

10.0 PARTICIPATING AGENCIES



Department of Transportation

State of Georgia

#2 Capitol Square, S.W.

Atlanta, Georgia 30334-1002

GENA L. ABRAHAM,
COMMISSIONER
(404) 656-5206

GERALD M. ROSS, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER
(404) 656-5277

BUDDY GRATTON, P.E.
DEPUTY
(404) 656-5212

EARL L. MAHFUZ
TREASURER
(404) 656-5224

March 14, 2008

Agency Contact
and address
City, State

Re: Invitation to Become Participating Agency
Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta to Chattanooga
High Speed Ground Transportation Study
Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No.: T001684

Dear Agency Contact:

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), in association with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is initiating a Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for proposed High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) in the Atlanta to Chattanooga Corridor. This study involves the planning and environmental analysis of a potential HSGT system in the 110-mile corridor between Atlanta, Georgia, and Chattanooga, Tennessee. The study area (attached Figure 1) is contained wholly or in part in the following counties: Hamilton County, Tennessee; and Clayton, Fulton, Cobb, Cherokee, Floyd, Bartow, Douglas, Paulding, Polk, Murray, Whitfield, Gordon, Chattooga, Catoosa, and Walker Counties, Georgia.

Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have an interest in the project. With this letter, we extend your agency an invitation to become a participating agency in coordination with the FRA, FHWA and GDOT in the development of the Tier I EIS for the subject project in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provision of the National Environmental Policy Act. This designation does not imply that your agency either supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to evaluation of the project.

The Tier I EIS will build upon previous studies of MagLev and steel wheel HSGT concepts prepared for the corridor. The Tier I EIS will be prepared at a conceptual level of engineering and environmental detail appropriate for a programmatic analysis and will provide the FRA, FHWA and GDOT with sufficient information to select HSGT technology characteristics, general corridor location, general station locations, and potentially to identify an initial operating

segment. Should implementation funding become available in the future, a completed Tier I EIS, with a Record of Decision (ROD) would allow for further engineering and site-specific environmental documentation contained in a Tier II EIS to advance a HSGT system, in total or in phases, as well as right-of-way acquisition within the selected corridor. The current study is expected to be complete at the end of 2009.

The purpose of the Atlanta to Chattanooga HSGT system is to enhance intercity passenger mobility in northwest Georgia, and part of Tennessee, by expanding passenger transportation capacity, increasing mobility and providing an alternative to highway and air travel in a manner that is safe, reliable, and cost-effective while avoiding, minimizing, and/or mitigating impacts on neighborhoods and the environment.

Pursuant to Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project.

Your agency's involvement should include those areas of your interest, and no direct writing or analysis will be necessary for preparing the document. The following are activities we will take to maximize interagency cooperation:

1. Consult with you on any relevant technical studies that will be required for the project;
2. Provide you with project information, including study results;
3. Encourage your agency to use the above documents to express your views on the subjects within your jurisdiction or expertise; and
4. Include information in the project environmental documents that participating agencies need to discharge their National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) responsibilities and any other requirements regarding jurisdictional approvals, permits, licenses, and/or clearances.

Please respond to Mr. Glenn Bowman, P. E., Environment/Location Engineer, Georgia Department of Transportation, 3993 Aviation Circle, Atlanta, Georgia 30336-1593, in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitation within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If your agency declines, the response should state your reason for declining the invitation. Pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Sec. 6002, any Federal agency that chooses to decline the invitation to be a participating agency must specifically state in its response that it:

- * Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
- * Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
- * Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this Tier I EIS, please contact Mr. Wayne Fedora, P.E. (FHWA) at (404) 562-3651. If you would like to review the project

Tier I EIS
Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study
P.I. # T001684
Page 3 of 3

Coordination Plan, please contact Susan Knudson of my staff at (404) 699-4407. If you decide to accept this invitation to become a participating agency we would also request that you review the enclosed *project purpose and need statement*, and provide your comments along with your acceptance within the time frame noted above.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Glenn Bowman, P.E..
Office of Environment/Location

GB/sk/gth

Enclosure

Project Need and Purpose
Project NOI
Study Area Map

cc: Wayne Fedora, P.E.
David Valenstein
Gerald Ross, P.E.

List of Confirmed Participating Agencies
Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No.: T001684

Federal Agencies

Mr. Steven M. Wright
Environmental Protection Specialist
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

Mr. David Schilling
State Programs Team Leader
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration - Region IV

Mr. Ben West
Agency Representative
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IV

Mr. Dan Wallace
State Resource Inventory Coordinator
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Ms. Mary Dills
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Savannah District, Regulatory Division, Piedmont Branch

Mr. Pete Patavina
Staff Biologist
U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Mr. Randy Warbington
Director of Engineering
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service, Southern Region

State Agencies

Georgia

Ms. Katrina Morris
Environmental Review Coordinator
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Division

As of August 26, 2010

Mr. James Johnson
Forest Management Chief
Georgia Forestry Commission

Mr. Paul Burkhalter
Deputy Commissioner
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Ms. Amanda Schraner
Transportation Projects Coordinator
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) - Historic Preservation Division

Mr. Bert Langley
Manager - Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division

Tennessee

Mr. Silas Mathes
Data Manager
Heritage Program - Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Mr. Joe Garrison
Historic Preservation Specialist
Tennessee Historical Commission - Department of Environment and Conservation

Mr. Robert Todd
Fish and Wildlife Environmentalist
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Native American Tribes

Ms. Lisa C. Stopp
Tribal NAGPRA POC
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians

Mr. Willard Steele
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Tribe of Florida

Regional Planning Agencies

Mr. Bob McCord
Principal Management Analyst
Atlanta Regional Commission

Mr. Kenneth P. Parr
NEPA Specialist
Tennessee Valley Authority
Environmental Permits and Compliance

Mr. Don Cope
President
Dalton Utilities

Mr. Kenneth W. Wester
ADHS Program Manager
Appalachian Regional Commission

Ms. Sue Hiller, AICP
Planning Director
Rome Floyd County Planning Department (MPO)

Mr. William R. Steiner
Executive Director
Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

Mr. Zach Montgomery
Transportation Planner
Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Ms. Beth Jones
Executive Director
Chattanooga Area Regional Council of Governments/Southeast Tennessee Development District

Regional and Local Transportation Planning Agencies

Ms. Cheryl King AICP
Assistant General Manager Planning
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority

Mr. Michael J. Landguth
President and CEO
Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport Authority

Dr. Thomas E. Nissalke Ph.D.
Director of Environmental and Technical Services
City of Atlanta - Department of Aviation - Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Mr. Shaun Green
Senior Principal Operations Engineer
Georgia Regional Transportation Authority

County Governments

Mr. Antonio Valenzuela
Transportation Planning Administrator
Fulton County Department of Public Works

Mr. David Ridley
Sole Commissioner
Murray County Board of Commissioners

Ms. Faye DiMassimo AICP
Director
Cobb County Department of Transportation

Mr. Matt Denton
Assistant County Manager
Polk County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Jeff Metarko
Director
Clayton County Department of Transportation and Development

Mr. L.B. Ahrens Jr.
Chairman
Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

City Governments

Ms. Luz Borrero
Deputy Chief Operating Officer
City of Atlanta

Mr. William Moore
College Park Engineering Director
City of College Park

Hon. Ron Littlefield
Mayor
City of Chattanooga

Mr. Kevin McBurnett
City Manager
City of Emerson

Hon. Matthew J. Santini
Mayor
City of Cartersville

Mr. J. Tyson Ross
City Administrator
City of Dalton

Hon. Evan King
Mayor
City of Adairsville

Mr. Randy L. Mannino, AICP
Planning & Development Director
City of Cartersville

11.0 AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

**Participating Agency Comments
in Response to June 10th Letter Confirming Participation, Updated Coordination and Revised Purpose and Need
Statement**

No.	Participating Agency	Comment	Disposition
1	Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife Resources Division	The role of the Nongame Conservation Section is to determine potential impacts to high priority species and habitats as a result of the proposed project.	Noted. No response
2	City of Adairsville	We feel this project is exceedingly important to our community and will aid in promoting economic development, help create new choices for travelers, help in reducing dependence on oil, and aid in urban and rural development.	Noted. No response
3	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation - Natural Heritage Program	Enclosed a list of rare species. Suggested that we contact Rob Todd of TWRA for participation (615-781-6577) regarding state-listed plants and animals.	Contacted Robert Todd to invite TWRA to participate in the study's NEPA process.
4	U.S. Department of Transportation -Federal Transit Administration - Region IV	Confirmed FTA's role: 1. Participating in the scoping process 2. Participating in the NEPA process 3. Identifying environmental or socioeconomic impacts 4. Providing meaningful input to resolve issues	Noted. No response
5	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region IV	EPA's participation does not preclude an independent review according to Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. EPA also requested that the revised coordination plan identify EPA as a Federal Resource Agency.	Identified EPA as a Federal Resource Agency in the revised Coordination Plan.

**Participating Agency Comments
in Response to June 10th Letter Confirming Participation, Updated Coordination and Revised Purpose and Need
Statement**

No.	Participating Agency	Comment	Disposition
6	United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians	There is no objection to the project, but if any remains, artifacts or other items are inadvertently discovered, please cease construction immediately and contact at 918-458-6533 or by letter.	Noted. No response
7	Tennessee Historical Commission - Department of Environment and Conservation	<p>Review and comment on proposed undertaking are among the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has codified procedures for carrying out Section 106 review in 36 CFR 800.</p> <p>Considering available information, they find that the project as currently proposed may adversely affect properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and immediate consultation with their office is requested.</p>	Noted. No response
8	U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service	The agency will continue to provide information of the designation of Important Farmland in the project area.	Noted. No response
9	City of Dalton	We would like to provide input on the methodology and preliminary screening results	Noted. No response

**Participating Agency Comments
in Response to June 10th Letter Confirming Participation, Updated Coordination and Revised Purpose and Need
Statement**

No.	Participating Agency	Comment	Disposition
10	Chattanooga Area Regional Council of Governments – Southeast Tennessee Development District	<p>Local governments that comprise CARCOG consider the high speed rail project to be very important to the economic development of the region. The project consistently ranks high at SETDD/CARCOG annual planning retreats, and it is on the document prepared under an agreement with the Economic Development Administration.</p> <p>Since Catoosa and Walker Counties are in the study area, it is important that CARCOG maintains a relationship with GDOT and other regional partners in transportation projects that will affect regional plans and projects on both sides of the state line.</p>	Noted. No response
11	U.S. Department of the Interior – National Park Service	NPS' role is to ensure that pertinent NPS mission statements, legislative authorities, and policies are duly considered when developing any alternatives, related management actions, or options applicable to units of the NPS. NPS will commit subject expertise to assist and insure that the affected environment and environmental impacts sections of the Tier I EIS are structured to fully address NPS interests pertaining to the units of the NPS.	Noted. No response

**Participating Agency Comments
in Response to June 10th Letter Confirming Participation, Updated Coordination and Revised Purpose and Need
Statement**

No.	Participating Agency	Comment	Disposition
12	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers North Area Section - Regulatory Branch	<p>This project has been assigned permit number SAS-2007- 01423, please refer to it in all correspondence. Wetlands will require Dept. of Army authorization to dredge or fill waterways.</p> <p>The project corridor does contain waters of the U.S. that are considered to be within the jurisdiction of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S. C. 403) and/or Section 404 of the Clean Waters Act (33 U.S.C 1344) the placement of dredged or fill material into any waterways and/or adjacent wetlands and mechanized land clearing of those wetlands would require prior Department of the Army authorization pursuant to Section 404. Impacts to wetlands and streams, which are one-half acre or less to waters of the U.S. at a single crossing, could be permitted under the 2007 Nationwide Permit Program provided the cumulative impacts do not exceed 10 acres of wetlands and /or 1,500 linear feet of streams. If the Nationwide Permit thresholds are exceeded, this project would require a standard individual permit (IP) application, which should follow Section 404 (b) (1) guidelines for avoidance and minimization to waters of the U.S. and include mitigation plan and alternatives analysis. Enclosed a copy of 404 (b) (1) application form.</p>	Noted. No response



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southern Region

1720 Peachtree Road NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

File Code: 1390-1

Date:

AUG 23 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308

RECEIVED

AUG 25 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

Dear Mr. Ware

We have reviewed your letter requesting that we partner with you as a participating agency for the Atlanta-Chattanooga HSGT study. After reviewing the coordination plan we believe that any impact to us related to this project will be extremely minimal but appreciate the opportunity to comment if and when any impacts are discovered. Please forward any correspondence regarding this project to me at the above address, or email to rwarbington@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

RANDY L. WARBINGTON
Director of Engineering



TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES AGENCY

ELLINGTON AGRICULTURAL CENTER
P. O. BOX 40747
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37204

August 20, 2010

RECEIVED

AUG 25 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308

Re: Invitation to Participate – Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No.: T001684

Dear Mr. Ware:

We have received the invitation to become a participating agency in coordination with the FHWA, FRA, and GDOT in the development of the Tier I EIS for the subject project in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provision of the National Environmental Policy Act. We accept the invitation and look forward to working with the various agencies on the proposed project.

I would like to bring to your attention that I may be able to attend meetings in Georgia on this proposed project due to the current economic situation of the State of Tennessee which severely limits out-of-state travel.

Thank you for the invitation to participate on this proposed project.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Todd

Robert M. Todd
Fish and Wildlife Environmentalist

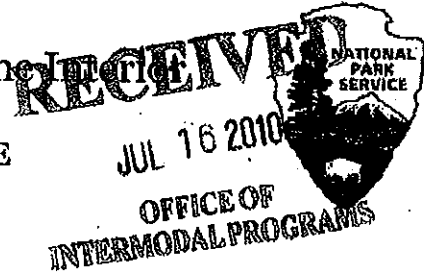
cc: Bobby Brown, Region III Habitat Biologist
John Mayer, Region III Manager
Vincent Pontello, Wildlife Biologist/East TN TDOT Liaison

The State of Tennessee

IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, EQUAL ACCESS, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER



United States Department of the Interior



IN REPLY REFER TO:

SER-PC

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., SW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

JUL 13 2010

Mr. Erik H. Steavens
Georgia Department of Transportation
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Dear Mr. Steavens:

We are in receipt of your correspondence dated June 10, 2010, requesting confirmation of our acceptance of your invitation to become a Participating Agency in developing the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed High Speed Ground Transportation in the Atlanta to Chattanooga Corridor, project number PTSC0-0023-00-002.

The National Park Service (NPS) accepts your invitation to participate in the development of the Tier 1 EIS as a Participating Agency to ensure that pertinent NPS mission statements, legislative authorities, and policies are duly considered when developing any alternatives, related management actions, or options applicable to units of the NPS. As a Participating Agency, the NPS would commit subject expertise to assist and insure that the affected environment and environmental impacts sections of the Tier 1 EIS are structured to fully address NPS interests pertaining to the units of the NPS.

We welcome this opportunity to cooperate with the Federal Highway Administration and the Georgia Department of Transportation. Should you have any questions please contact Steven M. Wright, Environmental Protection Specialist, by calling (404) 507-5710.

Sincerely,


David Vela
Regional Director
Southeast Region

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
SAM NUNN
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA GEORGIA 30303-8960

July 9, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

SUBJECT: Updated Participating Agency Request for the Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Ware:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received your letter dated June 10, 2010, requesting EPA to reaffirm our status as a "participating agency" with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the subject project. A Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared for a High Speed Ground Transportation project in the 110-mile corridor between Atlanta, Georgia, and Chattanooga, Tennessee.

In accordance with this request, we agree to continue acting as a participating agency for this project and will endeavor to participate in project activities in the manner suggested in your letter, subject to resource limitations. EPA's participating agency status and level of involvement does not, however, preclude our independent review and comment responsibilities under Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, or our authorities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Similarly, our being a participating agency should not imply that EPA will necessarily concur with all aspects of GDOT's EIS. We also request that the Revised Coordination Plan identify EPA as a Federal Resource Agency with regulatory responsibilities in the NEPA process.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with GDOT as a participating agency on this important project. Please contact Ben West, as our primary agency representative for this project, at (404) 562-9643 to discuss this letter or if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Mueller".

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief
NEPA Program Office
Office of Policy and Management

cc: Federal Highway Administration – Georgia Division
Federal Highway Administration – Tennessee Division
Federal Railroad Administration
Tennessee Department of Transportation

Internet Address (URL) • <http://www.epa.gov>



Natural Resources Conservation Service
355 East Hancock Avenue
Athens, GA 30601

June 29, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
One Georgia Center
600 W Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30308

RECEIVED
JUL 05 2010
OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

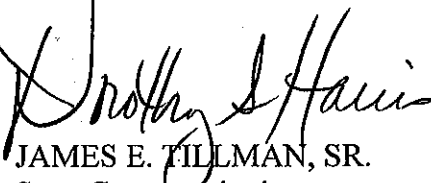
RE: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground
Transportation (HSGT) Study Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No.: T001684

Dear Mr. Ware:

This letter is in reference to your request that Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Georgia continue to be designated as a participating agency for the above project. We are concurring with the request that GA NRCS continue the designation as a participating agency. Our role will continue to be to provide information on the designation of Important Farmland (*Prime and Statewide Important*) in the project area. Although the NRCS provides information on average farm size when responding to the Farmland Protection Policy Act requests, the USDA-National Agriculture Statistics Service provides the data for identifying and determining average farm size.

I am designating, Dan Wallace, State Resource Inventory Coordinator, on my staff as a principal contact. Dan can be contacted at (706) 546-2278. The alternate representative is Michael Watson, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Griffin, GA. Mr. Watson can be reached (770) 227-1026

Sincerely,


JAMES E. TILLMAN, SR.
State Conservationist

Acting for

cc: Michael Watson, Assistant Conservationist for Field Operations, NRCS, Griffin, GA
Dan Wallace, State Resource Inventory Coordinator, NRCS, Athens, GA

Ware, Alan

From: Dills, Mary E SAS [Mary.E.Dills@usace.army.mil]
Sent: Friday, July 09, 2010 3:50 PM
To: Ware, Alan
Cc: tahirah.wilson@aecom.com; D'Avino, Gail
Subject: SAS-2007-01423 / P.I. #T001684 - Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study
Attachments: Coordination POC Info Ltr 200701423.pdf; 404(b)1-Template 11 June 2010fv.doc

Attach letter

PTSCO-0023-00-002, P.I. #001684

Dear Mr. Ware:

Enclosed is our response to your letter of June 14, 2010. Savannah District will continue to be a participating agency in the HSGT Study. I am the project manager assigned to this project; my contact information is in our letter and below.

No paper/hard copy of the enclosed documents will be sent unless requested.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me or my supervisor, Mr. Jeffery K. King at (678) 422-1981.

Mary E. Dills
US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District Regulatory Division, Piedmont Branch

1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200
Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777
Tel: (678) 422-2727
Fax: (770) 968-3727



REPLY TO
ATTENTION

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PIEDMONT BRANCH
1590 ADAMSON PARKWAY, SUITE 200
MORROW, GEORGIA 30260-1777

June 9, 2010

Regulatory Division
SAS-2007-01423

Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs Division, Passenger Rail Projects
Attention: Mr. Eric H. Steavens
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Dear Mr. Steavens:

In response to your letter of June 10, 2010, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Regulatory Division, will continue to be a participating agency in the NEPA process for the Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study and Tier I Environmental Impact Statement, PTSCO-0023-00-002, P.I. #T001684. Ms. Mary Dills, a project manager in the Special Projects Section, Piedmont Branch, has been assigned to this project. This project has been assigned permit number SAS-2007-01423. Please refer to this number in all future correspondence and inquiries concerning this project.

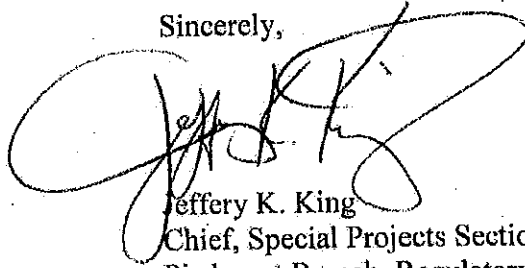
The project corridor does contain waters of the United States that are considered to be within the jurisdiction of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 United States Code (U.S.C.) 403) and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). The placement of dredged or fill material into any waterways and/or their adjacent wetlands or mechanized land clearing of those wetlands would require prior Department of the Army authorization pursuant to Section 404.

Impacts to wetlands and streams, which are one-half acre or less to waters of the US at a single crossing, could be permitted under our 2007 Nationwide Permit Program provided the cumulative impacts do not exceed 10 acres of wetlands and/or 1,500 linear feet of streams. If the Nationwide Permit thresholds are exceeded, this high speed ground transportation project would require submittal as a standard individual permit (IP) application. An IP application should follow the Section 404 (b) (1) Guidelines for avoidance and minimization to waters of the US and include a mitigation plan and alternatives analysis. I am enclosing a copy of the 404 (b) (1) analyses that we are now using for documentation that supports our Environmental Assessment.

We have reviewed your draft Purpose and Need Statement dated September 2007 (edited October 2008). It is sufficient for our purposes at this time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Ms. Dills at the address above, by telephone at (678) 422-2727 or by email at mary.e.dills@usace.army.mil. A copy of this letter will be sent by electronic facsimile to AECOM, Ms. Tahirah Wilson, at tahirah.wilson@aecom.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffery K. King". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeffery K. King
Chief, Special Projects Section
Piedmont Branch, Regulatory Division

Enclosure

APPENDIX A
TO
CASE DOCUMENT

EVALUATION FOR
COMPLIANCE WITH 404(B)(1) GUIDELINES

PART 230 OF TITLE 40 OF
THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS
(40 CFR)

**APPENDIX A
EVALUATION FOR COMPLIANCE
WITH 404(b)(1) GUIDELINES**

**PART I
INTRODUCTION**

This appendix evaluates compliance with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR Section 230). The goal of the Guidelines is "to restore and maintain, the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of waters of the United States (US) through the control of discharges of dredged or fill material." The regulations set forth in 40 CFR Section 230 are the substantive criteria issued by the US Environment Protection Agency (USEPA), used in evaluating discharges of dredged or fill material in to waters of the United States (waters of the US). The Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (Guidelines) provide regulations outlining measures to avoid, minimize and compensate for impacts. For any permit to be issued under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the proposed action must address all relevant portions of the Guidelines.

A. Applicant's Proposed Project. *(To be provided by applicant.)* The applicant is the *****. The applicant is proposing to*****.

B. Applicant's Purpose and Need Statement. *(To be provided by applicant.)*

The applicant's stated purpose for this project is *****.

The applicant's stated need for this project is ... *Discuss rationale for need.*

C. Basic Project Purpose. The basic purpose of the project must be known to determine if a given project is "water dependent." For example, the purpose of a residential development is to provide housing for people. Houses do not have to be located in a special aquatic site to fulfill the basic purpose of the project, i.e., providing shelter. Therefore, a residential development is not water dependent. If a project is not water dependent, alternatives, which do not involve impacts to special aquatic sites are presumed to be available to the applicant. Examples of water dependent projects include, but are not limited to dams, marinas, mooring facilities, and docks. The basic purpose of these projects is to provide access to the water. Although the basic purpose of a project may be water dependent, a vigorous evaluation of alternatives under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Guidelines will often be necessary, due to expected impacts to the aquatic environment (e.g., a marina that involves substantial impacts to or the loss of marsh or seagrass bed).

The USACE has determined that the basic project purpose is to *****.

