

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
PUBLIC HEARING

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING

**ORIGINAL**

RE: STP00-3223-00(004)/BRMLB-3223-00(006),  
STP00-3223-00(002), STP00-3223-00(005),  
AND STP00-0000-00(835)  
P.I. NOS. 351090/351095, 342080,  
351080 AND 0000835  
JEFFERSONVILLE ROAD AND MILLERFIELD ROAD WIDENING

January 5, 2012  
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church  
2789 Millerfield Road  
Macon, Georgia 31201

---

**WENDY JO LEDBETTER, CCR - 2634  
HAPPY FACES COURT REPORTING SERVICES  
P.O. BOX 1063  
TUCKER, GEORGIA 30085  
(770) 414-9071**

---

A F F I D A V I T

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PUBLIC HEARING

RE: THE PROPOSED PROJECT WOULD :  
WIDEN JEFFERSONVILLE ROAD FROM A :  
TWO-LANE RURAL SECTION TO A FIVE- :  
LANE URBAN SECTION FROM EMERY HWY :  
(US 23, US ALT 129, SR 19, SR 87) :  
TO BOBBY BRANCH AND THEN TRANSITION:  
TO A THREE-LANE URBAN SECTION FROM :  
BOGGY BRANCH TO EMERY ROAD (US 80, :  
SR 57) AND WOULD WIDEN MILLERFIELD :  
ROAD FROM A TWO-LANE RURAL SECTION :  
TO A FIVE-LANE URBAN SECTION FROM :  
JEFFERSONVILLE ROAD TO NEW CLINTON :  
ROAD. THE JEFFERSONVILLE ROAD :  
BRIDGE OVER WALNUT CREEK WOULD BE :  
REPLACED WITH A FIVE-LANE FACILITY.:  
THE CENTRAL OF GEORGIA RAILROAD :  
BRIDGE OVER JEFFERSONVILLE ROAD :  
WOULD BE REPLACED WITH A BRIDGE :  
THAT WOULD ACCOMMODATE A FIVE-LANE :  
URBAN SECTION. PROPOSED RIGHT-OF- :  
WAY WIDTH WOULD VARY BETWEEN 100 :  
FEET AND 102 FEET. THE TOTAL :

1       LENGTH OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT       :  
2       WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 2.7 MILES       :

3  
4       STATE OF GEORGIA  
5       COUNTY OF HOUSTON

6           I, Wendy Jo Ledbetter, hereby certify that I appeared and  
7       was available for public comments to be made on record between  
8       4:00 and 7:00 p.m. on January 5, 2012, at Mt. Moriah Missionary  
9       Baptist Church, 2789 Millerfield Road, in Hawkinsville,  
10      Georgia. I hereby attest to the fact that the following verbal  
11      comments were made to me for inclusion in this transcript:

12      **Emory Flagg, 884 Morningside Drive, Macon, GA 31217**

13           I'm Emory Flagg and I live in the area on Morningside  
14      Drive. I've been concerned about this road project,  
15      Jeffersonville Road project, for quite a while now. And also  
16      I'm the president of the neighborhood association for this area  
17      and we've complained, turned in complaints, written complaints,  
18      to the city-wide neighborhood coordinator, Ms. Julie Gordon,  
19      and also city councilmen, to the mayor. We've been very  
20      concerned about the improvement of the Jeffersonville Road, so  
21      this is why I'm here today to like find out just what's going  
22      to be -- what you're about to do to this Jeffersonville Road.  
23      And from what I've seen so far it's looking like what we've  
24      been asking for for the past few years, so I'm here today to  
25      show my concern, to see just what is about to happen as far as

1 improvement of travel of Jeffersonville Road.

2 **Ruth W. Knight, 936 McCall Road, Macon, GA 31217**

3 My name is Ruth Knight on McCall that intersects with  
4 Jeffersonville Road. I am glad they are going to do the  
5 project and I think it ought to be just three lanes, three  
6 lanes with a turn lane. I do not like the idea of five lanes.  
7 Some of the houses that they did not condemn to remove should  
8 be removed because they are bad rental properties that do not  
9 house always good people. I wish the project had been started  
10 a long time ago and the timeframe is too far away. They  
11 haven't done anything. We should be put at the top of the  
12 list. And the properties that they say they're going to buy,  
13 they should have been bought a long time ago. It's been too  
14 long. Everything should have been done and ready to go, and  
15 they treat us like stepchildren over here. We have nice homes  
16 and nice cars, but not the roads that we have to drive on. And  
17 I appreciate them coming, and I just want to say they should  
18 have come a long, long, time ago.

