



Department of Transportation

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April 25, 2006

Thank you for attending this public information open house for the Northwest Corridor Project on I-75 and I-575. In this handout package you will find a project location map, room layout map, a comment form, and a handout of frequently asked questions. The objectives of this public information open house are to update you on recent changes to the project and gather your feedback on the information presented.

As you enter the room, you will notice a special automated presentation that will give you an update on changes to the project. Additionally, there are aerial displays of the preliminary layout for the project along with display boards with additional information. Signage is placed throughout the room to guide you through the displays of proposed project information. Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) representatives, identified by their name tags, are available to discuss the project and answer your questions. There will be no formal presentation.

As a convenience to you, we have provided a number of different ways for you to give us your comments on this project. A court reporter is available for those persons who would like to make a verbal statement about the project. You may also complete a comment card and deposit it into the box provided here or send in written comments about the project until May 9, 2006. You may also submit your comments on the project web site at www.nwhovbrt.com or send an email to hov_brt_comments@projectsolvemail.com. You may also elect to leave a message on the project hotline at 404-377-4012. Comments submitted by mail should be sent to Mr. Harvey D. Keeper, State Environmental/Location Engineer, Georgia Department of Transportation, 3993 Aviation Circle, Atlanta, Georgia 30336-1593. All comments will be made a part of the project record. For further project information, copies of meeting handouts and to view project displays please visit the project website. The displays will also be available for review for ten days after the open house at the Georgia Department of Transportation District Six Office, located at 500 Joe Frank Harris Parkway, Cartersville, GA 30120 and the Georgia Department of Transportation, located at No. 2 Capitol Square, S.W. Atlanta, GA 30334.

Again, thank you for attending this open house and for giving us your comments.

Sincerely,

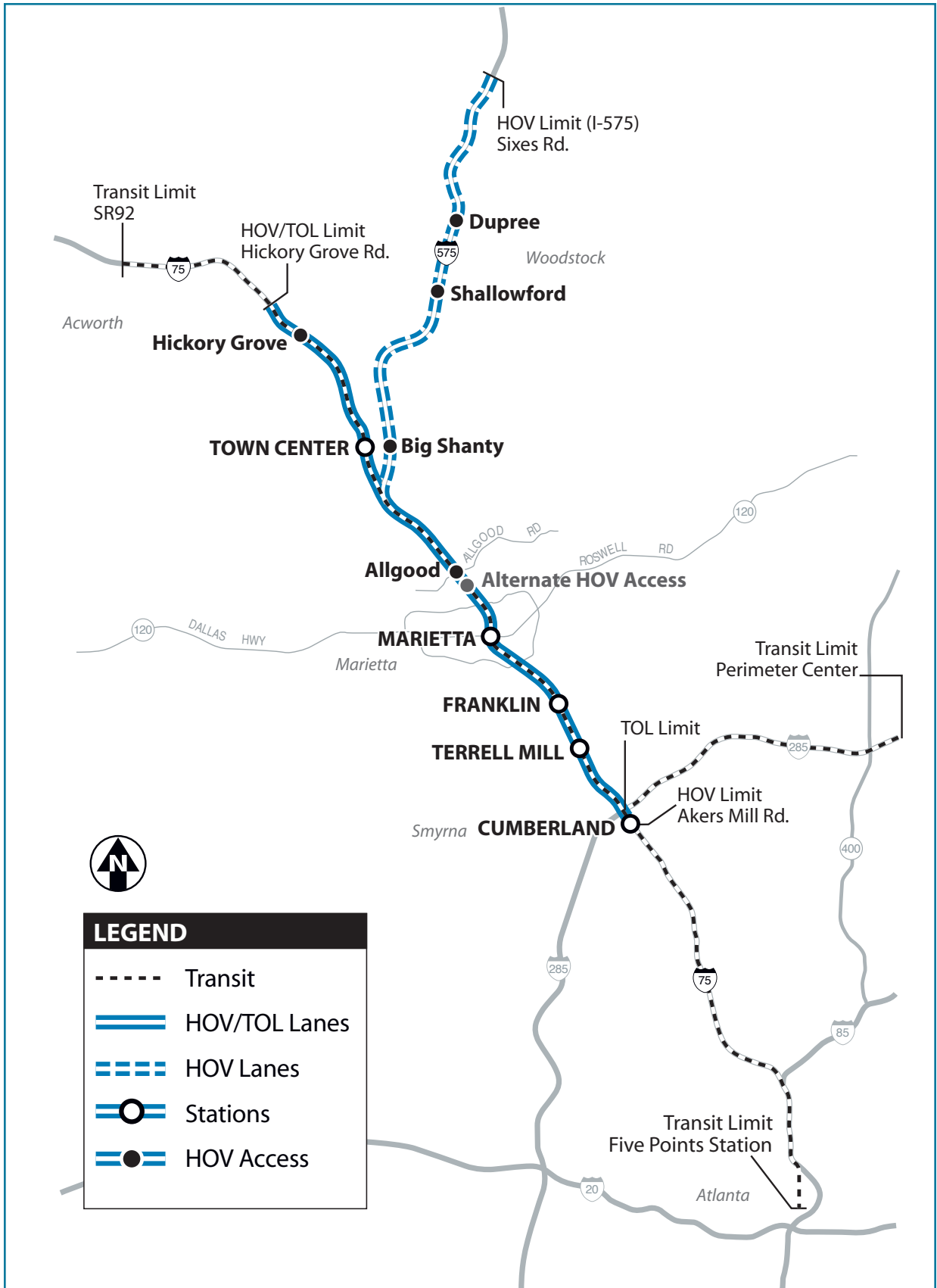
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Buddy Gratton".

