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NOTIFICATION

Initiation of Section 106 Process for

GDOT Project CSNHS-0006-00(043), P.I. # 0006043

**The Construction of a New Interchange at I-575 and Ridgewalk Pkwy./Old Rope Mill Rd.,
the Woodstock Parkway Interchange, Cherokee County, Georgia**

March 1, 2006

The Georgia Department of Transportation (the Department) 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 construct a new full diamond interchange on I-575 between the existing interchanges at Towne Lake Parkway (Exit 8) and Sixes Road (Exit 11) at the existing Woodstock Parkway overpass (signed on bridge as Rope Mill Road). In addition, new auxiliary lanes will be constructed between the new interchange and the Towne Lake Parkway interchange. The proposed project would also realign Old Rope Mill Road to intersect with Ridgewalk Parkway approximately 525 feet to the east of the existing intersection to accommodate the proposed interchange ramps. The total project length would be approximately 9,300 feet (1.76 miles).

The APE for the proposed project would include the areas within the proposed right-of-way and the viewshed of the proposed project (refer to attached graphic). Because a number of new intersections would be created on this new location roadway, the potential for indirect effects outside the project corridor exists. This potential for indirect effects will be further evaluated as projected data becomes available and a clearer picture of possible changes in traffic patterns and development pressures emerge.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires the Federal Highway Administration and the Department, in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer, to identify potential consulting parties and to invite them to participate in the Section

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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 this project.

A written request to become a consulting party for cultural resources for this project should be directed to:

Harvey D. Keepler
Department of Transportation
Office of Environment/Location
3993 Aviation Circle
Atlanta, Georgia 30336-1593

Attn: Michelle Brouillette McIntosh, CROY-MSE, LLC.

Responses would be appreciated within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Notification letter. Please refer to the project description in your response. The potential consulting parties identified and invited to participate in the Section 106 process for this project are the Atlanta Regional Commission, Georgia SHPO and the Cherokee County Historical Society. 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: Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Chickasaw Nation, 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.

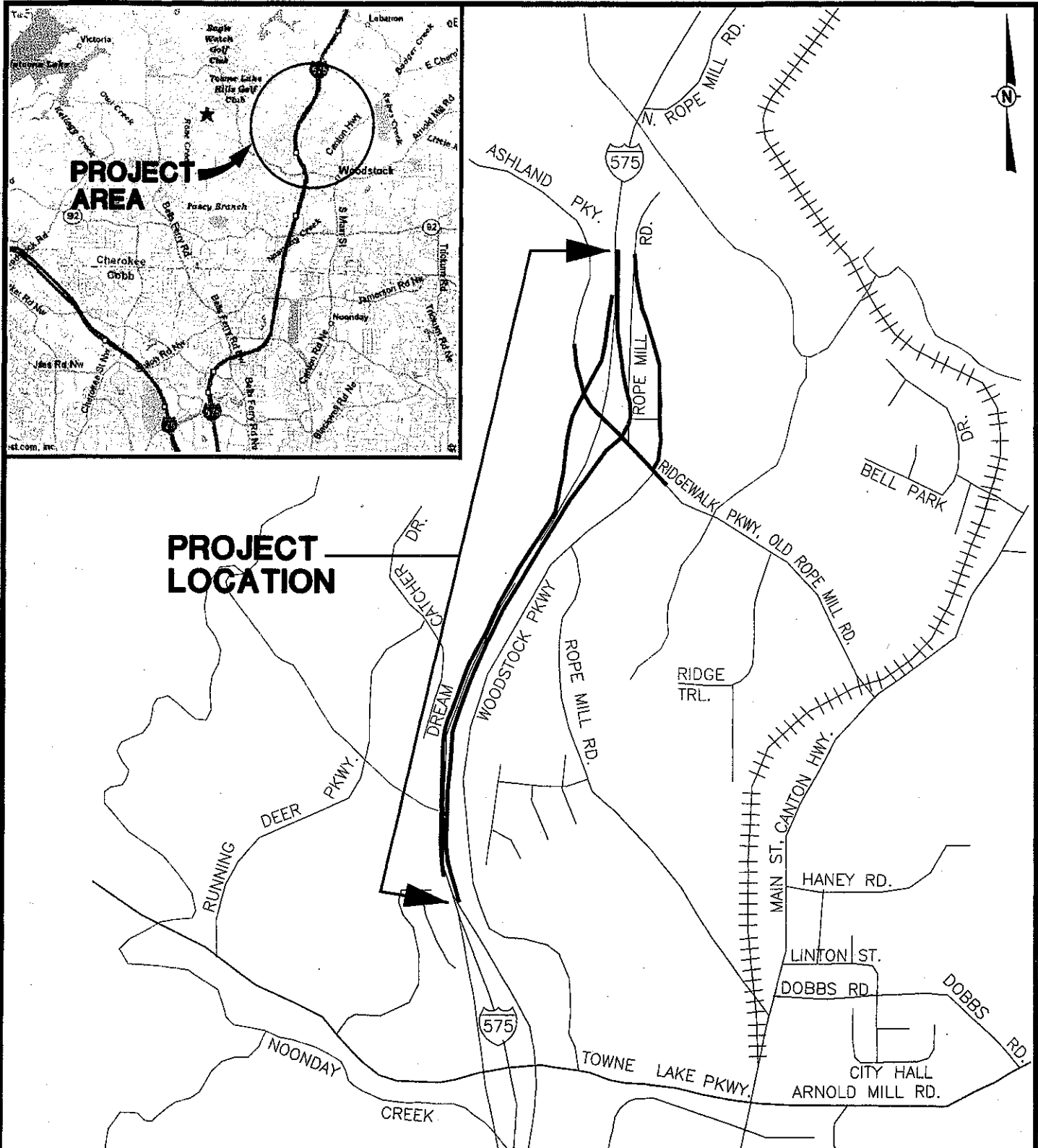
Existing information on previously identified historic properties has been checked to determine if any are located within the APE of this undertaking. This review of existing information revealed that no properties listed in or nominated for listing in the National Register, no National Historic Landmarks, no bridges determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register in the updated Georgia Historic Bridge Survey (GHBS), and no state-recognized archaeological sites are located within the proposed project's APE. The project area on the DNR 1988 Cherokee County survey was reviewed and no potential resources were identified in the survey.

Field surveys for both historic properties and archaeological sites will be conducted and the Criteria of Eligibility will be applied in consultation with the Georgia SHPO and other consulting parties to determine if any of these sites 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 Ms. Michelle McIntosh, CROY-MSE (770-971-5407 or mmcintosh@croymse.com) or Ms. Beth Gantt, R.S. Webb and Associates (770-345-0706 or megantt@alltel.net), and archaeological resource concerns, including cemetery and other human burials, can also be addressed to Ms. Gantt. Questions concerning general design or location issues may be addressed to Ron Cooper (770-971-5407 or rcooper@mse.ws) of CROY-MSE.



CROY-MSE

CROY-MSE, LLC

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SCALE: N.T.S.

DATE: NOV. 10, 2005

JOB NO.: 0505

DRAWN BY: DCF

I-575 INTERCHANGE CHEROKEE COUNTY, GEORGIA

VICINITY MAP

FIGURE 1