D. Water Dependency [40 CFR Section 230.10(a)(3)]. Where the activity associated with a discharge which is proposed for a special aquatic site (as defined in subpart E of the Guidelines) does not require access or proximity to or sighting within the special aquatic site in question to fulfill its basic purpose (i.e., is not "water dependent"), practicable alternatives that do not

involve special aquatic sites are presumed to be available, unless clearly demonstrated otherwise. In addition, where a discharge is proposed for a special aquatic site, all practicable alternatives to the proposed discharge, which do not involve a discharge into a special aquatic site are presumed to have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem, unless clearly demonstrated otherwise.

The basic project purpose is *****. (*Rationale supporting determination of water dependency.*)

The USACE has determined that the proposed project is/is not a water dependent activity. (*Rationale supporting determination of water dependency.*)

E. Overall Project Purpose. The overall project purpose is more specific to the applicant's project than the basic project purpose. The overall project purpose is used for evaluating practicable alternatives under the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines. The overall project purpose must be specific enough to define the applicant's needs, but not so restrictive as to preclude all discussion of alternatives. Defining the overall project purpose is the responsibility of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), however, the applicant's needs must be considered in the context of the desired geographic area of the development, and the type of project being proposed. Defining the overall purpose of a project is critical in its evaluation, and should be carefully considered. For example, a proposed road through wetlands or across a stream to provide access to an upland residential development would have an overall project purpose of "constructing road access to an upland development site." Based on this overall project purpose, the USACE would evaluate other potential access alternatives. However, the USACE would not consider alternatives in any way for the residential community or otherwise "regulate" the upland housing.

The USACE has determined the overall project purpose to be *****.

F. Geographic Scope of Analysis for Alternatives. (*Identify geographic area to be used for alt analysis and present rationale for scope.*)

PART II PROPOSED ACTION and ALTERNATIVES [40 CFR SECTION 230.10(a)]

In this section, the proposed action, along with different alternatives, are presented and analyzed to identify the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative pursuant to 40 CFR 230.7(b)(1). The purpose of the below analysis is to ensure that "no discharge of dredged or fill material shall be permitted if there is a practicable alternative to the proposed discharge which would have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem."

A. Factors Used to Analyze Alternatives. The USACE will use the factors listed below to: 1) compare and contrast the various alternatives that were considered by the applicant for meeting the project purpose; 2) determine whether an alternative would be considered practicable; that is, available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost,

existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purpose; and 3) determine the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative that would meet the overall project purpose. To determine if a proposal meets the basic project purpose, the following factors will be used: *****. To determine if a proposal is practicable, the following factors will be used: logistics, technology, and cost. To determine which alternative is the least environmentally damaging, the following factors will be used: wetlands/streams, water quality,...

1. Purpose & Need Factors. (*Identify factor and how it will be used in the analysis.*)
2. Practicability Factors. (*Identify factor and how it will be used in the analysis.*)
 - a. Logistics.
 - b. Technology.
 - c. Cost.
3. Environmental Factors. (*Identify factor and how it will be used in the analysis.*)
 - a. Wetlands.
 - b. Streams.
 - c. Water quality.
 - d. Other.

B. Proposed Action or Applicant's Preferred Alternative. The project site is located _____ (Figure X). (*Briefly describe action and discuss the following.*)

1. Purpose & Need Factors. (*For each factor described under A above, discuss whether factor is met.*)
2. Practicability Factors. (*For each factor described under A above, discuss whether factor is met.*)
3. Environmental Factors. (*For each factor described under A above, discuss whether factor is met.*)

C. Avoidance Alternatives.

1. No Action. (*Discuss and state reason for dismissal.*)
2. Total Avoidance of Impacts to Waters of the US. (*Discuss and state reason for dismissal.*)

3. Other upland alternatives evaluated. (*Discuss and state reason for dismissal.*)

D. Off-Site Alternatives. (identify and conduct analysis for each alternative.)

1. Alternative X. This alternative site is located _____ (Figure X).
(Briefly describe action and discuss the following.)

a. Purpose & Need Factors. (*For each factor described under A above, discuss whether factor is met.*)

b. Practicability Factors. (*For each factor described under A above, discuss whether factor is met.*)

c. Environmental Factors. (*For each factor described under A above, discuss whether factor is met.*)

2. Alternative X. This alternative site is located _____ (Figure X).
(Briefly describe action and discuss the following.)

a. Purpose & Need Factors. (*For each factor, discuss whether factor is met.*)

b. Practicability Factors. (*For each factor, discuss whether factor is met.*)

c. Environmental Factors. (*For each factor, discuss whether factor is met.*)

E. On Site: Minimization Alternatives. The applicant and the USACE also examined a variety of minimization alternatives. The applicant provided information to assist the USACE with its determination concerning whether project related impacts to the aquatic environment could be further minimized. The following is a summary of the USACE's evaluation of minimization alternatives:

1. Alternative X (Figure X). (Briefly describe action and discuss the following.)

a. Purpose & Need Factors. (*For each factor described under A above, discuss whether factor is met.*)

b. Practicability Factors. (*For each factor described under A above, discuss whether factor is met.*)

c. Environmental Factors. (*For each factor described under A above, discuss whether factor is met.*)

2. Alternative X (Figure X). (Briefly describe action and discuss the following.)

a. Purpose & Need Factors. (*For each factor described under A above, discuss whether*

factor is met.)

b. Practicability Factors. (For each factor described under A above, discuss whether factor is met.)

c. Environmental Factors. (For each factor described under A above, discuss whether factor is met.)

F. Summary of Alternatives Analysis.

1. Summary Table. A summary of the factors and an analysis of each alternative with regard to the factors presented under Part A.-E. above is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of Alternatives Analysis.

FACTORS	OFF-SITE ALTERNATIVES		ON-SITE ALTERNATIVES				
	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6	Proposed Action
Surface Area (acres)							
Purpose and Need Factors							
Factor A							
Factor B							
Factor C							
Ability to Meet Purpose/Need							
Practicability Factors							
Logistics							
Technology							
Cost							
Practicable Alternative							
Environmental Considerations							
Wetlands							
Streams							
Water Quality							
Factor D							
Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative Meeting Overall Purpose and Need							

2. Summary Discussion.

a. The no action alternative. ... (Summarize findings. Use for comparative purpose, per NEPA.)

b. The total avoidance of impacts to waters of the US alternative. Summarize why Alternative was dismissed/carried forward in analysis.)

c. Alternative X. (Summarize why Alt was dismissed/carried forward.)

d. Alternative X. (Summarize why Alt was dismissed/carried forward.)

- e. Alternative X. (Summarize why Alt was dismissed/carried forward.)
- f. Alternative X. (Summarize why Alt was dismissed/carried forward.)
- g. Alternative X. (Summarize why Alt was dismissed/carried forward.)
- h. Alternative X. (Summarize why Alt was dismissed/carried forward.)
- i. Applicant's Preferred Alternative. (Summarize why Action was dismissed/carried forward.)

PART III
AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION AND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

A. Aquatic Impact Minimization Measures. For any permit issued for the proposed project, the below listed special conditions would be added. The intent of these conditions would be to avoid additional impacts and further minimize unavoidable impacts to wetlands and streams, and thereby, reduce potential project related losses in aquatic function.

- 1. Special Condition Number X.
- 2. Special Condition Number X.
- 3. Special Condition Number X.

B. Compensatory Stream and/or Wetland Mitigation Plan.

1. Applicant's Preferred Mitigation Plan. The applicant's proposed mitigation plan consists of *****

2. Amount of Mitigation Required. Using Savannah District's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), for calculating compensatory mitigation requirements, we determined that at least **** wetland and **** stream credits are required to compensate for the proposed impacts. The following mitigation alternatives were investigated and are discussed below:

- a. Restoration of wetlands.
 - (1) On-site.
 - (2) Off-site.
- b. Enhancement of wetlands.
 - (1) On-site.

(2) Off-site.

c. Creation of wetlands.

(1) On-site.

(2) Off-site.

d. Preservation of wetlands.

(1) On-site.

(2) Off-site.

e. Purchase of Mitigation Credits. Based on the location of the project and the resources being impacted we concluded that the following mitigation banks could be used for this project.

(1) ***** Mitigation Bank.

(2) ***** Mitigation Bank.

f. Purchase of In-Lieu Fee Credits.

3. Conclusions. Based on this analysis, the preferred alternative for providing adequate mitigation for this project is *****. This plan would provide **** wetland credits and *** stream credits under our SOP.

4. Special Conditions. For any permit issued for the proposed project, the below listed special conditions would be added. The intent of these conditions would be to provide compensatory mitigation necessary to offset the loss in aquatic function that would result from unavoidable project related impacts to streams and wetlands.

a. Special Condition X. *****

b. Special Condition X *****

PART IV ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING/EXISTING CONDITIONS

A. Environmental Setting/Existing Conditions. (DESCRIBE/SUMMARIZE BASELINE ENVIRONMENT FOR EXAMPLE)

- Socio-economic setting of area.
- Watershed/geo-physical position of proposed project in watershed.
- Chemical/water quality aspects of area.
- Biologic environmental setting/relationships.

c. Discussion. (*Discussion should support findings determination.*)

FINDINGS: No Effect Negligible Short Term Minor
 Long Term Minor Major (Significant)

3. Other Wildlife [40 CFR Section 230.32].

a. Wildlife. Wildlife associated with aquatic ecosystems are resident and transient mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

b. Possible loss of values. The discharge of dredged or fill material can result in the loss or change of breeding and nesting areas, escape cover, travel corridors, and preferred food sources for resident and transient wildlife species associated with the aquatic ecosystem. These adverse impacts upon wildlife habitat may result from changes in water levels, water flow and circulation, salinity, chemical content, and substrate characteristics and elevation. Increased water turbidity can adversely affect wildlife species which rely upon sight to feed, and disrupt the respiration and feeding of certain aquatic wildlife and food chain organisms. The availability of contaminants from the discharge of dredged or fill material may lead to the bioaccumulation of such contaminants in wildlife. Changes in such physical and chemical factors of the environment may favor the introduction of undesirable plant and animal species at the expense of resident species and communities. In some aquatic environments lowering plant and animal species diversity may disrupt the normal functions of the ecosystem and lead to reductions in overall biological productivity.

c. Discussion. (*Discussion should support findings determination.*)

FINDINGS: No Effect Negligible Short Term Minor
 Long Term Minor Major (Significant)

C. Subpart E - Potential Effects on Special Aquatic Sites.

1. Sanctuaries and Refuges [40 CFR Section 230.40].

a. Sanctuaries and refuges. Sanctuaries and refuges consist of areas designated under State and Federal laws or local ordinances to be managed principally for the preservation and use of fish and wildlife resources.

b. Possible loss of values. Sanctuaries and refuges may be affected by discharges of dredged or fill material.

c. Discussion. (*Discussion should support findings determination.*)

FINDINGS: No Effect Negligible Short Term Minor
 Long Term Minor Major (Significant)

colonies of reef building organisms by burying them, by releasing contaminants such as hydrocarbons into the water column, by reducing light penetration through the water, and by increasing the level of suspended particulates. Coral organisms are extremely sensitive to even slight reductions in light penetration or increases in suspended particulates. These adverse effects will cause a loss of productive colonies which in turn provide habitat for many species of highly specialized aquatic organisms.

c. Discussion. (*Discussion should support findings determination.*)

FINDINGS: **No Effect** **Negligible** **Short Term Minor**
 Long Term Minor **Major (Significant)**

6. Riffle and Pool Complexes [40 CFR Section 230.45].

a. Riffle and Pools. Steep gradient sections of streams are sometimes characterized by riffle and pool complexes. Such stream sections are recognizable by their hydraulic characteristics. The rapid movement of water over a coarse substrate in riffles results in a rough flow, a turbulent surface, and high dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Pools are deeper areas associated with riffles. Pools are characterized by a slower stream velocity, a steaming flow, a smooth surface, and a finer substrate. Riffle and pool complexes are particularly valuable habitat for fish and wildlife.

b. Possible loss of values. Discharge of dredged or fill material can eliminate riffle and pool areas by displacement, hydrologic modification, or sedimentation. Activities which affect riffle and pool areas and especially riffle/pool ratios, may reduce the aeration and filtration capabilities at the discharge site and downstream, may reduce stream habitat diversity, and may retard repopulation of the disposal site and downstream waters through sedimentation and the creation of unsuitable habitat. The discharge of dredged or fill material which alters stream hydrology may cause scouring or sedimentation of riffles and pools. Sedimentation induced through hydrological modification or as a direct result of the deposition of unconsolidated dredged or fill material may clog riffle and pool areas, destroy habitats, and create anaerobic conditions. Eliminating pools and meanders by the discharge of dredged or fill material can reduce water holding capacity of streams and cause rapid runoff from a watershed. Rapid runoff can deliver large quantities of flood water in a short time to downstream areas resulting in the destruction of natural habitat, high property loss, and the need for further hydraulic modification.

c. Discussion. (*Discussion should support findings determination.*)

FINDINGS: **No Effect** **Negligible** **Short Term Minor**
 Long Term Minor **Major (Significant)**

D. Subpart F - Potential Effects on Human Use Characteristics.

1. Municipal and Private Water Supplies [40 CFR Section 230.50].

a. Water supplies. Municipal and private water supplies consist of surface water or

ground water which is directed to the intake of a municipal or private water supply system.

b. Possible loss of values. Discharges can affect the quality of water supplies with respect to color, taste, and odor, chemical content and suspended particulate concentration, in such a way as to reduce the fitness of the water for consumption. Water can be rendered unpalatable or unhealthy by the addition of suspended particulates, viruses and pathogenic organisms, and dissolved materials. The expense of removing such substances before the water is delivered for consumption can be high. Discharges may also affect the quantity of water available for municipal and private water supplies. In addition, certain commonly used water treatment chemicals have the potential for combining with some suspended or dissolved substances from dredged or fill material to form other products that can have a toxic effect on consumers.

c. Discussion. (*Discussion should support findings determination.*)

FINDINGS: **No Effect** **Negligible** **Short Term Minor**
 Long Term Minor **Major (Significant)**

2. Recreational and Commercial Fisheries [40 CFR Section 230.51].

a. Fisheries. Recreational and commercial fisheries consist of harvestable fish, crustaceans, shellfish, and other aquatic organisms used by man.

b. Possible loss of values. The discharge of dredged or fill materials can affect the suitability of recreational and commercial fishing grounds as habitat for populations of consumable aquatic organisms. Discharges can result in the chemical contamination of recreational or commercial fisheries. They may also interfere with the reproductive success of recreational and commercially important aquatic species through disruption of migration and spawning areas. The introduction of pollutants at critical times in their life cycle may directly reduce populations of commercially important aquatic organisms or indirectly reduce them by reducing organisms upon which they depend for food. Any of these impacts can be of short duration or prolonged, depending upon the physical and chemical impacts of the discharge and the biological availability of contaminants to aquatic organisms.

c. Discussion. (*Discussion should support findings determination.*)

FINDINGS: **No Effect** **Negligible** **Short Term Minor**
 Long Term Minor **Major (Significant)**

3. Water-related Recreation [40 CFR Section 230.52].

a. Water-related recreation. Water-related recreation encompasses activities undertaken for amusement and relaxation. Activities encompass two broad categories of use: consumptive, e.g., harvesting resources by hunting and fishing; and non-consumptive, e.g. canoeing and sight-seeing.

modify the aesthetic, educational, historical, recreational and/or scientific qualities thereby reducing or eliminating the uses for which such sites are set aside and managed.

c. Discussion. (*Discussion should support findings determination.*)

FINDINGS: No Effect Negligible Short Term Minor
 Long Term Minor Major (Significant)

E. Subpart G - Evaluation and Testing. The purpose of these evaluation procedures and the chemical and biological testing sequence outlined in 40 CFR Section 230.61 is to provide information to reach the determinations required by 40 CFR Section 230.11. Where the results of prior evaluations, chemical and biological tests, scientific research, and experience can provide information helpful in making a determination, these should be used. Such prior results may make new testing unnecessary. The information used shall be documented. Where the same information applies to more than one determination, it may be documented once and referenced in later determinations.

1. General Evaluation of Dredged or Fill Material [40 CFR Section 230.60].

a. General. If the evaluation under paragraph b below indicates the dredged or fill material is not a carrier of contaminants, then the required determinations pertaining to the presence and effects of contaminants can be made without testing. Dredged or fill material is most likely to be free from chemical, biological, or other pollutants where it is composed primarily of sand, gravel, or other naturally occurring inert material. Dredged material so composed is generally found in areas of high current or wave energy such as streams with large bed loads or coastal areas with shifting bars and channels. However, when such material is discolored or contains other indications that contaminants may be present, further inquiry should be made.

b. Factors. Extraction site shall be examined in order to assess whether it is sufficiently removed from sources of pollution to provide reasonable assurance that the proposed discharge material is not a carrier of contaminants. Factors to be considered include but are not limited to: (1) Potential routes of contaminants or contaminated sediments to the extraction site, based on hydrographic or other maps, aerial photography, or other materials that show watercourses, surface relief, proximity to tidal movement, private and public roads, location of buildings, municipal and industrial areas, and agricultural or forest lands; (2) Pertinent results from tests previously carried out on the material at the extraction site, or carried out on similar material for other permitted projects in the vicinity. Materials shall be considered similar if the sources of contamination, the physical configuration of the sites and the sediment composition of the materials are comparable, in light of water circulation and stratification, sediment accumulation and general sediment characteristics. Tests from other sites may be relied on only if no changes have occurred at the extraction sites to render the results irrelevant; (3) Any potential for significant introduction of persistent pesticides from land runoff or percolation; (4) Any records of spills or disposal of petroleum products or substances designated as hazardous under section 311 of the Clean Water Act (See 40 CFR Section 116); (5) Information in Federal, State and local records indicating significant introduction of pollutants from industries, municipalities, or

excluded from the evaluation procedures specified in paragraphs E.1. (b) (2) and (3) above if it is determined, on the basis of the evaluation in 40 CFR Section 230.60, that the likelihood of contamination by contaminants is acceptably low, unless the permitting authority, after evaluating and considering any comments received from the Regional Administrator, determines that these procedures are necessary. The Regional Administrator may require, on a case-by-case basis, testing approaches and procedures by stating what additional information is needed through further analyses and how the results of the analyses will be of value in evaluating potential environmental effects. If the General Evaluation indicates the presence of a sufficiently large number of chemicals to render impractical the identification of all contaminants by chemical testing, information may be obtained from bioassays in lieu of chemical tests.

(2) Water column effects. Sediments normally contain constituents that exist in various chemical forms and in various concentrations in several locations within the sediment. An elutriate test may be used to predict the effect on water quality due to release of contaminants from the sediment to the water column. However, in the case of fill material originating on land which may be a carrier of contaminants, a water leachate test is appropriate.

Major constituents to be analyzed in the elutriate are those deemed critical by the permitting authority, after evaluating and considering any comments received from the Regional Administrator, and considering results of the evaluation in 40 CFR Section 230.60. Elutriate concentrations should be compared to concentrations of the same constituents in water from the disposal site. Results should be evaluated in light of the volume and rate of the intended discharge, the type of discharge, the hydrodynamic regime at the disposal site, and other information relevant to the impact on water quality. The permitting authority should consider the mixing zone in evaluating water column effects. The permitting authority may specify bioassays when such procedures will be of value.

(3) Effects on benthos. The permitting authority may use an appropriate benthic bioassay (including bioaccumulation tests) when such procedures will be of value in assessing ecological effects and in establishing discharge conditions.

c. Procedure for comparison of sites.

(1) Sediment analysis. When an inventory of the total concentration of contaminants would be of value in comparing sediment at the dredging site with sediment at the disposal site, the permitting authority may require a sediment chemical analysis. Markedly different concentrations of contaminants between the excavation and disposal sites may aid in making an environmental assessment of the proposed disposal operation. Such differences should be interpreted in terms of the potential for harm as supported by any pertinent scientific literature.

(2) Biological analysis. When an analysis of biological community structure will be of value to assess the potential for adverse environmental impact at the proposed disposal site, a comparison of the biological characteristics between the excavation and disposal sites may be required by the permitting authority. Biological indicator species may be useful in evaluating the existing degree of stress at both sites. Sensitive species representing community

components colonizing various substrate types within the sites should be identified as possible bioassay organisms if tests for toxicity are required. Community structure studies should be performed only when they will be of value in determining discharge conditions. This is particularly applicable to large quantities of dredged material known to contain adverse quantities of toxic materials. Community studies should include benthic organisms such as microbiota and harvestable shellfish and finfish. Abundance, diversity, and distribution should be documented and correlated with substrate type and other appropriate physical and chemical environmental characteristics.

d. Physical tests and evaluation. The effect of a discharge of dredged or fill material on physical substrate characteristics at the disposal site, as well as on the water circulation, fluctuation, salinity, and suspended particulates content there, is important in making factual determinations in 40 CFR Section 230.11. Where information on such effects is not otherwise available to make these factual determinations, the permitting authority shall require appropriate physical tests and evaluations as are justified and deemed necessary. Such tests may include sieve tests, settleability tests, compaction tests, mixing zone and suspended particulate plume determinations, and site assessments of water flow, circulation, and salinity characteristics.

e. Discussion. (*Discussion should support findings determination.*)

FINDINGS: No Effect Negligible Short Term Minor
 Long Term Minor Major (Significant)

PART VI
SUBPART H - ACTIONS TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE EFFECTS

Note: There are many actions which can be undertaken in response to 40 CFR Section 203.10(d) to minimize the adverse effects of discharges of dredged or fill material. Some of these, grouped by type of activity, are listed in this subpart. Additional criteria for compensation measures are provided in subpart J of the Guidelines.

A. Actions concerning the location of the discharge [40 CFR Section 230.70]. The effects of the discharge can be minimized by the choice of the disposal site. Some of the ways to accomplish this are by: (a) Locating and confining the discharge to minimize smothering of organisms; (b) Designing the discharge to avoid a disruption of periodic water inundation patterns; (c) Selecting a disposal site that has been used previously for dredged material discharge; (d) Selecting a disposal site at which the substrate is composed of material similar to that being discharged, such as discharging sand on sand or mud on mud; (e) Selecting the disposal site, the discharge point, and the method of discharge to minimize the extent of any plume; (f) Designing the discharge of dredged or fill material to minimize or prevent the creation of standing bodies of water in areas of normally fluctuating water levels, and minimize or prevent the drainage of areas subject to such fluctuations.

B. Actions concerning the material to be discharged [40 CFR Section 230.71]. The effects of a discharge can be minimized by treatment of, or limitations on the material itself, such as: (a)

Disposal of dredged material in such a manner that physiochemical conditions are maintained and the potency and availability of pollutants are reduced; (b) Limiting the solid, liquid, and gaseous components of material to be discharged at a particular site; (c) Adding treatment substances to the discharge material; (d) Utilizing chemical flocculants to enhance the deposition of suspended particulates in diked disposal areas.

C. Actions controlling the material after discharge [40 CFR Section 230.72]. The effects of the dredged or fill material after discharge may be controlled by: (a) Selecting discharge methods and disposal sites where the potential for erosion, slumping or leaching of materials into the surrounding aquatic ecosystem will be reduced. These sites or methods include, but are not limited to: (1) Using containment levees, sediment basins, and cover crops to reduce erosion; (2) Using lined containment areas to reduce leaching where leaching of chemical constituents from the discharged material is expected to be a problem; (b) Capping in-place contaminated material with clean material or selectively discharging the most contaminated material first to be capped with the remaining material; (c) Maintaining and containing discharged material properly to prevent point and nonpoint sources of pollution; (d) Timing the discharge to minimize impact, for instance during periods of unusual high water flows, wind, wave, and tidal actions.