Buddy Gratton, P. E.
Director of Preconstruction

BG/rap



Northwest Corridor Project Location Map





Frequently Asked Questions

Q. There are so many acronyms! What do they all stand for?

A. The following is a list of the most commonly used acronyms associated with the Northwest Corridor Project:

AA: Alternatives Analysis

BRT: Bus Rapid Transit

DEIS: Draft Environmental Impact Statement

EB: Eastbound

FEIS: Final Environmental Impact Statement

FHWA: Federal Highway Administration

FTA: Federal Transit Administration

GDOT: Georgia Department of Transportation

GRTA: Georgia Regional Transportation Authority

GTP: Georgia Transportation Partners

HERO: Highway Emergency Response Operator

HOT Lanes: High Occupancy Toll Lanes

HOV Lanes: High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

LPA: Locally Preferred Alternative

NB: Northbound

PIOH: Public Information Open House

PPI: Public Private Initiative

SB: Southbound

SRTA: State Road and Tollway Authority

TOL: Truck Only Lanes

WB: Westbound

Q. When will construction of the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and Truck Only Lanes (TOL) start?

A. Construction of the HOV and TOL may begin as early as mid-year 2008. The project team is in the process of completing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS will then be circulated for comment and a Final EIS will be prepared for the selected locally preferred alternative. A Record of Decision providing environmental clearance for the project is anticipated before the end of 2007. The project is estimated to enter the final design and construction phase in early 2008. After the necessary right-of-way is acquired, construction would begin.

Q. What types of community impacts will you look at when evaluating the project alternatives?

A. The project team is currently identifying and evaluating a comprehensive set of potential social, economic, and environmental impacts. Examples include effects on traffic, parking, existing bus service, economic development, neighborhoods, minority and low-income communities, air quality, aesthetics, noise and vibration, endangered species, historic resources, water resources and parklands.

Q. What is BRT? How is it different from a bus?

A. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) merges the quality of rail transit with the flexibility of buses. A BRT system combines rapid and convenient fare collection, high-tech vehicles, dedicated lanes, stations, extended green lights at intersections, and more frequent service. BRT vehicles run on rubber tires and operate like modern light rail, carrying more people more efficiently and making stops that are farther apart.

Q. Where will BRT stations be located?

A. BRT stations are currently proposed at or near Akers Mill Road, Terrell Mill Road, Delk/Franklin Roads, Roswell/Gresham Roads, and Big Shanty Road Extension.

