

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

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**INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE**

**FILE** P.I. No. 122890 **OFFICE** Environment/Location  
**DATE** June 18, 2009  
*DB/m*  
**FROM** Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental/Location Engineer  
**TO** Bobby Hilliard, P.E., State Program Delivery Engineer  
Attention: Kimberly Nesbitt  
**SUBJECT** NH000-0003-03(053), Clarke County - SR 10 Loop/Atlanta Highway  
(SR10/US 78) Interchange Improvements

Attached is a copy of the Reevaluation for the above noted project approved on June 11, 2009. This document is being forwarded to you for your files. Please review the document, paying particular attention to the environmental commitments table.

If you have any questions, please call Amber Phillips at (404) 699-4408.

GB/AP

Attachment

cc: Howard (Phil) Copeland, w/attachment: commitments table, signature page, project description  
Ron Wishon, w/attachment: commitments table, signature page  
Leigh Priestley, w/attachment: commitments table  
Russell McMurry, P.E., w/attachment

General Files

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

**Project Information**

**Project Manager Review**

**Specialist Review**

Project No. : NH000-0003-03(053)  
 County : Clarke  
 P.L. No. : 122890  
 Status: ROW  
 Date Updated : June 4, 2009

I have reviewed these commitments and verified their feasibility.  
 All delineations are marked on the plans.

*Kimberly Abbott*  
 PM Signature

404  
 Air/Noise *MA*  
 Archaeology *JP*  
 Ecology *MA*  
 History *SF*

| COMMITMENT/REQUIREMENT<br><i>Please separate out commitments by PI#</i> | DOCUMENT STIPULATED IN | RESPONSIBLE OFFICE | PLACE ON PLANS? (Yes or No) | REQUIRES A SPECIAL PROVISION? (Yes or No) | STATUS<br>(Complete/Incomplete)<br><i>See below for instructions</i> |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|
|---|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|

### Pre-Construction Commitments

|  |                  |        |     |     |                          |
|--|------------------|--------|-----|-----|--------------------------|
| Obtain a Cemetery Permit   | CE               | OEL    | No  | No  | Complete, April 10, 2007 |
| Label Cemetery as an ESA   | CE               | Design | Yes | No  | Complete                 |
| Place all streams/stream buffers on plans  | Ecology Report   | Design | Yes | No  | Complete                 |
| Show orange fencing around the buffer for Stream 1 to ensure no encroachment into the buffer and Label it as an ESA.   | CE               | Design | Yes | No  | Complete                 |
| Obtain a 404 nationwide 23 permit  | Reevaluation     | OEL    | No  | No  | Incomplete               |
| Mitigation credits for 190 feet of perennial stream and 225 feet (0.0105 acre) of ephemeral stream would be purchased by obtaining 868.5 stream credits and 0.05 wetland/open water credit from a US Army Corps of Engineers approved mitigation bank which serves Upper Oconee River Watershed. | Ecology Addendum | OEL    | No  | No  | Incomplete               |
| Special Provision 107.23 G for the protection of the Altamaha shiner will be forwarded to design for inclusion in the construction contract.   | Ecology Addendum | OEL    | No  | Yes | Complete                 |
| Obtain Fish and Wildlife concurrence for impacts to streams 0 and 5.   | Reevaluation     | OEL    | No  | No  | Complete                 |

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

**Project Information**





Project No. : NH000-0003-03(053)  
 County : Clark  
 P.I. No. : 122890  
 Status: ROW  
 Date Updated : June 4, 2009

**Project Manager Review**

I have reviewed these commitments and verified their feasibility.  
 All delineations are marked on the plans.

  
 PM Signature

**Specialist Review**

404 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Air/Noise   
 Archaeology   
 Ecology   
 History 

|   |                               |                           |                                    |  |  |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>COMMITMENT/REQUIREMENT</b><br><i>Please separate out commitments by PH</i> | <b>DOCUMENT STIPULATED IN</b> | <b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE</b> | <b>PLACE ON PLANS? (Yes or No)</b> | <b>REQUIRES A SPECIAL PROVISION? (Yes or No)</b> | <b>STATUS</b><br>(Complete/Incomplete)<br>(During Construction- Signature Required)<br><i>See below for instructions</i> |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|

**During Construction Commitments**  
 ECB signature required for all During Construction Commitments for Ecological Resources.  
 Construction or Area Engineer signature required for all other During Construction Commitments.

|   |                  |              |     |     |                                       |
|---|------------------|--------------|-----|-----|---------------------------------------|
| Place orange fencing around the buffer for Stream 1 to ensure no encroachment into the buffer | CE               | Construction | Yes | No  | Area Engineer to sign upon completion |
| Follow Special Provision 107.23 G for the protection of the Alamaha stiner (see attached)     | Ecology Addendum | Construction | No  | Yes | Area Engineer to sign upon completion |

**Post Construction Commitments**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**SPECIAL PROVISION**

**PROJECT: NH000-0003-03(053), Clarke County,  
PI # 122890**

**SECTION 107 - LEGAL REGULATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC**

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*Add the following to Subsection 107.23:*

**G. Protection of Species Protected Under State Law – Altamaha shiner (*Cyprinella xaenura*)**

The following conditions are intended as a minimum to protect this species and its habitat during any activities that are in close proximity to the known locations of the species or habitat (Stream #0, Stream #1 and Stream #4). When there is a conflict between the General Provisions and the Special Provisions, these Special Provisions will govern the work.