D. Actions affecting the method of dispersion [40 CFR Section 230.73]. The effects of a discharge can be minimized by the manner in which it is dispersed, such as: (a) Where environmentally desirable, distributing the dredged material widely in a thin layer at the disposal site to maintain natural substrate contours and elevation; (b) Orienting a dredged or fill material mound to minimize undesirable obstruction to the water current or circulation pattern, and utilizing natural bottom contours to minimize the size of the mound; (c) Using silt screens or other appropriate methods to confine suspended particulate/turbidity to a small area where settling or removal can occur; (d) Making use of currents and circulation patterns to mix, disperse and dilute the discharge; (e) Minimizing water column turbidity by using a submerged diffuser system. A similar effect can be accomplished by submerging pipeline discharges or otherwise releasing materials near the bottom; (f) Selecting sites or managing discharges to confine and minimize the release of suspended particulates to give decreased turbidity levels and to maintain light penetration for organisms; (g) Setting limitations on the amount of material to be discharged per unit of time or volume of receiving water.

E. Actions related to technology [40 CFR Section 230.74]. Discharge technology should be adapted to the needs of each site. In determining whether the discharge operation sufficiently minimizes adverse environmental impacts, the applicant should consider: (a) Using appropriate equipment or machinery, including protective devices, and the use of such equipment or machinery in activities related to the discharge of dredged or fill material; (b) Employing appropriate maintenance and operation on equipment or machinery, including adequate training, staffing, and working procedures; (c) Using machinery and techniques that are especially designed to reduce damage to wetlands. This may include machines equipped with devices that scatter rather than mound excavated materials, machines with specially designed wheels or tracks, and the use of mats under heavy machines to reduce wetland surface compaction and rutting; (d) Designing access roads and channel-spanning structures using culverts, open channels, and diversions that will pass both low and high water flows, accommodate fluctuating water levels, and maintain circulation and faunal movement; (e) Employing appropriate

machinery and methods of transport of the material for discharge.

F. Actions affecting plant and animal populations [40 CFR Section 230.75]. Minimization of adverse effects on populations of plants and animals can be achieved by: (a) Avoiding changes in water current and circulation patterns which would interfere with the movement of animals; (b) Selecting sites or managing discharges to prevent or avoid creating habitat conducive to the development of undesirable predators or species which have a competitive edge ecologically over indigenous plants or animals; (c) Avoiding sites having unique habitat or other value, including habitat of threatened or endangered species; (d) Using planning and construction practices to institute habitat development and restoration to produce a new or modified environmental state of higher ecological value by displacement of some or all of the existing environmental characteristics. Habitat development and restoration techniques can be used to minimize adverse impacts and to compensate for destroyed habitat. Additional criteria for compensation measures are provided in subpart J of the Guidelines. Use techniques that have been demonstrated to be effective in circumstances similar to those under consideration wherever possible. Where proposed development and restoration techniques have not yet advanced to the pilot demonstration stage, initiate their use on a small scale to allow corrective action if unanticipated adverse impacts occur; (e) Timing discharge to avoid spawning or migration seasons and other biologically critical time periods; (f) Avoiding the destruction of remnant natural sites within areas already affected by development.

G. Actions affecting human use [40 CFR Section 230.76]. Minimization of adverse effects on human use potential may be achieved by: (a) Selecting discharge sites and following discharge procedures to prevent or minimize any potential damage to the aesthetically pleasing features of the aquatic site (e.g. viewscales), particularly with respect to water quality; (b) Selecting disposal sites which are not valuable as natural aquatic areas; (c) Timing the discharge to avoid the seasons or periods when human recreational activity associated with the aquatic site is most important; (d) Following discharge procedures which avoid or minimize the disturbance of aesthetic features of an aquatic site or ecosystem; (e) Selecting sites that will not be detrimental or increase incompatible human activity, or require the need for frequent dredge or fill maintenance activity in remote fish and wildlife areas; (f) Locating the disposal site outside of the vicinity of a public water supply intake.

H. Other actions [40 CFR Section 230.77]. (a) In the case of fills, controlling runoff and other discharges from activities to be conducted on the fill; (b) In the case of dams, designing water releases to accommodate the needs of fish and wildlife; (c) In dredging projects funded by Federal agencies other than the Corps of Engineers, maintain desired water quality of the return discharge through agreement with the Federal funding authority on scientifically defensible pollutant concentration levels in addition to any applicable water quality standards; (d) When a significant ecological change in the aquatic environment is proposed by the discharge of dredged or fill material, the permitting authority should consider the ecosystem that will be lost as well as the environmental benefits of the new system.

I. Discussion. The draft permit for***** would include numerous general and special permit conditions addressing specific actions necessary to insure minimization of adverse project related impacts to the categories discussed in

this part. See Part III.A of this document for a complete list of special permit conditions designed to minimize unavoidable impacts to wetlands and streams, and thereby, reduce potential project related losses in aquatic function. See Part III.B of this document for a complete list of special permit conditions designed to insure that the permittee completes the compensatory mitigation necessary to offset the loss in aquatic function that would result from unavoidable project related impacts to streams and wetlands. A complete listing of all proposed special permit conditions is located at Part _____ of Case Document and Environmental Assessment to which this document is an appendix.

PART VII
DETERMINATION OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ON THE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM
[40 CFR Section 230.11(g)]

According to Title 40 Code of Federal Regulation Parts 1508.7, cumulative impacts are the impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Based on an analysis of all available information, the USACE has determined that the proposed project would not result in a significant impact on the environment; considering the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. A detailed cumulative impacts assessment for this action is located at **Part IV.E of the Case Document and Environmental Assessment.**

PART VIII
DETERMINATION OF SECONDARY EFFECTS ON THE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM
[40 CFR Section 230.11(h)]

Discussion. (*Discussion should support findings determination.*)

FINDINGS: No Effect Negligible Short Term Minor
 Long Term Minor Major (Significant)

PART IX
FINDINGS

A. Status of other authorizations and legal requirements.

1. Water Quality Certification. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division completed their review of the proposed project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, and Water Quality Certification was issued on _____.

2. Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination.

3. Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The USACE has completed coordination and consultation pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. **WHAT WERE RESULTS????**

4. Compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the USACE determined that the project would have no effect on any federally-listed threatened and endangered species.

5. Compliance with Clean Air Act. The proposed project has been analyzed for conformity applicability pursuant to regulations implementing Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act. Under Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 93.153, we have determined the activities proposed under this permit will not exceed the de minimis levels of direct emissions of a criteria pollutant or its precursors and are. Any later indirect emissions are generally not within the USACE continuing program responsibility and generally cannot be practicably controlled by the USACE. For these reasons, a conformity determination is not required for this permit action.

6. Other State and/or local authorizations.

B. Evaluation of Compliance with 404(b)(1) guidelines (restrictions on discharge, 40 CFR 230.10). (A check in a block denoted by an asterisk indicates that the project does not comply with the guidelines.)

1. Alternatives test:

*Yes No

(a) Based on the discussion in Part II, are there available, practicable alternatives having less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem and without other significant adverse environmental consequences that do not involve discharges into "waters of the US" or at other locations within these waters?

Yes *No

(b) Based on the discussion in Part II, if the project is in a special aquatic site and is not water-dependent, has the applicant clearly demonstrated that there are no practicable alternative sites available?

2. Special restrictions. Will the discharge:

*Yes No

(a) Violate state water quality standards? [Note: Section 401 Water Quality Certification has not been issued by Georgia EPD. Any draft permit issued by the USACE for the subject project would be issued provisionally, and would only be valid after Water Quality Certification was issued by Georgia EPD.]

*Yes No

(b) Violate toxic effluent standards (under Section 307 of the Act)?

*Yes No

(c) Jeopardize endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat?

*Yes No

(d) Violate standards set by the Department of Commerce to protect marine sanctuaries?

Yes *No

(e) Evaluation of the information in Parts III – VIII indicates that the proposed discharge material meets testing exclusion criteria for the following reason(s).

() based on the above information, the material is not a carrier of contaminants

() the levels of contamination are substantially similar at the extraction and disposal sites and the discharge is not likely to result in degradation of the disposal site and pollutants will not be transported to less contaminated areas

() acceptable constraints are available and will be implemented to reduce contamination to acceptable levels within the disposal site and prevent contaminants from being transported beyond the boundaries of the disposal site

3. Other restrictions. Will the discharge contribute to significant degradation of "waters of the US" through adverse impacts to:

*Yes No

(a) Human health or welfare, through pollution of municipal water supplies, fish, shellfish, wildlife and special aquatic sites?

*Yes No

(b) Life states of aquatic life and other wildlife?

*Yes No

(c) Diversity, productivity and stability of the aquatic ecosystem, such as the loss of fish or wildlife habitat, or loss of the capacity of wetland to assimilate nutrients, purify water or reduce wave energy?

*Yes No

(d) Recreational, aesthetic and economic values?

4. Actions to minimize potential adverse impacts (mitigation). Will all appropriate and practicable steps (40 CFR 23.70-77) be taken to minimize the potential adverse impacts of the discharge on the aquatic ecosystem? If yes, measures are presented in Part III.

Yes *No

D. Findings of Compliance or Non-compliance with the Restrictions on Discharge (40 CFR Section 230.12)

() The discharge complies with the guidelines. The proposed project is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA).

() All of the appropriate and practicable conditions are listed in Parts III.A and B to mitigate pollution or adverse effects to the affected ecosystem. These conditions have been included as part of the proposed action or will be required by special conditions of the permit. This revised and/or conditioned project is the LEDPA.

() The discharge fails to comply with the requirements of these guidelines because:

() There is a practicable alternative to the proposed discharge that would have less adverse effect on the aquatic ecosystem and that alternative does not have other significant adverse environmental consequences.

() The proposed discharge will result in significant degradation of the aquatic ecosystem under 40 CFR 230.10(b) or (c).

() The discharge does not include all appropriate and practicable measures to minimize potential harm to the aquatic ecosystem, namely...

() There is not sufficient information to make a reasonable judgment as to whether the proposed discharge will comply with the guidelines.

**PART X
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

- A. The discharge represents the least environmentally damaging, practicable alternative. In addition, adverse impacts on the aquatic environment (including wetland functions and values) by this project would be compensated for by the proposed mitigation.
- B. The discharge does not cause or contribute to violation of any applicable state water quality standard, does not violate any applicable toxic effluent standard, does not impact any endangered or threatened species or marine sanctuary.
- C. The discharge does not cause or contribute to significant degradation of the waters of the US.
- D. All appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts of the discharge on the aquatic ecosystem.
- E. The proposed discharge, with the standard conditions placed on Department of the Army permits and other special conditions [found at Part V.D of the case document] would comply with the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the USEPA pursuant to Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

**PART XI
EVALUATION RESPONSIBILITY**

PREPARED BY: _____ REVIEWED BY: _____

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED BY: _____

APPROVED BY: _____

Vance C. Smith, Jr., Commissioner



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

One Georgia Center, 600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Telephone: (404) 631-1000

June 10, 2010

George Wickliffe
Chief
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians
P.O. Box 746
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Primary PI # T001684
Adm PI Nos. _____
NEPA analyst _____
Recipient: Contract
Coord. OH _____ Asst. OH _____
File: NEPA _____ A/N _____ Arch _____
Eco _____ Hist _____
INTERNAL USE ONLY FILES

Re: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No.: T001684

Dear Chief Wickliffe:

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is continuing the development of the Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), for HSGT in the Atlanta-Chattanooga corridor. In 2008, your agency declined or did not respond to the invitation to become a participating agency in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process for this study. We are providing your agency another opportunity to participate in the NEPA process, as well as identify the NEPA participating agency primary contact and alternate representative. Please respond to Mr. Alan Ware, Passenger Rail Projects, Georgia Department of Transportation, Intermodal Programs, 600 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30308 in writing with an acceptance or refusal of the invitation within 30 days of this letter, or by July 9, 2010.

Pursuant to SAFETEA-LU Section 6002, a Federal agency that chooses to decline the participating agency role must state specifically in its response that it:

- Has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the project;
- Has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
- Does not intend to submit comments on the project.

As we continue the screening phase of the NEPA study, we would like to consult your agency for input on the methodology and preliminary screening results. A copy of the revised Coordination Plan is attached for your records. We are also providing for your records a copy of the Purpose and Need statement for this study. Georgia DOT reviewed and updated the Purpose and Need in October 2008 following feedback from participating agencies.

The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma has no objection to the referenced project. However, if any remains, artifacts or other items are inadvertently discovered, please cease construction immediately and contact us at 918-456-6533 or by letter.

...2/

Lisa Stopp / C. Harris 6.16.10
Lisa C. Stopp, Tribal NAGPRA POC Date



United States Department of the Interior

RECEIVED

JUL 29 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

Fish and Wildlife Service
105 West Park Drive, Suite D
Athens, Georgia 30606
Phone: (706) 613-9493
Fax: (706) 613-6059

West Georgia Sub-Office
Post Office Box 52560
Fort Benning, Georgia 31995-2560
Phone: (706) 544-6428
Fax: (706) 544-6419

JUL 26 2010

Coastal Sub-Office
4980 Wildlife Drive
Townsend, Georgia 31331
Phone: (912) 832-8739
Fax: (912) 832-8744

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

RE: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement, Atlanta-Chattanooga High-Speed Ground Transportation Study

Dear Mr. Ware:

Thank you for your June 10, 2010, invitation to our agency requesting our participation in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process, in cooperation with the Federal Highway and Federal Railroad Administrations. The proposed project would construct and operate a high-speed, passenger rail system from Chattanooga, Tennessee to Atlanta, Georgia.

We are pleased to accept your invitation as a participating agency and, as defined in your accompanying Coordination Plan, to assist in the identification of, "...as early as practicable, issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental impacts..." Our office previously participated in evaluating other Georgia Rail Passenger Program corridors when scoping began as early as 2000. We will continue to provide assistance to Georgia Department of Transportation and the lead Federal agencies to ensure that trust resources under our purview are adequately disclosed and evaluated under NEPA.

Staff biologist Pete Pattavina (pete_pattavina@fws.gov) shall be your primary contact for NEPA-related studies. In the event of Mr. Pattavina's absence, please feel free to contact me as an alternate representative.

Sincerely,

Sandra S. Tucker
Field Supervisor

cc:
Rich Williams, GDOT
file

Ware, Alan

From: Silas Mathes [Silas.Mathes@tn.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 09, 2010 12:01 PM
To: Ware, Alan
Cc: David Lincicome; Mary Parkman; Rob Todd; Roger McCoy
Subject: Atl-Chat HSGT Study, TN Natural Heritage Program Participation
Attachments: Gdot-AtlantatoChattanoogaHSRail.pdf; GADOT-06020001_HUC_RareSpeciesList.pdf

Dear Mr. Ware:

Thank you for invitation to participate in the Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation NEPA process.

In 2007, the Tennessee Natural Heritage Program provided a letter listing rare species in the Tennessee watershed (Middle Tennessee River/Chickamauga Watershed, USGS HUC 06020001) most likely to contain the Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation corridor. The letter and rare species list are attached to this e-mail.

We would like the opportunity to comment on potential rare species impacts once project routes/alternatives are defined for the Tennessee. Please feel free to contact us if you desire location-specific rare species data from the Tennessee Natural Heritage Database.

In Tennessee the TN Department of Environment and Conservation has regulatory authority for rare state-listed plants while the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) oversees protection of rare state-listed animals. If you have not already done so, we ask that you provide a similar opportunity for participation to the TWRA (Rob Todd, TWRA, Rob.Todd@tn.gov, 615-781-6577).

Sincerely,

Silas

Silas Mathes
Natural Heritage Program
Resource Management Division
Tennessee State Parks
Department of Environment & Conservation
<http://state.tn.us/environment/na/>
silas.mathes@tn.gov
voice: 615-532-0440
fax: 615-532-3019
7th Floor, L&C Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243-0447



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

Division of Natural Areas
7th Floor L&C Tower Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0447
Phone 615/532-0431 Fax 615/532-0231

September 24, 2007

Christa Wilkinson
State of Georgia, Department of Transportation
#2 Capitol Square, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334-1002

Subject: Early Coordination Request, Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study

Dear Ms. Wilkinson:

Thank you for your early coordination request/initial scoping letter for the Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study. Your letter requested information from us regarding rare species that may be impacted by construction activity in the 110 mile corridor from Atlanta to Chattanooga. We reviewed our natural heritage database for rare species in the Tennessee portion of the corridor only and limited our search to the Middle Tennessee River/Chickamauga US Geological Survey 8 digit hydrologic unit watershed, 06020001. Our search yielded 117 different rare species in the watershed (see attached Microsoft Excel format list).

Please send us more information regarding proposed routes for the project when they become available, so that we can possibly narrow down the species lists by suitable habitat areas.

For additional information regarding Tennessee's rare and endangered species or interpretation of Status or Ranks, please visit our website at <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/na/>. Please keep in mind that not all areas of Tennessee have been surveyed and that a lack of records for any particular area is not a statement that rare species are absent from that area.

Thank you for considering Tennessee's rare species throughout the planning of this project. Should you have any questions, or need more specific, locational data, please do not hesitate to contact me at (615) 532-0440 or by e-mail at silas.mathes@state.tn.us.

Sincerely,

Silas Mathes
Data Manager

enclosure



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

Division of Natural Areas
7th Floor L&C Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Phone 615/532-0431 Fax 615/532-0046

September 24, 2007

Rare Species Observed in the Middle Tennessee River/Chickamauga Watershed
USGS HUC 06020001

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank
Nonvascular Plant					
<i>Lejeunea blomquistii</i>	Blomquist Leafy Liverwort		S	G1G2	S1S2
<i>Lejeunea sharpii</i>	Sharp's Lejeunea		E	G2G3	S1S2
<i>Metzgeria uncigera</i>	Metzgeria		S	G3	S1
<i>Microlejeunea globosa</i>	Cardot's Lejeunea		S	G3?	S1
Vascular Plant					
<i>Acer leucoderme</i>	Chalk Maple		S	G5T5	S3
<i>Amelanchier sanguinea</i>	Roundleaf Shadbush		T	G5	S2
<i>Arabis patens</i>	Spreading Rockcress		E	G3	S1
<i>Aureolaria patula</i>	Spreading False-foxglove		T-PS	G3	S3
<i>Cardamine flagellifera</i>	Running Bittercress		T	G3	S2
<i>Carex gravida</i>	Heavy Sedge		S	G5	S1
<i>Castanea dentata</i>	American Chestnut		S	G4	S2S3
<i>Cimicifuga rubifolia</i>	Appalachian Bugbane		T	G3	S3
<i>Clematis glaucophylla</i>	White-leaved Leatherflower		E	G4?	S1
<i>Corydalis sempervirens</i>	Pale Corydalis		E	G4G5	S1S2
<i>Cotinus obovatus</i>	American Smoketree		S	G4	S2
<i>Cyperus plukenetii</i>	Plukenet's Galingale		S	G5	SH
<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>	Pink Lady's-slipper		E-CE	G5	S4
<i>Danthonia epilis</i>	Bog Oat-grass		S	G3G4	S1S2
<i>Delphinium exaltatum</i>	Tall Larkspur		E	G3	S2
<i>Diamorpha smallii</i>	Small's Stonecrop		E	G4	S1S2
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Northern Bush-honeysuckle		T	G5	S2
<i>Diervilla sessilifolia</i> var. <i>rivularis</i>	Mountain Bush-honeysuckle		T	G3	S2
<i>Fothergilla major</i>	Mountain Witch-alder		T	G3	S2
<i>Galium uniflorum</i>	Fragrant Bedstraw		S	G4G5	S1
<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Yellow Jessamine		S	G5	S1S2
<i>Glyceria acutiflora</i>	Sharp-scaled Mannagrass		S	G5	S2

<i>Gratiola floridana</i>	Florida Hedge-hyssop		E	G4	S1
<i>Helianthus occidentalis</i>	Naked-stem Sunflower		S	G5	S2
<i>Hydrastis canadensis</i>	Goldenseal		S-CE	G4	S3
<i>Hypericum adpressum</i>	Creeping St. John's-wort		E	G3	S1
<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	Small Whorled Pogonia	LT	E	G2	S1
<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Butternut		T	G4	S3
<i>Lathyrus palustris</i>	Marsh Pea		S	G5	S1
<i>Liatris cylindracea</i>	Slender Blazing-star		T	G5	S2
<i>Lilium canadense</i>	Canada Lily		T	G5	S3
<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>	Wood Lily		E	G5	S1
<i>Listera australis</i>	Southern Twayblade		E	G4	S1S2
<i>Lonicera dioica</i>	Mountain Honeysuckle		S	G5	S2
<i>Lonicera flava</i>	Yellow Honeysuckle		T	G5?	S1
<i>Lysimachia fraseri</i>	Fraser's Loosestrife		E	G2	S2
<i>Nestronia umbellula</i>	Nestronia		E	G4	S1
<i>Onosmodium hispidissimum</i>	Shaggy False Gromwell		E	G4	S1
<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	American Ginseng		S-CE	G3G4	S3S4
<i>Platanthera integrilabia</i>	White Fringeless Orchid	C	E	G2G3	S2S3
<i>Potamogeton ephedrus</i>	Nuttall's Pondweed		S	G5	S1S2
<i>Rhynchospora caduca</i>	Falling Beaked-rush		S	G5	S1
<i>Ribes curvatum</i>	Granite Gooseberry		T	G4	S1
<i>Sabatia capitata</i>	Cumberland Rose Gentian		E	G2	S2
<i>Sacciolepis striata</i>	Gibbous Panic-grass		S	G5	S1
<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>	Ovate-leaved Arrowhead		S	G5	S2S3
<i>Scutellaria montana</i>	Large-flowered Skullcap	LT	T	G3	S2
<i>Sedum nevii</i>	Nevius' Stonecrop		E	G3	S1
<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	Compass Plant		T	G5	S2
<i>Solidago ptarmicoides</i>	Prairie Goldenrod		E	G5	S1S2
<i>Spiraea virginiana</i>	Virginia Spiraea	LT	E	G2	S2
<i>Stylisma humistrata</i>	Southern Morning-glory		T	G4G5	S1
<i>Symphyotrichum pratense</i>	Barrens Silky Aster		T-PE	GNR	S1
<i>Talinum mengesii</i>	Menge's Fame-flower		T	G3	S2
<i>Talinum teretifolium</i>	Roundleaf Fameflower		T	G4	S2
<i>Thermopsis fraxinifolia</i>	Ash-leaved Bush-pea		T	G3?	S3
<i>Trichomanes petersii</i>	Dwarf Filmy-fern		T	G4G5	S2
<i>Trillium lancifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Trillium		E	G3	S1
<i>Trillium rugelii</i>	Southern Nodding Trillium		E	G3	S2
<i>Viola tripartita</i> var. <i>tripartita</i>	Three-parted Violet		S	G5T3?	S2S3
<i>Woodwardia virginica</i>	Virginia Chainfern		S	G5	S2

Invertebrate Animal

<i>Apocrangonyx nortoni</i>	Norton's Cave Amphipod			G2G3	SH
<i>Atheurnia anthonyi</i>	Anthony's River Snail	LE,XN	E	G1	S1
<i>Caecidotea nickajackensis</i>	Nickajack Cave Isopod			G2G3	S1
<i>Cambarus extraneus</i>	Chickamauga Crayfish		T	G2	S1S2
<i>Cambarus hamulatus</i>	Cave Crayfish			G3G4	S3

