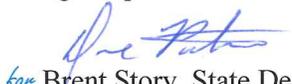


**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

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

FILE P.I. # 0007047 **OFFICE** Design Policy & Support
CSBRG-0007-00(047)
Murray County
GDOT District 6 - Cartersville **DATE** 5/3/2016
SR 52 Alt @ Town Branch
Bridge Replacement

FROM  for 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:

Hiral Patel, 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
Bobby Hilliard, Program Control Administrator
Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator
Bill DuVall, State Bridge Engineer
Andrew Heath, State Traffic Engineer
Lisa Myers, State Project Review Engineer
Paul Tanner, State Transportation Data Administrator
Attn: Systems & Classification Branch
Andy Casey, State Roadway Design Engineer
Attn: Frank Flanders, Design Group Manager
DeWayne Comer, District Engineer
David Acree, District Preconstruction Engineer
Cherie Marsh, District Planning & Programming Engineer
Jeremy Scott, Area Engineer - D6, A2
Nicole Law, Project Manager
BOARD MEMBER - 14th Congressional District

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
DETOUR REPORT**

FILE P.I. # 0007047
CSBRG-0007-00(047)
Murray County
SR 52A ALT @ Town Branch

OFFICE Roadway Design
DATE April 14, 2016

FROM  C. Andy Casey, P.E., State Roadway Design Engineer

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

SUBJECT Request for Detour Approval

Description and Project Proposal: SR 52 ALT is a two lane rural facility with one 12- foot travel lane in each direction and 6-foot shoulders. The existing right-of-way is approximately 60 feet. The project proposes to replace bridge (ID 213-0007-0) on SR 52 ALT over Town Branch near the City of Chatsworth in Murray County, Georgia. The project begins just east of SR 225 and extends 0.4 miles eastward to just west of Treadwell Rd. The proposed typical section is two 12-foot lanes with 8-foot shoulders. The proposed right-of-way varies from approximately 60-130 feet.

Concept Approval Date: February 23, 2016 (original approval, no revisions to date)

Reason a Detour is Required: See tables below from the approved concept report.

Preferred Alternative (ALT 1): Replace Existing Bridge in place with an Offsite Detour along US 76			
Estimated Property Impacts:	6	Estimated Cst. Cost:	\$1,197,800.49
Estimated ROW Cost:	\$922,000.00	Estimated Cst. Time:	12 months
Rationale: This is the most preferred alternate because of the low cost, short construction duration and fewest impacts to environmental resources. The proposed detour is only 0.87 miles long and it is comprised of multilane state routes with signalized intersections at turning locations.			

Alternative 2: Build a Temporary Bridge around the existing bridge to maintain traffic while replacing Existing Bridge in place. The temporary bridge will be demolished and traffic will resume through the new bridge.			
Estimated Property Impacts:	8	Estimated Cst. Cost:	\$1,889,056.03
Estimated ROW Cost:	\$1,701,000.00	Estimated Cst. Time:	18 months
Rationale: This alternative was not selected because it has higher cost, longer construction duration, more potential property displacements, and more impacts to environmental resources than the preferred alternate. The attached layout shows this alternative to be on the south and north of the existing alignment but study was done only for the south one because of the big impacts to the Chief Vann House that the north alignment could cause.			

Alternative 3: Permanent Bridge Realignment North/South of the Existing Bridge. Traffic continues to flow on the Existing Bridge during construction.			
Estimated Property Impacts:	10	Estimated Cst. Cost:	\$2,271,397.12
Estimated ROW Cost:	\$2,425,000.00	Estimated Cst. Time:	18 months
Rationale: This alternate was not selected because of its higher cost, longer construction duration, more potential property displacements, and more impacts to environmental resources than the preferred alternate. The attached layout shows this alternate to be on the south and north of the existing alignment but study was done only for the south one because of the big impacts to the Chief Vann House that the north alignment could cause.			

Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Detour Route: The proposed detour route will utilize existing State Routes and will not require any additional grading, clearing, or construction. Based on this information, no separate environmental evaluation and/or “clearing” is required specifically for the detour route.

Public Detour Meeting Results: A Detour Meeting was held on December 3rd, 2015 at the Coker Elementary School located at 1733 Leonard Bridge Rd, Chatsworth, GA 30705. A total of 33 people attended the detour meeting; nine total comments were received (three in support, three in conditional support, two opposed, and one uncommitted). Comments/concerns expressed include: beaver population causing flooding problems, restricting truck traffic on SR 52A, impacts to historic district, improvements to the intersection of SR 52A with SR 225, and overall need for the project. No significant project changes were made as a result of the comments received at the detour meeting.

