



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**PIEDMONT BRANCH**  
**1590 ADAMSON PARKWAY, SUITE 200**  
**MORROW, GEORGIA 30260-1777**

**JAN 02 2008**

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Savannah District/State of Georgia**

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), as follows:

Application Number: 200700667

GDOT STP-9252(6) & STP-9250(1), Cobb/Fulton Counties

Applicant: Georgia Department of Transportation  
Office of Environment/Location  
Attention: Ms. Lisa Westberry  
3993 Aviation Circle  
Atlanta, Georgia 30336-1593

Location of Proposed Work: The site is located at latitude 33° 56' 08" north and longitude 84° 23' 41" west, near the City of Roswell, in both Cobb and Fulton Counties, Georgia. The proposed project is on Johnson Ferry Road from Columns Drive to Abernathy Road including the widening of the bridge spanning the Chattahoochee River and along Abernathy Road in Fulton County from Johnson Ferry Road to Roswell Road, approximately; 1.24 miles and 0.93 mile, respectively.

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers: To impact 1335 linear feet of streams to construct road improvement. STP-9252(6) is the proposed widening and improvements of approximately 1.24 miles of Johnson Ferry Road in Cobb and Fulton Counties from Columns Drive to Abernathy Road including the widening of the bridge spanning the Chattahoochee River. The proposed improvements to Johnson Ferry Road would widen the existing four-lane roadway from Columns Drive to Riverside Drive to six lanes including a 16-foot raised grassed median, 4-foot bike lanes, 16-foot urban shoulders, and 8-foot sidewalks. Johnson Ferry Road would then maintain four 11-foot travel lanes from Riverside Drive to Abernathy Road and introduce a 16-foot raised grassed median, 4-foot bike lanes, 16-foot urban shoulders, and 8-foot sidewalks. The four lane section is being maintained along this section of Johnson Ferry Road to avoid unnecessary displacements and reduce impacts to subdivisions and individual properties in this area. STP-9250(1) is the proposed widening and improvements of approximately 0.93 mile along Abernathy Road in Fulton County from Johnson Ferry Road to Roswell Road. The improvements to Abernathy Road would widen the existing two 12-foot lane roadway to four 11-foot lanes with a variable 16-foot to 32-foot raised grassed median, 4-foot bike lanes, 16-foot urban shoulders, and 8-foot sidewalks.

The applicant considered alternative alignments for the road that have been discussed at various times with the other resource agencies. The no-build alternative fails to meet the stated project objective to improve traffic safety and to provide a greatly needed convenience for suburban travelers, as well as alleviate traffic. The other alternatives either adversely affected a historical structure or had more impacts to jurisdictional waters.

Prior to the approval of the purchase of mitigation credits from a commercial mitigation bank as compensatory mitigation, an applicant must demonstrate through documentation to the US Army Corps of Engineers that the option of on-site and within nearby basin mitigation has been thoroughly investigated, with no potential sites located.

## BACKGROUND

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the US Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

## STATE OF GEORGIA

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act that is required by an applicant for a Federal Permit to conduct an activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 25 cents per page. Any person who desires to comment, object, or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so within 30 days of the State's receipt of application in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a hearing. The application can also be seen in the US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Regulatory Division, Piedmont Branch, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777.

State-owned Property and Resources: The applicant may also require assent from the State of Georgia which may be in the form of a license, easement, lease, permit, or other appropriate instrument.

## US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

Cultural Resources Assessment: Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Preservation Division Act of 1966, as amended, we request from the Georgia Historic Preservation Division (Georgia HPD) or any other interested party information on whether any cultural resources that are listed or proposed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) may be present in the area. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be located at the site and could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species: Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we request from the US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, or any other interested party, information on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area.

Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Consideration of Public Comments: The US Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the US Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army Permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for

requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Mr. Alan Miller, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the applicant's name (Georgia Department of Transportation – Johnson Ferry/Abernathy Road Improvements) and the application number (200700667) in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Alan Miller, at (678) 422-2729.

2 Enclosures

1. Project Location Map
2. Other Programmed Projects in the Area

CHEROKEE

FULTON

COBB

DEKALB

DOUGLAS

FORSTY

WINNETT

Scale

0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 Feet

STP-9252(6) & STP-9250(1)

PI#s 751300 & 751310

Cobb & Fulton Counties

Johnson Ferry Rd & Abernathy Rd

Widening and Improvements

N

Source: USGS 7.5 min Topographic Quadrangle, Sandy Springs, GA