<i>Cyprogenia irrorata</i>	Eastern Fanshell Pearly Mussel	LE	E	G1Q	S1
<i>Dromus dromas</i>	Dromedary Pearlymussel	LE	E	G1	S1
<i>Gomphus consanguis</i>	Cherokee Clubtail Dragonfly			G2G3	S1
<i>Io fluviatilis</i>	Spiny Riversnail			G2	S2
<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>	Pink Mucket	LE	E	G2	S2
<i>Nesticus dilutus</i>	Grassy Creek Cave Spider			G1	S1S2
<i>Nesticus furtivus</i>	Crystal Caverns Cave Spider			G1	S1
<i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>	Orange-foot Pimpleback	LE	E	G1	S1
<i>Pleurobema oviforme</i>	Tennessee Clubshell			G2G3	S2S3
<i>Pleurobema plenum</i>	Rough Pigtoe	LE	E	G1	S1
<i>Pleurobema rubrum</i>	Pyramid Pigtoe			G2	S1S2
<i>Pseudanophthalmus nickajackensis</i>	Nickajack Cave Beetle			G2G3	S1
<i>Pseudanophthalmus nortoni</i>	Norton's Cave Beetle			G1	S1
<i>Quadrula intermedia</i>	Cumberland Monkeyface	LE	E	G1	S1
Vertebrate Animal					
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk	No Status	D	G5	S3B
<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>	Lake Sturgeon		E	G3G4	S1
<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow		E	G3	S2
<i>Aneides aeneus</i>	Green Salamander			G3G4	S3S4
<i>Carpionodes velifer</i>	Highfin Carpsucker		D	G4G5	S2S3
<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis</i>	Hellbender	No Status	D	G3G4	S3
<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	Cerulean Warbler		D	G4	S3B
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	No Status	E	G4	S1N
<i>Gyrinophilus palleucus</i>	Tennessee Cave Salamander		T	G2G3	S2
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle		D	G5	S3
<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	Four-toed Salamander		D	G5	S3
<i>Hemitremia flammea</i>	Flame Chub		D	G3	S3
<i>Hyla gratiosa</i>	Barking Treefrog		D	G5	S3
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern		D	G5	S2B
<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	Swainson's Warbler		D	G4	S3
<i>Myotis grisescens</i>	Gray Bat	LE	E	G3	S2
<i>Myotis leibii</i>	Eastern Small-footed Bat		D	G3	S2S3
<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Indiana Bat	LE	E	G2	S1
<i>Neotoma magister</i>	Eastern Woodrat		D	G3G4	S3
<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus longicaudus</i>	Eastern Slender Glass Lizard		D	G5T5	S3
<i>Percina tanasi</i>	Snail Darter	LT	T	G2G3	S2S3
<i>Phoxinus saylora</i>	Laurel Dace		E	G1	S1
<i>Phoxinus tennesseensis</i>	Tennessee Dace		D	G3	S3
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus</i>	Northern Pine Snake		T	G4T4	S3
<i>Rallus elegans</i>	King Rail		D	G4	S2
<i>Rallus limicola</i>	Virginia Rail			G5	S1B,S3
<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	Common Shrew		D	G5	S4
<i>Sorex fumeus</i>	Smoky Shrew		D	G5	S4
<i>Sorex longirostris</i>	Southeastern Shrew		D	G5	S4
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's Wren		E	G5	S1

<i>Typhlichthys subterraneus</i>	Southern Cavefish		D	G4	S3
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Common Barn-owl		D	G5	S3
<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Meadow Jumping Mouse	No Status	D	G5	S4
Other (Ecological)					
<i>Heron rookery</i>	Heron Rookery			GNR	SNR



Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

July 14, 2010

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JUL 19 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs Division
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Dear Mr. Ware:

TIER I ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT - ATLANTA-CHATTANOOGA HIGH
SPEED GROUND TRANSPORTATION (HSGT) STUDY - PROJECT
PTSCO-0023-00-002, PI NO.: T001684

This responds to the letter from Director Erik H. Steavens to Charles P. Nicholson dated June 10. Director Steavens has requested reaffirmation by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) that we are a participating agency in the *National Environmental Policy Act* process regarding the subject HSGT Study. TVA will continue to be involved in this project as a participating agency.

I am the official TVA contact. If you have any questions, please contact me at (423) 751-4254 or kpparr@tva.gov or Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street, LP 5U, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801.

Sincerely,

Kenneth P. Parr
NEPA Specialist
Environmental Permits and Compliance



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
2941 LEBANON ROAD
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0442
(615) 532-1550

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JUL 01 2010

**OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS**

June 24, 2010

Mr. Erik H. Stevens
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 W. Peachtree St., N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia, 30308

RE: FHWA, ATLANTA-CHATTANOOGA HSGT, UNINCORPORATED, HAMILTON COUNTY

Dear Mr. Stevens:

In response to your request, received on Monday, June 14, 2010, we have reviewed the documents you submitted regarding your proposed undertaking. Our review of and comment on your proposed undertaking are among the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This Act requires federal agencies or applicant for federal assistance to consult with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Office before they carry out their proposed undertakings. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has codified procedures for carrying out Section 106 review in 36 CFR 800. You may wish to familiarize yourself with these procedures (Federal Register, December 12, 2000, pages 77698-77739) if you are unsure about the Section 106 process.

Considering available information, we find that the project as currently proposed **MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT PROPERTIES THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR LISTING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**. You should now begin immediate consultation with our office. Please direct questions and comments to Joe Garrison (615) 532-1550-103. We appreciate your cooperation.

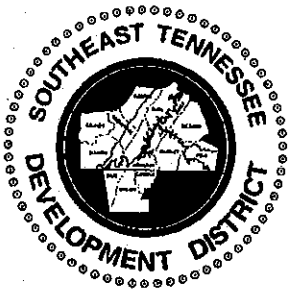
Sincerely,

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

EPM/jyg



CHATTANOOGA AREA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT



LaDue Bouldin
Chairman

Ron Littlefield
Secretary

D. Gary Davis
Vice-Chairman

Gregg Ridley
Treasurer

June 28, 2010

RECEIVED

JUN 30 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

Mr. Erik H. Steavens
Director, Intermodal Programs Division
Georgia Department of Transportation
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree St., NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

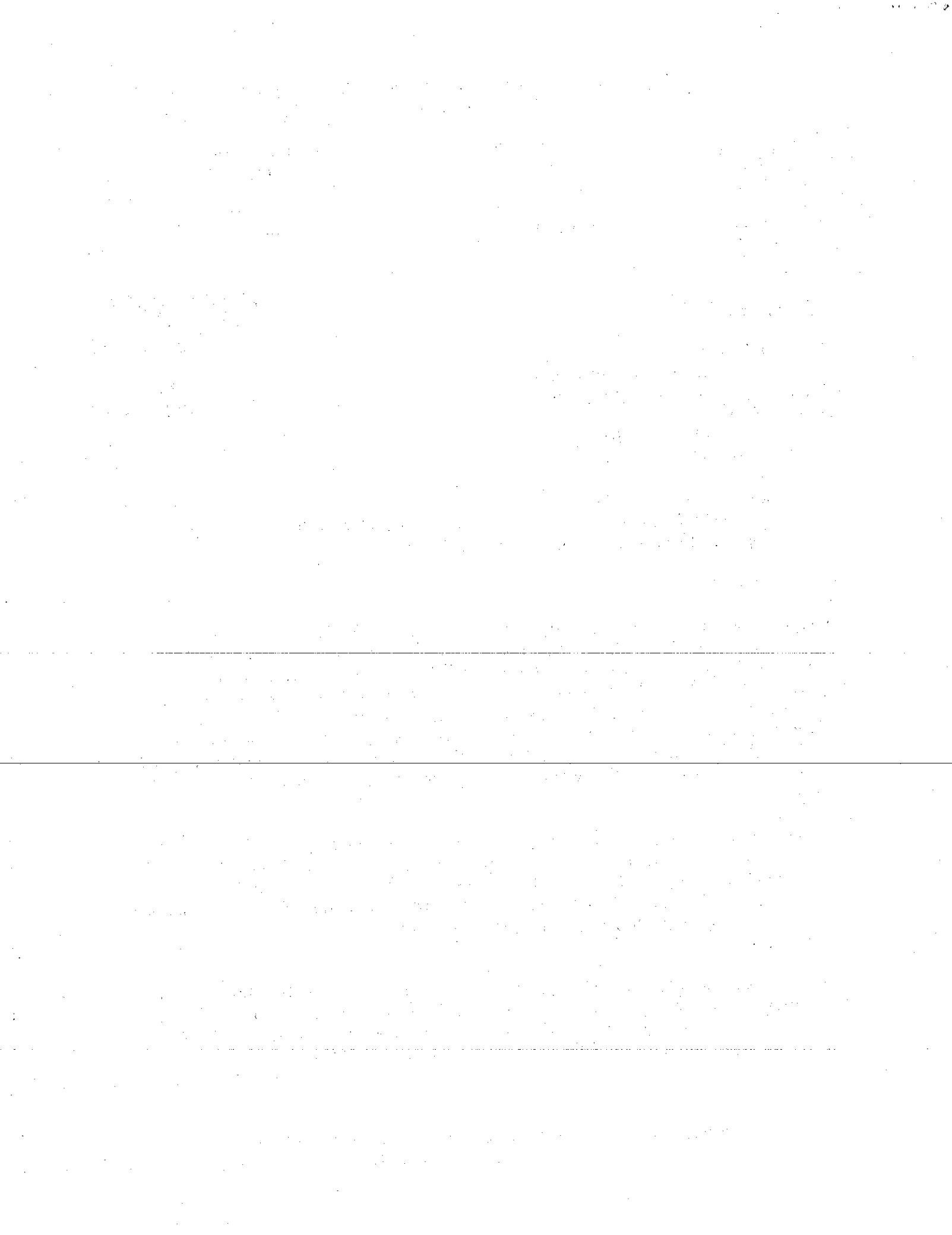
RE: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study
Project PTSCO-0023-00-002, PI NO.: T001684

Dear Mr. Steavens:

We are responding to your June 10, 2010 letter regarding the Tier I Environmental Impact Statement HGST Study. Your correspondence indicates that the Southeast Tennessee Development District/Chattanooga Area Council of Governments (SETDD/CARCOG) declined to participate or did not respond to an invitation to become a participating agency in the NEPA planning process for this study. However, we have no record of any correspondence associated with this project. It is possible that the invitation was sent to a previous office address and never reached our current location. In any case, SETDD/CARCOG would be pleased to be a participating agency in this study.

Local governments that comprise our agency consider the high speed rail project to be very important to the economic development of our region. The project consistently ranks as a high priority at SETDD/CARCOG annual planning retreats, and it is on the primary projects list of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, a planning document prepared under an agreement with the Economic Development Administration.

As CARCOG, the agency provides planning support for projects in the Chattanooga Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes Catoosa, Dade, and Walker Counties in Georgia. Since Catoosa and Walker Counties are in the study area, it is important that CARCOG maintains a relationship with GDOT and other regional partners in



transportation projects that will affect regional plans and projects on both sides of the state line.

The primary contact person for the agency is the Executive Director Beth Jones. Alternate representatives will be Gary Sexton, Planning Director and/or Chuck Hammonds, Regional Planning Organization Coordinator. All correspondence should be sent to:

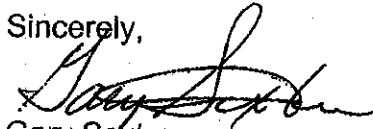
SETDD/CARCOG
P. O. Box 4757
Chattanooga, TN 37405-0757

Telephone and e-mail address are as follows:

Beth Jones	423.424.4241	bjones@sedev.org
Gary Sexton	423.424.4261	gsexton@sedev.org
Chuck Hammonds	423.424.4264	chammonds@sedev.org

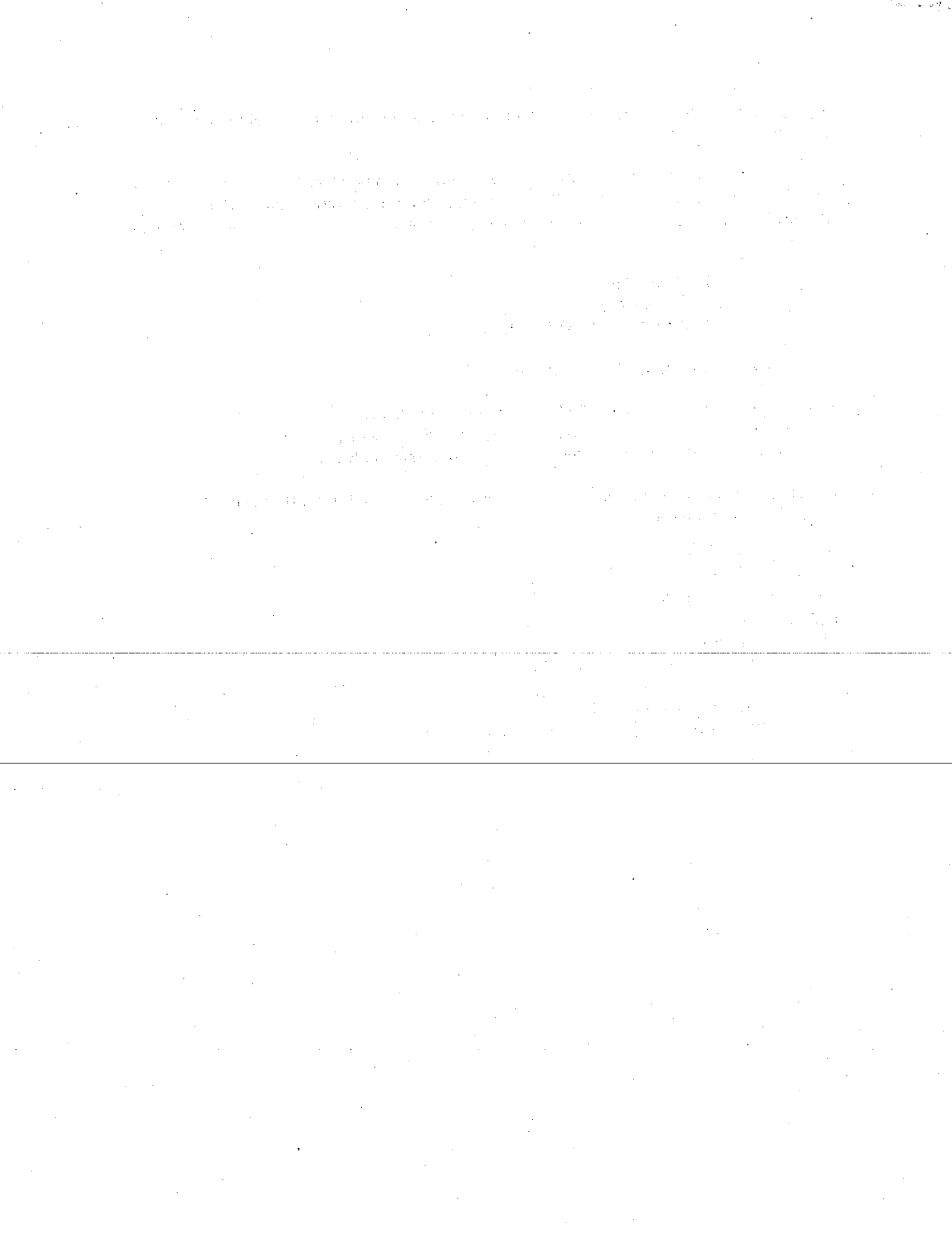
Please feel free to contact us at any time. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this important project.

Sincerely,



Gary Sexton
Planning Director

cc: Beth Jones, Executive Director
Chuck Hammonds, RPO Coordinator



SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

TRIBAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM

HC-61, BOX 21A
CLEWISTON, FL 33440

PHONE: (863) 983-6549
FAX: (863) 902-1117



TRIBAL OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN
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RICHARD BOWERS JR.

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PRISCILLA D. SAYEN

TREASURER
MICHAEL D. TIGER

Tahirah Wilson, Transportation Planner
AECOM-Atlanta
1360 Peachtree Street, NE
Suite 500
Atlanta, GA 30309

RE: Seminole Tribe of Florida Point of Contact for Section 106 Consultation Process

Dear Ms. Wilson:

Per our conversation today, the Point of Contact for consultations with the Seminole Tribe of Florida is:

Willard Steele, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Seminole Tribe of Florida

34725 West Boundary Road
Clewiston, FL 33440 (Physical Address)
(863) 983-6549
willardsteele@semtribe.com

Add'l Copy to: Anne Mullins, Compliance Review Supervisor
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Seminole Tribe of Florida
HC 61, Box 21-A
Clewiston, FL 33440
(863) 983-6549 ext. 12262
annemullins@semtribe.com

jenniferpietarila@semtribe.com

elliottYork@semtribe.com

The Seminole Tribe of Florida looks forward to establishing an effective consultation process with regard to the Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Steele', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Willard S. Steele,
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Ware, Alan

From: Sue Hiller [shiller@romega.us]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 4:42 PM
To: Ware, Alan
Subject: HSGT EIS

Mr. Ware – the Rome Floyd County Planning Department (MPO) received a copy of the letter and packet for the Tier I EIS for Chattanooga to Atlanta High Speed Ground Transportation. I am writing to confirm that we are the MPO for Rome, Cave Spring, and Floyd County and as such a participating agency in the EIS process.

The City of Rome Manager, John Bennett, also received a packet. Do you need a separate confirmation from him.

Thanks

Sue Hiller, AICP
Director - Rome Floyd County Planning Department
(706) 236-5025 Phone

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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DAWN TURNER
COUNTY CLERK

MURIEL DULANEY
FINANCE DIRECTOR

June 24, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Re: Tier I Environmental Impact Study
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No.: T001684

Dear Mr. Ware:

Thank you for the opportunity to participation in the NEPA process for the above referenced project. Polk County accepts the invitation to participate and has designated our Assistant County Manager, Mr. Matt Denton as our agency's primary point of contact. I myself will serve to be Polk County's alternate point of contact. Either of us may be contacted at the address or phone number below. We look forward to assisting in the NEPA process and will provide any pertinent information we may have to offer.

Sincerely,

Marshelle Thaxton
Chairman, Polk County Board of Commissioners

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JUN 24 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

**Participating Agency Comments
in Response to June 10th Letter Confirming Participation, Updated Coordination and Revised Purpose and Need
Statement**

No.	Participating Agency	Comment	Disposition
1	Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife Resources Division	The role of the Nongame Conservation Section is to determine potential impacts to high priority species and habitats as a result of the proposed project.	Noted. No response
2	City of Adairsville	We feel this project is exceedingly important to our community and will aid in promoting economic development, help create new choices for travelers, help in reducing dependence on oil, and aid in urban and rural development.	Noted. No response
3	Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation - Natural Heritage Program	Enclosed a list of rare species. Suggested that we contact Rob Todd of TWRA for participation (615-781-6577) regarding state-listed plants and animals.	Contacted Robert Todd to invite TWRA to participate in the study's NEPA process.
4	U.S. Department of Transportation -Federal Transit Administration - Region IV	Confirmed FTA's role: 1. Participating in the scoping process 2. Participating in the NEPA process 3. Identifying environmental or socioeconomic impacts 4. Providing meaningful input to resolve issues	Noted. No response
5	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region IV	EPA's participation does not preclude an independent review according to Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. EPA also requested that the revised coordination plan identify EPA as a Federal Resource Agency.	Identified EPA as a Federal Resource Agency in the revised Coordination Plan.

**Participating Agency Comments
in Response to June 10th Letter Confirming Participation, Updated Coordination and Revised Purpose and Need
Statement**

No.	Participating Agency	Comment	Disposition
6	United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians	There is no objection to the project, but if any remains, artifacts or other items are inadvertently discovered, please cease construction immediately and contact at 918-458-6533 or by letter.	Noted. No response
7	Tennessee Historical Commission - Department of Environment and Conservation	<p>Review and comment on proposed undertaking are among the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has codified procedures for carrying out Section 106 review in 36 CFR 800.</p> <p>Considering available information, they find that the project as currently proposed may adversely affect properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and immediate consultation with their office is requested.</p>	Noted. No response
8	U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service	The agency will continue to provide information of the designation of Important Farmland in the project area.	Noted. No response
9	City of Dalton	We would like to provide input on the methodology and preliminary screening results	Noted. No response

Participating Agency Comments
in Response to June 10th Letter Confirming Participation, Updated Coordination and Revised Purpose and Need Statement

No.	Participating Agency	Comment	Disposition
10	Chattanooga Area Regional Council of Governments – Southeast Tennessee Development District	<p>Local governments that comprise CARCOG consider the high speed rail project to be very important to the economic development of the region. The project consistently ranks high at SETDD/CARCOG annual planning retreats, and it is on the document prepared under an agreement with the Economic Development Administration.</p> <p>Since Catoosa and Walker Counties are in the study area, it is important that CARCOG maintains a relationship with GDOT and other regional partners in transportation projects that will affect regional plans and projects on both sides of the state line.</p>	Noted. No response
11	U.S. Department of the Interior – National Park Service	NPS' role is to ensure that pertinent NPS mission statements, legislative authorities, and policies are duly considered when developing any alternatives, related management actions, or options applicable to units of the NPS. NPS will commit subject expertise to assist and insure that the affected environment and environmental impacts sections of the Tier I EIS are structured to fully address NPS interests pertaining to the units of the NPS.	Noted. No response

**Participating Agency Comments
in Response to June 10th Letter Confirming Participation, Updated Coordination and Revised Purpose and Need
Statement**

No.	Participating Agency	Comment	Disposition
12	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers North Area Section - Regulatory Branch	<p>This project has been assigned permit number SAS-2007- 01423, please refer to it in all correspondence. Wetlands will require Dept. of Army authorization to dredge or fill waterways.</p> <p>The project corridor does contain waters of the U.S. that are considered to be within the jurisdiction of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S. C. 403) and/or Section 404 of the Clean Waters Act (33 U.S.C 1344) the placement of dredged or fill material into any waterways and/or adjacent wetlands and mechanized land clearing of those wetlands would require prior Department of the Army authorization pursuant to Section 404. Impacts to wetlands and streams, which are one-half acre or less to waters of the U.S. at a single crossing, could be permitted under the 2007 Nationwide Permit Program provided the cumulative impacts do not exceed 10 acres of wetlands and /or 1,500 linear feet of streams. If the Nationwide Permit thresholds are exceeded, this project would require a standard individual permit (IP) application, which should follow Section 404 (b) (1) guidelines for avoidance and minimization to waters of the U.S. and include mitigation plan and alternatives analysis. Enclosed a copy of 404 (b) (1) application form.</p>	Noted. No response

NWGRC

NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

A Region With A Bright Future

Rome Office: P.O. Box 1798, Rome, Georgia 30162-1798 Phone (706) 295-6485 www.nwgrc.org
RC Fax (706) 295-6665 AAA Fax (706) 802-5508 WIA Fax (706) 802-5567

Dalton Office: 503 West Waugh Street, Dalton, Georgia 30720 Phone (706) 272-2300 Fax (706) 272-2253

June 16, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

COPY

Dear Mr. Ware:

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission reaffirms our participation in the NEPA process for the Tier I Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study, Project PTSCO-0023-00-002, PI No.:T001684.

