

Mitigation for the Interchange

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring 2013

- Continue Community Outreach Efforts
- Collect Oral Histories
- Finalize and Present Vacant Lot Plan
- Continue Right-of-Way Acquisition
- Evaluate Stability of Houses and Structures for Relocation
- Continue Meetings with Community Leaders

A Renewed Commitment to Public Outreach

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is pleased to re-establish a newsletter to share information with the Macon Community about the proposed improvements to the I-16/I-75 Interchange. We previously provided information on all aspects of the interchange project; however, our new focus is on measures GDOT is undertaking to mitigate for the impacts of the interchange improvements. Many of the mitigation measures will benefit the Pleasant Hill Community, and some measures, such as noise and visual barriers, will benefit other communities as well.

Consistent public involvement remains our goal throughout all aspects of the project so GDOT will use various methods and means to keep communities informed. At a Pleasant Hill Community meeting held last October, GDOT received comments that it needed to increase open communication with the

community. Based on comments received during that meeting, GDOT determined that it needs to increase its efforts to ensure the community remains well-informed. While additional community-wide meetings will be held as needed, GDOT is also reaching out to community leaders, including the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood Improvement Group, in order to have individual and small group meetings.



Rendering of I-16 / I-75 Interchange

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Keeping in Touch

Your involvement is an important element of the mitigation implementation. To learn more about this project or to be added to the mailing list for the newsletter, you should contact the Project Team.

We are on the web!
www.i16i75.com

Pleasant Hill Oral History Program



LaRahna Hughes

March is the kick off for the oral history program, a very important and exciting part of the mitigation project. New South Associates historians, Mary Beth Reed and her new associate, LaRahna Hughes, will begin scheduling oral histories which are interviews with a slate of community narrators who can tell the story of Pleasant Hill through their life stories and those of their ancestors. The oral histories will be recorded, transcribed, and archived so that future generations can learn about the community's history. We also welcome the opportunity to see family photographs or mementos that help to tell the story; we will scan them with the owner's permission.

LaRahna Hughes makes a perfect new member of the New South Associates team because she has had the opportunity to learn and live in Pleasant Hill. She was a member of the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood Improvement Group and the community garden club. LaRahna is committed to preserving the history and legacy of the people who have been and who continue to be the heart and soul of Pleasant Hill.

This initiative of the oral history program builds upon earlier work carried out by Mercer University students in cooperation with the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood Improvement Group. We are grateful to Ms. Naomi Johnson for identifying a group of individuals that represent a cross section of the Pleasant Hill community and for providing guidance in order to get the effort off to a good start. If you would like to participate, or if you know of an individual that should be interviewed, please contact: Mary Beth Reed, by e-mail, mbreed@newsouthassoc.com or by phone, 888-493-7764, ext. 128. We would be delighted to hear from you. Watch for our upcoming Facebook page!

Pleasant Hill Mitigation Highlight



A key part of the mitigation effort is a commitment to move and fully restore up to 26 historic homes/structures. One historic structure, the "Half House," is a local landmark that will be relocated for community use.

Another structure, affiliated with Mr. Richard Penniman ("Little Richard"), an American musician and entertainer who achieved fame in the 1950's, is a historic house proposed to be relocated for use as a community resource center.



GDOT's Acquisition Specialists Meet with Impacted Property Owners

Acquisition specialists from GDOT's Right-of-Way Office are currently meeting with impacted property owners to discuss the purchase of their properties. In addition to the standard acquisition process and as part of the mitigation commitments, property owners who live in their homes (owner-occupants) are provided with the additional option of keeping their homes. Owner-occupants who select this option will, at GDOT's expense, temporarily move out of their houses while they are being relocated and rehabilitated to the Secretary of Interior's Standards. Once the houses are rehabilitated to standards, the owner-occupants will move back into their homes. During this process, GDOT will pay for approved moving expenses and temporary housing.

As structures are acquired (or agreement is reached allowing an owner-occupant to retain ownership of a structure), the existing structures will undergo a study to determine whether the structures are stable enough to be moved. Each structure that can be moved will be relocated to a vacant lot in the community and fully rehabilitated.

In addition, GDOT is consulting with the Pleasant Hill Improvement Group to develop a Vacant Lot Plan that will identify various lots in the Pleasant Hill Community, on both sides of Interstate 75, where the structures may be relocated. Once the plan is prepared, it will also be sent to the State Historic Preservation Office for approval.

