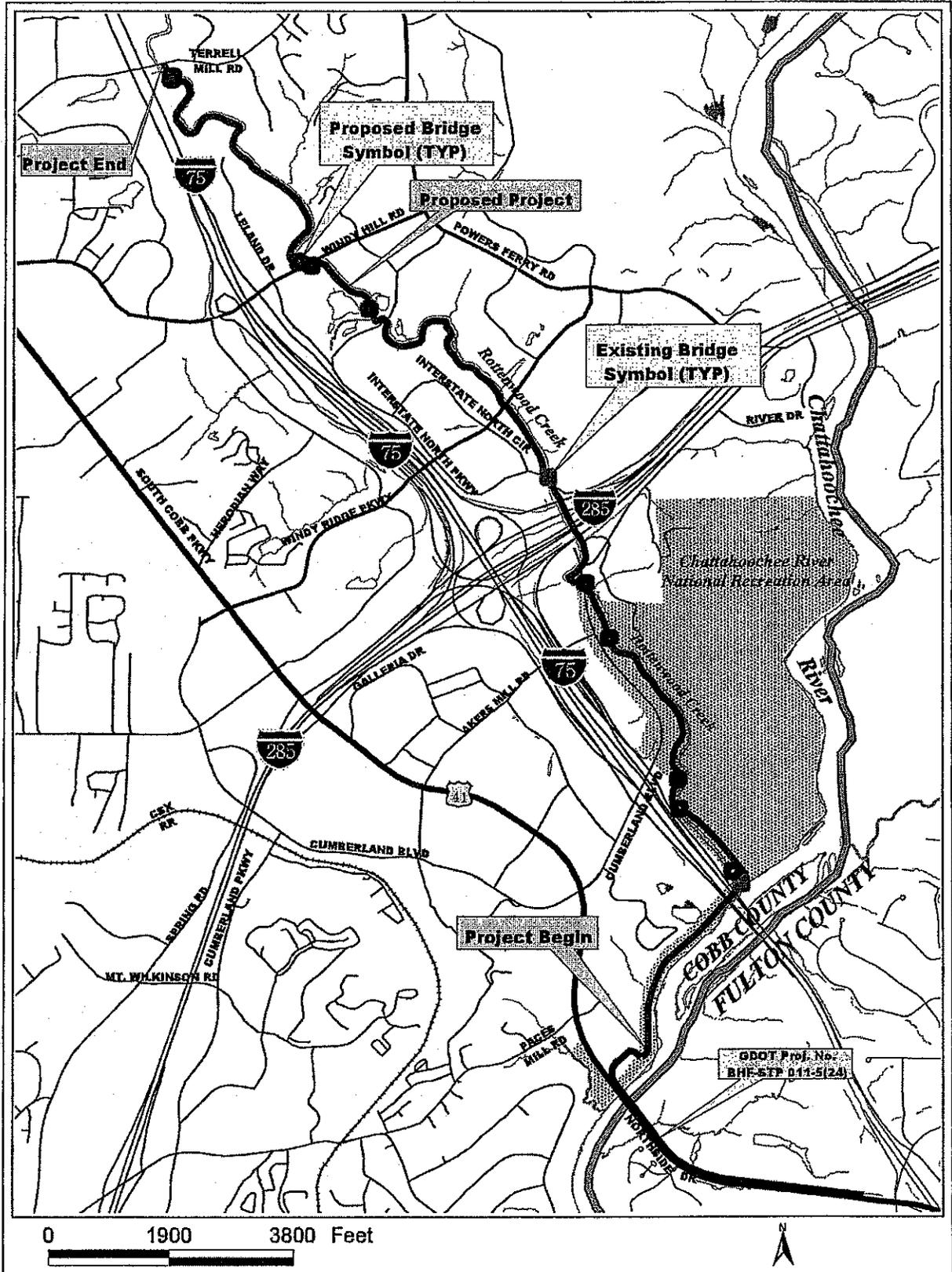
DATE _____

Project Review Engineer

DATE _____

State Bridge Design Engineer

Project Location Map



Project Concept Report page 3
Project Number: CM-0004-00 (505)
P.I. Number: 0004505
County Cobb

Need and Purpose: Transportation is a principle concern for all of the Atlanta Region, including Cobb County. Based on the Cobb Regional Traffic Study, from the mid-1990s, additional and improved transit facilities to serve the county were recommended. This was in an effort to serve the needs of regional commuters, local businesses, and community needs. Increased mobility would prove beneficial for business and community interests. Cobb County also realized that equally important, as the need for road improvements was the need to focus on alternative modes of travel to address congestion and air quality.

To assist with implementing alternative transportation projects the Cumberland Community Improvement District (CCID) is financially assisting the Cobb County Board of Commissioners with design activities for the referenced project.

The CCID had previously provided similar assistance to Cobb County for the design of the Kennedy Interchange on I-75 (now known as Cumberland Boulevard). A component of the Kennedy Interchange Environmental Assessment was an agreement for the CCID and the Georgia Conservancy to work toward implementing non-vehicular transportation projects.

The proposed multi-use trail would provide linkages to high-density residences, office complexes, and commercial developments in the Cumberland Galleria Activity Area.