Sincerely,



William R. Steiner
Executive Director



2424 Piedmont Rd. N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30324-3330
404-848-5000

Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308

Dear Mr. Ware:

MARTA is pleased to confirm our participation in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process in the development of the Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for High Speed Ground Transportation (HGST) in the Atlanta-Chattanooga corridor. MARTA looks forward to working with GDOT and other participating stakeholders on this important project and looks forward to sharing our expertise and experience in the construction, operating and maintenance of the largest publicly owned and operated fixed guideway system in the States of Georgia and Tennessee. Additionally, for future correspondence on this project, please add the following primary contact and alternative representative

Primary Contact:

Cheryl King, AICP
Assistant General Manager Planning
MARTA
2424 Piedmont Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30324
404-848-4401
cking@itsmarta.com

Alternative Representative:

John Crocker, PhD
Director of Regional Service
Coordination & Special Projects
MARTA
2424 Piedmont Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30324
404-848-5292
jcrocker@itsmarta.com

Again, we look forward to working with GDOT on this project and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Best Regards,

Beverly A. Scott, Ph.D.
General Manager/CEO

cc: Gerald Ross, Chief Engineer DOT
Erik Steavens, Director of Intermodal Programs, GDOT

Ware, Alan

From: Poythress, Linda P [linda.p.poythress@hud.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 01, 2010 12:25 PM
To: Ware, Alan
Cc: Presley, Mary D; Osteen, Ann
Subject: High Speed Coordination Study

Dear Mr. Ware:

I am the Regional Environmental Officer for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Please change your mail list and include me as the contact for NEPA instead of Mary Presley who perform a Program Director function.

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development is not funding this project directly therefore we choose not to be a participating agency under NEPA. If HUD funds are used in this project they would be provided through one of our funded local governments.

HUD is unique in that we have legislation that allows us to delegate our Federal Role under NEPA to the local government recipient of our funds. You have many of our partner communities on your contact list including Marietta, Atlanta, Fulton County, Chattanooga, Dalton, Rome, Cherokee County, and Clayton County. Each of these communities carries out HUD's role for NEPA.

Generally HUD does not comment on NEPA documents unless they have a direct impact on our projects. Normally our comments would be limited to impact from Noise. We do not have any comments on this project at this time.

Linda P. Poythress
Regional Environmental Officer
678-732-2557

Region IV Environmental Website: <http://www.hud.gov/local/shared/working/r4/environment/index.cfm?state=ga>

Listserver sign up: <http://www.hud.gov/subscribe/localmailinglist.cfm#nc>

Assessment Tools for Environmental Compliance Website:
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/environment/atec.cfm>

**Hartsfield-Jackson
Atlanta International Airport**



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JUL 15 2010

**Kasim Reed
Mayor**

July 12, 2010

**OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS**

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Subject: Reaffirmation to Be a Participating Agency on Tier 1 EIS for Proposed High-Speed
Ground Transportation in the Atlanta to Chattanooga Corridor

Dear Mr. Ware:

The City of Atlanta/Department of Aviation reaffirms our desire to be a participating agency in coordination with the FRA, FHWA, and GDOT in the EIS preparation for this proposed project.

We look forward to assisting in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Nissalke, Ph.D.
Director of Environmental and Technical Services
City of Atlanta/Department of Aviation

pc: James L. Drinkard, P.E. - Assistant General Manager - Planning and Development

City of Atlanta
Department of Aviation
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Phone: (404) 530-6600
Fax: (404) 530-6601
www.atlanta-airport.com



City of Atlanta • Department of Aviation
P.O. Box 20509 • Atlanta, GA USA 30320-2509 • Tel: (404) 530-6600
Web Site: www.atlanta-airport.com



Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization
301 West Crawford Street, Dalton, Georgia 30720
(706) 876-2547

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JUN 23 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

June 17, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware, Passenger Rail Projects - Intermodal Programs
Georgia Department of Transportation
One Georgia Center - 600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Re: Confirmation as Participating Agency in the NEPA Planning Process

Dear Mr. Ware:

In response to the June 10, 2010 letter from Mr. Erik H. Steavens, Director, GDOT Intermodal Programs Division to Mr. Bill Allen, our Transportation Planning Consultant, we are confirming our acceptance as a participating agency in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process for the Tier I Environmental Impact Study for the Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study.

Please note that our agency's primary contact person is Mr. Zach Montgomery, Transportation Planner for the Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization (GDMPO) and our alternate representative is Mr. Bill Allen. Their respective phone numbers and e-mail addresses are:

Zach Montgomery – (706) 876-2547 – zmontgomery@whitfieldcountyga.com

Bill Allen – (706) 876-2521 – ballen@whitfieldcountyga.com

We are prepared to provide input related to the study and attend and/or participate in the scheduled meetings pertaining to the study. We look forward to working with you on this important project.

Sincerely,

Mr. Bob McLeod, ICMA-CM
Whitfield County Administrator and Executive Director
Greater Dalton Metropolitan Planning Organization

Cc: ZPM/BA



P O Box 618
Macon, GA 31202-0618
P. 478-751-3500
F. 478-751-3485

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JUL 19 2010

**OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS**



Sonny Perdue
Governor

Robert D. Farris
Director

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Valdosta

Victor Beadles
Moultrie

Jim L. Gills, Jr.
Soperton

Robert Pollard
Appling

Fred Warnell
Richmond Hill

Cluck Williams
Watkinsville

H. G. Yeomans
Swainsboro

July 15, 2010

Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
GA Department of Transportation -- Intermodal Programs
600 W Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308

Mr. Ware:

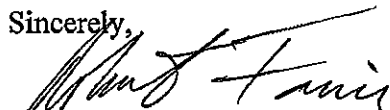
Please accept this letter as agreement from the Georgia Forestry Commission to become a participating agency in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process for the continuing development of the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement for the HGST in the Atlanta-Chattanooga corridor.

From this point forward, the contact person for this project at the Georgia Forestry Commission will be the Forest Management Chief, James Johnson. Mr. Johnson's contact information is included below.

James Johnson
1055 East Whitehall Road
Athens, GA 30605
478-951-8498
jjohnson@gfc.state.ga.us

Thank you for the invitation to participate.

Sincerely,


Robert Farris
Director



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

CHRIS CLARK
COMMISSIONER

DAN FORSTER
DIRECTOR

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JUL 15 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

July 12, 2010.

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
GA Dept of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 W. Peachtree St.
Atlanta, GA 30308

Subject: Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study

Dear Mr. Ware:

This is in response to your request of June 10, 2010. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division, Nongame Conservation Section will participate in the NEPA process for this project. The role of the Nongame Conservation Section is to determine potential impacts to high priority species and habitats as a result of the proposed project.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Katrina Morris
Environmental Review Coordinator



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

CHRIS CLARK
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS
DIVISION DIRECTOR

June 16, 2010

Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30308

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JUN 18 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

RE: **GDOT Project PTSCO-0023-00-002; PI# T001684**
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Statewide
HP-070828-002

Dear Mr. Ware:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has received Mr. Eric Steavens' letter of June 10, 2010, requesting a reaffirmation of HPD's participation in the NEPA process for the above-referenced project. HPD will continue to participate in the NEPA process for this project. In addition, we look forward to working with you, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) as you comply with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

If we may be of further assistance, please contact Amanda Schraner, Transportation Projects Coordinator, at (404) 463-6687 or Amanda.Schraner@dnr.state.ga.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Cloues".

Richard Cloues
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

RC:als

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1152 East, Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000

Chris Clark, Commissioner
Environmental Protection Division
F. Allen Barnes, Director
Phone: (404) 656-4713
Fax: (404) 651-5778

June 22, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Intermodal Programs Division
Georgia Department of Transportation
One Georgia Center
606 West Peachtree Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

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JUN 23 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

RE: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta- Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Project PTSCO-0023-00-002, PI No: T001684

Dear Mr. Ware:

We have received your June 10, 2010 letter to Mr. Jim Ussery, Assistant Director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), concerning the referenced project. In your letter, you indicate that the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is seeking a reaffirmation of EPD's participation in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process for the referenced project.

EPD is interested in participating in the NEPA process for the referenced project. EPD's primary contact and alternate representative for the NEPA activities are listed below.

Primary

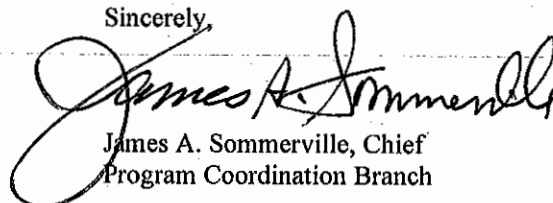
Mr. Bert Langley, Ph.D., Manager
Mountain District Office
Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Post Office Box 3250
Cartersville, Georgia 30120
(770) 387-4900

Alternate

Mr. Ted Jackson, Manager
Environmental Emergency and Radiation Program
Georgia Environmental Protection Division
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE
Suite 1452, Floyd Towers East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000
(404) 463-7600

We look forward to working with GDOT during the NEPA process for the important transportation project.

Sincerely,



James A. Sommerville, Chief
Program Coordination Branch

Ware, Alan

From: Paul Burkhalter [pburk@dnr.state.ga.us]
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 1:45 PM
To: Ware, Alan
Subject: Atl - Cht High Seep Ground Transportation Study

Mr. Ware:

This is to confirm that the Department of Natural Resources will be participating in the NEPA process and that I have been appointed to represent the department on this project. If you need any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact.

Paul Burkhalter
Deputy Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E.
Suite 1254 East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000
Office: (404) 656-7559
Fax: (404) 656-0770
pburk@dnr.state.ga.us



Department of Public Works
141 Pryor Street S. W., Suite 6001
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone: 404-612-8102
Fax: 404-730-6325

Angela Parker
Director

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JUL 19 2010

**OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS**

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peach Street
Atlanta, GA 30308

Re: Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study

Dear Mr. Ware:

I am writing in response to the June 10 letter to Chairman John Eaves signed by Eric Steven inviting Fulton County to participate in the NEPA process for the Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study. Fulton County has a stake in the planning process and will like to participate in the NEPA process.

Antonio Valenzuela, Transportation Planning Administrator, of my staff, is the County representative designated to assist you with the NEPA process. He can be reached at (404) 612-0520 or via e-mail at Antonio.valenzuela@fultoncountyga.gov

Sincerely,



Angela Parker



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

REGION IV
Alabama, Florida, Georgia,
Kentucky, Mississippi,
North Carolina, Puerto
Rico, South Carolina,
Tennessee, Virgin Islands

230 Peachtree St., N.W.,
Suite 800
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-865-5600
404-865-5605 (fax)

July 9, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Georgia Department of Transportation Intermodal Programs - Passenger Rail Projects
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Re: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No. T001684

Dear Mr. Ware:

We are writing in response to the June 10, 2010 letter from Mr. Vance C. Smith, Jr., Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) requesting reaffirmation of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) participation in the NEPA Process for the proposed subject project.

We would like to reconfirm FTA's continued participation in the NEPA process for the proposed Atlanta - Chattanooga HSGT Study. As defined in the Revised Coordination Plan that was attached to the June 10, 2010 letter, we understand that as a Participating Agency, FTA's roles and responsibilities would include:

- Participating in the scoping process;
- Participating in the NEPA process, particularly with regard to the development of the purpose and need statement, range of alternatives, methodologies, and the level of detail for the analysis of alternatives;
- Identifying issues of concern regarding the proposed project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts; and
- Providing meaningful and timely input on unresolved issues.

Please note that the primary FTA contact for transfer of project related information will be David Schilling, State Programs Team Leader. David can also be reached at david.schilling@dot.gov or by telephone at (404) 865-5645.

Thank you for contacting us regarding our continued participation on this project.

Sincerely,

Jaime Pfister

Director of Planning and Program Development



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JUL 09 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

July 7, 2010

Erik H. Steavens
Director, Intermodal Programs Division
Georgia Department of Transportation
One Georgia Center
600 W. Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30308

Re: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No.: T001684

Dear Mr. Steavens,

In response to your letter dated June 10, 2010, we would like to continue to participate in this study.

Sincerely,


Don Cope



COMMISSIONER OF MURRAY COUNTY

P.O. BOX 1129/121 NORTH 4TH AVE., CHATSWORTH, GA 30705
TELEPHONE 706-517-1400 FAX 706-517-5193

RECEIVED

JUN 17 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

June 14, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308

Dear Mr. Ware:

Please accept this letter as our acceptance to serve as a participating agency regarding the Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study, Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI Number T001684.

I will serve as our Primary Contact and Tom Starnes, County Manager will be our alternate.

Contact information is as follows:

Mailing for both: Murray County Government, P.O. Box 1129, Chatsworth, GA 30705

Phone: (706)517-1400 David Ext. 277 Tom Ext. 311

Fax for both: (706)517-5193

Email: David davidridley3@gmail.com Tom testarnes@windstream.net

Sincerely,

David Ridley
Commissioner

cc: Tom Starnes, County Manager

From: Fialkoff, Shelly
Sent: Saturday, June 19, 2010 12:22 PM
To: Sidifall, Janide; Fields, Sandy
Subject: FW: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study

Importance: High

Janide - FYI and Updating as needed of Participating Agency File Sandy - Please file as Correspondence Received 201.1

From: Ware, Alan [mailto:alware@dot.ga.gov]
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2010 2:47 PM
To: Fialkoff, Shelly
Subject: FW: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Importance: High

fyi

From: DiMassimo, Faye [mailto:Faye.DiMassimo@cobbcounty.org]
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 11:38 AM
To: Ware, Alan; Steavens, Erik
Cc: McDuff, Daniel; Barrett, Joan M
Subject: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Importance: High

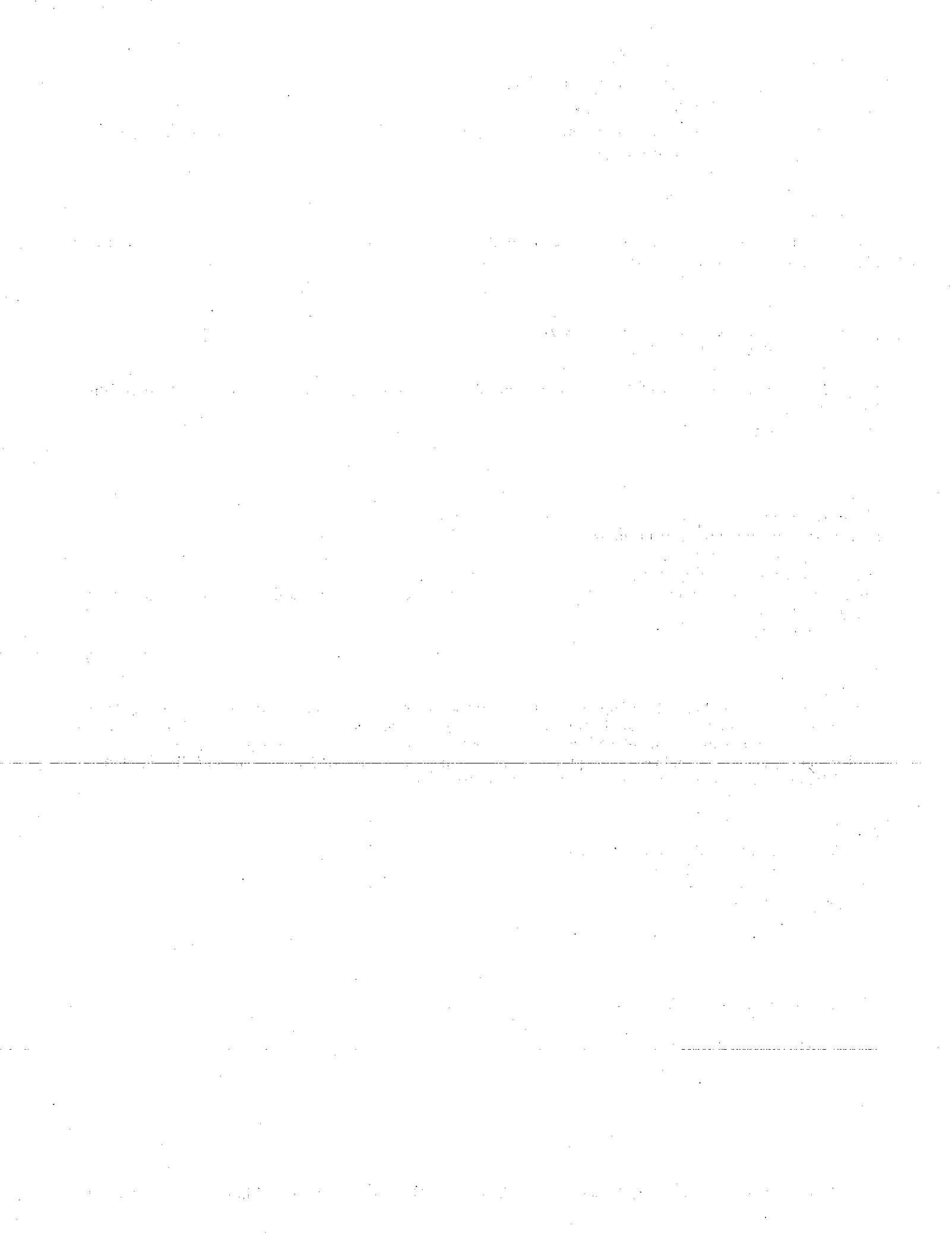
Mr. Steavens,

We have received your letter regarding the continued development of the Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the HSGT in the Atlanta-Chattanooga corridor. Please accept this e-mail as reaffirmation of Cobb County Department of Transportation's participation in the NEPA process continued from our acceptance as a participating agency in 2008. I will be the primary contact and Mr. Dan McDuff, Deputy Director/Chief Engineer will be the alternative representative. My contact information is noted below.

Faye Q. DiMassimo, AICP
Director
Cobb County Department of Transportation
1890 County Services Parkway
Marietta, Georgia 30008-4014
770-528-1645 direct
770-528-1611 fax
770-241-0277 cell

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Clayton County Transportation & Development

7960 North McDonough Street
Jonesboro, Georgia 30236
Telephone: (770) 477-3674
Fax: (770) 473-3990

DIVISIONS
Administration
Engineering Services
Landfill
Public Works
Tara Field Airport
Traffic Engineering

Jeff Metarko, Director
Keith Rohling, P.E., Assistant Director

June 29, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware, Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree St.
Atlanta, GA 30308
Email: alware@dot.ga.gov

RE: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No. T001684

Dear Mr. Ware,

Clayton County is please to reaffirm our participation in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Please forward all future correspondence to the following:

Primary Contact: Jeff Metarko, Director
Email: Jeff.Metarko@co.clayton.ga.us

Alternate Contact: Keith Rohling, PE, PTOE, Assistant Director
Email: Keith.Rohling@co.clayton.ga.us

Address: Clayton County Department of Transportation & Development
7960 N. McDonough Street, Jonesboro, GA 30236
Phone: 770-477-3686

Please fell free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Original Signed 6/29/10
Jeff Metarko, Director

JM/lrm



City of Fairmount

2265 Hwy 411 SE
P.O. Box 705
Fairmount, GA 30139
Phone: (706) 337-5306 | Fax: (706) 337-4676
cityoffairmount@comcast.net

Harry Pierce, Mayor

Max Mulkey, Councilman - Post 1
Calvin Watts, Councilman - Post 2
Jim Dodd, Councilman - Post 3
Linda S. Johnson, Councilwoman - Post 4

RECEIVED

JUL 08 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

July 7, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
GA Dept. of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308

RE: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No.: T001684

At this time the City of Fairmount is declining to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The City has no jurisdiction to the project or any expertise or information relevant to the project. Therefore, the City of Fairmount does not intend to submit comments on the project.



Harry Pierce, Mayor
City of Fairmount

City of Emerson

Chartered 1889

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JUL 09 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

July 6, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
500 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

RE: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga Project PTSC0-0023-00-002,
PI No: T001684

Dear Mr. Ware:

The City of Emerson, Georgia is in receipt of your letter dated June 10, 2010 regarding participation in development of the Tier I Environmental Impact Statement. The City accepts your invitation and designates the City Manager, Kevin McBurnett, as primary contact in connection therewith.

Sincerely,



Al Pallone
Mayor

AP:ph

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

J. TYSON ROSS

P.O. BOX 1205

DALTON, GEORGIA 30722

PHONE: 706-278-9500

tross@cityofdalton-ga.gov

www.cityofdalton-ga.gov



MAYOR

DAVID E. PENNINGTON, III

CITY COUNCIL

DENISE A. WOOD
J. RICHARD LOWREY
GEORGE E. SADOSUK
CHARLES J. BETHEL

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JUL 05 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

June 30, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Re: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No.: T001684

Dear Mr. Ware:

I write on behalf of the Mayor and Council to inform you the City of Dalton accepts your invitation to be a participating agency in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process for the High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) study in the Atlanta-Chattanooga corridor. As you continue the screening phase of the NEPA study, we would like to provide input on the methodology and preliminary screening results.

I will be the NEPA participating agency primary contact and alternate representative and look forward to working with your agency on this important project. Please feel free to contact me at 706-529-2404 or tross@cityofdalton-ga.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Tyson Ross", written over a horizontal line.

J. Tyson Ross
City Administrator

C: Mr. Erik H. Steavens, Director, Intermodal Program Division ✓



July 30, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30308

RE: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No.: T001684

Dear Mr. Ware:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the Department's June 10, 2010 letter of request for participation by the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority in the Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Tier 1 EIS effort. Please consider GRTA a Participating Agency at the state/regional level, with respect to this effort. At this time, GRTA does not have any comments. I will be the primary point of contact for GRTA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shaun Green".

Shaun Green, PE
Senior Principal Operations Engineer
404/463-2437
sgreen@grta.org



City of Chattanooga
Ron Littlefield, Mayor

July 1, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

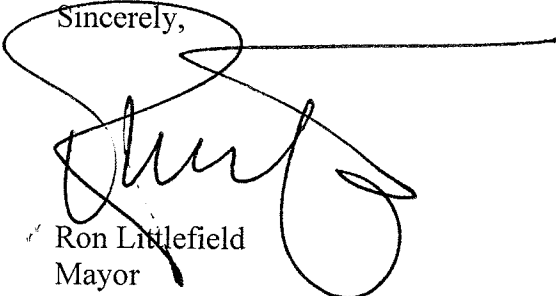
Dear Mr. Ware:

This letter reaffirms our intent to participate in the NEPA process. I will continue to serve as the main contact regarding this matter. Our secondary contact should be listed as:

Joe Ferguson
Enterprise Center
1250 Market Street
Suite 3020
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

We look forward to our continuing discussions regarding the necessity of High-Speed rail in our region. Do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Ron Littlefield
Mayor

cc: Joe Ferguson
Enterprise Center



City of Cartersville

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 24, 2010

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JUL 07 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

Mr. Alan Ware, Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Re: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study
Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No.: T001684

Dear Mr. Ware:

Per the June 10, 2010 letter from Mr. Erik Steavens concerning the referenced project, the City of Cartersville would like to confirm our status as a participating agency in the NEPA planning process.

If there is any additional information you need or any further action required on our part please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Santini
Mayor

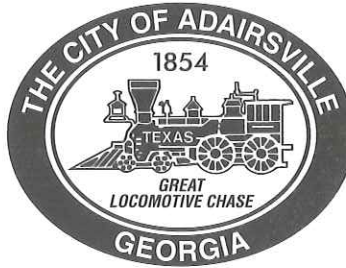


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July 21, 2010



Evan King, Mayor
City of Adairsville
116 Public Square
Adairsville, Georgia 30103

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects,
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Re: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Project PTSCO-0023-00-002, PI No.: T001684

Dear Mr. Ware:

This letter is to confirm that The City of Adairsville is definitely interested as a participating agency for the Atlanta-Chattanooga HSGT Study. We feel this project is exceedingly important to our community and will aid in promoting economic development, help create new choices for travelers, help in reducing dependence on oil, and aid in urban and rural development.

