

DEPARTMENT OF T

STATE OF

LOCATION AND DESIGN

STP-3213(1), STP-3213(3)

P.I. NOS. 350520, 351130, & 351135

BIBB COUNTY

PROPOSED RECONSTRUCTION OF
FOREST HILL ROAD FROM VINEVILLE AVENUE
TO NORTHSIDE DRIVE IN MACON

HELD: JUNE 21, 2001

4:00-7:00 P.M.

AT: SPRINGDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4965 NORTHSIDE DRIVE

MACON, GEORGIA

BAKER-GAY REPORTING

Certified Court Reporters

P.O. Box 1649

Jonesboro, Georgia 30237-1649

770/478-1415

37
total
Snew
32

194

PROCEEDINGS

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MS. KING: I am Margie Chapman King, and I live at 651 Forest Hill Road. My first husband and I built the house about fifty-four years ago, and we've never left it, never moved out of that house. This is my second husband, by the way, and we are disturbed about what's going to happen because we're older. I mean we're really old, like 83 and 80. And we're disturbed about that traffic that's already there. If this work is done, there's going to be all the more, and we can hardly get down the drive now. And sometimes we can't hardly get out of it. We're just concerned about what's going to happen to us in our old age if you want to know the truth. My statement is that they leave it like it is. It's bad enough.

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MR. KING: My name is Jesse King. I live at 651 Forest Hill Road. We have traffic up and down the street now fifty to sixty miles an hour. We need protection because that keeps us from getting out of our driveway safely. If they put one lane one way and another with a turn

signal, that's going to open them up to not slow down. So, you know what that's going to do when they have a free road to travel. And another thing, large trailer trucks coming up and down a street like ours. It's in a neighborhood. That should not be permitted. We have it all day long, and at night we have trailers going up and down the street, and we just need some relief from it and not something that would open it up for them. We need police protection to slow down the travelers, the fast travelers. Maybe if they would reduce the speed to thirty five miles instead of forty five, that might help them to drive forty five instead of fifty five or sixty.

MS. KUNZELMANN: My name is Jan M. Kunzelmann. I live at 662 Forest Hill Road. As a resident of Forest Hill Road, I'm totally opposed to Project 8 and 9. The neighborhood will be totally destroyed by the operation of heavy commercial industrial traffic and increase the speed limit, the noise, the destruction of the trees in the area. Therefore, I totally oppose it. The road now is adequate for the traffic in the area that it

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carries. The speed limit is adequate. It's forty five. There is not a bottle neck on Forest Hill Road as the traffic is carried now. This project is totally to triple or quadruple the traffic in the area, and I oppose that.

I thank you.

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MR. BROWN: This is Lewis Wayne Brown. I live at 989 Underwood Drive. I would like to state some possible additional objections to this project. Number one, it's a community of largely older employees, myself being fifty nine years of age. We have a lot of health problems which include lung problems. Anything that attracts additional traffic to this area is not in our best interest. I have lived here, will be twenty nine years -- I'm sorry -- twenty five years, October 19th.

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I don't want this project. I'd like somebody to take this money and go to the roads that are not even paved and pave the roads in the low income areas so they can have better roads. There's a large turnout here. We don't want this. We vote, and I promise anyone who has

anything to do with destroying Forest Hill Drive, which is what they intend to do, will never be voted into a public office by me. And I'll do my very best to keep out anyone. Thank you very much.

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MS. SANDY DAVIDSON: My name is Sandy

Davidson, and I live at 464 Forest Hill Road.

Well, I just oppose to the widening of the road.

It's not necessary. I think what they ought to do is conform to the integrity of the neighborhood.

I think before they make these plans up, they need to go to the people and talk to them instead of trying to cram what they think we need down our throats. The specifications -- There's no specifications on these maps to tell you that the road's going to be five feet from your front door or ten feet from your side garage.