Description of the proposed project:

Existing: The Rottenwood Creek banks are heavily wooded with a mix of pine and hardwood forest that is stable. This forested area continues along to just south of the Cumberland Boulevard bridge. Approximately 500 feet south of Cumberland Boulevard, the Rottenwood Creek corridor becomes an area of very steep cliff-like banks with large rock outcrops in this area. In this cliff area, the vegetation becomes more scrubby and sparse. There is a power line that is west of this area. The power line parallels Rottenwood Creek for approximately 500 feet. There are also mill ruins and other structural remnant sites.

At Cumberland Boulevard the Rottenwood Creek corridor becomes more disturbed and developed. There are numerous business complexes and apartment and condominium complexes that back up to Rottenwood Creek. In some areas the building complexes have utilized the area for site enhancements such as pedestrian paths, benches, and picnic tables. In most areas there is a buffer of trees between the creek and development. North of Windy Ridge Parkway there is a petroleum pipeline that crosses Rottenwood Creek.

Proposed: The proposed project is a 12-foot multi-use trail within Cobb County along the banks of Rottenwood Creek, south of the Marietta city limits. The proposed project would begin by constructing a new path where the GDOT Project BHF-STP-001-5(24) ends at the National Park Service (NPS) Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA) adjacent to South Cobb Parkway (US 41). Within the park, the existing trail that follows a sewer line easement would be upgraded with new compacted aggregate and drainage improvements. The existing trail ends at the pedestrian bridge over the confluence of Rottenwood Creek and the Chattahoochee River just north of the I-75 bridges over the Chattahoochee River. From here, the proposed project would proceed north along the Rottenwood Creek corridor following a previously disturbed sewer line

Project Concept Report page 4
Project Number: CM-0004-00 (505)
P.I. Number: 0004505
County Cobb

easement. The sewer line crosses the creek in several places and follows the creek to the Cumberland Boulevard Bridge over Rottenwood Creek. The project would install nine prefabricated truss bridges. The trail would be of compacted aggregate from the confluence of Rottenwood Creek until the power line easement is reached, where the pavement is proposed to be concrete. The proposed project corridor would continue to follow Rottenwood Creek north under I-285, Windy Ridge Parkway, and Windy Hill Road coming to an end at Terrell Mill Road. Existing drainage would be upgraded as necessary. The project and design will accommodate the applicable Accessibility Requirements. The approximate project corridor would be 20 feet in width and 4 miles in length (refer to Project Location Map).

Is the project located in a Non-attainment area? Yes. The proposed project is listed in the October 23, 2003 RTP/TIP as COAR BP 193.

PDP Classification: N/A

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

Functional Classification: N/A

U. S. Route Number(s): N/A **State Route Number(s):** N/A

Traffic (AADT):
N/A Off-road multi-use trail.

Existing Design Features:

Typical Section: Within the Chattahooche National Park the existing trail varies from a 5 to 16 foot existing gravel trail. Along the Georgia Power Easement, within the NPS property the trail corridor is us mostly undeveloped. However, a portion of the trail will follow existing gravel access roads within the power easement. The remainder of the project will follow the existing sewer easement. The esement is generally flat with light vegetation.

Width of right of way: Existing 20' Cobb County Sewer Easement

Major Structures: None

Project Length: Approximately 4.4 miles

Major Interchanges Adjacent to Project: N/A

Proposed Design Features: Proposed Typical Section: 12' wide Multi-Use path with two foot wide cleared shoulders.

Project Concept Report page 5
 Project Number: CM-0004-00 (505)
 P.I. Number: 0004505
 County Cobb

Right of Way:

- Width: Trail will be located within a 20-foot Permanent County Easement. The majority of the trail will be located within the existing Cobb Water and Sewer authorized easement.
- Easements: Temporary (X), Permanent (X), Utility (), Other ()
- Type of access control: Full (), Partial (), By Permit (X), Other () N/A
- Number of parcels impacted: Approximately 25
- Number of displacements: None

Proposed Major Structures: Nine prefabricated bridge structures.

Traffic control during construction: N/A

Design Exceptions to controlling criteria anticipated:

	<u>UNDETERMINED</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
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)

Environmental Concerns: There is one small wetland area near the proposed trail location. The wetland area will not be impacted. There are no hazardous waste sites or UST's.

Level of Environmental Analysis: Categorical Exclusion

Are Time Savings Procedures appropriate? Yes () No (X)

Utility Involvements:

The following is a list of Utility Owners that may have facilities located within the project corridor.

- Cobb County Water and Sewer
- Atlanta Gas and Light
- Georgia Power and Transmission
- Colonial Petroleum Pipeline
- BellSouth Telephone
- AT&T (Media One) Cable Television

There is no Railroad Involvement associated with this project.

Project Concept Report page 6
Project Number: CM-0004-00 (505)
P.I. Number: 0004505
County Cobb

Project responsibilities:

- Design – *Cobb County (consultant: Moreland Altobelli and Associates, Inc.)*
- Right-of-Way Acquisition – *Cobb County*
- Relocation of Utilities – *Cobb County*
- Letting to contract – *Cobb County*
- Providing material pits – *Construction Contractor*
- Providing detours – *Cobb County*

Coordination: Preliminary concept meetings were held on January 30, 2003 at the NPS CRNRA office, on April 3, 2003, and on April 15, 2003 in the field. A third meeting is anticipated to coordinate the environmental clearance process, and Cobb County intends to hold a public information meeting.