Again, I apologize for the delay and look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Please contact my alternate representative, Mrs. Stephanie L. Witt at (770) 773-3451 x 32 or e-mail: stephanie49@bellsouth.net at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E T King".

Evan T. King, Mayor
City of Adairsville, Georgia

Chairman
L. B. Ahrens, Jr.

Western District
Karen Bosch
Derek V. Good



Eastern District
Jim Hubbard
Harry B. Johnston

County Manager
Jerry W. Cooper

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1130 Bluffs Parkway • Canton, Georgia 30114
678-493-6000 • Fax 678-493-6013
www.cherokeega.com

June 30, 2010

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JUL 05 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Re: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study
Project PTSCO-0023-00-002, PI No.: T001684

Dear Mr. Ware:

This letter will reaffirm Cherokee County's participation in the NEPA process for the above referenced project.

The primary contact for Cherokee County will be:

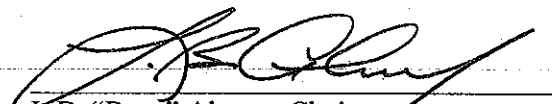
L.B. "Buzz" Ahrens, Chairman
Cherokee County Board of Commissioners
1130 Bluffs Parkway
Canton, Georgia 30114

The alternate representative will be:

Geoffrey E. Morton, P.E.
County Engineer
1130 Bluffs Parkway
Canton, Georgia 30114

If you have any questions or require additional information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


L.B. "Buzz" Ahrens, Chairman
Cherokee County Board of Commissioners



DANIEL R. JACOBSON
Chairman

MOSES FREEMAN
LYNDA GRIFFIN
JIM HALL
WILLIAM B. KILBRIDE
MORTY LLOYD
BOB McKAMEY
GENE VEAZEY
LARRY WELLS

MICHAEL J. LANDGUTH, A.A.E.
President & CEO

June 17, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308

RECORDED

JUN 21 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

Dear Mr. Ware:

I am pleased to accept your invitation to participate in the Tier I Environmental impact Statement for the Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study. I will review the project purpose and need statement that was included in the invitation and contact you should I have any further comments.

Thank you for including our airport in this study and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Landguth', written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Landguth, A.A.E.
President and CEO



1001 Airport Rd. • Ste. 14
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421 • (423) 855-2200

DANIEL R. JACOBSON
Chairman

MOSES FREEMAN
LYNDA GRIFFIN
JIM HALL
WILLIAM B. KILBRIDE
MORTY LLOYD
BOB McKAMEY
GENE VEAZEY
LARRY WELLS

MICHAEL J. LANDGUTH, A.A.E.
President & CEO

July 12, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308

RECEIVED
JUL 15 2010
OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

Dear Mr. Ware:

I am pleased to accept your invitation to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Planning Process for the Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study. I will review the Coordination Plan that was included in the invitation and contact you should I have any further comments.

Thank you for including our airport in this process and I look forward to working with you. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Landguth".

Michael J. Landguth
President and CEO



RECEIVED

JUL 08 2010

OFFICE OF
INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

July 6, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia, 30308

RE: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta – Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study
Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No.: T001684

Dear Mr. Ware:

This letter is to confirm that the Atlanta Regional Commission wishes to continue its role as a participating agency in the referenced project. Our primary representative will continue to be Bob McCord and Tom Weyandt will be our alternate.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this project.

Sincerely,

Charles Krautler
Director



July 8, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Re: Tier I Environmental Impact Statement
Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HGST) Study
Project PTSCO-0023-00-002, PI No.: T001684

Dear Mr. Ware:

I am writing you to reaffirm the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC) participation in the NEPA process for the Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) Study.

As manager of the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) for ARC I will continue to be the primary contact. Mr. Scott Hercik, ARC Transportation Advisor will be the alternate representative.

Should you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me at 202-884-7706

Sincerely,

Ken Wester
ADHS Program Manager

Cc: Mr. John Cartwright
Mr. Scott Hercik



August 27, 2010

Mr. James Tillman, Sr.
State Conservationist
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
355 East Hancock Avenue
Mail Stop 200
Athens, GA 30601-2769

Re: Early Coordination Request for Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No. T001684 - Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study

Dear Mr. Tillman:

In July 2007 the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) filed a Notice of Intent to prepare a Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) project. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in conjunction with FHWA and FRA, are in the beginning stages of project development for the above-mentioned project. By copy of this letter we are requesting your input on the proposed project as part of the early coordination process.

The HSGT study area is a 110-mile corridor located between Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (HJAIA) in Atlanta, Georgia, and downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. Please see Figure 1, Study Area Map, for a graphical depiction of the alignments that are currently being evaluated. We will also be sending you an email that contains a link that will allow you to download the GIS shape files of the different alignments for your use and comparison to the species data you may have. The proposed HSGT alignments under consideration would include two terminal stations, downtown Chattanooga and HJAIA, and as many as six intermediate stations, Five Points (downtown Atlanta), Galleria (I-285 and I-75), Town Center, Cartersville, Dalton, and Lovell Field Airport. The HSGT project is currently evaluating alignments along the I-75 Interstate highway between Chattanooga and Atlanta:

- An alignment generally within the I-75 median; and
- An alignment generally outside of the I-75 median.

South of the I-75/I-285 divergence, each of the above alignments reaches HJAIA by two distinct routes:

- Via the Norfolk Southern Railroad right-of-way between I-285 and Howell Mill Road through downtown Atlanta and then south via I-75/I-85 corridor; and
- Via I-75 to Howell Mill Road through downtown Atlanta and the I-75/I-85 corridor.

Combined together the alignments form the four full-length alignments under consideration.

Two different types of locomotive power (Maglev and steel-wheel) are being evaluated for each alignment; therefore, eight alternatives are currently under consideration.

GDOT Project PTSC0-0023-00-002

PI No. T001684

Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study

August 27, 2010

Alignment options for the project are being developed and evaluated concurrently with environmental documentation and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This process, developed by GDOT to make projects more responsive to social, economic, and environmental concerns, offers you the opportunity to identify the site-specific conditions to be addressed in the Tier I EIS. Please advise us of any known project area conditions of special concern. With your assistance we can give these issues due consideration and integrate them into the development of the preferred project alignment and mode.

We appreciate your efforts in assisting us with the development of this project. We request your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If no comments are received from your agency by then, we will assume you have no comments at this time. If you need additional review time, have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Gail D'Avino, GDOT Office of Environmental Services, at 404-631-1075 or email at gdavino@dot.ga.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Glenn Bowman, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator

GB/th/bh
Attachment



August 27, 2010

Mr. Robert Todd
Fish and Wildlife Environmental Specialist
Natural Heritage Inventory Program
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Ellington Agricultural Center
PO Box 40747
401 Church Street
7th Floor, L&C Annex
Nashville, TN 37204

Re: Early Coordination Request for Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No. T001684 - Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study

Dear Mr. Todd:

In July 2007 the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) filed a Notice of Intent to prepare a Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) project. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in conjunction with FHWA and FRA, are in the beginning stages of project development for the above-mentioned project. By copy of this letter we are requesting your input on the proposed project as part of the early coordination process.

The HSGT study area is a 110-mile corridor located between Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (HJAIA) in Atlanta, Georgia, and downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. Please see Figure 1, Study Area Map, for a graphical depiction of the alignments that are currently being evaluated. We will also be sending you an email that contains a link that will allow you to download the GIS shape files of the different alignments for your use and comparison to the species data you may have. The proposed HSGT alignments under consideration would include two terminal stations, downtown Chattanooga and HJAIA, and as many as six intermediate stations, Five Points (downtown Atlanta), Galleria (I-285 and I-75), Town Center, Cartersville, Dalton, and Lovell Field Airport. The HSGT project is currently evaluating alignments along the I-75 Interstate highway between Chattanooga and Atlanta:

- An alignment generally within the I-75 median; and
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South of the I-75/I-285 divergence, each of the above alignments reaches HJAIA by two distinct routes:

- Via the Norfolk Southern Railroad right-of-way between I-285 and Howell Mill Road through downtown Atlanta and then south via I-75/I-85 corridor; and
- Via I-75 to Howell Mill Road through downtown Atlanta and the I-75/I-85 corridor.

Combined together the alignments form the four full-length alignments under consideration.

GDOT Project PTSC0-0023-00-002

PI No. T001684

Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study

August 27, 2010

Two different types of locomotive power (Maglev and steel-wheel) are being evaluated for each alignment; therefore, eight alternatives are currently under consideration.

Enclosed is a list of federally listed threatened and endangered species and state protected species with a distributional range that may include the proposed project. This list, which was derived from a computerized list of threatened and endangered species provided and updated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the TN Department of Environment and Conservation, will be used during the Tier I EIS ecological evaluation of this project. Please let us know if any additional species should be on the list. Please also provide information on any known locations of existing bald and golden eagle nests and foraging areas.

Alignment options for the project are being developed and evaluated concurrently with environmental documentation and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This process, developed by GDOT to make projects more responsive to social, economic, and environmental concerns, offers you the opportunity to identify the site-specific conditions to be addressed in the Tier I EIS. Please advise us of any known project area conditions of special concern. With your assistance we can give these issues due consideration and integrate them into the development of the preferred project alignment and mode.

We appreciate your efforts in assisting us with the development of this project. We request your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If no comments are received from your agency by then, we will assume you have no comments at this time. If you need additional review time, have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Gail D'Avino, GDOT Office of Environmental Services, at 404-631-1075 or email at gdavino@dot.ga.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Glenn Bowman, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator

GB/th/bh
Attachments

cc: Roger McCoy, TNDEC
Brian Bowen, TNDEC
Silas Mathis, TNDEC

Hamilton County

Bald eagle - *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (T)
Snail darter - *Percina tanasi* (T)
Cumberland monkeyface pearly mussel - *Quadrula intermedia* (E)(h)
Dromedary pearly mussel - *Dromus dromas* (E)(h)
Fine-rayed pigtoe - *Fusconaia cuneolus* (E)(h)
Orangefoot pimpleback - *Plethobasus cooperianus* (E)
Pink mucket pearly mussel - *Lampsilis abrupta* (E) (= *Lampsilis orbiculata*)
Rough pigtoe - *Pleurobema plenum* (E)(h)
Tubercled-blossom pearly mussel - *Epioblasma torulosa torulosa* (E)(h)
Large-flowered skullcap - *Scutellaria montana* (E)
Small-whorled pogonia - *Isotria medeoloides* (T)
White fringeless orchid - *Platanthera integrilabia* (C)
Virginia spirea - *Spiraea virginiana* (T)



Tennessee Natural Heritage Program
Rare Species Observations For
Tennessee Counties



Hamilton County Known Species: 69

Invertebrate Animals: 7		St. Rank	Global Rank	St. Prot.	Fed. Prot.
<i>Cambarus extraneus</i>	Chickamauga Crayfish Springs & small to medium sized streams under rocks or in vegetation; South Chickamauga Creek watershed, Hamilton County.	S1S2	G2	T	--
<i>Dromus dromas</i>	Dromedary Pearlymussel Medium-large rivers with riffles and shoals w/ relatively firm rubble, gravel, and stable substrates; Tennessee & Cumberland systems.	S1	G1	E	LE
<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>	Pink Mucket Generally a large river species, preferring sand-gravel or rocky substrates with mod-strong currents; Tennessee & Cumberland river systems.	S2	G2	E	LE
<i>Nesticus furtivus</i>	Crystal Caverns Cave Spider Terrestrial cave obligate, S Cumberlands; Hamilton County; known only from the type locality.	S1	G1	--	--
<i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>	Orangefoot Pimpleback Large rivers in sand-gravel-cobble substrates in riffles and shoals in deep flowing water; Cumberland & Tennessee river systems.	S1	G1	E	LE
<i>Quadrula intermedia</i>	Cumberland Monkeyface Shallow riffle and shoal areas of headwater streams and bigger rivers, in coarse sand/gravel substrates; Tennessee River system.	S1	G1	E	LE
<i>Stygobromus nortoni</i>	Norton's Cave Amphipod Aquatic cave obligate, from pools; Eastern Highland Rim and Ridge & Valley.	SH	G2G3	--	--
Nonvascular Plants: 4		St. Rank	Global Rank	St. Prot.	Fed. Prot.
<i>Lejeunea blomquistii</i>	Blomquist Leafy Liverwort Mid Elev. Gorges On Rock Or Bark	S1S2	G1G2	S	--
<i>Lejeunea sharpii</i>	Sharp's Lejeunea Calcareous Bluffs, Rock & Logs Of Wet Sinks	S1S2	G2G3	E	--
<i>Metzgeria uncigera</i>	Metzgeria Bark Of American Holly	S1	G3	S	--
<i>Microlejeunea globosa</i>	Cardot's Lejeunea Creekside Edge Of Rockhouse	S1	G3?	S	--
Other Types: 1		St. Rank	Global Rank	St. Prot.	Fed. Prot.
<i>Heron rookery</i>	Heron Rookery	SNR	GNR	--	--
Vascular Plants: 40		St. Rank	Global Rank	St. Prot.	Fed. Prot.
<i>Acer leucoderme</i>	Chalk Maple Circumneutral Rocky Woods	S3	G5	S	--
<i>Aureolaria patula</i>	Spreading False-foxglove Oak Woods And Edges	S3	G3	S	--
<i>Castanea dentata</i>	American Chestnut Mesic To Dry Forests	S2S3	G4	S	--



Tennessee Natural Heritage Program
Rare Species Observations For
Tennessee Counties



Hamilton County . . . Continued

Known Species: 69

Vascular Plants: 40 . . . Continued		St. Rank	Global Rank	St. Prot.	Fed. Prot.
<i>Clematis glaucophylla</i>	White-leaved Leatherflower Wooded Stream Banks	S1	G4?	E	--
<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>	Pink Lady's-slipper Piney Woods	S4	G5	S-CE	--
<i>Danthonia epilis</i>	Bog Oat-grass Acidic Seeps	S1S2	G3G4	S	--
<i>Delphinium exaltatum</i>	Tall Larkspur Glades And Barrens	S2	G3	E	--
<i>Diamorpha smallii</i>	Small's Stonecrop Sandstone Outcrops	S1S2	G4	E	--
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Northern Bush-honeysuckle Rocky Woodlands And Bluffs	S2	G5	T	--
<i>Diervilla sessilifolia var. rivularis</i>	Mountain Bush-honeysuckle Dry Cliffs And Bluffs	S2	G3	T	--
<i>Galium uniflorum</i>	Fragrant Bedstraw Dry Woods	S1	G4G5	S	--
<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Yellow Jessamine Dry Openings	S1S2	G5	S	--
<i>Glyceria acutiflora</i>	Sharp-scaled Mannagrass Swamps,Ponds	S2	G5	S	--
<i>Gratiola floridana</i>	Florida Hedge-hyssop Wooded Swamps	S1	G4	E	--
<i>Helianthus occidentalis</i>	Naked-stem Sunflower Limestone Glades And Barrens; Roadsides	S2	G5	S	--
<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	Small Whorled Pogonia Mid-Elevation Dry Woods	S1	G2	E	LT
<i>Lilium canadense</i>	Canada Lily Rich Woods And Seeps	S3	G5	T	--
<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>	Wood Lily Dry Openings, Powerlines	S1	G5	E	--
<i>Lonicera dioica</i>	Mountain Honeysuckle Mountain Woods And Thickets	S2	G5	S	--
<i>Lonicera flava</i>	Yellow Honeysuckle Rocky Woods And Thickets	S1	G5?	T	--
<i>Lysimachia fraseri</i>	Fraser's Loosestrife Dry Open Woods	S2	G3	E	--
<i>Nestronia umbellula</i>	Nestronia Upland Woods	S1	G4	E	--
<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	American Ginseng Rich Woods	S3S4	G3G4	S-CE	--



Tennessee Natural Heritage Program
Rare Species Observations For
Tennessee Counties



Hamilton County . . . Continued

Known Species: 69

Vascular Plants: 40 . . . Continued		St. Rank	Global Rank	St. Prot.	Fed. Prot.
<i>Platanthera integrilabia</i>	White Fringeless Orchid Acidic Seeps And Stream Heads	S2S3	G2G3	E	C
<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	Nuttall's Pondweed Lakes And Streams	S1S2	G5	S	--
<i>Ribes curvatum</i>	Granite Gooseberry Rocky Woods	S1	G4	T	--
<i>Sabatia capitata</i>	Cumberland Rose Gentian Dry Open Woods, Powerlines	S2	G2	E	--
<i>Sacciolepis striata</i>	Gibbous Panic-grass Floodplains And Shallow Pools	S1	G5	S	--
<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>	Ovate-leaved Arrowhead Swamps, Emergent	S2S3	G5	S	--
<i>Scutellaria montana</i>	Large-flowered Skullcap Escarpments, Dry Woods	S2	G3	T	LT
<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	Compass Plant Barrens	S2	G5	T	--
<i>Spiraea virginiana</i>	Virginia Spiraea Stream Bars And Ledges	S2	G2	E	LT
<i>Stylisma humistrata</i>	Southern Morning-glory Dry Piney Woods	S1	G4G5	T	--
<i>Talinum mengesii</i>	Menge's Fame-flower Dry Rock Ledges	S2	G3	T	--
<i>Talinum teretifolium</i>	Roundleaf Fameflower Dry Sandy Rock Outcrops	S2	G4	T	--
<i>Thermopsis mollis</i>	Allegheny Mountain golden banner Upland Woods	S2S3	G3G4	S	--
<i>Trillium lancifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Trillium Alluvial Woods And Moist Ravines	S1	G3	E	--
<i>Trillium rugelii</i>	Southern Nodding Trillium Rich Mountain Woods	S2	G3	E	--
<i>Viola tripartita var. tripartita</i>	Three-parted Violet Wooded Slopes	S2S3	G5T3	S	--
<i>Woodwardia virginica</i>	Virginia Chainfern Acidic Wetlands	S2	G5	S	--
Vertebrate Animals: 17		St. Rank	Global Rank	St. Prot.	Fed. Prot.
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk Forests and open woodlands.	S3B,S4N	G5	D	No Status
<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow Dry open pine or oak woods; nests on the ground in dense cover.	S1B	G3	E	--



Tennessee Natural Heritage Program
Rare Species Observations For
Tennessee Counties



Hamilton County . . . Continued

Known Species 69

Vertebrate Animals: 17 . . . Continued	St. Rank	Global Rank	St. Prot.	Fed. Prot.	
<i>Aneides aeneus</i>	Green Salamander	S3S4	G3G4	--	--
	Damp crevices in shaded rock outcrops and ledges; beneath loose bark and cracks of trees and sometimes in/or under logs.				
<i>Carpiodes velifer</i>	Highfin Carpsucker	S2S3	G4G5	D	--
	Large rivers, mostly in Tennessee River drainage.				
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	S1B	G4	E	No Status
	Varied habitats including farmlands, marshes, river mouths, and cities; often nests on ledges.				
<i>Gyrinophilus palleucus</i>	Tennessee Cave Salamander	S2	G2G3	T	--
	Aquatic cave obligate; cave streams & rimstone pools; Central Basin, Eastern Highland Rim, & Cumberland Plateau.				
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	S3	G5	D	--
	Areas close to large bodies of water; roosts in sheltered sites in winter; communal roost sites common.				
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern	S2B	G5	D	--
	Marshes with scattered bushes or other woody growth; readily uses artificial wetland habitats.				
<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	Swainson's Warbler	S3	G4	D	--
	Mature, rich, damp, deciduous floodplain and swamp forests.				
<i>Neotoma magister</i>	Allegheny Woodrat	S3	G3G4	D	--
	Outcrops, cliffs, talus slopes, crevices, sinkholes, caves & karst.				
<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus longicaudus</i>	Eastern Slender Glass Lizard	S3	G5T5	D	--
	Dry upland areas including brushy, cut-over woodlands and grassy fields; nearly statewide but obscure; fossorial.				
<i>Percina tanasi</i>	Snail Darter	S2S3	G2G3	T	LT
	Sand and gravel shoals of moderately flowing, vegetated, large creeks; upper Tennessee River watershed.				
<i>Rallus elegans</i>	King Rail	S2	G4	D	--
	Marshes, upland-wetland marsh edges, flooded farmlands, shrub swamps.				
<i>Sorex fumeus</i>	Smoky Shrew	S4	G5	D	--
	Damp wooded areas including coniferous or mixed forests; middle and east Tennessee.				
<i>Sorex longirostris</i>	Southeastern Shrew	S4	G5	D	--
	Various habitats including wet meadows, damp woods, and uplands; statewide.				
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's Wren	S1	G5	E	--
	Brushy areas, thickets and scrub in open country, open and riparian woodland.				
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl	S3	G5	D	--
	Open and partly open country, often around human habitation; farms.				

-- End of Hamilton --



United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service
105 West Park Drive, Suite D
Athens, Georgia 30606

West Georgia Sub Office
P.O. Box 52560
Ft. Benning, Georgia 31995-2560

NOV 19 2010

Coastal Sub Office
4980 Wildlife Drive
Townsend, Georgia 31331

Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
ATTN: Mr. Alan Ware

RE: Early Coordination, PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI T001684, Atlanta-to-Chattanooga High-Speed Rail

Dear Mr. Bowman:

Thank you for your September 3, 2010, letter regarding the referenced Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) project. We submit the following comments under provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

The referenced project proposes to construct a 110-mile, high-speed rail line from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport to downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. Four alignments that generally follow the existing Interstate 75 corridor are currently being considered as alternatives.

We support the purpose and need of this project, especially its potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We recommend that, in future public and agency informational meetings, GDOT determine and disclose the reduction in tons of carbon dioxide in relation to ridership numbers. Additionally, discussions of project cost estimates should include anticipated cost savings in future road expansions, if the resulting project increases the design life of Interstate 75 and collector roads through traffic reductions or other means.

You provided us geographic information system shape files of alternatives on September 14, 2010, and we participated in GDOT's October 19, 2010, presentation for Federal and other agencies. In your September 14, 2010, letter, GDOT indicated 27 threatened and endangered species as potentially occurring in Georgia counties traversed by the project. Using the supplied shape files, we refined this list of potential species by layering the four alignments (labeled by GDOT as: MAG 75SC 100810; LO 75NS 100422; LO 75 SC 100810; and MAG 75NS 100618) over our threatened and endangered predictive range polygons. The four alignments intersect the potential ranges of the following threatened or endangered species:

1. Michaux's sumac (*Rhus michauxii*);
2. large-flowered skullcap (*Scutellaria montana*);
3. Tennessee yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris tennesseensis*);
4. gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*);
5. blue shiner (*Cyprinella caerulea*);
6. upland combshell (*Epioblasma metastrata*);
7. Southern acornshell (*Epioblasma oothcaloogensis*);
8. Cherokee darter (*Etheostoma scotti*);
9. fine-lined pocketbook (*Hamiota altilis*);
10. Alabama moccasinshell (*Medionidus acutissimus*);
11. Coosa moccasinshell (*Medionidus parvulus*);
12. snail darter (*Percina tanasi*);

Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E.
Page 2

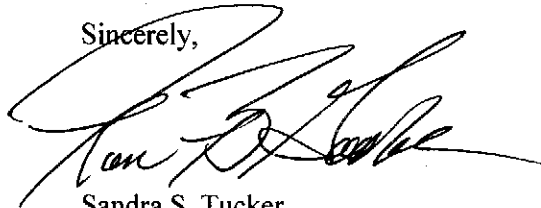
13. Southern clubshell (*Pleurobema decisum*);
14. Southern pigtoe (*Pleurobema georgianum*);
15. triangular kidneyshell (*Ptychobranthus greeni*).