1. The Contractor shall schedule activities to ensure the installation of temporary erosion control features concurrent with clearing and grubbing activities and permanent erosion control items concurrent with mass grading activities.
2. No equipment, concrete debris, paving materials, litter, demolition debris or any other materials shall be allowed to fall or be placed into the creeks.
3. The Contractor will be required to grade an area to completion once the area is disturbed to minimize the time the area is exposed to potential erosion. All disturbed soil, excavation spoil, and stockpiled materials producing sediments flowing into Stream #0, Stream #1 or Stream #4 or any tributaries to these streams located within the project corridor (Stream #3) shall be mulched daily or covered with approved erosion control mats. Stockpiled materials shall be placed to prevent rain runoff from washing the materials into the creeks.
4. For stream crossings, double line of Type "C" silt fence backed with baled straw shall be installed at all designated locations along the streams as shown on the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plans. If physical space allows, an additional line of Type "C" silt fence backed with baled straw shall be placed near the top of the stream bank.
5. All surface water runoff from undisturbed areas shall be diverted to prevent flow across disturbed areas. This may be accomplished through the use of permanent pipes, temporary pipes, or slope drains. The Contractor may propose alternate methods provided prior approval of the Engineer is obtained.
6. The Contractor shall conduct work activities from a stable stream bank or reinforced platform (work bridge) that does not cause degradation or destabilization of the stream banks. If the Contractor uses a temporary work bridge, care shall be taken during its construction and removal to minimize the increase of downstream turbidity levels and sediment deposition.
7. The use of borrow sites or stockpiling of dirt is prohibited within 200 feet of the stream banks or elsewhere where runoff from the site would increase stream sedimentation.
8. Equipment staging areas and equipment maintenance areas (particularly for oil changes) shall be located at least 200 feet from stream banks to minimize the potential for wash water, petroleum products, or other contaminants from construction equipment entering the stream.

9. All erosion control devices shall be closely monitored. As maintenance is performed on silt fences, silt gates, slope drains, filtration ponds and other erosion control devices, the materials removed shall be placed in such a manner to prevent these materials from entering into the creeks.
10. The Contractor's worksite erosion control supervisor (WECS) shall closely monitor all erosion control devices weekly and after every 0.5" of rainfall. If a visible increase in turbidity is observed within a creek downstream of the project site relative to that observed upstream of the project site, construction will cease until the source can be determined. If the source of the turbidity is identified as originating from within the Department Right-of-Way, construction will not resume until the problem is corrected. The Department shall immediately modify the erosion control plan to correct any circumstances that may cause or allow pollutants from the worksite to enter the creek or damage the creek's habitat.
11. The Contractor shall not use pesticides, herbicides (including those for Right-of-Way maintenance), or fertilizers within 100 feet of Stream #0, Stream #1 or Stream #4 or any tributaries to these streams located within the project corridor (Stream #3).
12. The Contractor shall report the incident immediately to the Project Engineer who in turn will notify:
  - a. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Nongame Wildlife and Natural Heritage Section, Wildlife Resources Conservation Center at (770) 918-6411;
  - b. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Georgia Division at (404) 562-3630; and
  - c. Glenn Bowman, GA Dept. of Transportation, Office of Environment/Location at (404) 699-4401 or (404) 326-5871.

In the event of possible harm to Altamaha shiner, the above agencies and the Project Engineer shall be notified immediately and all activity shall cease pending consultation by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the lead Federal Agency.

13. Following project completion, a report summarizing any incidents with Altamaha shiner shall be submitted by the Contractor to the:
  - a. the Project Engineer;
  - b. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Nongame Wildlife and Natural Heritage Section, Wildlife Resources Conservation Center, 2065 U.S. Highway 278 SE, Social Circle, GA, 30025;
  - c. Federal Highway Administration, 61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Suite 17T100, Atlanta, GA 30303; and
  - d. Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Environment/Location, 3993 Aviation Circle, Atlanta, GA 30336.
14. All costs pertaining to any requirement contained herein shall be included in the overall bid submitted unless such requirement is designated as a separate Pay Item in the Proposal.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL REEVALUATION**

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Project ID</b>     | NH000-0003-03(053)  |
| <b>County</b>         | Clarke  |
| <b>P.I. Number</b>    | 122890  |
| <b>Project Name</b>   | SR 10 Loop/Atlanta Highway (SR 10/US 78) Interchange Improvements   |
| <b>Project Limits</b> | The project consists of improvements to the SR 10 Loop/Atlanta Highway (SR 10/US 78) interchange in Athens, Georgia. This project also includes widening Atlanta Highway (SR 10/US 78) in the interchange vicinity for a total project length of approximately 0.82 mile. |

**II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT IN MOST RECENTLY APPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:**

**A. Existing**

SR 10 Loop is a four lane facility with a 40' depressed median. Existing right of way (ROW) on SR 10 Loop is 250' to 350'. Atlanta Highway consists of 4 to 6 lanes, urban shoulders and a variable width raised and depressed medians. The medians range from 8' to 40' wide. Existing ROW on Atlanta Highway is 100' to 200'. Huntington Road is a 2 to 4 lane urban roadway with a raised median; existing ROW is 80'. Jennings Mill Road is a 2 lane rural roadway; existing ROW is 80'.

**B. Proposed**

The proposed project consists of the construction of a new loop ramp from Atlanta Highway westbound to SR 10 Loop southbound, realigning the existing loop ramp from Atlanta Highway eastbound to SR 10 Loop northbound. SR 10 Loop will remain four lanes with a 40' depressed median. Improvements to SR 10 Loop include adding a deceleration/storage lane to the southbound exit ramp, adding a southbound entrance loop ramp with an acceleration lane on SR 10 Loop, realigning the northbound loop ramp and the acceleration lane on SR 10 Loop, and realigning the SR 10 Loop northbound and southbound exit ramps. Realigning the SR 10 Loop exit ramps and loop entrance ramps requires approximately 100 feet of additional ROW. No other additional ROW would be required along SR 10 Loop.

In addition, the project includes improvements to Atlanta Highway by adding four lanes, lengthening several turn lanes, improving the Huntington Road/Atlanta Highway intersection, and relocating the Jennings Mill Road/Atlanta Highway intersection approximately 300 feet east of its current location.

Atlanta Highway would be widened to a 7 to 8 lane urban facility with 4 foot bike lanes; an 8 foot to 40 foot raised median, 5 foot sidewalks, and left turn lanes added or modified at various locations. This requires up to approximately 75 feet of additional ROW to the north and south. Huntington Road would be widened to add left and right turn lanes in both directions and 5 foot sidewalks. This requires approximately 45 feet of additional ROW to the east and west.