Other projects in the area:

1. Project STP-001-5(47), P.I. No. 721152 – Widening and Reconstruction of Cobb Parkway (US 41/SR 3) from Paces Mill Road to Akers Mill Road.
2. Project BHF-STP-001(5(24), P.I. No. 720125 – Bridge Replacement on Cobb Parkway (US 41/SR 3) over Chattahoochee River.
3. Project STP-0004-00(473), P.I. No. 0004473 – Livable Centers Initiative Project – Cobb Galleria Parkway from Akers Mill to Cumberland Parkway.
4. Project STP-0000-00(838), P.I. No. 0000838 – Cumberland Area Bicycle/Pedestrian/Transit Linkages including the Bridge over the CSX Railroad.
5. Project STP-0002-00(276), P.I. No. 0002276 – Transportation Enhancement Project – Chattahoochee River Trail Feasibility Study and Conceptual Master Plan
6. Project STP-0002-00(278), P.I. No. 0002278 – Transportation Enhancement Project – Silver Comet Trail – Mountain to the River Trail Connector Bridge

Scheduling – Responsible Parties' Estimate

- Time to complete the environmental process: 2 months.
- Time to complete preliminary construction plans: 4 months.
- Time to complete right-of-way plans: 1.5 months.
- Time to complete final construction plans: 4 months.
- Time to complete the purchase of right-of-way: 2.5 months.

Other alternates considered:

1. No Build: No action would be taken to construct or improve trails or trail access.

Comments:

Attachments:

- Project Cost Estimate
- Typical sections
- Minutes of Initial Concept and Concept meetings
- Minutes from 11/7/03 stakeholder meeting at National Park Services

Preliminary Cost Estimate

Project: Rottenwood Creek Multi-Use Trail
 Project No.: BHF-STP 001-5(24)
 County: Cobb

Date: 10/04
 Length: 4.37 miles
 Phase: Concept

Project Cost

A.	Right of Way (Easements)		\$750,000
B.	Reimbursable Utilities		\$0
C.	Major Structures		
1.	Bridge (Pre-fabricated Ped. Bridges)	23,246 SF	\$42.00 \$976,332
			Subtotal \$976,332
D.	Grading and Earthwork		
1.	In-Place Embankment	129,250 CY @	\$4.81 \$621,693
2.	Rock Removal	7,800 CY @	\$19.61 \$152,958
2.	Soil Stabilization	54,000 SF @	\$2.78 \$150,120
			Subtotal \$924,771
E.	Drainage		
		Lump Sum	\$250,000
		Subtotal	\$250,000
F.	Base & Paving		
1.	Graded Aggregate Base, 6"	21,200 SY @	\$9.90 \$209,880
2.	Asphalt Concrete 9.5 mm	69 TN @	\$36.80 \$2,539
3.	Asphalt Concrete 19 mm	126 TN @	\$47.90 \$6,035
4.	Crushed Stone Path, 6"	7,950 SY @	\$9.90 \$78,705
			Subtotal \$297,160
G.	Concrete Work		
1.	Concrete Sidewalk/Trail 6"	20,180 SY @	\$30.36 \$612,665
2.	Header Curb	750 LF @	\$17.07 \$12,803
3.	Misc. Concrete	125 CY @	\$425.95 \$53,244
			Subtotal \$678,711
H.	Signing, Striping, and Lighting		
1.	Signs		Lump Sum \$17,000
			Subtotal \$17,000
I.	Guardrail		
1.	Handrails	3,050 LF @	\$22.00 \$67,100
			Subtotal \$67,100

J. Traffic Control & Mobilization

1. Mobilization	Lump Sum	\$70,000
	Subtotal	\$70,000

K. Landscaping

1. Clearing & Grubbing	Lump Sum	\$120,000
2. Grassing	Lump Sum	\$15,000
3. Erosion Control	Lump Sum	\$160,000
	Subtotal	\$295,000

L. Miscellaneous Items

1. Field Office TP 3	1 ea @	\$42,000.00	\$42,000
2. Project Landscape Architect/Engineer		Lump Sum	\$120,000
3. Modular Block Retaining Walls	36,000 SF @	\$26.00	\$936,000
3. Boardwalk	7,200 SF @	\$12.00	\$86,400
4. Misc. Construction Items		Lump Sum	\$60,000
		Subtotal	\$1,244,400

Preliminary Cost Estimate

Project:	Rottenwood Creek Multi-Use Trail	Date:	10/04
Project No.:	BHF-STP 001-5(24)	Length	4.37 miles
County:	Cobb	Phase:	Concept