Based on relatively recent occurrence records of threatened and endangered species near or adjacent to the Interstate 75 right-of-way, we anticipate that the project has a high risk of directly or indirectly impacting the following species: (1) large flowered skullcap; (2) Tennessee yellow-eyed grass; (3) Cherokee darter; (4) gray bat; (5) triangular kidneyshell; and (6) the fine-lined pocketbook. Critical habitat is also designated for the portion of the Oostanaula River where it intersects with the project corridor.

As required by the ESA, all practicable options should be considered for avoiding and minimizing impacts to federally-listed species and critical habitat. Where applicable, GDOT should evaluate clear-span crossings of occupied threatened and endangered aquatic habitats and designated critical habitat. Increases in impervious surface area in certain portions of the Etowah River basin should be attenuated, as recommended by the draft Etowah Habitat Conservation Plan (www.etowahhcp.org). All efforts should be investigated to avoid impacting a large population of Tennessee yellow-eyed grass that occurs on GDOT-owned property, near the US 411 interchange with Interstate 75: the current alternatives depict direct displacement of this population. Additional and site-specific information on threatened and endangered species can be provided by us and through consultation with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

We look forward with working with your agency as you refine design alternatives. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact staff biologist Pete Pattavina, at 706-613-9493, ext. 236.

Sincerely,



Sandra S. Tucker
Field Supervisor

cc: Rich Williams, GDOT
Katy Allen, P.E., FHWA
Katrina Morris, GDNR
file



August 27, 2010

Mr. Pete Pattavina
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Field Office
West Park Center, Suite D
105 West Park Drive
Athens, Georgia 30306-3175

Re: Early Coordination Request for Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No. T001684 - Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study

Dear Mr. Pattavina:

In July 2007 the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) filed a Notice of Intent to prepare a Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) project. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in conjunction with FHWA and FRA, are in the beginning stages of project development for the above-mentioned project. By copy of this letter we are requesting your input on the proposed project as part of the early coordination process.

The HSGT study area is a 110-mile corridor located between Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (HJAIA) in Atlanta, Georgia, and downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. Please see Figure 1, Study Area Map, for a graphical depiction of the alignments that are currently being evaluated. We will also be sending you an email that contains a link that will allow you to download the GIS shape files of the different alignments for your use and comparison to the species data you may have. The proposed HSGT alignments under consideration would include two terminal stations, downtown Chattanooga and HJAIA, and as many as six intermediate stations, Five Points (downtown Atlanta), Galleria (I-285 and I-75), Town Center, Cartersville, Dalton, and Lovell Field Airport. The HSGT project is currently evaluating alignments along the I-75 Interstate highway between Chattanooga and Atlanta:

- An alignment generally within the I-75 median; and
- An alignment generally outside of the I-75 median.

South of the I-75/I-285 divergence, each of the above alignments reaches HJAIA by two distinct routes:

- Via the Norfolk Southern Railroad right-of-way between I-285 and Howell Mill Road through downtown Atlanta and then south via I-75/I-85 corridor; and
- Via I-75 to Howell Mill Road through downtown Atlanta and the I-75/I-85 corridor.

Combined together the alignments form the four full-length alignments under consideration.

Two different types of locomotive power (Maglev and steel-wheel) are being evaluated for each alignment; therefore, eight alternatives are currently under consideration.

GDOT Project PTSC0-0023-00-002

PI No. T001684

Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study

August 27, 2010

Enclosed is a list of federally listed threatened and endangered species and state protected species with a distributional range that may include the proposed project. This list, which was derived from a computerized list of threatened and endangered species provided and updated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the GA Department of Natural Resources, will be used during the Tier I EIS ecological evaluation of this project. Please let us know if any additional species should be on the list. Please also provide information on any known locations of existing bald and golden eagle nests and foraging areas.

Alignment options for the project are being developed and evaluated concurrently with environmental documentation and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This process, developed by GDOT to make projects more responsive to social, economic, and environmental concerns, offers you the opportunity to identify the site-specific conditions to be addressed in the Tier I EIS. Please advise us of any known project area conditions of special concern. With your assistance we can give these issues due consideration and integrate them into the development of the preferred project alignment and mode.

We appreciate your efforts in assisting us with the development of this project. We request your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If no comments are received from your agency by then, we will assume you have no comments at this time. If you need additional review time, have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Gail D'Avino, GDOT Office of Environmental Services, at 404-631-1075 or email at gdavino@dot.ga.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Glenn Bowman, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator

GB/th/bh
Attachments

Listed Species in Bartow County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Mammal				
Gray bat <i>Myotis grisescens</i>	E	E	Colonies restricted to caves or cave-like habitats; forage primarily over water along rivers or lake shores	Human disturbance and vandalism in caves, pesticides, flooding of caves by impoundments, and loss of insect prey over streams degraded by siltation and pollution
Bird				
Fish				
Cherokee darter <i>Etheostoma scotti</i>	T	T	Shallow water (0.1-0.5 m) in small to medium warm water creeks (1-15 m wide) with predominantly rocky bottoms. Usually found in sections with reduced current, typically runs above and below riffles and at ecotones of riffles and backwaters.	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Etowah darter <i>Etheostoma etowahae</i>	E	E	Shallow riffle habitat, with large gravel, cobble, and small boulder substrates. Usually found in medium and large cool water creeks or small rivers (15-30 m wide) with moderate or high gradients and rocky bottoms.	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Invertebrate				
Cylindrical lioplax Lioplax cyclostomaformis	E	No State Status	Gill-breathing snail that lives in mud under large rocks in rapid currents over stream and river shoals. Historic population in Armuchee Creek, Floyd County, probably extirpated.	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Plant				
Bay star-vine <i>Schisandra glabra</i>	No Federal Status	T	Twining on subcanopy and understory trees/shrubs in rich alluvial woods	
Tennessee yellow-eyed grass <i>Xyris tennesseensis</i>	E	E	Gravelly open, calcareous, seepy margins and wet meadows along spring-fed headwater streams	
Twinleaf <i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>	No Federal Status	E	Rich moist deciduous woods over limestone	

Listed Species in Catoosa County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Mammal				
Gray bat <i>Myotis grisescens</i>	E	E	Colonies restricted to caves or cave-like habitats; forage primarily over water along rivers or lake shores	Human disturbance and vandalism in caves, pesticides, flooding of caves by impoundments, and loss of insect prey over streams degraded by siltation and pollution
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Fish				
Flame chub <i>Hemitremia flammea</i>	No Federal Status	E	Springs and springfed streams	
Mountain madtom <i>Noturus eleutherus</i>	No Federal Status	T	Gravelly or rocky streams	
Popeye shiner <i>Notropis ariommus</i>	No Federal Status	T	Mountain stream; gravelly streams	
Snail darter <i>Percina tanasi</i>	T	T	Adults live and spawn in gravel shoal habitat in the South Chickamauga Creek (population found 1980); larvae drift downstream to nursery areas	
Stargazing minnow <i>Phenacobius uranops</i>	No Federal Status	T	Clear, moderate-gradient streams and small rivers. Inhabits riffles and, more commonly, runs 15-50 cm deep. Adults and juveniles found over clean or slightly silted gravel and small to medium rubble.	
Plant				
Large-flowered skullcap				Logging, wildfires, livestock

<i>Scutellaria montana</i>	E	T	Mature oak-pine forests with sparse understory	grazing, residential development, and small populations coupled with limited distribution
Glade-cress <i>Leavenworthia exigua exigua</i>	No Federal Status	T	Open areas on limestone cedar glades where soil is gravelly and usually <5cm deep; associated with a blue green alga (<i>Nostoc sp.</i>) in wet months	
Great Plains ladies-tresses <i>Spiranthes magnicamporum</i>	No Federal Status	E	Grassy areas in open or partial shade on flat, limestone outcrops (cedar glades) where the soil is a heavy, sticky clay	

Listed Species in Cherokee County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia. Active eagle nests were located in Cherokee County in 1997-1999 and 2000-2002.	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Fish				
Amber darter <i>Percina antesella</i>	E	E	Gentle riffle areas over sand and gravel substrate that becomes vegetated (primarily with <i>Podostemum</i>) during summer	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Bluestripe shiner <i>Cyprinella callitaenia</i>	No Federal Status	T	Brownwater streams	
Cherokee darter <i>Etheostoma scotti</i>	T	T	Shallow water (0.1-0.5 m) in small to medium warm water creeks (1-15 m wide) with predominantly rocky bottoms. Usually found in sections with reduced current, typically runs above and below riffles and at ecotones of riffles and backwaters.	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Etowah darter <i>Etheostoma etowahae</i>	E	E	Shallow riffle habitat, with large gravel, cobble, and small boulder substrates. Usually found in medium and large cool water creeks or small rivers (15-30 m wide) with moderate or high gradients and rocky bottoms.	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Frecklebelly madtom <i>Noturus munitus</i>	No Federal Status	E	Rivers with moderate to swift current over substrates ranging from coarse gravel to boulders, submerged trees, and brush.	
Freckled darter <i>Percina lenticula</i>	No Federal Status	E	Fast deep rocky riffles of small to medium streams	
Freckled madtom	No Federal	E	Rivers with moderate to swift current over substrates ranging from	Extremely rare. Stream impoundment and habitat

<i>Noturus nocturnus</i>	Status		coarse gravel to boulders, submerged trees, and brush.	degradation.
Plant				
Bay star-vine <i>Schisandra glabra</i>	No Federal Status	T	Twining on subcanopy and understory trees/shrubs in rich alluvial woods	
Indian olive <i>Nestronia umbellula</i>	No Federal Status	T	Dry open upland forests of mixed hardwood and pine	

Listed Species in Clayton County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia.	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Wood stork <i>Mycteria americana</i>	E	E	Primarily feed in fresh and brackish wetlands and nest in cypress or other wooded swamps. Active rookeries were located in Camden County 1991-2001.	Decline due primarily to loss of suitable feeding habitat, particularly in south Florida. Other factors include loss of nesting habitat, prolonged drought/flooding, raccoon predation on nests, and human disturbance of rookeries.
Invertebrate				
Oval pigtoe mussel <i>Pleurobema pyriforme</i>	E	E	River tributaries and main channels in slow to moderate currents over silty sand, muddy sand, sand, and gravel substrates	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation

Listed Species in Cobb County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia.	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Fish				
Bluestripe shiner <i>Cyprinella callitaenia</i>	No Federal Status	T	Brownwater streams	
Cherokee darter <i>Etheostoma scotti</i>	T	T	Shallow water (0.1-0.5 m) in small to medium warm water creeks (1-15 m wide) with predominantly rocky bottoms. Usually found in sections with reduced current, typically runs above and below riffles and at ecotones of riffles and backwaters.	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Highscale shiner <i>Notropis hypsilepis</i>	No Federal Status	T	Blackwater and brownwater streams	
Plant				
Bay star-vine <i>Schisandra glabra</i>	No Federal Status	T	Twining on subcanopy and understory trees/shrubs in rich alluvial woods	
Georgia Aster <i>Aster georgianus</i>	Candidate Species	T	Post oak savannah/prairie communities. Most remaining populations survive adjacent to roads, utility rights of way, and other openings.	
Indian olive <i>Nestronia umbellula</i>	No Federal Status	T	Dry open upland forests of mixed hardwood and pine	
Michaux's			Sandy or rocky open woods, usually on ridges with a disturbance history (periodic fire, prior	Low reproductive capability (dioecious), low genetic variability associated with

sumac <i>Rhus michauxii</i>	E	E	agricultural use, maintained right-of-ways); the known population of this species in Cobb County has been extirpated (last seen in county in 1900)	geographic isolation, hybridization with <i>R. copallina</i> and <i>R. glabra</i> , and habitat loss due to development
Open-ground whitlow-grass <i>Draba aprica</i>	No Federal Status	E	Shallow soils on granite outcrops, especially beneath eastern redcedar	
White fringeless orchid <i>Platanthera integrilabia</i>	Candidate Species	T	Red maple-blackgum swamps; also sandy damp stream margins; on seepy, rocky, thinly vegetated slopes. Also known as Monkey-face Orchid .	

Listed Species in Fulton County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia.	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Invertebrate				
Gulf moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus pencillatus</i>	E	E	Medium streams to large rivers with slight to moderate current over sand and gravel substrates; may be associated with muddy sand substrates around tree roots	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Shiny-rayed pocketbook mussel <i>Hamiota subangulata</i>	E	E	Medium creeks to the mainstems of rivers with slow to moderate currents over sandy substrates and associated with rock or clay	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Fish				
Bluestripe shiner <i>Cyprinella callitaenia</i>	No Federal Status	T	Brownwater streams	
Cherokee darter <i>Etheostoma scotti</i>	T	T	Shallow water (0.1-0.5 m) in small to medium warm water creeks (1-15 m wide) with predominantly rocky bottoms. Usually found in sections with reduced current, typically runs above and below riffles and at ecotones of riffles and backwaters.	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Highscale shiner <i>Notropis hypsilepis</i>	No Federal Status	T	Blackwater and brownwater streams	
Plant				
Bay star-vine <i>Schisandra</i>	No Federal Status	T	Twining on subcanopy and understory trees/shrubs in rich alluvial woods	

<i>glabra</i>				
Piedmont barren strawberry <i>Waldsteinia lobata</i>	No Federal Status	T	Rocky acedic woods along streams with mountain laurel; rarely in drier upland oak-hickory-pine woods	

Listed Species in Gordon County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Mammal				
Gray bat <i>Myotis grisescens</i>	E	E	Colonies restricted to caves or cave-like habitats; forage primarily over water along rivers or lake shores	Human disturbance and vandalism in caves, pesticides, flooding of caves by impoundments, and loss of insect prey over streams degraded by siltation and pollution
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Reptile				
Alabama map turtle <i>Graptemys pulchra</i>	No Federal Status	Rare	Rivers, creeks, and lakes	
Invertebrate				
Alabama moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>	T	T	Rivers and large creeks. Prefers stable gravel or sandy gravel substrates.	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Coosa moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus parvulus</i>	E	E	Stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in high quality free-flowing streams and rivers	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Georgia Rocksnail <i>Leptoxis downei</i>	Candidate Species	E	Shoals, riffles and reefs of small to large rivers. Historically occurred in upper Coosa River. Found in Oostanaula River in Floyd and Gordon Counties	
Southern acornshell mussel <i>Epioblasma</i>	E	E	High quality upland streams ranging in size from large creeks to small rivers; stable sand/gravel/cobble substrate in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation

<i>othcaloogensis</i>				
Southern clubshell mussel <i>Pleurobema decisum</i>	E	E	Rivers of medium size with a moderately high gradient and with areas of stable substrate characterized by sand-gravel sediments	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Southern pigtoe mussel <i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>	E	E	Stable gravel and sandy gravel substrates in high-quality free-flowing streams and rivers	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Triangular kidneyshell mussel <i>Ptychobranchus greeni</i>	E	E	High quality rivers and large creeks in stable gravel and sandy gravel substrates	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Upland combshell mussel <i>Epioblasma metastrata</i>	E	E	High quality, free-flowing rivers and large creeks; stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Fish				
Blue shiner <i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>	T	E	Medium to large clear cool streams with gravel-rubble-small boulder substrates; found in streams draining into the Coosa and Oostanaula Rivers	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Goldline darter <i>Percina aurolineata</i>	T	T	Main channel of rivers in white-water rapids \geq 2-3 feet deep	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Trispot darter <i>Etheostoma trisella</i>	No Federal Status	T	Mountain streams	
Plant				
Georgia Rockcress <i>Arabis georgianus</i>	Candidate Species	T	Rocky bluffs and slopes along waterways; also on sandy, eroding riverbanks	
Georgia rock-cress <i>Arabis georgiana</i>	Candidate Species	T	Rocky (limestone, shale, granite-gneiss) bluffs and slopes along watercourses; also along sandy, eroding riverbanks	

Large-flowered skullcap <i>Scutellaria montana</i>	E	T	Mature oak-pine forests with sparse understory	Logging, wildfires, livestock grazing, residential development, and small populations coupled with limited distribution
Purple sedge <i>Carex purpurifera</i>	No Federal Status	T	Mixed mesophytic or cove hardwoods with a wide array of canopy species, rich vernal flora, and calcareous soils	
Tennessee yellow-eyed grass <i>Xyris tennesseensis</i>	E	E	Gravelly open, calcareous, seepy margins and wet meadows along spring-fed headwater streams	
Trailing meadowrue <i>Thalictrum debile</i>	No Federal Status	T	Near streams in rich alluvial soils of forested floodplains over limestone bedrock	

Listed Species in Murray County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Mammal				
Indiana bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E	E	Hibernate in caves; offspring primarily reared in wooded streamside habitat; forage primarily in riparian and floodplain areas; known hibernacula cave in Dade County since 1960's.	Human disturbance and vandalism in caves, deforestation and stream channelization, natural hazards such as cave flooding or cave-ins, and possibly insecticide poisoning
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia. Active eagle nests were located in Murray County 1995-1999 and 2000-2002	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Invertebrate				
Alabama clubshell <i>Pleurobema troshelianum</i>	Candidate Species	T	Moderate to high gradient reefs, shoals and riffles of small to large rivers in the Coosa River system. Found in Murray and Whitfield Counties	
Alabama moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>	T	T	Rivers and large creeks. Prefers stable gravel or sandy gravel substrates.	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Coosa moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus parvulus</i>	E	E	Stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in high quality free-flowing streams and rivers	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Fine-lined pocketbook mussel <i>Hamiota altilis</i>	T	T	High quality, free-flowing rivers and large creeks; stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Georgia pigtoe			Moderate to high gradient reefs, shoals and riffles of small to large	

<i>Pleurobema hanleyanum</i>	Candidate Species	E	rivers in the Coosa River system. Found in Murray and Whitfield Counties	
Gulf moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus pencillatus</i>	E	E	Medium streams to large rivers with slight to moderate current over sand and gravel substrates; may be associated with muddy sand substrates around tree roots	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Ovate clubshell mussel <i>Pleurobema perovatum</i>	E	E	High quality, free-flowing large to small rivers and streams in stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrate	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Painted clubshell <i>Pleurobema chattanoogaense</i>	Candidate Species	E	Moderate to high gradient reefs, shoals and riffles of small to large rivers in the Coosa River system. Found in Murray and Whitfield Counties	
Southern acornshell mussel <i>Epioblasma othcaloogensis</i>	E	E	High quality upland streams ranging in size from large creeks to small rivers; stable sand/gravel/cobble substrate in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Southern clubshell mussel <i>Pleurobema decisum</i>	E	E	Rivers of medium size with a moderately high gradient and with areas of stable substrate characterized by sand-gravel sediments	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Southern pigtoe mussel <i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>	E	E	Stable gravel and sandy gravel substrates in high-quality free-flowing streams and rivers	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Triangular kidneyshell mussel <i>Ptychobranchnus greeni</i>	E	E	High quality rivers and large creeks in stable gravel and sandy gravel substrates	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Upland combshell mussel <i>Epioblasma metastrata</i>	E	E	High quality, free-flowing rivers and large creeks; stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Fish				
			Gentle riffle areas over sand and gravel substrate that becomes	

Amber darter <i>Percina antesella</i>	E	E	vegetated (primarily with <i>Podostemum</i>) during summer; last taken in Etowah River in 1980; historic population in Shoal Creek probably extirpated by construction of Allatoona Reservoir in 1950	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Blue shiner <i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>	T	E	Medium to large clear cool streams with gravel-rubble-small boulder substrates; found in streams draining into the Coosa and Oostanaula Rivers	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Conasauga logperch <i>Percina jenkinsi</i>	E	E	Pool areas with flowing water and substrates of rubble, gravel and sand; spawns seasonally in riffle areas over gravel; critical habitat designated in the Conasauga River from the GA/TN border to GA Hwy 2 Bridge	Habitat loss due to habitat degradation and poor water quality
Coldwater darter <i>Etheostoma ditrema</i>	No Federal Status	T	Springs and gravelly streams	
Frecklebelly madtom <i>Noturus munitus</i>	No Federal Status	E	Rivers with moderate to swift current over substrates ranging from coarse gravel to boulders, submerged trees, and brush.	
Freckled darter <i>Percina lenticula</i>	No Federal Status	E	Fast deep rocky riffles of small to medium streams	
Goldline darter <i>Percina aurolineata</i>	T	T	Main channel of rivers in white-water rapids > 2-3 feet deep	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Holiday darter <i>Etheostoma brevirostrum</i>	No Federal Status	T	Rocky streams	
River darter <i>Percina shumardi</i>	No Federal Status	E	Large to medium rivers, deep chutes and riffles, coarse gravel substrates	
Trispot darter <i>Etheostoma trisella</i>	No Federal Status	T	Mountain streams	
Plant				
Golden seal <i>Hydrastis canadensis</i>	No Federal Status	E	Rich woods and cove forests in the mountains	

Large-flowered skullcap <i>Scutellaria montana</i>	E	T	Mature oak-pine forests with sparse understory	Logging, wildfires, livestock grazing, residential development, and small populations coupled with limited distribution
Purple sedge <i>Carex purpurifera</i>	No Federal Status	T	Mixed mesophytic or cove hardwoods with a wide array of canopy species, rich vernal flora, and calcareous soils	

Listed Species in Whitfield County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Mammal				
Indiana bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E	E	Hibernate in caves; offspring primarily reared in wooded streamside habitat; forage primarily in riparian and floodplain areas; known hibernacula cave in Dade County since 1960's.	Human disturbance and vandalism in caves, deforestation and stream channelization, natural hazards such as cave flooding or cave-ins, and possibly insecticide poisoning
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia.	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Invertebrate				
Alabama clubshell <i>Pleurobema troshelianum</i>	Candidate Species	T	Moderate to high gradient reefs, shoals and riffles of small to large rivers in the Coosa River system. Found in Murray and Whitfield Counties	
Alabama moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>	T	T	Rivers and large creeks. Prefers stable gravel or sandy gravel substrates.	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Coosa moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus parvulus</i>	E	E	Stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in high quality free-flowing streams and rivers	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Conasauga logperch <i>Percina jenkinsi</i>	E	E	Pool areas with flowing water and substrates of rubble, gravel and sand; spawns seasonally in riffle areas over gravel; critical habitat designated in the Conasauga River from the GA/TN border to GA Hwy 2 Bridge	Habitat loss due to habitat degradation and poor water quality
Fine-lined pocketbook mussel	T	T	High quality, free-flowing rivers and large creeks; stable gravel	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water

<i>Hamiota altilis</i>			and sandy-gravel substrates in moderate to swift currents	quality degradation
Georgia pigtoe <i>Pleurobema hanleyanum</i>	Candidate Species	E	Moderate to high gradient reefs, shoals and riffles of small to large rivers in the Coosa River system. Found in Murray and Whitfield Counties	
Ovate clubshell mussel <i>Pleurobema perovatum</i>	E	E	High quality, free-flowing large to small rivers and streams in stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrate	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Painted clubshell <i>Pleurobema chattanoogaense</i>	Candidate Species	E	Moderate to high gradient reefs, shoals and riffles of small to large rivers in the Coosa River system. Found in Murray and Whitfield Counties	
Southern acornshell mussel <i>Epioblasma othcaloogensis</i>	E	E	High quality upland streams ranging in size from large creeks to small rivers; stable sand/gravel/cobble substrate in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Southern clubshell mussel <i>Pleurobema decisum</i>	E	E	Rivers of medium size with a moderately high gradient and with areas of stable substrate characterized by sand-gravel sediments	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Southern pigtoe mussel <i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>	E	E	Stable gravel and sandy gravel substrates in high-quality free-flowing streams and rivers	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Triangular kidneyshell mussel <i>Ptychobranthus greeni</i>	E	E	High quality rivers and large creeks in stable gravel and sandy gravel substrates	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Upland combshell mussel <i>Epioblasma metastrata</i>	E	E	High quality, free-flowing rivers and large creeks; stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Fish				
Amber darter	E	E	Gentle riffle areas over sand and gravel substrate that becomes vegetated (primarily with <i>Podostemum</i>) during summer;	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat