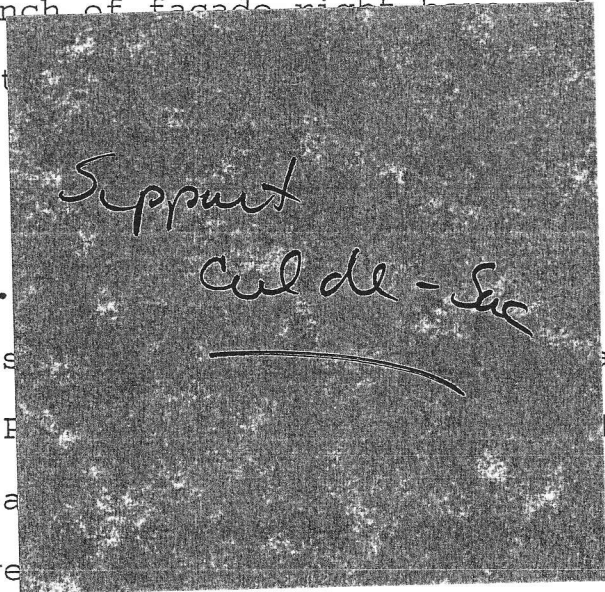
A median is not necessary. They have it set up now, DOT, or whoever's planning this, because when I come out of my driveway with their plan, I have to go to the right. I cannot turn left and go down Northside Drive or down Wimbish. I have to go up Forest Hill Road, make a turn, try to get into the traffic again to go to the point

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that I want to go when I'm going north.

I wish that I'd brought that letter that I had written last time. I spent a lot of time on that letter. They've gone up on my taxes, tremendously, and here I am paying taxes for them to take my house away from me. They took the house next door to me. They've already bought that, purchased the land, so you know they've got a plan, and you know they're going to go through with it. You pay \$125,000 for a piece of land, just for a piece of land for a road to go through. Now, this was last year. You know that the plan is already done. This is a bunch of facade right here. I think that's about it.

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Support
Cul de - Sac

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MR.

J. Rawls.

I'm pres at owns
Forest P 44 Forest
Hill Road for probably
three ye wonderful
part of town. I think there is traffic congestion
and I would like to see the road widened. I've
noticed the school bus when it stops across the

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street, there's no way for the children to walk --
There's no sidewalk there, and there's been
nothing done that's acceptable as far as safety
is concerned for the children to walk to the
apartment complex across the street. It's very
unsafe.

Also, the curb that people go around
that's in front of my property has a big angle
to it and, I think, would be considered unsafe.
And it's sort of a blind turn that you cannot
see as you come around the turn, so I think this
will improve the neighborhood as far as safety,
eliminating the curb and putting in sidewalks
so the children can get out of the school bus
and onto the sidewalk and walk to their homes
or the apartments.

And I think the improvements as far as
doing the cul-de-sacs for some of the streets
would be a definite advantage. I lived on a
cul-de-sac for seventeen years of my life where
my children grew up, and I think that would be
wonderful advantage and not a disadvantage at
all to the homeowners if they looked at it in
an objective way.

But I'd like to just sum it up by saying

I'm all for the project. I think it would be a good project for our community.

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MR. DAVID GIBSON: My name is David Gibson. I live at 289 Albemarle Place. My proposal is that we continue the road instead of stopping there and turning back and going up Overlook and make a right turn and go to Tom Hill Boulevard (pronunciation) there to continue going north. Then, I know coming back I would have to come all the way back to Ridge Avenue to come back.

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MR. HUEL J. MUELLER: My name is Huel J. Mueller. I live at 968 Underwood Drive. As far as the actual construction, my only comment to this is it seems to me like I know that the merchants want to build a truck route between Tom Hill Boulevard complex of commercial property down to Eisenhower Parkway where the mall is -- the M-A-U-L, mall. They want all the people out of Monroe County to come right straight through the middle of Macon in my neighborhood and go to the mall.

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They also want all the trucks to be able to go from Tom Hill Boulevard over to the mall without having to go around Bass Road or I-75, and that's from either side. There's already a perimeter they can use to do that and do that now. Once you build this straight through shot, they will come straight through there sixty miles an hour spewing diesel fumes.

They're going to build sidewalks for children who will be playing on the side of the road with trucks going sixty five miles an hour up the darn thing, and they're going to kill one of them.

And my comments are that it is inexcusable to tear up an established -- several established neighborhoods -- some upper-middle, some lower, but neighborhoods right on -- to accommodate trucks and to accommodate business people. They can do that some other way. That's all I've got to say.