Recommendations: Based on the information summarized in this detour report, this Office recommends that the detour route for the project be approved and that the attached Notice be approved for advertising.

Concur: *Hiol Pittel*

 GDOT Director of Engineering

Approve: *Margaret B. Pinkel* *4.28.16*

 GDOT Chief Engineer Date

Attachments:

- Sketch Map of each Detour Route Studied including length of detour
- Detour Meeting Comment Cards and Transcript
- Notice of Detour Approval

NOTICE OF DETOUR APPROVAL
CSBRG-0007-00(047) Murray County
P. I. # 0007047

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

The date of detour approval is: May 3, 2016

The project proposes to replace the bridge (ID 213-0007-0) on SR 52 ALT over Town Branch near the City of Chatsworth in Murray County, Georgia. SR 52 ALT is a two lane rural facility with one 12-foot travel lane in each direction and 6-foot shoulders. The existing right-of-way is approximately 60 feet. The project begins just east of SR 225 and extends 0.4 miles eastward to just west of Treadwell Rd. The proposed typical section is two 12-foot lanes with 8-foot shoulders. The proposed right-of-way varies from approximately 60-130 feet.

The proposed detour (approximately 1 mile in additional travel distance) will mostly affect the east/west patterns along SR 52 ALT, which is proposed to be closed to through traffic from the intersection with SR 225 to the intersection with SR 52/US 76/US411/3rd Ave.

Drivers travelling west on SR 52 ALT towards Chatsworth and needing to cross SR 52/US 76/US411/3rd Ave to continue west on SR 52 ALT will instead be detoured by taking a right turn on SR 52/US 76/US411/3rd Ave (heading north), then a left turn on SR 52/US 76/GI Maddox Pkwy (heading west) continuing to the intersection with SR 52 ALT (ending the detour).

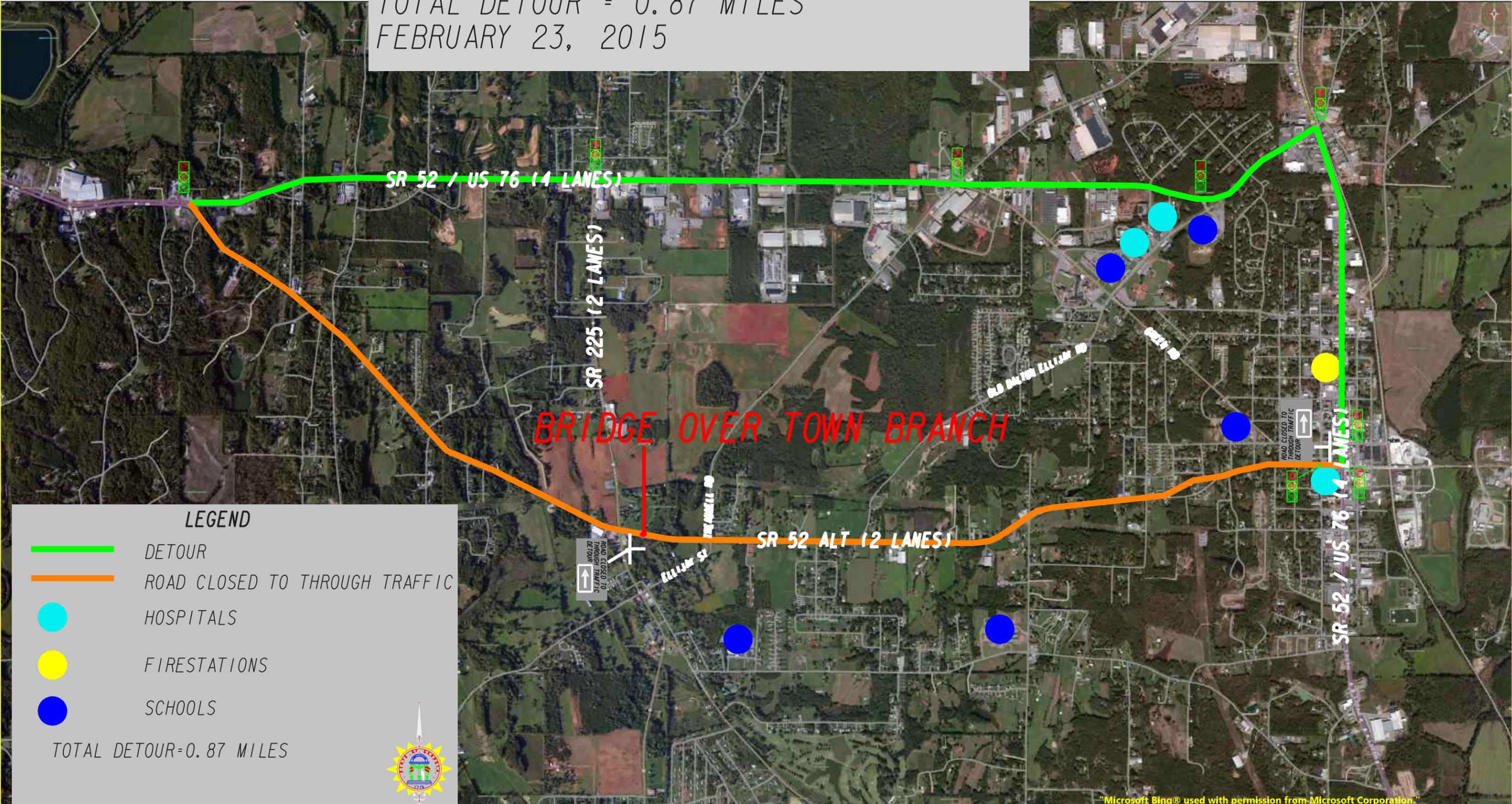
Drivers travelling east on SR 52/US 76/GI Maddox Pkwy towards Chatsworth and needing to turn right on SR 52 ALT in order to continue east across SR 225 and SR 52/US 76/US411/3rd Ave will instead be detoured by continuing east on SR 52/US 76/GI Maddox Pkwy, then turn right onto SR 52/US 76/US411/3rd Ave (heading south) continuing to the intersection with SR 52 ALT (ending the detour).