SUMMARY OF PROJECT COSTS

Non-Construction Costs

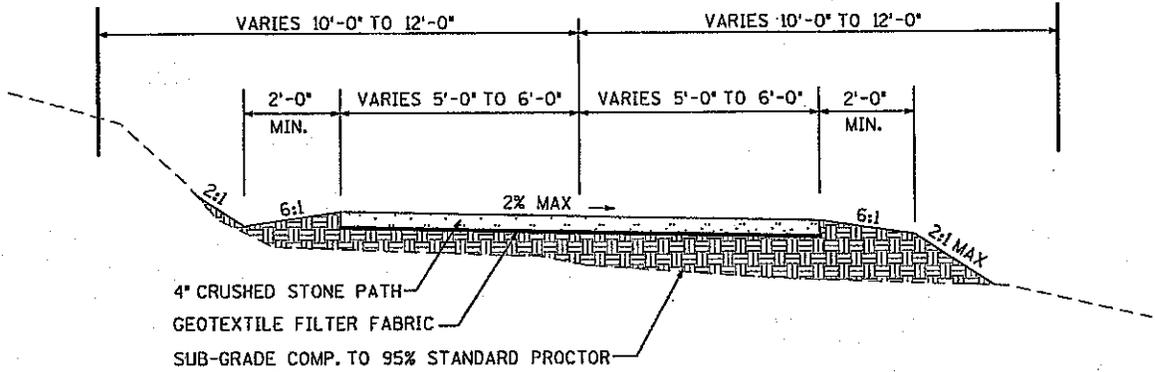
A.	Right of Way	\$750,000
B.	Reimbursable Utilities	\$0
	Total Non-Construction Cost	\$750,000

Construction Costs

C.	Major Structures	\$976,332
D.	Grading and Earthwork	\$924,771
E.	Drainage	\$250,000
F.	Base and Paving	\$297,160
G.	Concrete Work	\$678,711
H.	Sign, Stripe & Light	\$17,000
I.	Guardrail	\$67,100
J.	Traffic Control & Mobilization	\$70,000
K.	Landscaping	\$295,000
L.	Miscellaneous Construction Items	\$1,244,400
	Construction Cost Subtotal	\$4,820,473
	Inflation (5%) - 2 Years	\$494,098
	E & C (10%)	\$482,047
	Total Construction Cost	\$5,796,619
	Total Project Cost	\$6,546,619