And if they do that, people on Forest Hill Road will sell out and move, and they won't relocate in Bibb County either, period. Thank you.

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MS. JANE HOGAN: My name is Jane Hogan.

I live at 3875 Overlook Avenue. Since I just found out they will not even start this until 2006, you know. Isn't that the pits. I'm so tired of thinking about this. I'm against the whole thing because, you know, I don't want the traffic and I don't want more accidents, which it will be. And I voted no on my comment sheet, but if it has to go through, I want Overlook cul-de-saced. But I wish they would call for a show of hands right here right now, but I know they're afraid to. That's all.

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MR. EDWARD S. JONES: My name is Edward Jones. I live at 221 Riverdale Drive. I'm against the widening of Forest Hill Road, and if you have to widen it, I'm for Option Two, to leave Overlook Avenue and The Prado wide open. And if you could - Riverdale Drive runs from Vineville Avenue to Overlook Road, and if you could go down Overlook Road and block that road which is through to Riverside Drive, then the people that live on the other side of that blockade could go out Riverside Drive, and the

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ones that live on my side could come out the way they do on Riverdale Drive. The traffic, tractor trailers, big cement trucks are already my street. It's just a three block street. It runs into Overlook Road. If you close The Prado and Overlook Avenue, why can't you close Riverdale Drive? My taxes are out of sight, and it's a residential area, and no young person -- It would devalue my house. That's all I have to say.

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MS. BETTY EDWARDS: My name is Betty Edwards, and I live at 656 Forest Hill Road. I want to register my opinion. I live on the stretch from Wimbish Road to Old Lundy Road. The area is the hill part of Forest Hill Road. If you look at this in a topography way, not on a flat map, but a topography map, the hill's about a sixty degree incline as you begin your decline down that hill. Traffic stops at the corner of Wimbish and Forest Hill Road at red lights. People get antsy, have to wait a few minutes, then, the light turns green, the traffic barrels down Forest Hill on the hill

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part. Nobody's in front of them. Traffic's going fifty, sixty miles an hour.

We've lived there for twenty seven years. I have yet to see one person stopped for traffic violations, for speeding. Police never patrol that area. Sidewalks are just not a good idea. With a sidewalk down that hill, you've got children from three apartments complexes who live within that neighborhood. Kids skateboard. Kids are going to find the best place in Macon, Georgia to skateboard. They're going to start at Wimbish Road coming down that hill. Somebody's going to get killed. There's no need for sidewalks in that area, so I'm very opposed to the idea. I could say more things, but I'm going to put it in writing and mail it to Atlanta.

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MS. JACKIE SPIVEY: My name is Jackie Spivey. I live at 213 Riverdale Drive. If this were to go through, especially Option One, which is closing The Prado and Overlook and Drury, there are three roads, mine being one of them, that everybody who lives on The Prado, Overlook, and Stinsonville especially, that's one area

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that has many, many, many people. They already cut down my road. Luckily, they have other options right now, but if those roads were cul de saced, they would then have three options. My street is already inundated with many cars going way too fast, and I think it would ruin our neighborhood. We park on the street. It's already one car going. It would very much be a detriment. Besides all the traffic coming down Ridge Avenue, Ridge would turn into another Vineville. And I just am very, very against the widening of Forest Hill, but most especially the cul-de-sacing of those three roads. That's what I have to say. Thank you.

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MR. CHARLES HOWELL: My name is Charles Howell, and I live at 230 Riverdale Drive. My opinion is that Forest Hill should not be widened. It will only increase traffic. More so, that The Prado and Overlook should not be closed off due to the fact that traffic on those streets would shift to Ridge Avenue which is already heavily traveled and people drive at excessive speeds which also would

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shift traffic to Riverdale, Albemarle, and Belvedere which are already used as cut-through streets. The people who live on The Prado and Overlook would have no other choice but to use our streets for ingress and egress to their homes. On Riverdale, alone, there are eleven children, the oldest one being eight years old, down to several months old. We have sidewalks. We have pride of ownership in our neighborhood. We are as much a historical part of Macon as the Ingleside area or The Prado - Overlook area are, also.

It would, therefore, I feel decrease our quality of life. It would endanger our children and cause our property values to decrease.