During the detour, drivers travelling east on SR 52/US 76/GI Maddox Pkwy towards Chatsworth will still be able to take SR 52 ALT to the intersection of SR 225 and turn left or right onto SR 225, however they will not be able to cross SR 225 and continue on SR 52 ALT.

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:

Nicole Law, Project Manager
nlaw@dot.ga.gov
Georgia Department of Transportation
Office of Program Delivery (25th floor)
600 West Peachtree St., Atlanta, GA 30308
404-631-1723

PI# 0007047 SR 52 ALT @ TOWN BRANCH
 OFFSITE DETOUR CONCEPT
 TOTAL DETOUR = 0.87 MILES
 FEBRUARY 23, 2015



LEGEND

-  DETOUR
-  ROAD CLOSED TO THROUGH TRAFFIC
-  HOSPITALS
-  FIRESTATIONS
-  SCHOOLS

TOTAL DETOUR=0.87 MILES



"Microsoft Bing® used with permission from Microsoft Corporation."

Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name Tim Johnson

Address 183 Brookwalk Dr
Chatsworth, GA 30705

Do you support the project and the detour as presented? (check your response)

- For
- Against
- Conditional
- Uncommitted

General Comments WHILE SECURING RIGHT-OF-WAYS, SECURE ENOUGH TO
~~WIDEN~~ WIDEN TO INSTALL RED LIGHT AT 225 + ALT 52 INTERSECTION.

How did you hear about this Open House? (check) Newspaper Signs GDOT Website Radio

Word of Mouth Social Media Other _____

Was the location of the Open House 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 ways GDOT conducts Open Houses:

Mail to:
 Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., State Environmental Administrator
 Georgia Department of Transportation
 600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor
 Atlanta, Georgia 30308
 Email to: ProjectComments@dot.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Transportation | Detour Open House Handout

PI#(s): 0007047, County: Murray

Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name Kerry Ridley
Address 828 Dead End Rd Dalton GA 30721

Do you support the project and the detour as presented? (check your response)

- For Against Conditional Uncommitted

General Comments

How did you hear about this Open House? (check) Newspaper Signs GDOT Website Radio Word of Mouth Social Media Other

Was the location of the Open House 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 ways GDOT conducts Open Houses:

[Blank lines for suggestions]

Mail to: Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., State Environmental Administrator Georgia Department of Transportation 600 West Peachtree Street, NW - 16th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30308 Email to: ProjectComments@dot.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Transportation | Detour Open House Handout

PI#(s): 0007047, County: Murray

Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name Thomas C Smith

Address 131 Nichols Ln
Chatsworth Ga 30705

Do you support the project and the detour as presented? (check your response)

- For
- Against
- Conditional
- Uncommitted

General Comments _____

How did you hear about this Open House? (check) Newspaper Signs GDOT Website Radio