Jennings Mill Road/Atlanta Highway intersection would be relocated approximately 300 feet east of its current location. Relocated Jennings Mill Road would consist of 2 lanes with curb and gutter and 5 foot sidewalks. The proposed ROW for Relocated Jennings Mill Road is

approximately 80 to 160 feet.

Huntington Court is a short neighborhood street giving access to five residential homes and an undeveloped property just east of Huntington Road. Huntington Court intersects Huntington Road at its north end with an unsafe substandard 25 degree skew angle. This intersection with Huntington Road also is within close proximity to a commercial driveway and within close proximity to another neighborhood street intersection, Caviler Road. Access to Huntington Court is also provided at Biscay Drive. This street intersects both Huntington Court and Huntington Road at 90 degrees and is directly across from the GA Square Mall Access Drive. It is proposed to close and cul-de-sac the north end of Huntington Court to improve safety and access on Huntington Road by eliminating an unsafe severely skewed redundant intersection. Access to Huntington Court will be provided via Biscay Drive. No improvements are proposed or necessary on the south end of Huntington Court.

For safety reasons the access driveway at Logan's Restaurant is proposed to be closed. Access to this property would be provided at the Relocated Jennings Mill Road signalized intersection through the Athens Bypass LLC Property. The median opening with left turn lanes at the Publix Shopping Center and the Academy Sporting Goods Shopping Center along Atlanta Highway is proposed to be closed. The access Driveways at these locations will be changed to right in right out. The access driveway at Diversified Development located along the slip ramp at the SR 10 Loop southbound exit ramp is proposed to be closed. Also, the exit only driveway at BDW Investments along Atlanta Hwy is proposed to be closed. Access is currently provided and will be provided from Arrow Head Road.

**III. TYPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT: CE**

| Actions Requiring Concurrences                           | YES                      | NO                                  |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Section 4(f) Evaluation                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Section 106/Assessment of Effects Required               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Endangered Species/Section 7 Consultation                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| USFWS Coordination for Longitudinal Stream Encroachments | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**IV. FHWA DOCUMENT APPROVAL DATE:** 12-13-2007

**V. DATE(S) OF PRIOR REEVALUATION(S):** N/A

**VI. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT STAGE:** Right-of-Way  
**ROW CERTIFICATION DATE:** N/A

**VII. HAS PROJECT, PROJECT LIMITS, OR ROW CHANGED SINCE THE LAST APPROVAL:** Yes

**VIII. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT, PROJECT LIMITS, OR ROW CHANGES:** Minor amounts of right-of-way, not previously within the prior survey limits is now required for cut/fill limits, driveway easements, and construction of slope easements. These include a small area from stations 121+97.39 to 126+00.00 (approximately 0.086 acre). A small area at station 183+500.00 (approximately 0.027 acre). An easement at Station 254+50.00 to STA254+90.00 (approximately 0.046 acre). An easement for a drive at station 314+00.00 to 315+75.00 (approximately 0.33 acre). An area from Station 128+00.00 to 131+00 (approximately 0.055 acre). And an area on Arrow Head Road at station 501+00 which include two areas of easement one on the east and one on the west sides of the road, which are required for the construction of slopes (0.016 acre on the west and 0.006 acre on the east). In addition, the Median on Atlanta Highway has been revised to include a left turn lane from station 60+50 to 67+00.

**IX. HAVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES BEEN UPDATED SINCE THE LAST PROJECT APPROVAL:** Yes

**X. HAVE THERE BEEN SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT:** No

**XI. REVIEW OF EFFECTS**

“Yes” or “No” denotes whether effects to environmental resources have changed as a result of project changes or changes in the effected environment.

| A. SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT                      | HAVE EFFECTS CHANGED?               |                                     | REMARKS OR REFERENCE TO ATTACHMENT |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|  | YES                                 | NO                                  |                                    |
| 1. Land Use Changes                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1                                  |
| 2. Community Cohesion                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 3. Relocation Potential                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 4. Churches and Institutions               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 5. Parks/Recreation Areas/Wildlife Refuges | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 6. Title VI/E.O. 12898                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 7. Public Controversy Potential            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 8. Public Involvement                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 9. Economic                                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 10. Other                                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |

| B. CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT     | HAVE EFFECTS CHANGED?    |                                     | REMARKS OR REFERENCE TO ATTACHMENT |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                             | YES                      | NO                                  |                                    |
| 1. Historic Sites           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 2                                  |
| 2. Archaeological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 2                                  |
| 3. Section 4(f)             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |

| C. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT           | HAVE EFFECTS CHANGED?               |                                     | REMARKS OR REFERENCE TO ATTACHMENT |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                  | YES                                 | NO                                  |                                    |
| 1. Water Quality/303(d) List     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 2. Wetlands/Open Waters          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 3. Streams                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1                                  |
| 4. Wild or Scenic Rivers         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 5. Essential Fisheries Habitat   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 6. Farmland                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 7. Floodplains                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 8. Endangered/Threatened Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1                                  |
| 9. Invasive Species              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 10. Migratory Birds              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 11. Other                        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |



| D. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT     | HAVE EFFECTS CHANGED?    |                                     | REMARKS OR REFERENCE TO ATTACHMENT |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                             | YES                      | NO                                  |                                    |
| 1. Noise                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 2. Air                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 3. Energy/Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 4. Construction/Utilities   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 5. USTs                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 6. Hazardous Waste Sites    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |

| E. PERMITS/VARIANCES/ COMMITMENTS REQUIRED | HAVE EFFECTS CHANGED?               |                                     | REMARKS OR REFERENCE TO ATTACHMENT |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|  | YES                                 | NO                                  |                                    |
| 1. U.S. Coast Guard Permit                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 2. Forest Service/Corps Land               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 3. Section 404                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1                                  |
| 4. Tennessee Valley Authority              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 5. Stream Buffer Variance                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 6. Coastal Zone Management Coordination    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                                    |
| 7. Other Commitments                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | See Green Sheet                    |

**XII. NEED FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:**

- A Public Information Open House was held on November 28, 2006.
- There have been no changes in the project design or environmental effects that would require a Public Information Open House.