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MS. MARGIE JONES: My name is Margie Jones. I live at 221 Riverdale Drive. I'm very much opposed to the whole concept. Closing those three streets would be detrimental to Riverdale for the reason that we have so many children on the street. and we park our cars on the street. And it's just one way for a car to go in. We have also had four wrecks on Riverdale just

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recently, on the corner of Riverdale and Riggs. If they close those three places, then we will be like Interstate 75 because we already have so much traffic going to Overlook Road through Stinsonville and cutting through to Riverside. And I think we have suffered enough.

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MR. LOUIS LOWERY: My name is Louis Lowery. I live at 1344 Hill Ridge Drive. I just want to say that I oppose the project because according to what I have noticed Bibb County and the city is all these development projects, they cut the beautiful trees and burn them right in the neighborhood which has caused a lot of people to get sick, children to have asthma attacks. And once that is allowed, it's almost impossible to stop it even though there are mothers who are rushing their children to the emergency room for their asthma attacks. It also is -- The smoke from these trench burners is a nuisance, a fire safety hazard, as well as a health hazard, and that's my major concern for opposing the whole development project. Thank you so much.

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MR. RICHARD SCHERER: My name is Richard Scherer. I live at 231 Riverdale Drive. I'm against the whole project, all of it. Now, your job is to just register my opinion. My opinion is I'm against the whole project.

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If I were to say what part of the project I'm most against, I'm against the closing of The Prado and Overlook Drive. That's it.

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MR. STEVE HOBBY: My name is Steve Hobby. I live at 235 Albemarle Place. I'm opposed to all of the proposed construction. It will have an -- increase the traffic on our street and two other streets tremendously. The problem is not necessarily cul-de-sacing The Prado and Overlook. The problem we have is the Stinsonville area. There are too many people. Now, more people are going to have one way to go in and out and that's down two streets, and there's got to be a better way to do this.

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MS. PEGGY HOBBY: My name is Peggy Hobby. I also live at 235 Albemarle Drive. I am

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opposed to the cul-de-sacing of Overlook and The Prado due to the fact that all those people will be coming down Riverdale, Albemarle, and Belvedere, in addition to all the people from Stinsonville, General Lee, and all those other streets. I mean, it is bumper to bumper on Albemarle every morning going to work, and every afternoon we have children and people fly down the road. If they can correct all these problems, first, that's what I'm concerned about. A left turn lane on Ridge would be nice.

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MR. H. T. SULLIVAN: My name is H. T. Sullivan. I live at 937 Hill Place. I feel like this is sort of like the movie "Field of Dreams". "Build, it and they will come." The roads in this area on Forest Hill seem sufficient now, and this is just going to build a wide road that's going to draw more traffic and increase pollution in the neighborhood, and the neighborhoods in that area are not going to grow anymore. All the land is built on right in the neighborhood, so this road is really going to be for traffic

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outside of the neighborhood to cut through, and there are already roads like Northside Drive and Riverside Drive. This is going to be drawing cut-through traffic through a residential area and increasing the amount of traffic, speeding, and pollution. And I don't really see any need for it.

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MS. MARGARET W. LONG: My name is Margaret Long. I live at 191 Brookstone Court which is right off of Forest Lake Drive South. The traffic we have now from West End Drive, the people that live in that area get on Tim Lane Drive (pronunciation) and go to Forest Lake Drive South, and they use that cut-through to go to Forest Hill Road. And already we have a speed problem, the people on the Westman (pronunciation) Drive side, getting on to Forest Hill Road. We can't hardly get out of our Brookstone community for the problem we have with that.

Also, on Forest Lake Drive South on to Forest Hill Road, and Newport Road is across the street from Forest Lake Drive South, which

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crosses Forest Hill Road. That is exactly across from Forest Lake Drive South, and it is a school crossing, so by it's a school crossing. And right now, it's a traffic jam, with school or without school because the traffic is so expedient on Forest Lake -- I mean, excuse me, Forest Hill Road. And since it is a school crossing, it would be a danger for the traffic would be dangerous intersection for the children going to Lane School as well as parents car pooling or taking the children to school. And it will not draw people to this area, especially people with children because of the fact that it would be such speeding on Forest Hill Drive. Of course, it's that way now, and it would be even worse, and this section would actually go to pot. And people are talking about moving out of this area and going to other counties, my family included.