Q. Why isn't light rail one of the alternatives?

A. It was determined during GRTA's Northwest Connectivity Study, a precursor to the Northwest Corridor Project, that light rail was unaffordable based on costs and projected funding. Bus Rapid Transit operating in HOV lanes was selected as the preferred alternative. BRT performed best with regards to costs and projected ridership. Please visit GRTA's Northwest Connectivity Study website for more information: http://www.grta.org/nwcs/GRTA_Website/index2.htm

Q. How do I get involved in Station Area Planning?

A. To get involved in the process call the Hotline Number at (404) 377-4012, express interest, and leave your contact info or send your information to the email box: hov_brt_comments@projectsolvemail.com.

Q. I own property/operate a business in the study area. Will my property be taken?

A. The exact alignment and locations of the HOV and TO lanes and transit facilities have not yet been finalized. The purpose of the Northwest Corridor Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact Statement is to identify and examine the potential impacts of all the proposed alternatives, and determine which is the best one to move forward. This Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) will be advanced and recommended in the Final EIS. A Record of Decision on whether the project will be funded by the federal governing agencies is anticipated by the end of 2007. If the project is approved and your property or business is determined to be needed, the Department of Transportation's Office of Right-of-Way will contact you in early 2008.

Q. How can I stay updated as the project progresses?

A. Stay updated by visiting the website often and joining the project mailing list. Please call the Hotline Number at (404) 377-4012 and leave your contact info or send your information to the email box: hov_brt_comments@projectsolvemail.com

Q. What is the purpose of truck only lanes? What will they look like?

A. Truck only lanes are utilized to separate trucks from other general-purpose traffic to enhance safety and improve traffic flow. Truck only lanes are usually barrier-separated, and are proposed as such for the Northwest Corridor Project.

Q. How does the Public Private Initiative (PPI) proposal affect the Northwest Corridor Project process?

A. The Department is currently in the process of negotiating a Developers Service contract with the PPI team. This contract will spell out the PPI team's role in the environmental process. After the environmental process is complete, a Design/ Build contract must be negotiated. If that contract is negotiated to each party's satisfaction, the PPI team will take over the final design of the project and the construction.

Q. How long will construction of the project last?

A. If the project is constructed by the traditional approach, where design and construction are authorized under separate contracts, then a 15-20 year timeframe is anticipated. More likely, the project will be built under a design/build approach and may be completed in as little as 6 years.



Georgia Department of Transportation Public Information Open House Comment Form

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____
Address _____

Email Address _____

The proposed Northwest Corridor Project currently under consideration provides for the construction of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes and truck-only lanes (TOL) on I-75 north from Akers Mill Road to Hickory Grove Road, construction of new HOV ramps and interchanges for access to the system, and implementation of express bus or bus rapid transit (BRT) services supported by transit stations, park-and-ride lots, and various bus priority improvements. Additionally, HOV lanes are also proposed on I-575 from the I-75/I-575 Interchange to Sixes Road in Cherokee County. The build alternatives under consideration in the AA/DEIS also include options for tolling the HOV and truck-only lanes. In addition to the build alternatives, the AA/DEIS will evaluate a No-Build Alternative without the proposed improvements. The purpose of this comment form is to collect input from interested stakeholders on the alternatives and issues to be evaluated in the DEIS.

1. Do you have an understanding of the proposed alternatives under consideration and the potential benefits and impacts of each? If no, please list below any areas you would like more information on.

Yes [] No []

2. An alternative to HOV access at Allgood Road has been presented tonight. Do you have any comments on the alternative? Do you have any recommendations for improvements?

3. Do you have any comments regarding the proposed site of the bus storage and maintenance facility?



4. Do you have any comments regarding the proposed Bus Rapid Transit stations and their locations, facility designs, or associated community impacts?

5. In the space provided below, please list any additional comments regarding any aspect of the HOV, BRT and truck-only lane concepts presented at the meeting.

6. Are there any impacts associated with the alternatives under consideration that are of concern to you?

Yes [] No []

If yes, please list them in the space below.

7. Were your questions completely answered by project personnel? Yes [] No []

8. What is the best way to keep you informed as the project progresses?

[] Website

[] Email

[] Mailings

[] Public Information Open Houses

[] Presentations to Neighborhood Groups

[] Other: _____