DISTURBED AREA/
EASEMENT LIMITS

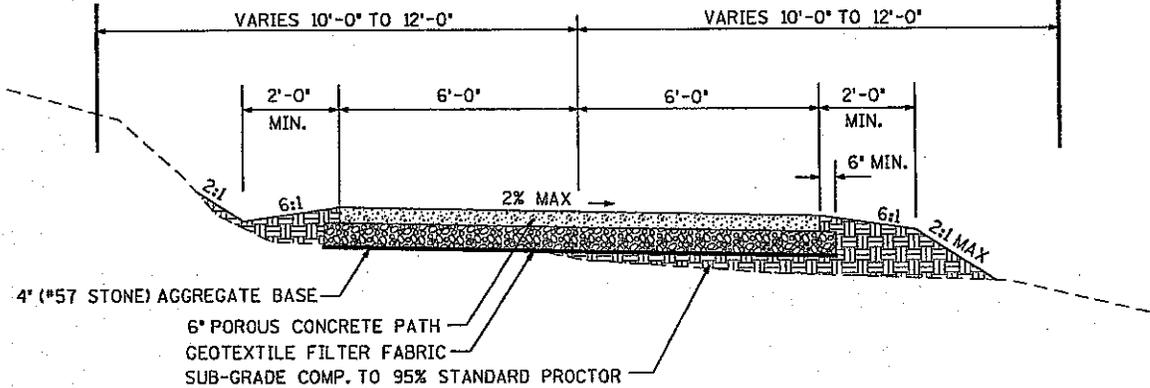
DISTURBED AREA/
EASEMENT LIMITS



MULTI-USE TRAIL
CRUSHED STONE PATH
TYPICAL SECTION

DISTURBED AREA/
EASEMENT LIMITS

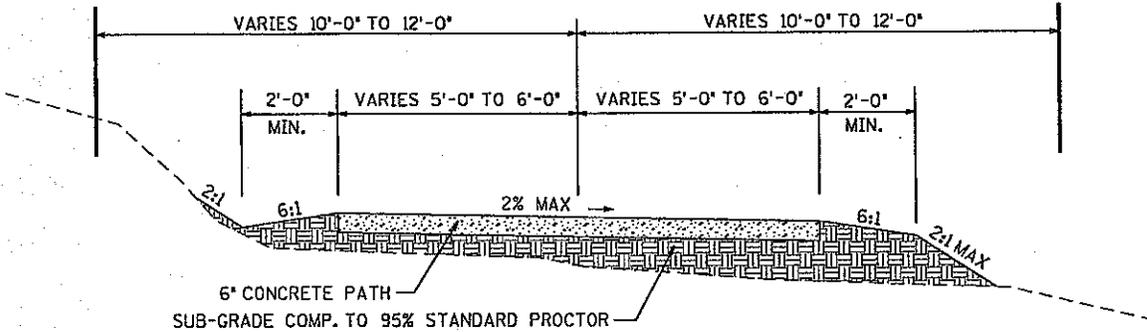
DISTURBED AREA/
EASEMENT LIMITS



MULTI-USE TRAIL
POROUS CONCRETE PATH
TYPICAL SECTION

DISTURBED AREA/
EASEMENT LIMITS

DISTURBED AREA/
EASEMENT LIMITS

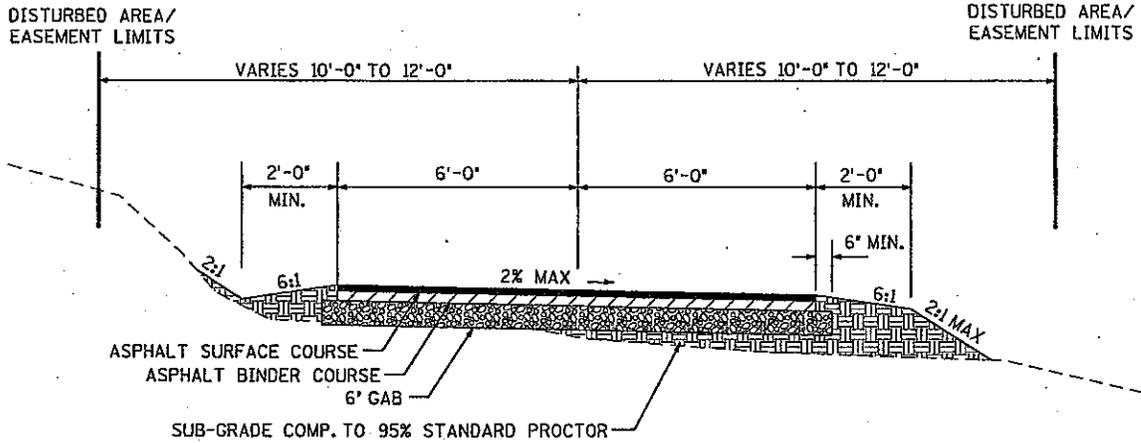


MULTI-USE TRAIL
CONCRETE PATH
TYPICAL SECTION

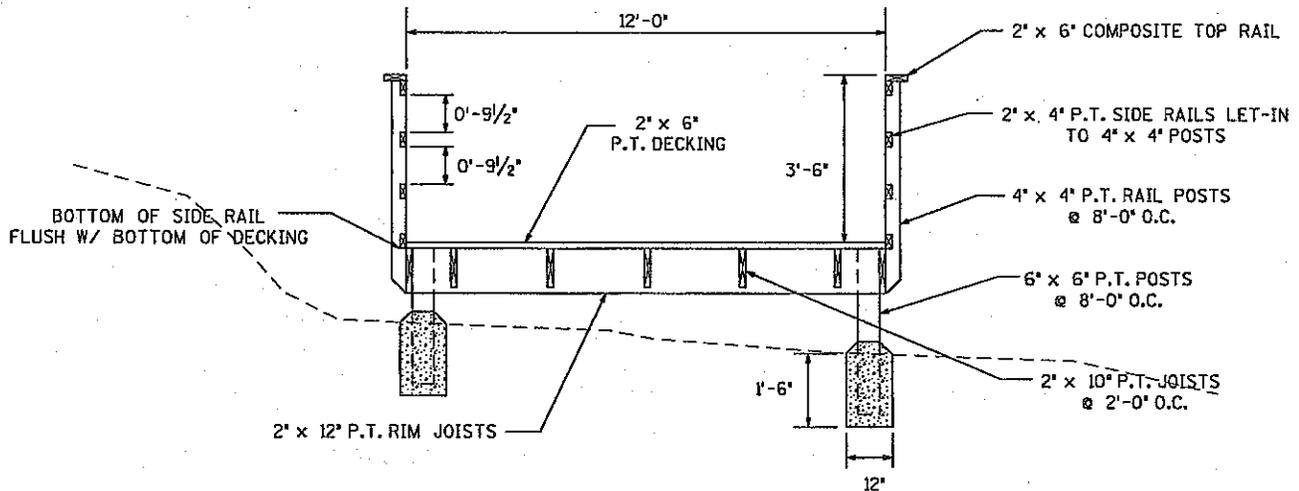


Moreland Altobelli
Associates, Inc.
4000 Dekalb Technology Parkway
Building 300 Suite 370
Atlanta, Georgia 30340
Telephone (404) 455-9375

ROTTENWOOD CREEK MULTI-USE TRAIL
TYPICAL SECTIONS - N.T.S.



MULTI-USE TRAIL
ASPHALT PATH
TYPICAL SECTION



MULTI-USE TRAIL
BOARDWALK SECTION
(ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS/
BRIDGE APPROACHES)



Moreland Algobelli
Associates, Inc.
4000 Dekalb Technology Parkway
Building 300 Suite 370
Atlanta, Georgia 30340
Telephone (404) 455-9375

ROTTENWOOD CREEK MULTI-USE TRAIL
TYPICAL SECTIONS - N.T.S.

MEETING MINUTES

ROTTENWOOD CREEK

January 30, 2003

The meeting of Thursday January 30, 2003 consisted of a presentation by Chris Kingsbury (MAAI) of the current Rottenwood Creek pathway concept to members of the National Park Service, Cobb County Government, and a representative for the CID.