It will be like Northside Drive. Since I live in this area and I use Northside Drive a lot, you just take your life in your hands trying to get out of the shopping centers over there. If you're on the right side or you're on the wrong side, people don't give one way

or the other, and there have been some traffic injuries there. That's about all I have to say, other than I think it will just be a tremendous blow to this section. If they want people to start moving out, and they'd rather have people coming in and buying or doing whatever they're going to do, then, they're going to lose some people in the area, taxpayers. That's about all I can say.

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MR. KINGMAN HERIN: My name is Kingman Herin. I live at 263 Riverdale Drive. I'm not for the project, at least in the form it's proposed. Primarily because I believe it would cause unnecessary stress, traffic on our street Riverdale, as well as Albemarle and Belvedere. We already get a lot traffic from the neighborhood that's proposed to be blocked off, Overlook and The Prado. But, also, from the Stinsonville area with English Ivey Woods and Captain Kell (pronunciation) coming through our area. I just feel like having one entrance and one exit essentially from the back side of the neighborhood would cause a lot more traffic than

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we've already got, and those folks would have to come down our street every day just coming and going to work as opposed to going out to Forest Hill. Even if they didn't cul-de-sac, they could only turn one way on Forest Hill. So, if they were having to travel in the other direction, they would still have to come down our streets just to get to their house.

I know something's probably needing to be done, but if nothing more than maybe just adding a third middle lane for a turn lane from Northside to Vineville. I think that alleviate a lot of it, wouldn't block access for left or right turning on The Prado or Overlook. But at the same time, I drive this street every day, and the main time I get stopped is when I'm sitting behind somebody waiting to turn left. So, if that problem could be corrected in some way, that, in my thinking would be probably the best alternative. That's it. Thank you.

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MR. JOHN KRAUS: My name is John Kraus. I live at 1211 Timberlane Drive. Basically, I'm just opposed to the project as it's currently

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designed. It's way oversized. They are giving misleading information about the accidents. Most of them occur at the intersection of Ridge and Wimbish, and if those intersections were redesigned, there would be no need for turn lanes between Wimbish and Lundy. I don't really see any reason for turning some of the streets into cul-de-sacs. I'm afraid the increased speeds would cause more accidents than we've got already. Basically, I think it just needs to be redesigned. Also, this project was not approved by the Citizens Advisory Committee. I'll just let it go at that.

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C. S. MIZE: My name is C. S. Mize. I live at 5164 Idlewood Drive. My property line is fifteen back of the highway, and now it's going to be up at the house. The road will come through the front yard, but they could take Forest Hill Road through that corner where the last bank was and diagonally come out on Napier Avenue at North Napier Apartments, straight line up Napier Avenue and take them right Edna Place and the mall in half the length of time than what they're

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going to take them all through and disturb all these residential areas in Belleview, well really north of Belleview, destroy all those houses out there. They can come back in out there by the credit union. I think that's where they're proposing it. They just got up to Vineville Avenue here at this point, but they are converting, by their plan here, a residential area and a collector of the traffic into a traffic artery, an artery of traffic and just disrupting the historic neighborhoods.

It's encouraging traffic speed which is going to be -- cut out the safety. It's more or less retarded now, the traffic is because they don't have the access interstate access route, but they're going to try to make it. And put houses such as mine over there, where you cannot get in and out of the driveway but one way. You can't go but one direction. It will be a one way because they'll have a median out in front. There's no need for a median when the traffic's not coming through there between the exchange of lights, you can turn left. But now, under their plan, you would have no opportunity to turn left. You'd just

have to turn right and go to South Macon. You couldn't come to North Macon. It's going to retard some of the neighborhoods to get fire protection because you have to go a round about way to get to it, dead-ending several streets.

It's going to destroy residential property, and I don't even know if commercial would even be able to go in, what's left. That's just about my thoughts.

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MS. STELLA TSAR: My name is Stella Tsar. I live at 494 North Minister Drive. I would just like to express my concern for the overall plans for this project. If you look at the original documents and plans, this widening of the road is actually subsumed under the grand plan for the Northwest Parkway, plans for widening apart Log Cabin and then, going across to Eisenhower Parkway. So, in essence what is really planned is for a highway to go through this regional small-town neighborhood, which has been a very stable middle-class area. This is what Macon city needs instead of this kind of housing going out into Bibb County beyond

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the city. We do not need another slum.

