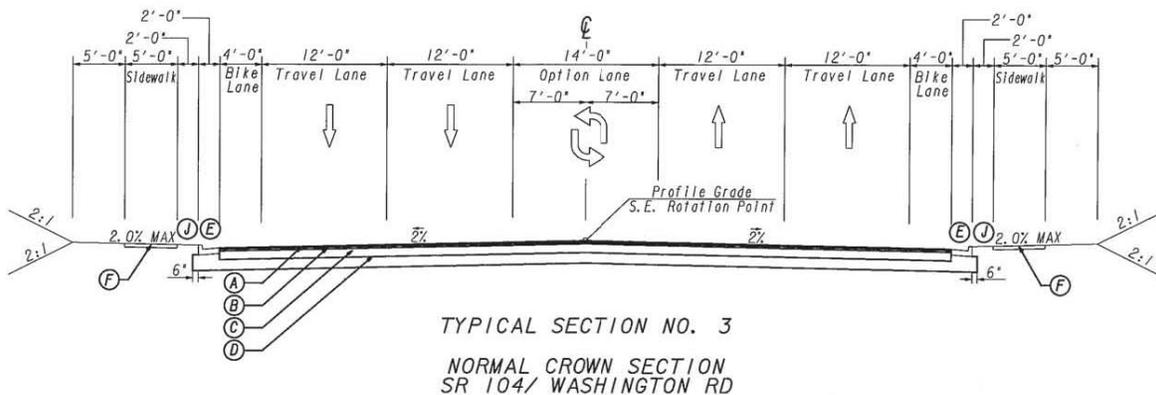


## Washington Road Widening Project Information Sheet

Columbia County citizens approved a SPLOST referendum for 2011 through 2016. As part of the referendum, Columbia County will be overseeing a project to widen Washington Road from Gibbs Road to William Few Parkway. Washington Road is owned and maintained by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). In order for Columbia County to take on this project, we have to follow all GDOT rules and regulations for all aspects of the project. We have been working on the design of the project and the acquisition of the right of way needed to build the project over the last 4 years. GDOT has been heavily involved in the design of the project from a review standpoint. All design criteria have been reviewed and approved by GDOT at this time. We have the largest permit ever issued by GDOT in hand and are ready to begin construction.

Columbia County has contracted with Reeves Construction Company to build the project. Reeves Construction has built many projects for Columbia County as well as GDOT and they have always provided quality work on our projects. They have a local presence in our community and most of their employees from the Augusta Office live in our community. The contract value for this project is approximately 29.4 million dollars.

The project will consist of the widening of Washington Road from Gibbs Road heading west to William Few Parkway. Once completed, Washington Road will have two travel lanes in each direction along with a center turn lane. Right turn lanes will also be installed in certain locations. We will also be constructing bike lanes on both sides of the road as well as sidewalks on both sides of the road. We are currently working with GDOT to have the plans approved for an additional signal at the intersection of Blanchard Road. This new signal will be built during this project. Below is what the typical section of the road will look like.



In order to build the project, lots of trees will need to be removed. This process is starting September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Once the trees have been removed, utilities will need to be relocated. We have been working with all local utility providers during the design process. They have been made aware of the changes and have designed their utilities to fit into our road design. Now that we are in the construction phase, Reeves will be responsible for the coordination of the utility relocation. These relocations may result in temporary outages. We will provide notice for the planned outages in advance.

The construction of the road is going to require lane shifts. We will provide press releases in advance of these shifts so that the traveling public will be aware. The construction of the road will be raising the existing road in certain locations while significantly lowering it in others. To protect the traveling public in these areas, barrier wall will be installed along the edge of the roadway.

The contract with Reeves has very specific language that prevents the closing of lanes during “rush hour.” The contract states:

1. SPECIAL EVENTS:

- a. Beginning the Friday morning before and extending through to the Monday evening following The Masters Tournament (10 calendar days), all operations shall cease except for maintaining Traffic Control and Erosion Control. During this period, the contractor shall provide a clean and neat appearance throughout the project, including, but not limited to trash pickup, mowing, dressing, grassing and mulching. Also, all lanes shall remain open during this period and no complete road closures will be permitted.
- b. No lane closures, detours, or pacing of traffic will be allowed between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. from the Wednesday before Thanksgiving through the first workday after New Year's Day, inclusive.
- c. No lane closures, detours, or pacing of traffic will be allowed between the hours of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the day or weekend immediately preceding any National Holiday through the first workday after the Holiday, inclusive.

2. WORK HOURS:

A. SR 104

1. The Contractor shall not install lane closures, pace traffic or move equipment or materials on the travel way between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
2. Complete closures of SR 104 will not be permitted.

B. Cross Roads (William Few Parkway, Knob Hill Farm Road, Cobb Road, Hardy McManus Road, Greenbrier Avenue, Halali Farm Road, Silver Lake Drive, Cummings Road, Blanchard Road, Woodbridge Drive, Spooner Drive, Steeplechase Way, Rocky Branch Lane, Wellington Drive & Gibbs Road)

1. The Contractor shall not install lane closures, pace traffic or move equipment or materials on the travel way between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
2. Closures will only be permitted as shown on the staging plan sheets and/or approved by Georgia Department of Transportation

Our contract with Reeves does not dictate to them where they must begin work. They have informed us that they will start on the William Few end and work towards Gibbs Road. However, if they run into complications, their approach to completing the project may change.

This project will take 3 years to complete. As in all construction projects, weather can play a major role in completing the work. As the project progresses, press releases will be issued to inform the public of changes that they can expect to see.