**XIII. FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS**

- Based on the analysis contained in this reevaluation, it has been determined that the changes in project design and/or environmental effects would not significantly alter the conclusions reached in the approved environmental document and/or previous reevaluations.
- There have been no changes in the design/ROW of this project nor have there been changes in project effects or the affected environment. Therefore, the conclusions reached in the approved environmental document and/or previous reevaluations remain valid.

PREPARED BY: *ant phillips* 6-4-09  
 GDOT Project Planner Date

APPROVED BY: *Glenn Bowman* 6-8-09  
 Glenn Bowman, P.E. Date  
 State Environmental/Location Engineer

CONCURRED: *Kelly Mude* 6/11/09  
 Signature (FHWA) Date  
 For: Rodney N. Barry, P.E.  
 Division Administrator  
 Federal Highway Administration

Attachments appear in the following order:

1. Effects Evaluation
2. Correspondence

Purpose for Reevaluation: Change/ROW

**ENVIRONMENTAL REEVALUATION**  
**ATTACHMENT 1: EFFECTS EVALUATION**  
**PROJECT NO. NH000-0003-03(053)**  
**CLARKE COUNTY**  
**PI NO. 122890**

**A. SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT**

**1. Land Use Changes**

The proposed additional easements for cut/fill limits, driveway easements, and construction of slope easements would require a total of approximately 0.566 acre of additional right-of-way. These changes are minor and are not expected to impact land use.

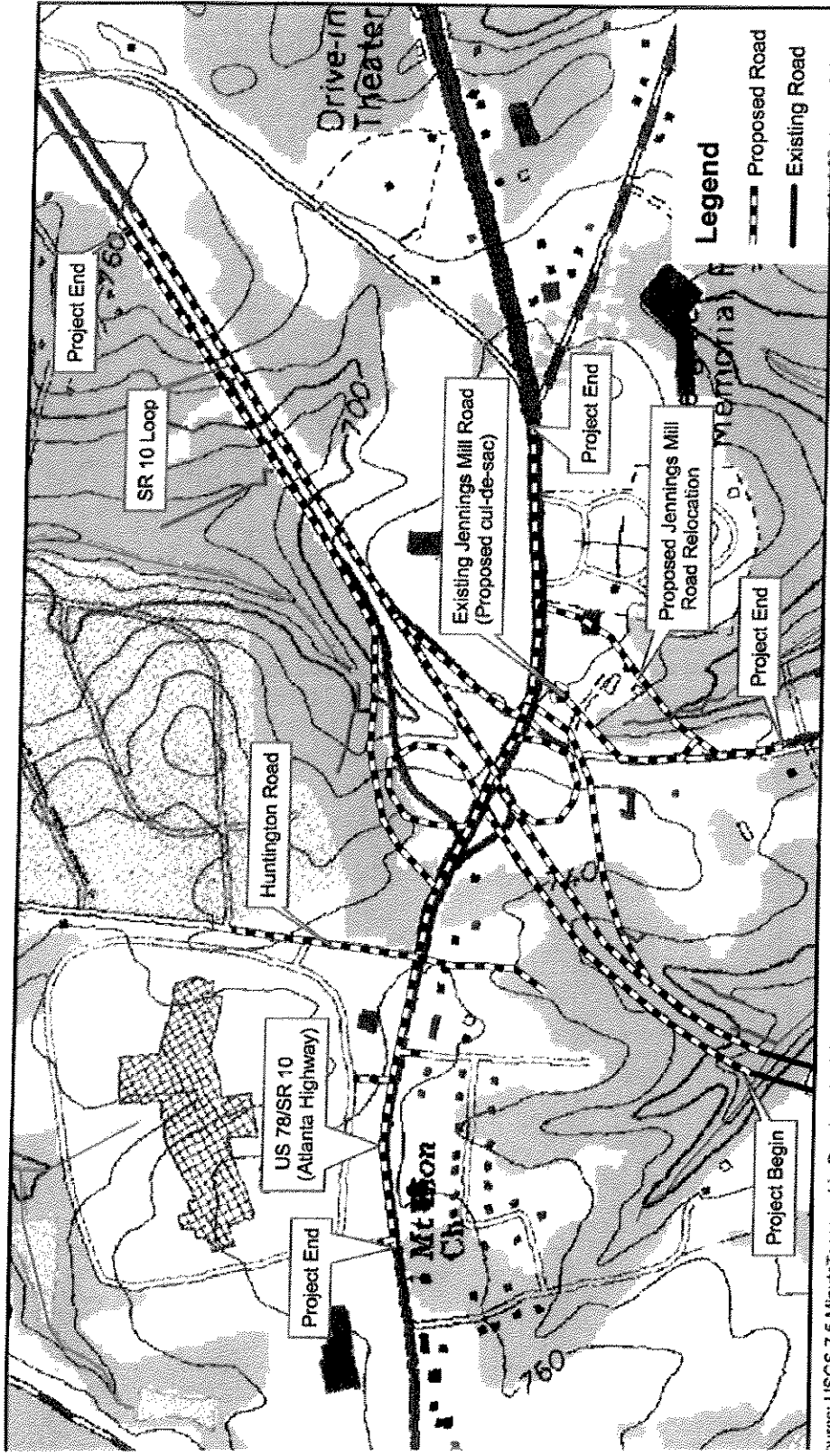
**C. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

**3. Streams**

The project area was first surveyed in 2006. During this survey, one perennial stream (Stream 1) was identified. A recent survey, conducted on August 25, 2008 identified two ephemeral stream, two intermittent streams and two other perennial streams. Of these streams, two ephemeral and two perennial streams will incur impacts as a result of this project.

Stream 0

Stream 0 is a perennial stream that flows east to west under SR 10 Loop through a culvert near the northern terminus of the project. Channel width measures approximately 10 feet and depth measures approximately 1 foot. At the time of the survey water in the channel measured approximately 6 to 12 inches. This stream is not listed on Georgia's 2008 Integrated 305(b)/303(d) list for impaired streams. Stream 0 will incur 60 feet (0.01 acre) of impact due to a culvert extension. Fish and Wildlife concurrence for these impacts was obtained (see Attachment 2.)