If this becomes the highway that it is secretly, or not so secretly, planned to be, that's what will happen. We will have urban blight because of the traffic coming through that area. It won't be safe for a neighborhood, and the designation of this road, Forest Hill, as a urban minor arterial road, in my opinion, is an incorrect designation. I don't think we are that high grade. And, consequently, the attempts to tell us that this widening is only one step above, I think, is inaccurate. And I think the fact that they don't point out that this is really a grand plan for the highway is very misleading.

My final point has to do with the fact that Macon is a non-attainment area for air pollution. We do not need to be thinking about more highway roads to put more pollution into our environment. We need to be looking at public transportation and mass transportation and really redesigning turn lanes and traffic lights to be more efficient.

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MR. TINSLEY MATTHEWS: My name is Tinsley

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Matthews. I live at 3835 Overlook Avenue.

I am for the section between Ridge Avenue and Wimbish Road, particularly with the cul de sacing of Overlook Avenue and The Prado.

Obviously, living on Overlook, I'm more concerned with the cul-de-sacing of Overlook Avenue.

But I see both of them as a means to buffer our neighborhood from the traffic noise and pollution we receive now due to cut-through traffic. As

it stands now, I don't let my children play

in the front yard because of the traffic. I

also understand there are two historic properties

at the end of Overlook. The Gates and, then,

the house directly across from Forest Hill Road.

And it's my understanding that the road location

is situated in between those two so that it will

not impact either historic structure or either

historic property.

Looking at the plans, it appears that if you did not get in Overlook, there would not be a sufficient turning radius to turn onto Overlook from Forest Hill Road because we're so close to the gates. I don't know if that's been studied, but that's just a comment I had. It's another reason in favor of the cul-de-sacing. That's all.

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MR. A. D. DONNELLY: My name is A. D. Donnelly. I live at 1252 Normandy Drive. My opinion is that this is not a necessary project. I don't see the benefit. The only thing that I can determine from this is that the traffic to the mall from North Macon is facilitated. And to me that's not enough reason for the disruption and inconvenience. And really, the destruction of neighborhoods, certainly changing the character of some old established nice neighborhoods, and this doesn't seem like it should be done just improve the commerce of that mall.

Maybe there are other things on the Eisenhower and Mercer University Streets that people need to get to real bad. I don't understand it. I don't ever have any trouble. I don't think Macon's got very many traffic problems. I came here from Atlanta. One of the things I like about it right now is it's fifteen minutes to just about anywhere anytime of the day. So, I hate to say that stuff about not fixing something that's not broken, but it's not only not broken, I think it functions pretty well.

A little more public transportation, something to encourage that might be a good idea as opposed to this. But I just don't like this business of the cul-de-sacs. It cuts off some access to other routes that I enjoy right now. I guess that's about it. I've had good response to my questions and so forth here this evening. I really didn't know much about the project before I came here, and I've learned a good deal. But I still don't think it's worth...

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MR. DAN MILLS: My name is Dan Mills and this is my wife Laura Hemenway. We live at 1001 Hill Place.

Dear Sirs:

This letter is to serve notice of our strong objection to the proposed widening of Forest Hill Road in Macon, Georgia. As long-term residents of Macon and residents of the Forest Hills residential community, we believe that such a widening would only lead to a deterioration of our current safety and quiet. We ask that the Georgia DOT make the decision to consider alternative methods of moving traffic through

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the Macon area without violating the beauty of current subdivisions. As individuals who use the roads in question on a daily basis, we do not feel the level of traffic to be bothersome or dangerous. In short, please do not create a problem to fix a non-problem. We feel certain that the DOT can find a solution beneficial to all concerned parties. We are also willing to strongly oppose proposals we feel would decrease our quality of life. Thank you for your consideration of our opinions on this issue.

