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NOTIFICATION

Initiation of Section 106 Process for

The Addition of an I-85 Northbound Lane From Just North of I-985 to State Road 20, Gwinnett County

February 27, 2006

The Georgia Department of Transportation is in the beginning stages of project development for this proposed transportation project. In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Department has determined that because of the nature and the scope of this undertaking, the proposed project has the potential to cause effects to historic properties if any such properties exist in the project area. The Department is attempting to identify historic properties already listed in the National Register of Historic Places and any properties not already listed that would be considered eligible for listing that are located within the geographic area of potential effects (APE) of the proposed project.

The proposed project would consist of a facility to include the addition of one northbound lane northeastward to State Road 20 (SR 20) in Gwinnett County. This segment of the project corridor is located at the split between I-985 from I-85 and extends approximately 1.7 miles (2.7 km) along the northbound side of I-85 to the interchange with SR 20 (see attached location map). The existing facility varies from three lanes at the project start to two lanes at the project end point. The proposed facility would include the addition of one northbound lane northeastward to SR 20. Existing right-of-way varies from 150 feet to 250 feet. Proposed right-of-way would vary up to 50 feet. The majority of the project corridor is situated in developed areas along I-85. The proposed project is affiliated with GDOT Project MSL-0003-00(164), Gwinnett County P.I. #003164, GDOT Project NH-IM-85-2(165), Gwinnett County P.I. # 110600, GDOT Project NH-IM-85-2(164), Gwinnett and Barrow Counties P.I. # 110610

Because of the nature and scope of the undertaking, the APE for the proposed project would include the area within the proposed right-of-way and the viewshed of the proposed project (see attached location map). No potential for indirect effects outside this corridor is anticipated as a result of implementation of the proposed project. No change in traffic patterns would result from project implementation. No additional access to the existing facility would be provided and

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existing access to the facility would be either maintained or modified. The project would only increase the capacity of the existing roadway to meet anticipated future demand.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires the Federal Highway Administration and the Georgia Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer, to identify potential consulting parties and to invite them to participate in the Section 106 process. **This Notification letter is one of several methods the Department uses to encourage public participation in this process and it serves as your invitation to participate as a consulting party in the Section 106 process for these projects.**

A written request to become a consulting party for these projects should be directed to:

Brockington and Associates
6611 Bay Circle, Suite 220
Norcross, Georgia 30071

Attn: Patricia Stallings

Responses would be appreciated within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Notification letter. Please refer to the project name (**The Addition of an I- 85 Northbound Lane From Just North of I-985 to State Road 20**) in your response. In addition to the SHPO, other potential consulting parties identified and invited to participate in the Section 106 process for these projects are the Atlanta Regional Commission, Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center, and the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners. If you are aware of other organizations or individuals interested in cultural resources in the project area not already identified, please forward their names to the Department.

Also, on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration Georgia Division (FHWA), in keeping with a government-to-government relationship and in compliance with 36CFR800, the following tribal governments are invited to participate in the Section 106 process for this project: Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Seminole Nation of Florida, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, and the United Keetoowah Band of Indians. Responses to this Notification regarding tribal concerns should be addressed to the attention of Mr. Eric Duff, the Department's Native American liaison, at the above address.

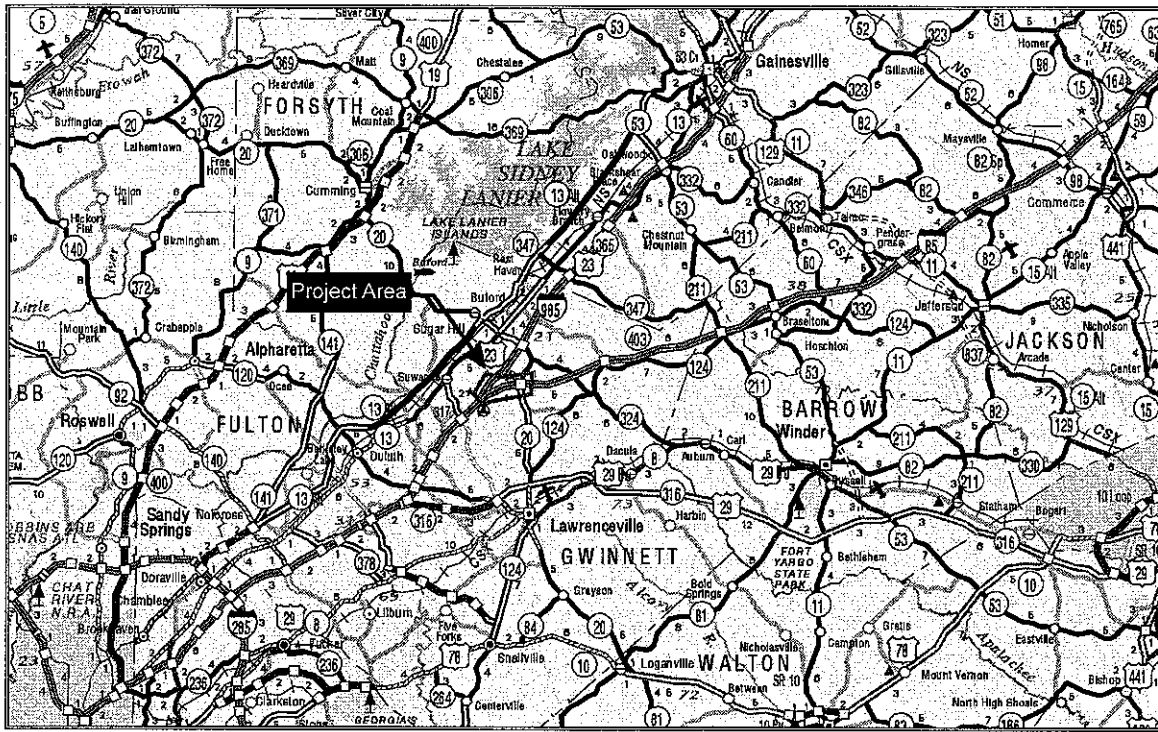
Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been checked to determine if any are located within the APE of this undertaking. This review of existing information revealed that no properties listed in or nominated for listing in the National Register, no National Historic Landmarks and no bridges determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register in the updated Georgia Historic Bridge Survey (GHBS) are located within the proposed project's APE.

Even though no properties 50 years old or older were identified within the APE in the 1976 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Gwinnett County survey, because of the age of the survey the proposed projects will be field surveyed for both historic properties and archaeological sites and the Criteria of Eligibility will be applied to any identified properties in consultation with the Georgia SHPO and other consulting parties to determine if any of those properties are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Consulting parties are also invited to provide information concerning any historic or archaeological properties already listed in the National Register or that could be eligible for

listing in the National Register that are not identified in this Notification letter. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Department will assess project effects to any identified historic properties as preliminary project plans become available, endeavor to minimize harm to all identified historic properties and produce an Assessment of Effects report. This document will be provided to all consulting parties for comment when completed.

Individuals and organizations that do not wish to become a consulting party, but would still like to comment on the proposed project will also have that opportunity throughout the plan development process. Historic resource concerns can be addressed to Brockington and Associates, Patricia Stallings (770-668-5807 ext.32). Archaeological resource concerns, including cemetery and other human burials, can be addressed to Eric Duff (404-699-4437 or Eric.Duff@dot.state.ga.us) of Department of Transportation's Office of Environment/Location, and questions concerning general design or location issues may be addressed to Russell McMurtry (770-532-5526) of the Department's District One office.



Project Location Map
I-85 Northbound Lane From just North of I-985 to SR 20
Gwinnett County, Georgia