Source: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle, Athens West Georgia

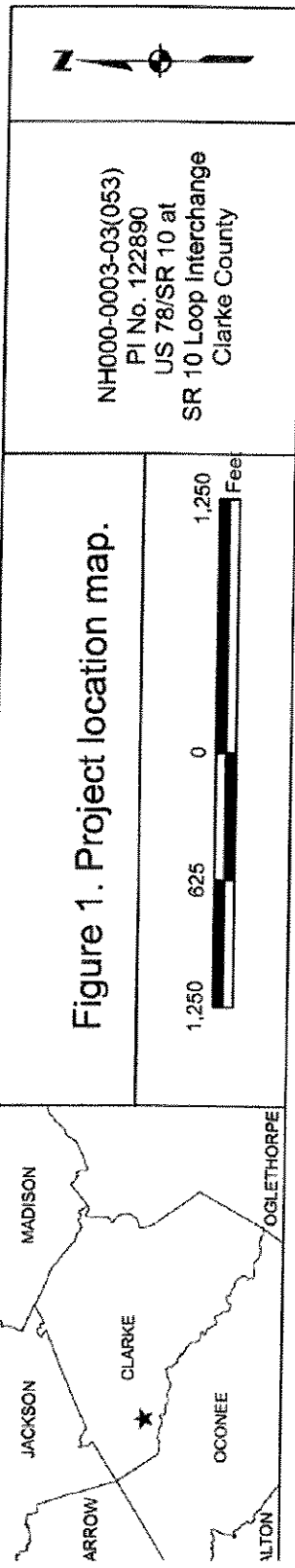
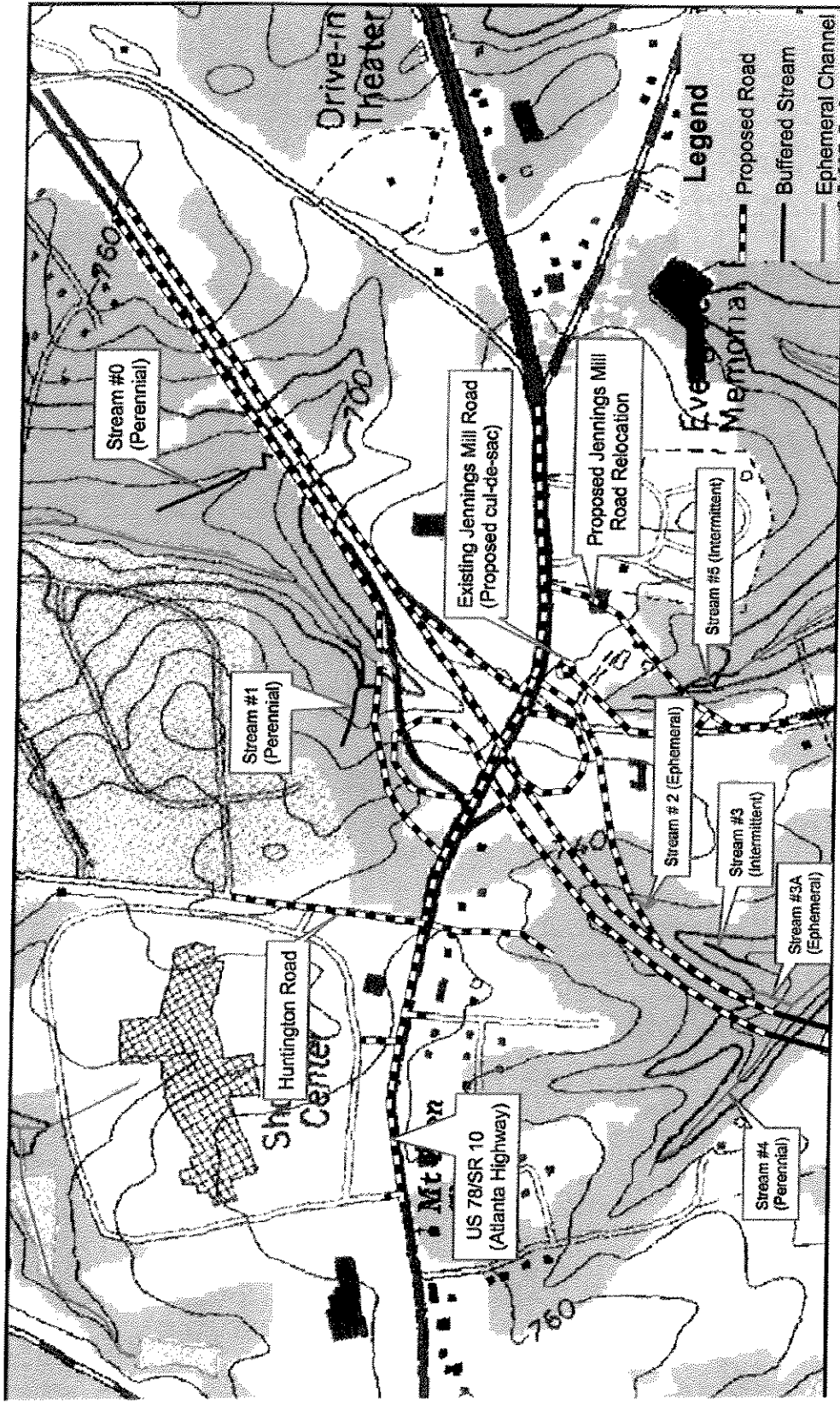


