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NOTIFICATION

Initiation of Section 106 Process for GDOT Project STP-018-1(70), Paulding County

P.I. # 631630

November 7, 2005

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 project proposes to replace the existing 4-way stop and overhead flashing beacon with a traffic signal and provide left and right turn lanes for each approach of SR61 at CR472/Ridge Road and CR215/Mulberry Rock Road intersection (see attached location map). Upgrades to shoulders and ditches would also occur throughout the project corridor. Existing right-of-way is 80 feet. Proposed right-of-way would be 160 feet. From the intersection, the proposed improvements would extend approximately 910 feet in each direction along SR61 and approximately 690 feet along both CR472/Ridge Road and CR215/Mulberry Rock Road.

Because of the nature and scope of the undertaking, the APE is limited to the proposed right-of-way and viewshed of the proposed project, within which all construction and ground disturbing activity would be confined (refer to attached location map). No potential for indirect effects outside of the proposed right-of-way and viewshed of the proposed project exists.

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 this project.

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

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URS Corporation
400 Northpark Town Center
1000 Abernathy Road, NE Suite 900
Atlanta, GA 30328
Attn: Patrick Smith

Responses would be appreciated within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Notification letter. Please refer to the project identification number (P.I. 631630) 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, the Paulding County Commission, and the Paulding 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 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.

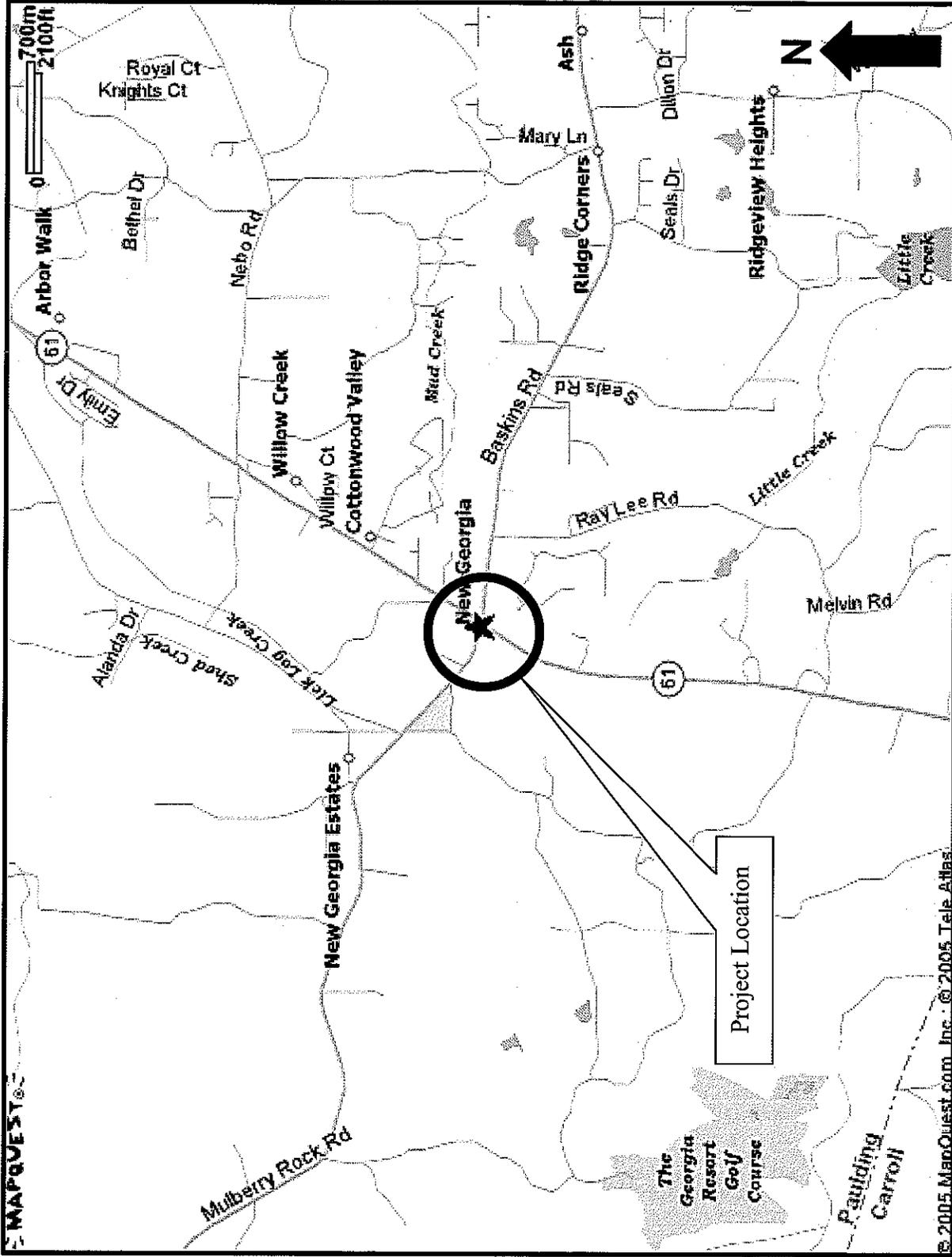
No properties 50 years old or older were identified within the proposed project's APE in the 1977 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Paulding County survey.

Even though no properties 50 years old or older were identified within the APE in the 1977 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Paulding County survey, because of the age of the survey, the proposed project 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 Molly Sheehan of URS Corporation at 678.808.8948 or Molly_Sheehan@urscorp.com; archaeological resource concerns, including cemetery and other human burials, can be addressed to Patrick Smith of URS Corporation at 678.808.8876 or

Patrick_Smith@urscorp.com. Questions concerning general design or location issues may be addressed to Sean Pharr of URS Corporation at 678.808.8839 or Sean_Pharr@urscorp.com.



Project Location Map
SR61 at CR472/Ridge Road and CR215/Mulberry Rock Road
Intersection Improvements
Paulding County
GDOT Project: STP-018-1(70)
P.I. No.: 631630