19 **Alice Roberts, 3998 Sue Drive, Macon, GA 31210**

20 My name is Alice Roberts. I own property at 1542  
21 Jeffersonville Road. I'm excited about the project and I do  
22 hope that it goes forward. I think that it's needed in this  
23 area. Children are out early in the mornings and it's dark, so  
24 it's dangerous. There are a lot of big trucks coming through.  
25 The traffic is slow in the a.m. hours and late in the



1 afternoon. I think it's a good project and I'm excited about  
2 it.

3 **Wanda S. West, 154 Weatherby Drive, Macon, GA 31210**

4 I am Wanda Smith West, daughter of Louise Smith that lives  
5 on McCall Road. We are excited about the project, but  
6 concerned that at this meeting that there was no formal  
7 presentation on the project, just maps placed around the walls  
8 with individuals from the Department of Transportation.  
9 Specifically, I think the audience deserved a succinct  
10 presentation to define very specifically what the project is,  
11 what it will do, how it will affect the community, what they  
12 can anticipate, specifically to set a stage where there is a  
13 clear understanding instead of walking into an arena to say the  
14 maps are on the wall and let us know if you have questions.  
15 The questions would be a lot more meaningful and I think well  
16 thought out if we had a presentation. As a very highly  
17 educated person, of course I'm able to follow the process. And  
18 as a retired educator and a member of the Board of Education it  
19 concerns me that this presentation was not set to address all  
20 of the people that are involved at whatever level with the  
21 understanding to head back to the table. I'd like to see in  
22 the immediate future a very succinct presentation time for the  
23 project and maybe even specifically to each of the property  
24 owners that would be affected. We are excited about the  
25 project and would like to see traffic lights placed in places

1 where it would be dangerous. I'm specifically talking about  
2 McCall Road. I am also speaking for a group larger than myself  
3 from McCall Road. Thank you.

4 **Kristen O'Neal, 803 Wells Park Drive, Macon, GA 31211**

5 My name is Kristen O'Neal and I have a couple of comments.  
6 I understand that the project will be completed by the State  
7 but maintained by the City of Macon to Emory Highway. I was  
8 told by Bill Causey that the city is working to try to gather  
9 SPLOST money together now for some temporary repairs on  
10 Jeffersonville Road, but my main concerns are who would  
11 continue to maintain the road after the repairs on the  
12 completion of this project being completed, and will there be a  
13 drainage system that will be in place. According to Bill  
14 Causey from the City of Macon we will have a drainage system in  
15 place, but I just want to make sure that there's going to be  
16 some system in place and there'll be money to fund. That's  
17 currently the problem now; there's no money to fund repair  
18 costs.

19 **Elaine Lucas, 2594 Saratoga Dr., Macon, GA 31211**

20 My name is Elaine Lucas, L-U-C-A-S. I was glad to see the  
21 beginning of some information sessions on Jeffersonville Road  
22 because this is a project that's been needed to get started for  
23 a long, long, time, however I was disappointed that there was  
24 no presentation to the public. And there were large numbers of  
25 people representing many neighborhoods who were present here

1 who expected a presentation. We did not get a presentation and  
2 there was no allowance for questions and answers, and I think  
3 that there needs to be a meeting scheduled immediately to do a  
4 presentation, an in-depth presentation, with a timeline, and  
5 also have a Q and A session as a part of it. I think that's  
6 very important because I think we understand the feeling that  
7 people left here with is that when they left here, tomorrow  
8 dirt starts turning, and that's not the case. I do think we  
9 need a full understanding of the project, what phase we're in,  
10 how many phases there are, and when they can expect to see some  
11 real physical work take place.