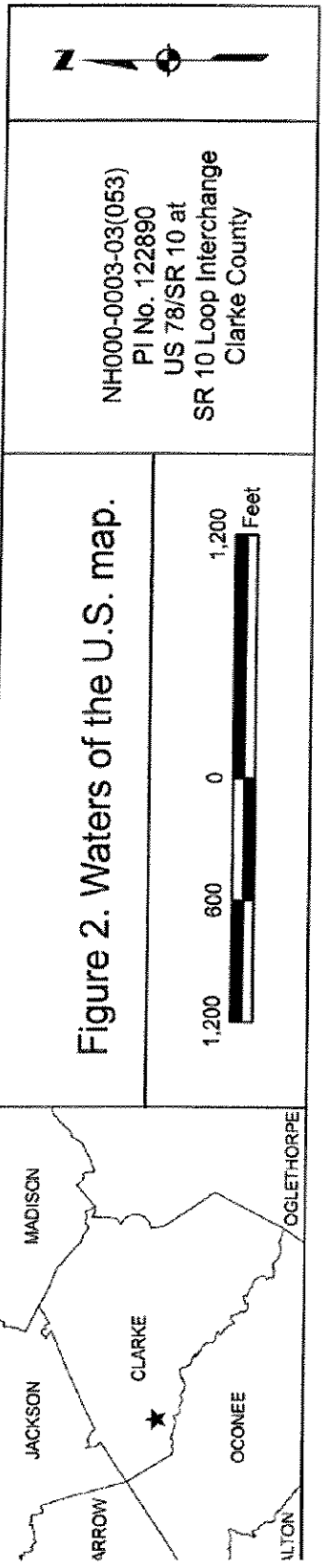
Figure 1. Project location map.



NH000-0003-03(053)  
 PJ No. 122890  
 US 78/SR 10 at  
 SR 10 Loop Interchange  
 Clarke County



Source: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle, Athens West Georgia



### Stream 1

Stream 1 is a perennial stream that is located outside the project area. This stream was covered in the original Ecology Report and would not be impacted by this project.

### Stream 2

Stream 2 is an ephemeral channel due to the lack of any evidence of ground water flow. Stream 2 is located in the drainage ditch at the top of the slope of the exit ramp from SR 10 Loop to Atlanta Highway. Channel width measured approximately 2 feet and depth approximately 6 feet. This is an incised channel. No water was in the channel at the time of the survey. This channel is not listed on Georgia's 2008 Integrated 305(b)/303(d) list for impaired streams. However, it does drain into McNutt Creek, which is listed for not supporting fishing due to fecal coliform. Stream 2 will incur 215 feet (0.01 acre) of impact due to piping.

### Stream 3

Stream 3 is an intermittent channel that emanates from the hillside at the end of the concrete channel connected to Stream 2 to the north. The channel measures approximately 3 to 4 feet wide and 1 to 4 feet deep. There was no water in the channel at the time of the survey, but was classified as an intermittent stream due to the presence of substrate sorting, continuous bed and bank, head cuts, grade controls and hydric soils. This stream is not listed on Georgia's 2008 Integrated 305(b)/303(d) list for impaired streams. However, it does drain into McNutt Creek, which is listed for not supporting fishing due to fecal coliform. Stream 3 will not be impacted by this project.

### Stream 3A

Stream 3A is an ephemeral channel located on the hillside of the SR 10 Loop fill slope. This channel does not have a continuous bed and bank or any evidence of

groundwater flow. The substrate is consistent with the surrounding soil, which is not hydric. This channel is not listed on Georgia's 2008 Integrated 305(b)/303(d) list for impaired streams. However, it does drain into McNutt Creek, which is listed for not supporting fishing due to fecal coliform. Stream 3A will incur 10 feet (0.0005 acre) of impact due to riprap.

#### Stream 4

Stream 4 is a perennial stream located beyond the southern terminus of the project. Although this stream will not be impacted by this project, it is within 200 feet of the project area and therefore, will be labeled on the plans. This stream is not listed on Georgia's 2008 Integrated 305(b)/303(d) list for impaired streams. However, it does drain into McNutt Creek, which is listed for not supporting fishing due to fecal coliform. Stream 4 will not be impacted by this project.

#### Stream 5

Stream 5 is an intermittent stream that will cross the proposed relocation of Jennings Mill Road. This stream emanates from the hillside just east of the current Jennings Mill Road. The channel has a sand/cobble substrate and measures approximately 3 feet wide and 1 to 5 feet deep. This stream has been classified as intermittent due to the presence of a continuous bed and bank, sinuosity, substrate sorting, depositional bars and headcuts. This stream leads into Kingswood Branch just outside the project area. Kingswood Branch is on Georgia's 2008 Integrated 305(b)/303(d) list for not supporting fishing due to fecal coliform and pH. Stream 5 will incur 130 feet (0.009 acre) of impact due to piping as a result of this project. Fish and Wildlife concurrence for these impacts was obtained (see attachment 2.)

#### **Measures to Avoid or Minimize Impacts**

Stream 0 will incur 60 feet (0.01 acre) of impact due to a culvert extension required to accommodate the proposed SR 10 Loop south exit ramp on to SR 10/US

78/Atlanta Highway. This stream is located at the northern terminus of the project. SR 10 Loop is proposed to be widened slightly in this area in order to construct a loop ramp. This stream flows under SR 10 Loop through a culvert that is currently perched above the stream channel due to erosion. The culvert extension is being designed to bring the outlet in line with the current stream channel to avoid any future unnecessary erosion. If this culvert is not extended, it will continue to erode the hillside and create unsafe driving conditions along SR 10 Loop south.

Stream 2 will incur 215 feet (0.01 acre) of impacting due to piping as a result of this project. This ephemeral channel will be impacted to accommodate the SR 10 Loop north exit ramp on to SR 10/US 78/Atlanta Highway. In order to avoid this channel, the exit ramp would have to increase its curvature. Doing this would reduce driver safety. This channel will be replaced with a new grassed channel.

Stream 3 A will incur 10 feet (0.0005 acre) of impact due to riprap. This channel will be impacted by riprap in an effort to support its stability. If riprap is not placed at the outlet of the existing pipe, the channel could incur unnecessary erosion.