The Rottenwood Creek Path Concept runs south from Terrel Mill Road to the Paces Mill Unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. The opportunities for such a project were first recognized during the development of the Environmental Assessment for the Kennedy Interchange. This project would provide a pedestrian corridor through densely commercial and multifamily developments. The Project will be funded 80% by Federal Aide and 20% by Cobb County/CID.

The project details are as follows:

- The trail will cover approximately one mile of National Park Service land. (From the Paces Mill Unit to the Cumberland Blvd Bridge or Bridge 14)
- The budget for the project is between 6 to 9 million dollars
- This concept calls for the use of concrete surfacing for areas of the path that are likely to flood and compacted crushed granite for areas out of the flood limits.
- The use of handrails will be limited to only the most necessary areas
- The trail will be placed within the sewer right-of-way
- The trail is considered a Multi-use path so bikes are to be allowed.

The responses and questions from members of the National Park Service:

- There was concern as to the guidelines for the use of bikes within the Park Service property and meeting the guidelines set forth by the Federal government for such trails. Along with the concerns over the guidelines they were concerned about the additional maintenance issues created by the use of bikes.
-

- The National Park Service representatives seemed to want a tie to the Acres Mill ruins and the Heinz construction project through the power easement from the trail.
- They would like to see a sample of the proposed footbridge and verify the location over the existing sewer pipe crossing. The type of construction access was an issue as well.
- Is an Environmental Assessment is necessary
- Need to get the plans and information on the GA DOT 41 project that will redesign their entrance and tie bike lanes to the Paces Mill Unit.
- Wish to see if some of the vents along the sewer line can be eliminated when the tunnels go into use since there might be less flow in the pipes and want the design to include camouflaging the vents and manholes.
- Concern over additional maintenance created by the additional trail. County might maintain.
- It will be necessary to modify the gate for the access of bikes or pedestrians to the trail system.

The National Park Service is currently revising the management plan and how the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area usage is to evolve.

Upon the conclusion of the meeting it was decided that a meeting needed to be set between Federal Hwy, Georgia DOT, National Park Service, Cobb County, and MAAI.

- The existing pedestrian bridge over Rottenwood Creek would be utilized for the proposed project.
- Issues concerning the floodplain and regulations that may affect the design would need further evaluation.
- Issues concerning the NPS General Management Plan (GMP), which currently prohibits bike access within the area of the proposed, trail route. It was determined that an amendment to the GMP to allow bike access was necessary.
- Design needs regarding boardwalk over rip-rap in areas of low floodplains.
- The proposed trail project design may need to include switchbacks in the area of the Georgia Power easement access road adjacent to Cumberland Boulevard. Areas of the road that are 15% slope or greater may need the switchbacks to help reduce the grade for pedestrian and bike traffic. Impervious surfaces may also be needed on steeper areas.
- The goal of the project is to have the proposed trail route fall along the contours and have construction materials blend in with existing features when possible.
- The impact of visitors seeing the Aker Family Mill ruins should be evaluated and addressed
- The original concept placed the trail adjacent to Cumberland Boulevard; however, it was determined that keeping it within the NPS property was preferable.
- Questions which were raised and answered as to the of the NPS property line in relation to the Cobb County right-of-way for Cumberland Boulevard.

MEETING MINUTES

CMAQ Project: Rottenwood Creek Multi-Use Trail November 7, 2003

Meeting Attendees

National Park Service
(NPS)

Kevin Cheri, Superintendent (KC)
Dan Sholly, Deputy Superintendent (DS)
Michelle Mitchell, Natural Resources Manager (MM)
Richard Lutz, Facility Manager (RL)

Federal Highway

Jennifer Giersch, Environmental Coordinator (JG)

Georgia Department of
Transportation (GDOT)

Jonathan Cox, Office of Environment/Location (JC)
Casey Glen, Office of Environment/Location (CG)
Gina Ownbey, Office of Environment/Location (GO)
Key Phillips, District 7 (KP)
Ralph Merrow, Jr, District 7 (RM)

Cobb County Department
of Transportation

Dan Dobry, Preconstruction Engineer (DD)

MAAI

Chris Kingsbury (CK)
Felton Rutledge (FR)
Ron Osterloh (RO)
Jennie Agerton (JA)
Melanie Nable (MN)

CK – Gave brief project overview including how project came about in reference to improvements to Cumberland Blvd. and the Cumberland Galleria Area. Source of funds includes local tax for investing in transportation projects. A transit alternatives study was funded in 2001. Pedestrian and non-vehicular mobility have been important local issues.

Tie in projects:

- US 41/Cobb Pkwy Bridge – Will include seventh lane for pedestrian/bike traffic
- Rottenwood Creek Multi-Use Trail Project
- Riverwood Pkwy trail project
- Bike/Ped bridge over I-285 @ Mt. Wilkinson
- Silver Comet – Travels west to AL
- Cumberland Mall Railroad bike/pedestrian bridge
- Chattahoochee River Trail Feasibility Study

Per the current ARC TIP, the project is scheduled for a June 2004 deadline for construction fund authorization. Approximately 20 property owners will need to be dealt with for ROW outside the park. Once environmental approval has been received, it is hoped that ROW acquisition will go quickly to make June deadline.