12 **Jessie M. Smith, 2349 Millerfield Road, Macon, GA 31217**

13 When they started this project they told us that they  
14 would be back in two years and finish it. They are yet to come  
15 except for now they're saying they will be back this year.  
16 They stopped, they finished, right at our house. They  
17 completed it right at our house. The house next door on down  
18 Millerfield Road is a problem because there's a ditch there and  
19 when it rains it backs back up on our property. It makes our  
20 property wash; we've got a wash there. We really feel like we  
21 needed a wall there in front of our home to protect our  
22 property from washing and that hill from washing down, which it  
23 has already done now. Hopefully they're going to finish right  
24 below our home and go all the way down to Jeffersonville  
25 because even though we don't live down that way, it is



1 uncompromising for us to -- if I'm using the right word --  
2 because it's so bad going on down. If I want to take a walk  
3 down from my home, I can't because there's no sidewalk. If my  
4 husband wants to take a walk, the children which are adults,  
5 but either way you can't do it without getting into the road.  
6 And it doesn't look good, it doesn't look beautifying from our  
7 house on down. And we're concerned about all those concerns;  
8 they're all our concerns. Mainly, like I said, the ditch --  
9 the wash, I'm sorry, not ditch -- in front of our home, them  
10 stopping there and not finishing with the sidewalk. Of course,  
11 we know that now that they are, and we are hoping that they  
12 will, finish, complete, the sidewalk and not take too much of  
13 our yard when they get to our yard. We were told a minute ago  
14 that they were not going to take any of our yard as far as  
15 widening the road. We'd like to know, if we can, if they are  
16 because I can't tell from that there.

17 **Bobby Smith, 2349 Millerfield Road, Macon, GA 31217**

18 I'm also concerned about finishing Millerfield Road from  
19 our house on down to Jeffersonville because if I go walking,  
20 once I'm on the sidewalk I go down so far once I leave my house  
21 I'm in the road and that's dangerous. One day I was walking  
22 and I like to got hit because I'm walking in the road. There's  
23 no sidewalk and on each side of the road there's a ditch and  
24 it's so uncomfortable walking down that road. I'm scared  
25 somebody's going to get hurt. But just like when they first



1 started on the road they stopped at our house. Then the  
2 supervisor's name was Fred, so I asked Fred, I said are y'all  
3 going to finish it. And he said no, when we finish this  
4 project here there is going to be another group to come and  
5 finish in two years. Now, it's been several years and they  
6 still haven't been back to finish this -- okay, ten years --  
7 and they still haven't been back to finish it. And, like I  
8 said, I'm just concerned about it. I wish they would come on  
9 and finish, even make it look better. And one more problem we  
10 have, we had had a meeting up here about no dump trucks about  
11 ten years ago, and so we had a meeting, they stopped the dump  
12 trucks from coming down Millerfield Road. Now, they're easing  
13 back in there, they're easing back on Millerfield, coming back  
14 up and down Millerfield Road, and that keeps the road messed  
15 up. Any time an accident happens along there it's because of  
16 one of those dump trucks. And, you know, I'm talking about the  
17 wash; if they can come back and put that little wall or  
18 something up there that will stop that water from washing down  
19 in my yard from off the side. And that's my comment.

20 **Cassandra Hall, 2811 Hinsley Avenue, Macon, GA 31217**

21 What I was looking for today was a presentation. I  
22 thought there was going to be a presentation to explain the  
23 maps step by step and the timeframe. I thought it was going to  
24 be a presentation, but it wasn't. And I expressed my concern  
25 to the different individuals standing around that I wanted a

1 presentation, but they said this was the best way to do it so  
2 they could get people to answer questions because in the past  
3 they had those that were against the project. Nobody here is  
4 against the project. We want this road fixed.

5 **Dr. Lindsay Holliday, 360 Spring Street, Macon, GA 31201**

6 I'm concerned about this project. I think there's several  
7 aspects of this project that demand much closer attention from  
8 the officials who are tasked to due diligence. The traffic  
9 projections are unrealistic. They do not follow the Federal  
10 guidelines which insist that the most recent five years of  
11 traffic counts has the greatest weight in the projections. The  
12 past five years have been flat and yet they're projecting the  
13 traffic is going to go up about 50 percent in just a couple  
14 years. That's ridiculous and it's improper. It does not  
15 follow the formulas. Moreland-Altobelli is known to have  
16 goofed up the traffic counts on Forest Hill Road. They  
17 projected steep increases ten years ago. For ten years it has  
18 been almost flat. These people have no credibility. Anyone  
19 who takes their traffic counts at face value is uninformed  
20 and/or incompetent. There's a biking disconnect. The bike-  
21 pedestrian plans say that you should be able to connect biking  
22 and walking, and yet the biking, if you're going to want to  
23 bike into town, when you get to the bike path, instead of  
24 continuing on towards town, spins off north up Millerfield.  
25 The bike plan, the bike trails, need to go all the way on this