Sincerely,

Dan Mills and Laura Hemenway

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MR. JAMES BEALL: My name is James Beall. I live at 3845 Ridge Avenue. I don't support the project in its present form. There are no bike paths. The increase in traffic on Ridge Avenue is unacceptable since I live there. The levels according to the DOT study book that they left here, my suggestion would be to decrease Forest Hill from Vineville to Wimbish to three lanes with sidewalks and bike paths and combine the cul-de-sac that they propose at Drury and

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make Ridge Avenue also a cul-de-sac. This will protect the children that play in the neighborhood as the residents, also, as it is a highly pedestrian traffic area. That's pretty much it. I mean, everybody comes and walks in my neighborhood.

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MS. JAN RICE KUNZELMANN: My name is Jan Kunzelmann. I live at 3419 Ridge Avenue.

I do not support this project because of the negative environmental impact that it will have on our neighborhood. We live on Ridge Avenue which is directly attached to Forest Hill Road. We already have an incredible amount of traffic on our road under normal circumstances. The widening of Forest Hill Road will increase that traffic significantly which will reduce our quality of life, will make our street unsafe for our children, will increase noise pollution and air pollution in our area.

Our property values will most likely be reduced by this decrease in quality of life, and that in direct conflict with the fact that our property taxes have gone up thirty to

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forty percent in our most recent tax evaluation of our area. Traffic that will be cut off because of the closing of The Prado and the Overlook exits onto Forest Hill Road will then be funneled back on our street, making it unsafe for children, unsafe for families, and unsafe for pets and life in general.

I believe that alternatives should be investigated, including strategic widening of intersections along the Forest Hill Road corridor to accommodate increases in traffic at areas where turns are being made. The addition of turning lanes as opposed to widening the entire road. Widening of the entire road will, in effect, put a major super highway through our historic neighborhood and residential area. That's it.

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MR. CALDER CLAY: My name is Calder Clay.

I live at 3882 Overlook Avenue. Very simple statement. I'm in favor of a cul-de-sac on Overlook Avenue.

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MS. KATE MATTHEWS: My name is Kate

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Matthews. I live at 3835 Overlook Avenue. I support Option One with the cul-de-sacing of Overlook Avenue and The Prado, and I would like to see speed humps throughout the neighborhood on Albemarle, Riverdale, and Belvedere, and Ridge Avenue to slow down the traffic.

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DR. W. JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSEY, JR., M.D.:

My name is John O'Shaughnessey. I live at 460 Pine Vista. My interest is primarily in the area of Forest Hill Road and the Ridge Avenue and the Vineville connections. As I understand the present alterations being suggested by the signs is that Forest Hill will be significantly widened and Drury Drive, Overlook, and The Prado will be made cul-de-sacs with no access to Forest Hill Road. My difficulty with that is that all the traffic in the area of those three streets and even beyond where I live on Pine Vista only will have one access way to get in and out of our section, and that is through either Belvedere, Riverdale, or Albemarle. At the present, because of high

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speed and high volume traffic on Ridge Avenue it is at times very difficult and somewhat dangerous just to try to get out on Ridge Avenue from any of those three streets. And the traffic, trying to do so in the future with this plan, will be greatly increased. Because of the cul-de-sac, they have no north way to get out. They all now have to come out those three streets. So, I can't really imagine that the people who live on those three streets would want the extra volume of traffic. And the holdup of that traffic is the cars sitting at that intersection trying to get out on to Ridge so that some type of traffic signals or speed bumps would be necessary to allow safe access to Ridge Avenue.

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MR. TOM ROGERS: My name is Tom Rogers.

I live at 4242 Wood Forest Place. I just want to go on record to say that I don't support the proposal, and I wish they would go back and look into a less intrusive proposal.

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MR. STEPHEN LAMB: My name is Stephen Lamb. I live at 243 Riverdale Drive. I just want to make a brief comment in addition to the written comments I've made. I live right in the midst of this project, just a couple of doors off of Forest Hill Road. I, of course, use the road daily, sometimes many times a day. I heard a number of them talking with the engineers, a number of people in opposition to the project that were complaining about the potential noise level and the traffic today, as well as the future traffic, I think, they were referring to the year 2024, and my thought is that -- and again these were people that seemed outright opposed to the project -- My thought is that the traffic is largely already there, and it's going to continue to increase. And it really just becomes a question of whether you want to carry it on two substandard lanes with some very dangerous misaligned intersections like we have today, or if you want to make the proposed design improvements that I think overall are very good and be able to handle the traffic much more safely and move the traffic through. You might hear a little

more traffic noise at peak times, but you'd probably hear less sirens and horns blowing, and make it a lot safer and a lot better for everybody. Thank you.