MN – Question was raised regarding the level of documentation that will be acceptable (CE vs. EA)

Impervious surface issue raised by NPS (Michelle Mitchell). Would like an evaluation of all surfaces alternatives such as recycled rubber, crushed stone aggregate, porous concrete, etc.

Stated it was difficult to say CE would be acceptable because

1. May set precedent - they don't usually allow impervious surfaces in the parks.
2. Cumulative impacts must be assessed.
3. Effects on management of other parks or continued management of this unit must be considered.

CK – Asked if the General Management Plan (GMP), which is in progress could include this trail as a special project? Would addressing different surface options help?

MM - CRNRA is largest and almost only greenspace in Atlanta and the NPS receives a great deal of requests for uses and projects. Difficult to give one special status. Evaluation/consideration of alternative surfaces would be helpful. Goal is to keep watershed running smoothly.

CK – Trail system is intended to reduce trips and bring people to the park for that purpose, so the beneficial impact adheres to CMAQ funding requirements to reduce VMTs (Vehicle Miles Traveled).

RO – Gave brief summary of impervious/pervious surface options. A sample of potential pervious surface was reviewed. Cost is as much as 50% higher than concrete but can be dyed and go over roots. Potential problems include freeze/thaw issues and clogging.

Porous concrete and crushed stone gravel (currently used in park) are also options. According to AASHTO (whose guidance is being used for ADA), the crushed stone gravel is ADA compliant but not recommended. Maintenance may be an issue as well.

MM – Requested the surface comparisons be evaluated and discussed in the environmental document.

DS– Will grade be ADA compliant as well?

CK – We are working with PATH and ADA specialist on slopes. Utility easement is biggest problem, due to its steepness, but trail is being designed with switchbacks and pads for resting, and the designers will follow 1999 AASHTO guidance for multi-use facilities. Many portions of the trail will be level, immediately adjacent to the river and creek.

The path width was discussed. The current plan is based on a 12-foot wide path with 2-foot cleared shoulders; however, this may be reduced to 8 feet in width, depending on physical constraints; however, going much below the 12-foot width is not recommended since the path will be multi-use and may bring a high number of visitors. May split to one-way sections to go around sewer manholes. Also, the existing bridge at the confluence of Rottenwood Creek and the Chattahoochee River is approximately 6 feet wide. A second 5 to 6-foot bridge would be added parallel to the existing bridge.

CK – There is concern of bicyclist going off road. May need bike gates, bollards, fencing, etc. Atlanta Regional Commission has bicycle accessibility plans that can be reviewed.

MM – Requested MAAI explore the cyclist issues and impervious surface in environmental document.

KC – Overall the NPS must ensure that the project fits within their GMP.

DS – How will maintenance responsibilities be distributed?

CK - Cobb has similar issue with the Silver Comet Trail. An agreement has been reached wherein; Cobb County is responsible for heavy maintenance. This commitment will need to be included in the Environmental Document.

DD – Cobb County's Parks Department handles day-to-day maintenance for other trails. And Special Use Agreements have been utilized in the past.

DS – The NPS is able to handle day-to-day maintenance like litter; however, they do not want to add an undue burden for the NPS.

KC – The NPS would like to work with Cobb County since their long-term trail plan may require future compromises between the two entities.

MM - Separate studies for the issues to be studied (cyclist, surface, maintenance) should be included as part of the CE.

JG- Especially since the FHWA would also be interested in the results of the studies. The FHWA is also concerned with the trail for recreational vs. commuter use due to CMAQ funding. The FHWA believes the best way to advance the project is with a single document that is tailored to meet all requirements and include all studies.

CK – Cobb County will also hold a public information meeting in order to get public opinions.

MM – Requested clarification on the trail being located in the stream. Some initial concepts showed the trail strictly adhering to the sewer line easement which is in the stream. The current design does not place the trail within the stream banks. NPS stated they would not allow the trail in the creek with a CE level Environmental Document.

CK – Once the new Cobb tunnel is complete, sewage flow should lessen, which should help with odors and overflow in the park and surrounding area.

RL – Has received calls to complain about the possible allowance of bicycle traffic in the Park. There is a potential user group conflict.

CK - Public involvement meeting may be held after holidays.

JG - The public will need to understand the funding source and need for the project includes multi-use requirements. Also, the typical section is important for safety and to avoid conflict.

RO – How does the NPS see the area of the Georgia Power Easement? As part of the Park? Do you want continuity of material?

RL – From a maintenance standpoint pavement is preferable in the utility easement. However, it is considered part of the park and must be held to the same standards.

CK – The porous concrete might be the necessary surface material for the trail within the CRNRA, including the Georgia Power easement.

DS – A porous surface is the first choice, not an impervious surface; however, that may be optional in certain areas.

JG – Is a 4(f) analysis required? 4(f) is not exempt in CMAQ but how would avoidance analysis be done considering only alternative is the no build?

MM – The issue seems to be in the definition of a taking. The taking does not have to involve a physical taking or ROW transfer. Use can be a taking. If 4(f) just compares build and no build may just be "paper exercise."

JG – Usually use negative declaration since no change in property. Will allowing trail set precedent where it could not be blocked in other NPS areas? If the NPS feels that the surface material would cause the project to not be considered an enhancement then a negative declaration should not be used.