1 project to the Indian mounds because at the Indian mounds they  
2 can connect to the existing trails and they'll be a safe way to  
3 get all the way to the river at the Martin Luther King bridge.  
4 It's crazy not to connect the biking plan to the Ocmulgee  
5 National Monument. The traffic projections, even at their  
6 maximum number of 17,500, do not demand a five-lane facility.  
7 In Atlanta there are roads that carry over 25,000 cars a day  
8 and all they have is intersection improvements where traffic  
9 can stack. That's a two-lane road carrying far more than what  
10 they're designing this five-lane road for. That's nuts. It's  
11 irresponsible and it's a waste of taxpayer money.  
12 Additionally, the five-lane roads, and even three-lane roads  
13 with the center continuous turn lane, are known to be suicide  
14 lanes when the speed is over 35 miles an hour. In other words  
15 there are five lanes, a center turn lane, when your traffic is  
16 moving at 30 to 35 miles an hour or under, this facility is  
17 designed for 40 to 45 mile an hour traffic and that's when a  
18 center turn lane becomes a suicide lane. It's extremely  
19 dangerous and it's irresponsible for any road official to allow  
20 this type of design at that speed with what we know about these  
21 road designs at this time. This is 2011 -- 2012, excuse me.  
22 The intersection with Millerfield Road should be a roundabout.  
23 At most this road should be a three-lane at that point and a  
24 single lane roundabout. It's going to be a smaller facility.  
25 Be it it'll be far more than adequate to handle these 17,000



1 cars a day. A roundabout, a single lane roundabout, can handle  
2 25,000 cars a day with minimal, minimal, delay. And the safety  
3 record of roundabouts is so much better than a five-lane  
4 signalized intersection that any road official who does not --  
5 who prefer the roundabout is irresponsible, incompetent,  
6 ignorant, and needs to find another job. I will refer you to  
7 the Federal highway document on roundabouts and I will refer  
8 you to the Institute -- Insurance Institute of Highway Safety;  
9 that's IIHS, Insurance Institute of Highway Safety. They have  
10 numerous documents, studies, proving, not only in the United  
11 States but across the world, that roundabouts have 40 percent  
12 less accidents, 70 percent less injuries, 90 percent fewer  
13 fatalities. Any highway designer that doesn't prefer the safer  
14 facility that costs less money, they are irresponsible,  
15 incompetent, ignorant, and should be fired. Same goes for the  
16 politicians and any road official. They should know this data.  
17 If they're not up with the modern designs, they are therefore  
18 incompetent or ignorant and they need to find another job.  
19 This entire road project, when I look at the map -- when you  
20 look at the map, this is -- what is this, a bypass? It's  
21 longer than the Emory Highway shortcut and it makes no sense.  
22 Eighty-seven houses will exceed a noise pollution level. GDOT  
23 should offer to buy out entirely those houses if they're going  
24 to insist on putting this kind of loud project through this  
25 neighborhood or they can make it a smaller facility and lower

1 the design speed, tame the traffic, and have it quieter. But  
2 they should not leave these 87 households and non-attainment  
3 for noise pollution. That's criminal. That's an environmental  
4 justice issue. I think I'll end on that environmental justice  
5 issue, period.

6 This the 9th day of January, 2012.

7  
8 

9 Wendy Jo Ledbetter, CCR

10 Certificate No.: 2634  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF HOUSTON

I, Wendy Jo Ledbetter, hereby certify that the foregoing transcript, pages 1 through 13, are a true, correct, and complete record of the said proceedings; that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I financially interested in this action.

This certificate is expressly withdrawn and denied upon the disassembly or photocopying of the foregoing transcript of proceedings or any part thereof, including any attached exhibits, unless said disassembly or photocopying is done by the undersigned Certified Court Reporter and the original signature and seal is attached thereto.

WITNESS my hand and seal this 9th day of January, 2012.



Wendy Jo Ledbetter  
Certified Court Reporter  
Certificate No.: 2634

(SEAL)