Word of Mouth Social Media Other _____

Was the location of the Open House 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 ways GDOT conducts Open Houses:

Mail to:
Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., State Environmental Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Email to: ProjectComments@dot.ga.gov

Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name Tim Howard

Address 329 Hwy 225 South
Chatsworth GA 30705

Do you support the project and the detour as presented? (check your response)

- For
- Against
- Conditional
- Uncommitted

General Comments ① The proposed bridge is in Spring Place not Chatsworth as your DOT news releases said. ② Traffic backing up at the intersection w/ Hwy 225 and the beaver dams are a far greater hazard to the public than the bridge is. ③ Restricting Semi's to U.S. 76 rather than allowing them on 52A would improve safety for all of us as well as save \$ which could be used on other of the GA bridges judged so deteriorated.

How did you hear about this Open House? (check) Newspaper Signs GDOT Website Radio really?

- Word of Mouth
- Social Media
- Other _____

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

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

It should have been in Spring Place

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 Well they tried!

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

Please share your suggestions on improving the ways GDOT conducts Open Houses:

Folks were pleasant and most made a valiant effort to answer questions but we know the reality is that nothing we who live here say will change much.

Spring Place is a GA Historic Township and a National Register District. Federal funds are NOT supposed to be used by projects that negatively impact a historic district. Unless something is done about the beavers,

Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., State Environmental Administrator
 Georgia Department of Transportation
 600 West Peachtree Street, NW - 16th Floor
 Atlanta, Georgia 30308
 Email to: ProjectComments@dot.ga.gov

Mail to: the problem will continue with a new bridge! Money wasted! Unless the historic district will be negatively affected, staff at the Vann House rely on 52A to access other parts of this DNR historic site!

Georgia Department of Transportation | Detour Open House Handout

PI#(s): 0007047, County: Murray

Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name Karin Jones
Address 4717 Hwy 52 Alt
Chatsworth, GA 30705

Do you support the project and the detour as presented? (check your response)

- For Against Conditional Uncommitted

General Comments Restrict the use of Hwy 52 Alt to
CARS only, No 18 wheelers from Hwy 411 - To Hwy 76.
Remove the Beavers.

How did you hear about this Open House? (check) Newspaper Signs GDOT Website Radio
 Word of Mouth Social Media Other _____

Was the location of the Open House 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 ways GDOT conducts Open Houses:

Send Representatives with better knowledge of the surrounding
Area.

Mail to:
Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., State Environmental Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street, NW - 16th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Email to: ProjectComments@dot.ga.gov

Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name HARRY MINTER

Address 3035 Hwy 52A
Chatsworth, GA 30705

Do you support the project and the detour as presented? (check your response)

- For Against Conditional Uncommitted

General Comments 1) Unless the drains are addressed - they will
destroy your new bridge.
2) Restrict all commercial truck traffic on 52A from the
411 intersection to 76/52.

How did you hear about this Open House? (check) Newspaper Signs GDOT Website Radio
 Word of Mouth Social Media Other Sign in my yard

Was the location of the Open House 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 They TRIED!

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

Please share your suggestions on improving the ways GDOT conducts Open Houses:

Mail to:
 Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., State Environmental Administrator
 Georgia Department of Transportation
 600 West Peachtree Street, NW - 16th Floor
 Atlanta, Georgia 30308
 Email to: ProjectComments@dot.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Transportation | Detour Open House Handout

PI#(s): 0007047, County: Murray

Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name Richard + Clarindo Ridley

Address 226 Hwy 225 S
Chatsworth, GA 30705

Do you support the project and the detour as presented? (check your response)

- For
- Against
- Conditional
- Uncommitted

General Comments _____

How did you hear about this Open House? (check) Newspaper Signs GDOT Website Radio

Word of Mouth Social Media Other _____

Was the location of the Open House 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 ways GDOT conducts Open Houses:

Mail to:
 Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., State Environmental Administrator
 Georgia Department of Transportation
 600 West Peachtree Street, NW - 16th Floor
 Atlanta, Georgia 30308
 Email to: ProjectComments@dot.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Transportation | Detour Open House Handout

PI#(s): 0007047, County: Murray

Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name GARY M. RIDLEY

Address _____

Do you support the project and the detour as presented? (check your response)

- For
- Against
- Conditional
- Uncommitted

General Comments _____

NOT NEEDED!