Stream 5 will incur 130 feet (0.009 acre) of impact due to piping as a result of this project. The stream will be impacted by the relocation of Jennings Mill Road. Impacts to this stream could be avoided only if Jennings Mill Road is not relocated. This road is being relocated to support driver safety near and around the SR 10 Loop north exit ramp on to SR 10/US 78/Atlanta Highway which will be controlled by a traffic signal. Jennings Mill Road is currently in very close proximity to the proposed exit ramp. If it is not relocated, traffic will become congested at the intersection of Jennings Mill Road and Atlanta Highway as well as the traffic on the SR 10 Loop exit ramp on to Atlanta Highway.

Shifting Jennings Mill Road to the west is not possible as that is the location of the proposed exit ramp. Shifting the road to the east will not decrease impacts to the



perpendicular crossing. This road will need to be relocated to keep its access to SR 10/US 78/Atlanta Highway. Jennings Mill Road will cross Stream 5 perpendicularly, avoiding any unnecessary impact.

### **Mitigation**

Under the current agreement between the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Georgia DOT regarding categorical exclusion projects, stream impacts greater than 100 linear feet and wetland impacts greater than 0.10 acres will be mitigated.

This project would impact 190 feet of perennial stream and 225 feet (0.0105 acre) of ephemeral stream. The perennial stream impact will require the purchase of stream mitigation credits. The ephemeral stream impact will require the purchase of wetland/open water mitigation credits. Total mitigation required for this project is 868.5 stream credits and 0.05 wetland/open water credit. These credits will be purchased from a US Army Corps of Engineers approved mitigation bank which serves Upper Oconee River Watershed.

### **8. Endangered/Threatened Species**

The current design changes do not change the determinations to the gray bat, Georgia aster, or the bald eagle.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources had found a record occurrence of state protected Altamaha shiner (*Cyprinella xaenura*) and Indian olive (*Nestronia umbellula*) within 3 miles of the proposed project.

#### Altamaha shiner – State Endangered

The Altamaha shiner is a robust minnow that grows 11 cm (4.3 inches) in length. This fish is a ducky olive with a dark dorsal strip and a lateral black stripe on the posterior back half of the body. The shiner has a pointed snout and terminal to subterminal mouth. Breeding males have blue sides and yellow/orange dorsal, caudal,

and anal fins. Altamaha shiner is endemic to the Altamaha River drainage of north central Georgia and is often found in small pools with rocky to sandy substrates. Specimens have been collected from the North Oconee, Middle Oconee, Oconee, Ocmulgee, Altamaha, Apalachee and Little River systems. Stream 0, Stream 1, and Stream 4 contain potential habitat for the Altamaha shiner. Special Provisions 107.23G are included to ensure that the proposed project will avoid impacts to this species, to the greatest extent possible. This project will have no significant adverse affect to the Altamaha shiner.

#### Indian Olive – State Threatened

Indian Olive is a deciduous, colonial opposite leaved shrub that grows to 0.6 to 1.3 meters tall. Young branches are smooth, shiny, and dark purple-green to brown. Leaves are narrowly ovate and elliptic, 3 to 6 cm long and about half as wide smooth and pointed. The female flowers are solitary and the male flowers grow in clusters. The fruit is an olive shaped drupe. This shrub flowers from April to May and bears fruit in July. The best time to survey for this species is during the growing season as the twigs and leaves are diagnostic. Indian olive is found in dry, open upland forests of mixed hardwood and pine. There are two distinct areas within the proposed project area that are classified as upland forests with mixed hardwood and pine. One of these areas is in the proximity of Stream 5. The other is the wooded area between stream 0 and stream 1. Both of these wooded areas are bordered by existing roadways and contain a great deal of invasive species including Chinese privet and blackberry. Due to the lack of an open under and mid-story and the abundance of invasive species, this project does not contain suitable habitat for this species. This project will have no effect to Indian olive.

**E. PERMITS/VARIANCES/COMMITMENTS REQUIRES**

**3. Section 404**

This project would impact 190 feet of perennial stream and 225 feet (0.0105 acre) of ephemeral stream. These impacts would require a 404 Nationwide 23 permit.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

**Project NH000-0003-03(053),**

**CLARKE County**

**PI No. 122890**

**Reevaluation**

**Attachment 2**

**Correspondence**



# United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service  
105 West Park Drive, Suite D  
Athens, Georgia 30606

West Georgia Sub Office  
P.O. Box 52560  
Ft. Benning, Georgia 31995-2560

MAY 11 2009

Coastal Sub Office  
4980 Wildlife Drive  
Townsend, Georgia 31331

Mr. Rodney Barry, P.E.  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration, Georgia Division  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Suite 17T100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
ATTN: Ms. Kelly Wade

RE: USFWS Log# 41460-2009-FA-0756, GDOT P.I. No. 122890.

Dear Mr. Barry:

Thank you for your April 30, 2009, electronic mail regarding Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) project NH-0003-3(53). We submit the following comments under provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et. seq.*).

The referenced project proposes to construct a new loop ramp from US 78 to State Route 10 Loop (South). As a result of project implementation, 190 linear feet of channel impacts would occur to intermittent and perennial streams within the project's area of potential effect, as detailed in GDOT's April 14, 2009, consultation package.

GDOT investigated options to minimize and avoid impacts to wetlands and streams. However, design constraints deemed further avoidance and/or minimization of stream and wetland impacts impracticable. GDOT proposes to compensate for impacts with the acquisition of mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank.

We concur with your determination, that impacts to streams along the corridor are unavoidable and necessary to implement the proposed project. GDOT's mitigation proposal satisfies your agency's responsibilities under FWCA. No additional compensation is necessary.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact staff biologist Pete Pattavina, at 706-613-9493, ext. 236.

Sincerely,

*FOR* Sandra S. Tucker  
Field Supervisor

cc: Rich Williams, GDOT  
file

Gerald M. Ross, P.E., Commissioner/Chief Engineer



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

One Georgia Center, 600 West Peachtree Street, NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308  
Telephone: (404) 631-1000

14 April 2009

Mr. Rodney N. Barry, P.E.  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W., 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3104  
Attn: Kelly Wade

Re: Project NH000-0003-00(053), Clarke County PI# 122890, Report Transmittal and Request for Coordination under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act for the Proposed Channel Loss on an un-named tributary to McNutt Creek.