CK – The CE can analyze the use vs. transfer of ownership in relation to the Section 4(f) issues.

It was decided that the use issue would be discussed within the Environmental Document rather than in a 4(f) analysis.

KC – What type of consideration is being given to the Mill ruins?

CK – Mill ruins are not visible from proposed trail due to tree line (even in winter) and access will not be provided; however, we can look into using special form liner for construction of any walls that would match the walls used at Cumberland Parkway.

MM – Type of fencing proposed or any protection measures need to be discussed in the Environmental Document.

CK – The CE will discuss visual impacts, and protection measures, such as types of fencing, and blending the material into the environment, or simply using landscaping additions instead of man-made materials.

KC – The NPS will handle long-term access or limitation of access. Since the trail does not currently provide access to the Mill ruins that would serve the NPS purpose, since additional burden would not be experienced by the NPS; however, the goal for the NPS is to have the trail designed so that it would NOT preclude future access to the Mill ruins.

CK – We believe we can get stream buffer in without having to do any clearing. We will forward the request to the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

MM – When making application for stream buffer variance copy NPS on application.

No known 6(f) issues; however research will be done regarding original property owners, and interim owners prior to the NPS/Department of the Interior receiving ownership.

FHWA requested NPS provide 6(f) letter.

JG – concurrence requirements? No formal letter will be required. Copies of comments and responses should be included in correspondence in Environmental document.

MM – Surveys for all species in T&E surveys. Federal, state, special concern, rare etc.

It was determined that Section 7 coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service is not necessary.

It was decided that the CE would include analysis of cumulative effects to the CRNRA based on higher level of users with the addition of the trail; the surface material analysis; analyze the use vs. transfer of ownership in relation to the Section 4(f) issues; protection measures for the Mill ruins; and fencing or deterrents to limit "off-trail" use.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

District Seven

PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT

Project Number: CM-0004-00 (505)

County: Cobb

P. I. Number: 0004505

Federal Route Number: N/A

State Route Number: N/A

Rottenwood Creek Multi-Use Trail
from the Chattahoochee National Park to Terrell Mill Road

Recommendation for approval:

Date of Report: November 20, 2003

DATE 11/24/03

Bejan F. Peltier
Project Manager

DATE 11/26/03

Brendly Gratten *BAK*
Office Head/District Engineer

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

DATE 12/8/03

Joseph P. Peltier
State Transportation Planning Administrator

DATE _____

Office of Financial Planning Administrator

DATE _____

State Environmental/Location Engineer

DATE _____

State Traffic Safety and Design Engineer

DATE _____

Project Review Engineer

DATE _____

State Bridge Design Engineer

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

District Seven

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Bejan F. Ralston
Project Manager

DATE 11/26/03

Brendly Gratten *BAK*
Office Head/District Engineer

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State Transportation Planning Administrator

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Office of Financial Planning Administrator

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State Environmental/Location Engineer

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State Traffic Safety and Design Engineer

DATE _____

Project Review Engineer

DATE 12/8/03

Paul V. Tulus Jr.
State Bridge Design Engineer

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

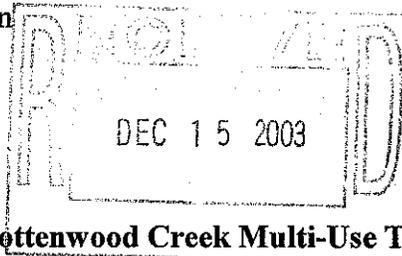
FILE: P.I. # 0004505

OFFICE: Environment/Location

DATE: December 11, 2003


FROM: Harvey D. Keepler, State Environmental/Location Engineer

TO: Meg Pirkle, Assistant Director of Preconstruction



SUBJECT: **PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT**
CM-0004-00(505)/Cobb County – Rottenwood Creek Multi-Use Trail

The above subject concept report has been reviewed. Possible 4(f) use of land from NPS Park; still coordinating with NPS and FHWA to determine if 4(f) evaluation needed. NPS is very interested in type of surface and fencing types (if used). Environmental may take longer than two months.

If you have any questions please contact me at (404) 699-4401.

HDK/sdw

Attachment

cc: David Mulling, P.E.
Buddy Gratton

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

District Seven

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from the Chattahoochee National Park to Terrell Mill Road

Recommendation for approval:

Date of Report: November 20, 2003

DATE 11/26/03

Benjamin F. Palmer
Project Manager

DATE 11/26/03

Brendley Grattan *BSM*
Office Head/District Engineer

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State Transportation Planning Administrator

DATE _____

Office of Financial Planning Administrator

DATE 12.10.03

Thomas D. Dwyer
State Environmental/Location Engineer

DATE _____

State Traffic Safety and Design Engineer

DATE _____

Project Review Engineer

DATE _____

State Bridge Design Engineer

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

District Seven

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Bejan F. Palter
Project Manager

DATE 11/26/03

Budely Gratten ^{BAW}
Office Head/District Engineer

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Office of Financial Planning Administrator

DATE _____

State Environmental/Location Engineer

DATE _____

State Traffic Safety and Design Engineer

DATE 12-1-03

David J. Mullins ^{NEW}
Project Review Engineer

DATE _____

State Bridge Design Engineer