How did you hear about this Open House? (check) Newspaper Signs GDOT Website Radio

Word of Mouth Social Media Other _____

Was the location of the Open House 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 ways GDOT conducts Open Houses:

Mail to:
 Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., State Environmental Administrator
 Georgia Department of Transportation
 600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor
 Atlanta, Georgia 30308
 Email to: ProjectComments@dot.ga.gov

Georgia Department of Transportation | Detour Open House Handout
PI#(s): 0007047, County: Murray



12-07-15

Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name James Michael Ballew, Sr.
Address 2920 Hwy 52 Alt.
Chatsworth, GA 30705

Primary PI # 0007047
Add'l PI Nos. _____
NEPA analyst E. Robertson
Recipient: _____
Copies: ON _____ Ass't. ON _____
NEPA A/M Arch _____
Eco _____ Hist _____
ORIGINAL TO GEN. FILES

Do you support the project and the detour as presented? (check your response)

- For Against Conditional Uncommitted

General Comments With the existing and growing population of Beavers a new Bridge Footing would be subject to damage. the existing bridge is short and does not carry full weight load of one truck or vehicle. Problems of Beavers, traffic detours, danger on alternate detour routes would be a big problem. The water has never crossed the road, ever.

How did you hear about this Open House? (check) Newspaper Signs GDOT Website Radio
 Word of Mouth Social Media Other _____

Was the location of the Open House 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 ways GDOT conducts Open Houses:

the Meeting was informative, people from DOT were informed well of negative issues that will incur.

Mail to:
Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., State Environmental Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street, NW - 16th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Email to: ProjectComments@dot.ga.gov

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT SIX

PUBLIC INFORMATION OPEN HOUSE

P.I. NO. 0007047

COKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CHATSWORTH, GEORGIA

DECEMBER 3, 2015

5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Shirley Stepp

COURT REPORTER

CALHOUN, GEORGIA

1 (Whereupon, there were no citizens' comments reported at this
2 hearing and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.)
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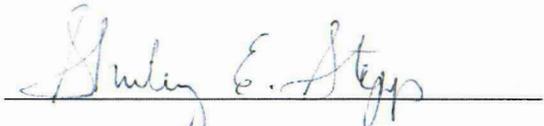
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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF GORDON

I, Shirley Stepp, Certified Court Reporter No. B-367, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete transcript of the hearing held on December 3, 2015.

This the 4th day of December, 2015.



Shirley E. Stepp, CCR No. B-367



January 22, 2016

Mr. Tim Johnson
183 Brookwalk Dr.
Chatsworth, GA 30705

Re: Responses to Open House Comments for PI#(s): 0007047, Murray County, State Route (SR) 52 Alternate @
Town Branch

Dear Mr. Tim Johnson;

Thank you for your comments concerning the proposed project referenced above. We appreciate your participation and all of the input that was received as a result of the December 3, 2015 Public Information, Section 4(f) and Detour Open House. Every written comment received and verbal comment given to the court reporter will be made part of the project's official record.

A total of **33** people attended the open house. Of the **nine (9)** respondents who formally commented, **three (3)** were in **support** of the project, **two (2)** were **opposed**, **one (1)** was **uncommitted**, and **three (3)** expressed **conditional support**.

The attendees of the open house and those persons sending in comments within the comment period 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 (in *italics*) followed by our response.

- *Restrict the use of SR 52 Alt to cars only from US 76 to Hwy 411.*

Thank you for your comment. GDOT does not restrict truck traffic on State Routes unless the bridge cannot properly support vehicles of that size. If there are bridges identified as structurally deficient, and posted for weight restrictions, then those bridges are programmed for replacement.

- *The beavers in the area are causing major flooding and need to be removed.*

Beaver management is not a part of the Georgia Department of Transportation's responsibility for this project. However, should you require assistance in beaver management and control, please contact the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) - Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) – Game Management Section - Region I Armuchee (706) 295-6041.

- *Traffic backing up at the intersection of Hwy 225. A red light is needed at the intersection of SR 225 and SR 52 Alt.*

The construction limits for this project do not extend to the intersection; thus intersection improvements, including the installation of a red light, are outside the scope of this project. If improvement is warranted,

another project will have to be programmed to address those concerns. However, these comments will be forwarded to the District and State Traffic offices to review the operations of the intersection.