Dear Mr. Barry:

The purpose of this letter is to request coordination under the Endangered Species Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act for the proposed channel loss on Stream #5, an un-named tributary to McNutt Creek. Please find attached the Ecology Addendum for the referenced project. This report outlines potential impacts to wetlands, streams, and protected species for the Department's proposed project.

The anticipated impacts related to the project are as follows:

- Wetland impacts are estimated at 0.0 acres.
- Perennial and intermittent stream impacts are estimated at 190 feet.
- Ephemeral stream impacts are estimated at 225 feet.
- No effect to federally listed species.
- No significant adverse effect to Altamaha shiner.

The project includes construction of a new loop ramp from US 78 westbound to SR 10 Loop southbound, realigning the existing loop ramp from US 78 eastbound to SR 10 Loop northbound. SR 10 Loop will remain 4 lanes with a 40' depressed median. Improvements to SR 10 Loop include adding a deceleration/storage lane to the southbound exit ramp, adding a southbound entrance loop ramp with an acceleration lane on SR 10 Loop, realigning the northbound loop ramp and the acceleration lane on SR 10 Loop, and realigning the SR 10 Loop northbound and southbound exit ramps. Realigning the SR 10 Loop exit ramps and loop entrance ramps require 100 feet of additional ROW. No other additional ROW will be required along SR 10 Loop. The project also includes improvements to US 78 by adding four lanes, lengthening several turn lanes, improving the Huntington Road/US 78 intersection, and relocating the Jennings Mill Road/US 78 intersection approximately 300' east of its current location.

Stream #5, an unnamed tributary to McNutt Creek, will be crossed by the relocation of Jennings Mill Road. This stream emanates from the hillside just east of the current Jennings Mill Road. This stream leads into Kingswood Branch just outside the project area. Kingswood Branch is on Georgia's 2008 Integrated 305(b)/303 (d) listed for not supporting fishing due to fecal coliform and pH. Stream #5 will incur 130 feet (0.009 acre) of impact due to piping as a result of the relocation of Jennings Mill Road.

Jennings Mill Road is immediately east of the interchange at SR 10 Loop and Atlanta Highway. The existing road will be terminated with a cul-de-sac in an effort to alleviate traffic and support driver safety within close proximity of the interchange. Stream #5 will be crossed perpendicularly by the relocated Jennings Mill Road in order to minimize impact. Jennings Mill Road cannot be relocated without impacting Stream #5. By crossing the stream perpendicularly, impact is being minimized as much as possible.

The channel loss and culvert impact to Stream #5 would require 565.5 stream mitigation credits. Total project impacts would require 868.5 stream credits and 0.05 wetland credit. These credits will be debited or purchased from an approved mitigation bank which serves the HUC 03070101.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service county list of threatened and endangered species was reviewed to determine the proposed project's potential impact to protected species in Clarke County. Through field surveys of the project corridor, it has been determined that this project would have no effect on any federally protected species. Special Provisions are included to protect the Altamaha shiner. As a result, this project will not adversely affect Altamaha shiner.

The Department respectfully requests your concurrence with these biological determinations. The Department is also requesting that your office initiate coordination with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et. Seq.) for the above referenced project. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact Meghan Hedeem at 404-699-4309 or Chris Coppola at 404-699-4428.

Sincerely,



Glenn Bowman  
State Environment/Location Engineer

GB/CC/mwh  
enclosure

cc: Kimberly Nesbitt, GDOT Project Manager  
Pete Pattavina, USFWS

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

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**INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE**

**FILE** P.I. #122890

**OFFICE** Environment/Location

**DATE** April 17, 2009

**FROM** Sandy Lawrence

**TO** Files

**SUBJECT** GDOT Project NH000-0003-03(053), Clarke County;  
P.I. #122890 and HP #001108-006;  
Revised Property Information Form and Project Re-Evaluation

Attached for your files is the Revised Property Information Form (PIF) for the subject project. A Survey Report dated March 31, 2009 for the Evergreen Memorial Park was submitted to your office for review in which the cemetery was recommended eligible for the National Register. In a letter dated April 16, 2009, your office determined that the Evergreen Memorial Park was not eligible for the National Register. Please find attached a revised PIF reflecting this change in eligibility.

The project design was revised in 2008 as noted in the Survey Report; however, these changes did not enlarge the Area of Potential Effect for the project. Since the APE was not enlarged and since there are no eligible historic resources located within the APE of the project, the original finding of No Historic Properties Affected, dated March 21, 2001 is still valid, and no further documentation under Section 106 is required.

SJL/

cc: Rodney N. Barry, P.E., FHWA, w/attachment (Attn: Kelly Wade)  
W. Ray Luce, Deputy SHPO, w/attachment  
Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center, w/attachment  
Amber Phillips, GDOT NEPA



## Phillips, Amber

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**From:** Pomfret, Jim  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 09, 2008 1:41 PM  
**To:** Phillips, Amber  
**Subject:** RE: BRST0-0064-01(049) Chatham County PI 533160

I changed my TPRO comment to read

“recent project changes covered in original surveys 12/09/2008”

Jim Pomfret  
Archaeologist  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
[jpomfret@dot.ga.gov](mailto:jpomfret@dot.ga.gov)  
W 404.699.4411  
C 404.797.6322  
F 404.699.4440

---

**From:** Phillips, Amber  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 04, 2008 3:21 PM  
**To:** Pomfret, Jim; Hedeem, Meghan W.; Southall, Sharman  
**Subject:** BRST0-0064-01(049) Chatham County PI 533160

Revised Special Studies were requested on 9-17-08 and while the LET moved to June so I don't need these right away I will need them by February. However, when our section did a run through, since some of us won't be here for the LET status meeting, they were confused that I had in my comments that studies were requested and no one else showed they were. Could, if the original survey covered this area put in T-Pro you received the request and the original survey covered the area or something along those lines that would be great. If they did not please put working on update or something. Thanks so much for your help.

Thanks,

Amber L. Phillips  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
Office of Environment/Location  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta GA, 30336  
Phone: 404-699-4408  
Fax: 404-699-4440

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