



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

FILE STPN0-0007-03(033), Lowndes County OFFICE Roadway Design
P.I. No. 422710
SR 38 / US 84 / West Hill Avenue Grade DATE ~~July 6, 2010~~
Separation At Norfolk Southern RR JULY 20, 2010 *HP*

FROM *Russell R. McMurry*
Russell R. McMurry, PE, State Roadway Design Engineer

TO Brent A. Story, State Design Policy & Standards Engineer

SUBJECT Request for Location and Design Approval

Description of Project:

This project proposed a new grade separation of US 84/SR 38 (West Hill Avenue) at the Norfolk Southern Railroad crossing west of downtown Valdosta. The project would begin near West Street on US 84 at milepost 10.01 and extend 0.62 miles along existing US 84 to near Briggs Street at milepost 10.63. US 84/SR38 is proposed to ramp up at a 7% grade from each end of the project with retaining walls at the back of the sidewalk and cross the railroad with a 300 foot concrete bridge. Frontage roads will be constructed parallel to US 84 and alongside the barriers walls to provide access to local businesses and residents. This frontage road will be one lane, one-way travel, with curb and gutter, and sidewalk. South Thomas Street will be closed in order to eliminate the double railroad crossing near West Savannah Avenue.

The proposed roadway section will be four, 12-foot lanes with a 14-foot two-way left turn lane on each approach way to the bridge. The approach sections will have a 30-inch curb and gutter with a 2-foot grass strip and a 5-foot sidewalk. The bridge/typical section will consist of four, 12-foot lanes with a 6-foot sidewalk and a barrier wall at the back of sidewalk.

Concept Approval Date:

May 23, 2005

Concept Update:

The current concept report calls for relocation of South Thomas Street 535 feet east of its present location. It would tie US 84 / SR 38 to the new frontage road that is located on the CSX right of way and would tie into West Savannah Avenue to the east of the railroad gate. This would allow continued access from West Savannah Avenue to US 84 / SR 38 by using the frontage road in conjunction with the Relocated South Thomas Street.

After further inspection, however, the relocated South Thomas Street was only 700 feet (0.13 miles) to the west of the newly constructed South Briggs Street. Because of the proximity of this existing connectivity between US 84 / SR 38 and West Savannah Avenue to the proposed South Thomas Street intersection, it was eliminated altogether from the project layout.

Environmental Document Type, Approval Date & any Reevaluations:
Environmental Assessment; June 21, 2010

Public Involvement:

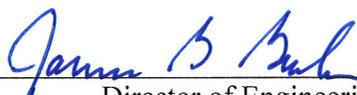
- Public Information Open House Results:
 - A public information open house was held on September 16, 2004 at the Valdosta City Hall Annex Multi-Purpose Room located at 300 North Lee Street, Valdosta, Georgia.
 - The only major concern raised by those opposed to the project was related to businesses in the area. They feel that the proposed project would severely damage their businesses due to the proposed access restrictions onto US 84/West Hill Avenue.
 - 17 comment forms were received, 0 letters, and 2 verbal statements
 - 5 opposed, 14 comments were in support, 1 was uncommitted, and 4 were conditional.
 - A total of 44 people attended the public information open house.
 - The Westbound Frontage road was realigned on the south side of the project in order to minimize impacts to adjacent property owners.
- Public Hearing Open House Results:
 - A public hearing open house was held on January 28, 2010
 - The major concern raised in opposition to the project was that the construction of the project over two years would significantly impact business in the area.
 - 2 comment forms were received, 0 letters, and 2 verbal statements.
 - 2 opposed, 2 in support, 1 was uncommitted, and 0 were conditional.
 - A total of 28 people were in attendance.

Consistency with Approved Planning:

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

Recommendations:

This office recommends that the location and design for this project be approved and that the attached Notice be approved for advertising.