Additionally, a request for a traffic signal study could be made by the local government to the GDOT District 6 Traffic Operations Office located in Cartersville, GA. The study would include many different aspects of the intersection including; traffic conditions, traffic volumes, pedestrian characteristics, physical characteristics of the roadway, and the Engineer's conclusion & recommendations. In order to obtain approval, the study must include an analysis showing that a traffic signal would improve the safety and operations of the intersection. Please refer to GDOT's Traffic Signals Public Information Document located at:

<http://www.dot.ga.gov/DriveSmart/SafetyOperation/Documents/TrafficSignals/Public%20Information/TrafficSignals-PID.pdf>

- *Spring Place is a GA Historic Township and a National Register District. Federal funds are not supposed to be used by projects that negatively impact a historic district. Staff for the Vann House rely on SR 52 Alt to access other parts of the State Department of Natural Resources site.*

Environmental studies are ongoing including the historic and archaeological evaluation of the proposed project's effects on the Spring Place Historic District and the Chief Vann House Historic Site by a National Park Service qualified architectural historian and archaeologist (36 CFR Part 61). Every effort will be made to avoid adversely impacting these sites. In addition, because the Chief Vann House property is a state owned historic site, GDOT will coordinate with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

- *The project is not needed.*

The primary purpose of this project is to replace the bridge due to its structural integrity. Based on a study conducted by the GDOT Office of Bridges and Structures, the overall condition of the bridge is classified as fair; however there is concrete deterioration and the bridge sufficiency rating is 47.43 out of a scale of 1-100. The sufficiency rating is based on the condition of the bridge itself; the short length of the existing bridge does not remove the need to replace it.

Additionally, several verbal comments questioned whether the bridge needs to be elevated. Even though long-time local residents have never seen water overtopping the road, it is possible that the proposed bridge will be higher than the existing bridge in order to satisfy hydraulic requirements. These requirements are based on extreme weather conditions, such as severe flooding, that might not occur for generations. It is part of the process in every bridge designed over water to meet certain elevation criteria based on hydraulic studies.

- *The detour route was uncertain.*

The purpose of the public detour open house meeting held on December 3, 2015 was to gather input from the public, local officials, emergency management, schools, etc. on the proposed detour route, which was clearly outlined in three (3) big displays in the meeting. The proposed

detour route does not cause any safety or capacity concerns since it is utilizing State Routes with more lanes than SR 52 ALT, it has intersections that are not skewed and at the same time signalized. No written comments were received in support of or against the proposed route; although GDOT staff attending the meeting noted that most people that verbally commented at the meeting were in support of, or indifferent to, the proposed route.

- *The length of time is extreme. One year really.*

The proposed construction time, 12 months, is needed to complete the scope of work necessary for bridge demolition, construction of approaches and a new bridge within an environmentally sensitive area.

- *The following comments were in reference to the public meeting:*
 - *The bridge is in Spring Place, not in Chatsworth – the meeting notice should have referenced that and the meeting location should have been in Spring Place.*
 - *GDOT staff were pleasant and provided an informative meeting.*
 - *GDOT needs to send representatives with better knowledge of the surrounding area.*

GDOT appreciates all comments received regarding the PIOH. We strive to make our outreach efforts as accessible, informative, and inclusive as possible. Your comments will help us in framing all of our future outreach efforts on this and other projects.

Again, thank you for your comments. Should you have further questions, comments or concerns, please call the project manager, Nicole Law, at 404-631-1723 or the environmental analyst, Elliott Robertson, at 404-631-1190.

Sincerely,



Eric Duff
State Environmental Administrator

ED/ER/CHW

cc: Nicole Law, GDOT Project Manager (via email)
PDF for Project File; Hardcopy to General Files



January 22, 2016

Kerry Ridley
828 Dead End Road
Dalton, GA 30721

Re: Responses to Open House Comments for PI#(s): 0007047, Murray County, State Route (SR) 52 Alternate @
Town Branch

Dear Kerry Ridley;

Thank you for your comments concerning the proposed project referenced above. We appreciate your participation and all of the input that was received as a result of the December 3, 2015 Public Information, Section 4(f) and Detour Open House. Every written comment received and verbal comment given to the court reporter will be made part of the project's official record.

A total of **33** people attended the open house. Of the **nine (9)** respondents who formally commented, **three (3)** were in **support** of the project, **two (2)** were **opposed**, **one (1)** was **uncommitted**, and **three (3)** expressed **conditional support**.

The attendees of the open house and those persons sending in comments within the comment period 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 (in *italics*) followed by our response.

- *Restrict the use of SR 52 Alt to cars only from US 76 to Hwy 411.*

Thank you for your comment. GDOT does not restrict truck traffic on State Routes unless the bridge cannot properly support vehicles of that size. If there are bridges identified as structurally deficient, and posted for weight restrictions, then those bridges are programmed for replacement.