228 ✓

MR. ANDY LAWSON: My name is Andy Lawson. I live at 516 High Point Road. My concern is that DOT is not giving any consideration to Riverdale, Albemarle, and Belvedere. It's clear when I asked them what their thoughts were on those roads and the undue traffic and the burden it would put on those streets, they had clearly not considered it. We already get -- Riverdale, Albemarle, and Belvedere already suffer from increased traffic from Ingleside Woods as well as the Northwoods Subdivisions. Belvedere, Albemarle, and Riverdale, all three are clearly residential streets that the majority of the residents park on the streets. It's not designed for increased traffic flow, and I would just urge them not to cul-de-sac The Prado or Overlook, either one, because it would just increase the burden of traffic on Riverdale,

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Albemarle, and Belvedere.

22a

NAME UNKNOWN:

I object very strongly to the new entrance of North Minister Drive which was proposed by Robert Rickert, our state representative. It will completely destroy Mr. Floyd Hall's property. And it will have a very negative impact on the entrance to High Point North Condominiums because it puts that entrance much closer to the entrance of the condos, and there are older people who live in the condos. But my main concern is that it's going to destroy one of the most beautiful pieces of watershed property in Bibb County. And there's no reason for it.

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As far as the cul-de-sacs go on Albemarle and Overlook Avenue, they're going to terribly impact Riverdale and Albemarle by causing much, much more traffic on those two streets. So, that's what I wanted to say.

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MS. MARTHA TISDALE: My name is Martha Tisdale. I live on 4651 Oxford Circle. My

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opinion is that the widening of the road further than the two lanes that it has, other than a turn lane or a deceleration lane, is too wide. It would bring too much traffic to the area and disturb the quiet neighborhood we have. It does not need sidewalks. Lots are not close enough to necessitate small neighborhoods that do need sidewalks. I live on Oxford Circle. It's off of Forest Hill Road, but we bought there because it was quiet, and I feel like it would bring too much traffic and destroy the beauty of the area.

231

MS. PHYLLIS JACKSON: My name is Phyllis Jackson. I live at 3877 Ridge Avenue. The concern that we have is drainage. There was a lot of construction done to build a doctor's office on Ridge Avenue between Forest Hill and Vineville. And ever since that happened, whenever it rains hard, we get water in our den. And the city engineers told us that nothing could be done about it until the widening project. So, we want to make sure that when this project is done, that drainage problem is taken care of. I guess in looking at the

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map, I guess I'm a little bit concerned about how much of our land is going to be taken and how that's going to be value. How do we know if we're getting a fair value for that property. The diagram also doesn't show a driveway on the Drury side. It just shows it on the Ridge side of our property. Right now our driveway goes between the two, and we use the Drury side. We don't use the Ridge side. So, we would want to talk to somebody about making sure we can have access to Drury. Right now the traffic is so bad, and I'm sure it will be even heavier with this project, harder to get in and out on the Ridge side. So, we would want access to Drury for that reason.

You know, people are opposed to this project. Our neighbors are opposed to this project, but we're in favor of it. We think it needs to be done. I think anybody that lives right there knows how heavy the traffic can be. Especially at certain times of the day, you can't make a turn, you can't get in and out. It's awful. We realize that something needs to be done. It needs to be widened, and it needs to be made safer. There need to be sidewalks

put in. I'd like to see the sidewalks, not just right in front of our house, but all the way down to where the sidewalk is further down Ridge and join up with that. It doesn't show that on the diagram. The sidewalk needs to be continuous all the way down the street.

(End of comments.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF PIKE

I, Donna J. Carter, do hereby certify that the foregoing was taken down, as stated in the caption, and was reduced to typewriting by me; that the foregoing pages 2 through 39 are a true, correct, and complete transcript of the proceedings; that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties; that I am not a relative or employee of attorney or counsel for any of said parties; nor am I financially interested in the action.

This, the 30th day of June, 2001.



Donna J. Carter

Certified Court Reporter

Certificate Number B-2116