RECOMMEND: 
Director of Engineering

CONCUR: 
Chief Engineer

8/18/2010
Date

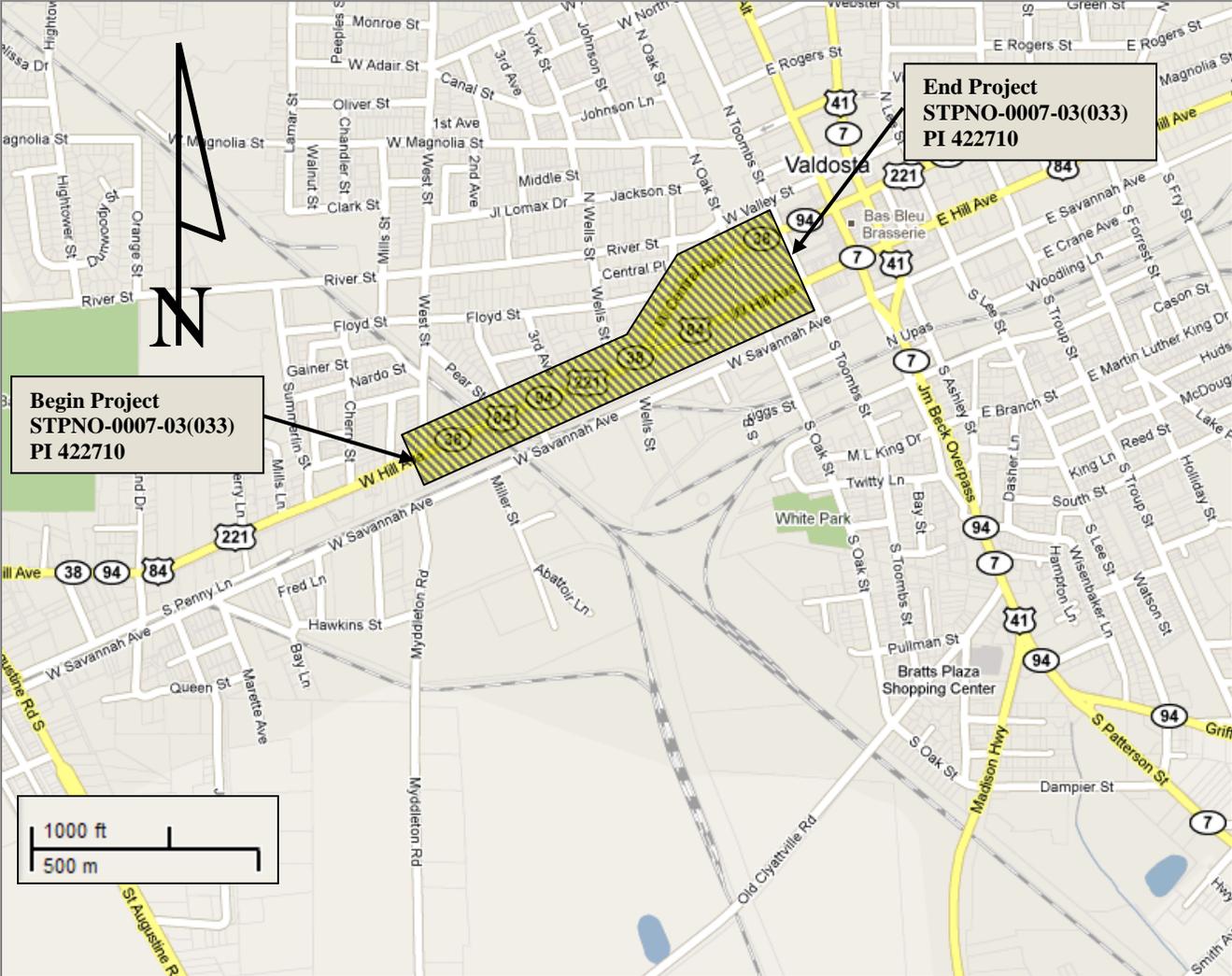
APPROVE: 8/18/2010
Date of Location and Design Approval

RRM:CAC:rer
Attachments

- Sketch Map
- Notice of Location and Design Approval

Project Sketch Map

Project Number: STPNO-0007-03(033)
County: Lowndes
PI Number: 422710
Federal Route No.: US 84
State Route No.: SR 38



NOTICE OF LOCATION AND DESIGN APPROVAL

STPN0-0007-03(033), Lowndes County
P.I. # 422710

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

The date of location approval is August 18, 2010.

This project proposed a new grade separation of US 84/SR 38 (West Hill Avenue) at the Norfolk Southern Railroad crossing west of downtown Valdosta. The project is located in land lots 31 and 62 of Lowndes County, GA.

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

Jerry Hughes, Area Engineer
jehughes@dot.ga.gov
1411 Madison Hwy
Valdosta, GA 31601
229-333-5287

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

Tim Matthews, Project Manager
tmatthews@dot.ga.gov
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308
404-631-1568

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