- *The beavers in the area are causing major flooding and need to be removed.*

Beaver management is not a part of the Georgia Department of Transportation's responsibility for this project. However, should you require assistance in beaver management and control, please contact the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) - Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) – Game Management Section - Region I Armuchee (706) 295-6041.

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Again, thank you for your comments. Should you have further questions, comments or concerns, please call the project manager, Nicole Law, at 404-631-1723 or the environmental analyst, Elliott Robertson, at 404-631-1190.

Sincerely,



Eric Duff
State Environmental Administrator

ED/ER/CHW

cc: Nicole Law, GDOT Project Manager (via email)
PDF for Project File; Hardcopy to General Files



January 22, 2016

Mr. Thomas Smith
131 Nichols Ln
Chatsworth, GA 30705

Re: Responses to Open House Comments for PI#(s): 0007047, Murray County, State Route (SR) 52 Alternate @
Town Branch

Dear Mr. Thomas Smith;

Thank you for your comments concerning the proposed project referenced above. We appreciate your participation and all of the input that was received as a result of the December 3, 2015 Public Information, Section 4(f) and Detour Open House. Every written comment received and verbal comment given to the court reporter will be made part of the project's official record.

A total of **33** people attended the open house. Of the **nine (9)** respondents who formally commented, **three (3)** were in **support** of the project, **two (2)** were **opposed**, **one (1)** was **uncommitted**, and **three (3)** expressed **conditional support**.

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Sincerely,



Eric Duff
State Environmental Administrator

ED/ER/CHW

cc: Nicole Law, GDOT Project Manager (via email)
PDF for Project File; Hardcopy to General Files



January 22, 2016

Mr. Tim Howard
329 Hwy 225 South
Chatsworth, GA 30705

Re: Responses to Open House Comments for PI#(s): 0007047, Murray County, State Route (SR) 52 Alternate @
Town Branch

Dear Mr. Tim Howard;

Thank you for your comments concerning the proposed project referenced above. We appreciate your participation and all of the input that was received as a result of the December 3, 2015 Public Information, Section 4(f) and Detour Open House. Every written comment received and verbal comment given to the court reporter will be made part of the project's official record.

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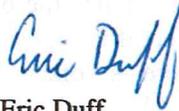
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Sincerely,



Eric Duff
State Environmental Administrator

ED/ER/CHW

cc: Nicole Law, GDOT Project Manager (via email)
PDF for Project File; Hardcopy to General Files



January 22, 2016

Mr. Kevin Jones
4717 Hwy 52 Alt
Chatsworth, GA 30705

Re: Responses to Open House Comments for PI#(s): 0007047, Murray County, State Route (SR) 52 Alternate @
Town Branch

Dear Mr. Kevin Jones;

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Sincerely,



Eric Duff
State Environmental Administrator

ED/ER/CHW

cc: Nicole Law, GDOT Project Manager (via email)
PDF for Project File; Hardcopy to General Files



January 22, 2016

Mr. Barry Minter
3035 Hwy 52 Alt
Chatsworth, GA 30705

Re: Responses to Open House Comments for PI#(s): 0007047, Murray County, State Route (SR) 52 Alternate @
Town Branch

Dear Mr. Barry Minter;

Thank you for your comments concerning the proposed project referenced above. We appreciate your participation and all of the input that was received as a result of the December 3, 2015 Public Information, Section 4(f) and Detour Open House. Every written comment received and verbal comment given to the court reporter will be made part of the project's official record.

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Eric Duff
State Environmental Administrator

ED/ER/CHW

cc: Nicole Law, GDOT Project Manager (via email)
PDF for Project File; Hardcopy to General Files



January 22, 2016

Mr. & Mrs. Richard and Clarindo Ridley
226 Hwy 225 South
Chatsworth, GA 30705

Re: Responses to Open House Comments for PI#(s): 0007047, Murray County, State Route (SR) 52 Alternate @
Town Branch

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Ridley;

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Environmental studies are ongoing including the historic and archaeological evaluation of the proposed project's effects on the Spring Place Historic District and the Chief Vann House Historic Site by a National Park Service qualified architectural historian and archaeologist (36 CFR Part 61). Every effort will be made to avoid adversely impacting these sites. In addition, because the Chief Vann House property is a state owned historic site, GDOT will coordinate with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

- *The project is not needed.*

The primary purpose of this project is to replace the bridge due to its structural integrity. Based on a study conducted by the GDOT Office of Bridges and Structures, the overall condition of the bridge is classified as fair; however there is concrete deterioration and the bridge sufficiency rating is 47.43 out of a scale of 1-100. The sufficiency rating is based on the condition of the bridge itself; the short length of the existing bridge does not remove the need to replace it.

Additionally, several verbal comments questioned whether the bridge needs to be elevated. Even though long-time local residents have never seen water overtopping the road, it is possible that the proposed bridge will be higher than the existing bridge in order to satisfy hydraulic requirements. These requirements are based on extreme weather conditions, such as severe flooding, that might not occur for generations. It is part of the process in every bridge designed over water to meet certain elevation criteria based on hydraulic studies.

- *The detour route was uncertain.*

The purpose of the public detour open house meeting held on December 3, 2015 was to gather input from the public, local officials, emergency management, schools, etc. on the proposed detour route, which was clearly outlined in three (3) big displays in the meeting. The proposed

detour route does not cause any safety or capacity concerns since it is utilizing State Routes with more lanes than SR 52 ALT, it has intersections that are not skewed and at the same time signalized. No written comments were received in support of or against the proposed route; although GDOT staff attending the meeting noted that most people that verbally commented at the meeting were in support of, or indifferent to, the proposed route.

- *The length of time is extreme. One year really.*

The proposed construction time, 12 months, is needed to complete the scope of work necessary for bridge demolition, construction of approaches and a new bridge within an environmentally sensitive area.

- *The following comments were in reference to the public meeting:*
 - *The bridge is in Spring Place, not in Chatsworth – the meeting notice should have referenced that and the meeting location should have been in Spring Place.*
 - *GDOT staff were pleasant and provided an informative meeting.*
 - *GDOT needs to send representatives with better knowledge of the surrounding area.*

GDOT appreciates all comments received regarding the PIOH. We strive to make our outreach efforts as accessible, informative, and inclusive as possible. Your comments will help us in framing all of our future outreach efforts on this and other projects.

Again, thank you for your comments. Should you have further questions, comments or concerns, please call the project manager, Nicole Law, at 404-631-1723 or the environmental analyst, Elliott Robertson, at 404-631-1190.

Sincerely,



Eric Duff
State Environmental Administrator

ED/ER/CHW

cc: Nicole Law, GDOT Project Manager (via email)
PDF for Project File; Hardcopy to General Files



January 22, 2016

Mr. James Ballew Sr.
2920 Hwy 52Alt.
Chatsworth, GA 30705

Re: Responses to Open House Comments for PI#(s): 0007047, Murray County, State Route (SR) 52 Alternate @
Town Branch

Dear Mr. James Ballew Sr.;

Thank you for your comments concerning the proposed project referenced above. We appreciate your participation and all of the input that was received as a result of the December 3, 2015 Public Information, Section 4(f) and Detour Open House. Every written comment received and verbal comment given to the court reporter will be made part of the project's official record.

A total of **33** people attended the open house. Of the **nine (9)** respondents who formally commented, **three (3)** were in **support** of the project, **two (2)** were **opposed**, **one (1)** was **uncommitted**, and **three (3)** expressed **conditional support**.

The attendees of the open house and those persons sending in comments within the comment period 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 (in *italics*) followed by our response.

- *Restrict the use of SR 52 Alt to cars only from US 76 to Hwy 411.*

Thank you for your comment. GDOT does not restrict truck traffic on State Routes unless the bridge cannot properly support vehicles of that size. If there are bridges identified as structurally deficient, and posted for weight restrictions, then those bridges are programmed for replacement.

- *The beavers in the area are causing major flooding and need to be removed.*

Beaver management is not a part of the Georgia Department of Transportation's responsibility for this project. However, should you require assistance in beaver management and control, please contact the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) - Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) – Game Management Section - Region I Armuchee (706) 295-6041.

- *Traffic backing up at the intersection of Hwy 225. A red light is needed at the intersection of SR 225 and SR 52 Alt.*

The construction limits for this project do not extend to the intersection; thus intersection improvements, including the installation of a red light, are outside the scope of this project. If improvement is warranted,

another project will have to be programmed to address those concerns. However, these comments will be forwarded to the District and State Traffic offices to review the operations of the intersection.

Additionally, a request for a traffic signal study could be made by the local government to the GDOT District 6 Traffic Operations Office located in Cartersville, GA. The study would include many different aspects of the intersection including; traffic conditions, traffic volumes, pedestrian characteristics, physical characteristics of the roadway, and the Engineer's conclusion & recommendations. In order to obtain approval, the study must include an analysis showing that a traffic signal would improve the safety and operations of the intersection. Please refer to GDOT's Traffic Signals Public Information Document located at:

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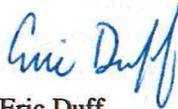
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