<i>Percina antesella</i>			critical habitat designated in the Conasauga River from the GA/TN border to Tibbs Bridge	degradation, and poor water quality
Blue shiner <i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>	T	E	Medium to large clear cool streams with gravel-rubble-small boulder substrates; found in streams draining into the Coosa and Oostanaula Rivers.	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Coldwater darter <i>Etheostoma ditrema</i>	No Federal Status	T	Springs and gravelly streams	
Flame chub <i>Hemitremia flammea</i>	No Federal Status	E	Springs and springfed streams	
Frecklebelly madtom <i>Noturus munitus</i>	No Federal Status	E	Rivers with moderate to swift current over substrates ranging from coarse gravel to boulders, submerged trees, and brush.	
Freckled darter <i>Percina lenticula</i>	No Federal Status	E	Fast deep rocky riffles of small to medium streams	
Holiday darter <i>Etheostoma brevirostrum</i>	No Federal Status	T	Rocky streams	
Trispot darter <i>Etheostoma trisella</i>	No Federal Status	T	Mountain streams	
Plant				
Large-flowered skullcap <i>Scutellaria montana</i>	E	T	Mature oak-pine forests with sparse understory	Logging, wildfires, livestock grazing, residential development, and small populations coupled with limited distribution
Tennessee yellow-eyed grass <i>Xyris tennesseensis</i>	E	E	Gravelly open, calcareous, seepy margins and wet meadows along spring-fed headwater streams	

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Bartow County, Georgia

Generated from conservation database on July 16, 2010

Animals

Cambarus fasciatus (Etowah Crayfish)
Etheostoma ditrema (Coldwater Darter)
Etheostoma etowahae (Etowah Darter)
Etheostoma jordani (Greenbreast Darter)
Etheostoma rupestre (Rock Darter)
Etheostoma scotti (Cherokee Darter)
Hybopsis lineapunctata (Lined Chub)
Hybopsis sp. 9 (Etowah Chub)
Lasmigona holstonia (Tennessee Heelsplitter)
Lioplax cyclostomaformis (Cylindrical Lioplax)
Lythrurus lirus (Mountain Shiner)
Macrhybopsis sp. 1 (Coosa Chub)
Macrhybopsis storeriana (Silver Chub)
Myotis grisescens (Gray Myotis)
Notropis volucellus (Mimic Shiner)
Tyto alba (Barn owl)
Villosa nebulosa (Alabama Rainbow)

Natural Communities

Forest, sagpond (Sagpond Forest)
Shrub/scrub veg. sagpond (Sagpond Scrub-shrub)

Plants

Acorus americanus (Sweetflag)
Alnus maritima (Seaside Alder)
Berberis canadensis (American Barberry)
Buchnera americana (Bluehearts)
Calystegia catesbeiana ssp. sericata (Silky Bindweed)
Camassia scilloides (Wild Hyacinth)
Carex buxbaumii (Brown Bog Sedge)
Cheilanthes alabamensis (Alabama Lipfern)
Crataegus triflora (Three-flowered Hawthorn)
Delphinium tricornis (Dwarf Larkspur)
Dryopteris celsa (Log Fern)

Fothergilla major (Mountain Witch-alder)
Glyceria pallida (Pale Manna-grass)
Hottonia inflata (Featherfoil)
Oldenlandia boscii (Bluets)
Panax quinquefolius (American Ginseng)
Phacelia fimbriata (Fringed Phacelia)
Polemonium reptans (Jacobs Ladder)
Rudbeckia heliopsidis (Little River Black-eyed Susan)
Schisandra glabra (Bay Star-vine)
Symphyotrichum georgianum (Georgia Aster)
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae (New England Aster)
Trillium lancifolium (Lanceleaf Trillium)
Viburnum rafinesquianum var. *rafinesquianum* (Downy Arrowwood)
Xyris tennesseensis (Tennessee Yellow-eyed Grass)

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Catoosa County, Georgia

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Animals

Cambarus extraneus (Chickamauga Crayfish)
Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis (Eastern Hellbender)
Cyprinella spiloptera (Spotfin Shiner)
Erimonax monachus (Spotfin Chub)
Etheostoma cinereum (Ashy Darter)
Etheostoma duryi (Black Darter)
Etheostoma jessiae (Blueside Darter)
Etheostoma rufilineatum (Redline Darter)
Etheostoma zonale (Banded Darter)
Gomphus consanguis (Cherokee Clubtail)
Hemitremia flammea (Flame Chub)
Ichthyomyzon bdellium (Ohio Lamprey)
Lampsilis fasciola (Wavy-rayed Lampmussel)
Leptoxis praerosa (Onyx Rocksnail)
Lythrurus fasciolaris (Scarlet Shiner)
Myotis grisescens (Gray Myotis)
Necturus maculosus maculosus (Common Mudpuppy)
Notropis ariommus (Popeye Shiner)
Notropis atherinoides (Emerald Shiner)
Notropis volucellus (Mimic Shiner)
Noturus eleutherus (Mountain Madtom)
Percina evides (Gilt Darter)
Percina sciera (Dusky Darter)
Percina tanasi (Snail Darter)
Phenacobius uranops (Stargazing Minnow)
Pleurocera pyrenella (Skirted Hornsnail)
Villosa trabalis (Cumberland Bean)
Villosa vanuxemensis (Mountain Creekshell)

Natural Communities

Cu/rv submesic needleleaf ever. forest (Cedar Glade)
Mountain spring (Mountain Spring)

Plants

Asplenium ruta-muraria (Wall Rue Spleenwort)
Astranthium integrifolium (Wild Daisy)
Baptisia australis var. *aberrans* (Glade Blue Indigo)
Bouteloua curtipendula (Side-oats Grama)
Buchnera americana (Bluehearts)
Camassia scilloides (Wild Hyacinth)
Dalea gattingeri (Gattinger Prairie Clover)
Delphinium carolinianum ssp. *calciphilum* (Glade Larkspur)
Eleocharis compressa (Spikerush)
Erigenia bulbosa (Harbinger-of-spring)
Fraxinus quadrangulata (Blue Ash)
Helianthus occidentalis (Barrens Sunflower)
Heliotropium tenellum (Delicate Heliotrope)
Hydrastis canadensis (Goldenseal)
Hypericum dolabriforme (Glade St. Johnswort)
Isoetes butleri (Glade Quillwort)
Juncus filipendulus (Texas Plains Rush)
Leavenworthia exigua var. *exigua* (Least Gladecress)
Liatris squarrosa var. *hirsuta* (Glade Gay-feather)
Matelea obliqua (Limerock Milkvine)
Mertensia virginica (Virginia Bluebells)
Onosmodium molle ssp. *occidentale* (Marble-seed)
Ophioglossum engelmannii (Limestone Adder-tongue Fern)
Parnassia grandifolia (Largeleaf Grass-of-Parnassus)
Pediomelum subacaule (Nashville Breadroot)
Polemonium reptans (Jacobs Ladder)
Rudbeckia grandiflora (Largeflower Coneflower)
Scutellaria leonardii (Glade Skullcap)
Scutellaria montana (Large-flowered Skullcap)
Silphium radula (Rosinweed)
Spiranthes magnicamporum (Great Plains Ladies-tresses)
Sporobolus heterolepis (Prairie Dropseed)
Symphotrichum pratense (Silky Aster)
Thaspium pinnatifidum (Glade Meadowparsnip)
Viola egglestonii (Glade Violet)

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Cherokee County, Georgia

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Animals

Acipenser fulvescens (Lake Sturgeon)
Cambarus fasciatus (Etowah Crayfish)
Etheostoma etowahae (Etowah Darter)
Etheostoma rupestre (Rock Darter)
Etheostoma scotti (Cherokee Darter)
Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle)
Hybopsis lineapunctata (Lined Chub)
Hybopsis sp. 9 (Etowah Chub)
Macrhybopsis sp. 1 (Coosa Chub)
Noturus munitus (Frecklebelly Madtom)
Noturus nocturnus (Freckled Madtom)
Percina antesella (Amber Darter)
Percina lenticula (Freckled Darter)
Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus (Northern Pine Snake)

Plants

Cypripedium parviflorum (Yellow Ladyslipper)
Eurybia jonesiae (Piedmont Bigleaf Aster)
Lygodium palmatum (Climbing Fern)
Lysimachia fraseri (Fraser's Loosestrife)
Nestronia umbellula (Indian Olive)
Prunus virginiana (Chokecherry)
Schisandra glabra (Bay Star-vine)
Xerophyllum asphodeloides (Eastern Turkeybeard)

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Clayton County, Georgia

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Animals

Notropis hypsilepis (Highscale Shiner)
Percina crypta (Halloween Darter)
Quincuncina infucata (Sculptured Pigtoe)
Utterbackia peggyae (Florida Floater)

Plants

Cypripedium acaule (Pink Ladyslipper)

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Cobb County, Georgia

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Animals

Ammodramus henslowii (Henslow's Sparrow)
Cambarus howardi (Chattahoochee Crayfish)
Elliptio arctata (Delicate Spike)
Elliptio fraterna (Brother Spike)
Etheostoma scotti (Cherokee Darter)
Hemidactylum scutatum (Four-toed Salamander)
Medionidus penicillatus (Gulf Moccasinshell)
Notropis hypsilepis (Highscale Shiner)
Nyctanassa violacea (Yellow-crowned Night-heron)
Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus (Northern Pine Snake)
Plethodon websteri (Webster's Salamander)

Plants

Arabis missouriensis (Missouri Rockcress)
Calystegia catesbeiana ssp. *sericata* (Silky Bindweed)
Cypripedium acaule (Pink Ladyslipper)
Draba aprica (Sun-loving Draba)
Melanthium latifolium (Broadleaf Bunchflower)
Nestronia umbellula (Indian Olive)
Platanthera integrilabia (Monkeyface Orchid)
Pycnanthemum curvipes (Stone Mountain Mint)
Rhus michauxii (Dwarf Sumac)
Schisandra glabra (Bay Star-vine)
Symphotrichum georgianum (Georgia Aster)
Zanthoxylum americanum (Northern Prickly-ash)

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Fulton County, Georgia

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Animals

Aimophila aestivalis (Bachman's Sparrow)
Cambarus howardi (Chattahoochee Crayfish)
Cyprinella callitaenia (Bluestripe Shiner)
Elliptio arctata (Delicate Spike)
Etheostoma scotti (Cherokee Darter)
Falco peregrinus (Peregrine Falcon)
Hamiota subangulata (Shinyrayed Pocketbook)
Hemidactylum scutatum (Four-toed Salamander)
Medionidus penicillatus (Gulf Moccasinshell)
Notropis hypsilepis (Highscale Shiner)
Nyctanassa violacea (Yellow-crowned Night-heron)
Quincuncina infucata (Sculptured Pigtoe)

Plants

Cypripedium acaule (Pink Ladyslipper)
Cypripedium parviflorum (Yellow Ladyslipper)
Dryopteris celsa (Log Fern)
Fothergilla major (Mountain Witch-alder)
Hexastylis shuttleworthii var. *harperi* (Harper Wild Ginger)
Listera australis (Southern Twayblade)
Monotropsis odorata (Sweet Pinesap)
Panax quinquefolius (American Ginseng)
Rhus michauxii (Dwarf Sumac)
Schisandra glabra (Bay Star-vine)
Symphyotrichum georgianum (Georgia Aster)
Waldsteinia lobata (Barren Strawberry)

Find details for species and natural communities on this list at NatureServe.org/explorer

Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
2070 U.S. Hwy. 278, SE, Social Circle, GA 30025

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(<http://georgiawildlife.com>)

Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Gordon County, Georgia

Generated from conservation database on July 16, 2010

Animals

Acipenser fulvescens (Lake Sturgeon)
Amblema elliottii (Roundlake)
Elimia capillaris (Spindle Elimia)
Elliptio arca (Alabama Spike)
Epioblasma metastriata (Upland Combshell)
Epioblasma othcaloogensis (Southern Acornshell)
Etheostoma ditrema (Coldwater Darter)
Etheostoma jordani (Greenbreast Darter)
Etheostoma rupestre (Rock Darter)
Etheostoma trisella (Trispot Darter)
Gomphus consanguis (Cherokee Clubtail)
Graptemys pulchra (Alabama Map Turtle)
Hybopsis lineapunctata (Lined Chub)
Lampsilis ovata (Pocketbook)
Leptoxis foremani (Interrupted Rocksnail)
Lythrurus lirus (Mountain Shiner)
Macrhybopsis sp. 1 (Coosa Chub)
Macrhybopsis storeriana (Silver Chub)
Medionidus acutissimus (Alabama Moccasinshell)
Medionidus parvulus (Coosa Moccasinshell)
Moxostoma carinatum (River Redhorse)
Percina aurolineata (Goldline Darter)
Pleurobema decisum (Southern Clubshell)
Pleurobema georgianum (Southern Pigtoe)
Pleurocera showalteri (Upland Hornsnail)
Ptychobranhus foremanianus (Rayed Kidneyshell)
Quadrula rumphiana (Ridged Mapleleaf)
Tyto alba (Barn owl)
Villosa vanuxemensis (Mountain Creekshell)

Plants

Amorpha nitens (Shining Indigo-bush)
Arabis georgiana (Georgia Rockcress)
Carex grayi (Asa Gray Sedge)
Carex purpurifera (Purple Sedge)

Chaerophyllum procumbens (Spreading Chervil)
Delphinium tricornis (Dwarf Larkspur)
Eleocharis tenuis var. *verrucosa* (Warty Slender Spikerush)
Erigeron bulbosus (Harbinger-of-spring)
Panax quinquefolium (American Ginseng)
Parietaria pensylvanica (Pennsylvania Pellitory)
Polemonium reptans (Jacobs Ladder)
Quercus palustris (Pin Oak)
Sabatia capitata (Cumberland Rose Gentian)
Scutellaria montana (Large-flowered Skullcap)
Thalictrum debile (Trailing Meadowrue)
Trillium lancifolium (Lanceleaf Trillium)
Xyris tennesseensis (Tennessee Yellow-eyed Grass)

Find details for species and natural communities on this list at NatureServe.org/explorer

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Murray County, Georgia

Generated from conservation database on July 16, 2010

Animals

Acipenser fulvescens (Lake Sturgeon)
Amblema elliottii (Roundlake)
Cambarus cymatilis (Conasauga Blue Burrower)
Cambarus speciosus (Beautiful Crayfish)
Corynorhinus rafinesquii (Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat)
Cyprinella caerulea (Blue Shiner)
Elimia capillaris (Spindle Elimia)
Elliptio arca (Alabama Spike)
Epioblasma metastriata (Upland Combshell)
Epioblasma othcaloogensis (Southern Acornshell)
Etheostoma brevirostrum (Holiday Darter)
Etheostoma ditrema (Coldwater Darter)
Etheostoma jordani (Greenbreast Darter)
Etheostoma rupestre (Rock Darter)
Etheostoma trisella (Trispot Darter)
Graptemys geographica (Map Turtle)
Graptemys pulchra (Alabama Map Turtle)
Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle)
Hamiota altilis (Finelined Pocketbook)
Hybopsis lineapunctata (Lined Chub)
Lasmigona holstonia (Tennessee Heelsplitter)
Lythrurus lirus (Mountain Shiner)
Macrhybopsis sp. 1 (Coosa Chub)
Macrhybopsis storeriana (Silver Chub)
Medionidus acutissimus (Alabama Moccasinshell)
Medionidus parvulus (Coosa Moccasinshell)
Moxostoma carinatum (River Redhorse)
Myotis leibii (Eastern Small-footed Myotis)
Neotoma floridana haematoreia (Southern Appalachian Woodrat)
Notropis asperifrons (Burrhead Shiner)
Noturus munitus (Frecklebelly Madtom)
Ophiogomphus edmodo (Edmund's Snaketail)
Percina antesella (Amber Darter)
Percina aurolineata (Goldline Darter)
Percina jenkinsi (Conasauga Logperch)
Percina kusha (Bridled Darter)
Percina lenticula (Freckled Darter)

Percina shumardi (River Darter)
Pleurobema decisum (Southern Clubshell)
Pleurobema georgianum (Southern Pigtoe)
Pleurobema hanleyianum (Georgia Pigtoe)
Ptychobranhus foremanianus (Rayed Kidneyshell)
Quadrula rumphiana (Ridged Mapleleaf)
Sorex hoyi (Pygmy Shrew)
Strophitus connasaugaensis (Alabama Creekmussel)

Natural Communities

Forest, sagpond (Sagpond Forest)
Mountain spring (Mountain Spring)

Plants

Agastache nepetoides (Yellow Giant Hyssop)
Aureolaria patula (Spreading Yellow Foxglove)
Carex appalachica (Appalachian Sedge)
Carex platyphylla (Broadleaf Sedge)
Carex purpurifera (Purple Sedge)
Carex scabrata (Sedge)
Chrysosplenium americanum (Golden Saxifrage)
Coreopsis latifolia (Broadleaf Tickseed)
Cypripedium acaule (Pink Ladyslipper)
Cypripedium parviflorum (Yellow Ladyslipper)
Dryopteris celsa (Log Fern)
Erigenia bulbosa (Harbinger-of-spring)
Hydrastis canadensis (Goldenseal)
Hydrophyllum macrophyllum (Largeleaf Waterleaf)
Hypericum dolabriforme (Glade St. Johnswort)
Juncus filipendulus (Texas Plains Rush)
Juncus gymnocarpus (Naked-fruit Rush)
Leavenworthia uniflora (Gladecress)
Lonicera dioica (Limber Honeysuckle)
Melanthium latifolium (Broadleaf Bunchflower)
Panax quinquefolius (American Ginseng)
Penstemon smallii (Small's Beardtongue)
Phlox amplifolia (Broadleaf Phlox)
Platanthera peramoena (Purple Fringeless Orchid)
Polymnia laevigata (Tennessee Leafcup)
Sabatia capitata (Cumberland Rose Gentian)
Scutellaria montana (Large-flowered Skullcap)
Stachys hispida (Hispid Hedge-nettle)
Stachys nuttallii (Nuttall's Hedge-nettle)
Symphyotrichum georgianum (Georgia Aster)
Thermopsis fraxinifolia (Ash-leaf Bush-pea)
Trientalis borealis (Starflower)
Xerophyllum asphodeloides (Eastern Turkeybeard)

Find details for species and natural communities on this list at NatureServe.org/explorer

**Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
2070 U.S. Hwy. 278, SE, Social Circle, GA 30025**

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Whitfield County, Georgia

Generated from conservation database on July 16, 2010

Animals

Amblema elliotii (Roundlake)
Cambarus cymatilis (Conasauga Blue Burrower)
Cambarus extraneus (Chickamauga Crayfish)
Cyprinella caerulea (Blue Shiner)
Cyprinella spiloptera (Spotfin Shiner)
Elliptio arca (Alabama Spike)
Epioblasma metastrata (Upland Combshell)
Epioblasma othcaloogensis (Southern Acornshell)
Etheostoma brevirostrum (Holiday Darter)
Etheostoma ditrema (Coldwater Darter)
Etheostoma jessiae (Blueside Darter)
Etheostoma jordani (Greenbreast Darter)
Etheostoma rufilineatum (Redline Darter)
Etheostoma rupestre (Rock Darter)
Etheostoma trisella (Trispot Darter)
Gomphus consanguis (Cherokee Clubtail)
Graptemys geographica (Map Turtle)
Graptemys pulchra (Alabama Map Turtle)
Hamiota altilis (Finelined Pocketbook)
Hemitremia flammea (Flame Chub)
Hybopsis lineapunctata (Lined Chub)
Lampsilis ovata (Pocketbook)
Lasmigona holstonia (Tennessee Heelsplitter)
Lioplax cyclostomaformis (Cylindrical Lioplax)
Lythrurus fasciolaris (Scarlet Shiner)
Lythrurus lirus (Mountain Shiner)
Macrhybopsis sp. 1 (Coosa Chub)
Macrhybopsis storeriana (Silver Chub)
Medionidus acutissimus (Alabama Moccasinshell)
Medionidus parvulus (Coosa Moccasinshell)
Moxostoma carinatum (River Redhorse)
Notropis asperifrons (Burrhead Shiner)
Noturus munitus (Frecklebelly Madtom)
Percina antesella (Amber Darter)
Percina jenkinsi (Conasauga Logperch)
Percina kusha (Bridled Darter)
Percina lenticula (Freckled Darter)

Percina sciera (Dusky Darter)
Pleurobema decisum (Southern Clubshell)
Pleurobema georgianum (Southern Pigtoe)
Pleurobema hanleyianum (Georgia Pigtoe)
Pleurocera pyrenella (Skirted Hornsnail)
Ptychobranchus foremanianus (Rayed Kidneyshell)
Quadrula rumphiana (Ridged Mapleleaf)
Sorex hoyi (Pygmy Shrew)
Strophitus connasaugaensis (Alabama Creekmussel)
Thryomanes bewickii (Bewick's Wren)
Toxolasma cylindrellus (Pale Lilliput)

Natural Communities

Cu/rv cave (Cumberland Plateau/ridge and Valley Cave)
Mountain spring (Mountain Spring)

Plants

Chaerophyllum procumbens (Spreading Chervil)
Cypripedium acaule (Pink Ladyslipper)
Cypripedium parviflorum (Yellow Ladyslipper)
Hydrophyllum macrophyllum (Largeleaf Waterleaf)
Isoetes appalachiana (Bigspore Engelmann's Quillwort)
Lysimachia fraseri (Fraser's Loosestrife)
Mertensia virginica (Virginia Bluebells)
Panax quinquefolius (American Ginseng)
Phlox amplifolia (Broadleaf Phlox)
Polemonium reptans (Jacobs Ladder)
Scutellaria montana (Large-flowered Skullcap)
Trillium lancifolium (Lanceleaf Trillium)
Trillium pusillum (Dwarf Trillium)
Xyris tennesseensis (Tennessee Yellow-eyed Grass)

Find details for species and natural communities on this list at NatureServe.org/explorer

Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
2070 U.S. Hwy. 278, SE, Social Circle, GA 30025



August 27, 2010

Ms. Mary Jennings
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
446 Neal Street
Cookeville, TN 38501

Re: Early Coordination Request for Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No. T001684 - Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study

Dear Ms. Jennings:

In July 2007 the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) filed a Notice of Intent to prepare a Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) project. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in conjunction with FHWA and FRA, are in the beginning stages of project development for the above-mentioned project. By copy of this letter we are requesting your input on the proposed project as part of the early coordination process.

The HSGT study area is a 110-mile corridor located between Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (HJAIA) in Atlanta, Georgia, and downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. Please see Figure 1, Study Area Map, for a graphical depiction of the alignments that are currently being evaluated. We will also be sending you an email that contains a link that will allow you to download the GIS shape files of the different alignments for your use and comparison to the species data you may have. The proposed HSGT alignments under consideration would include two terminal stations, downtown Chattanooga and HJAIA, and as many as six intermediate stations, Five Points (downtown Atlanta), Galleria (I-285 and I-75), Town Center, Cartersville, Dalton, and Lovell Field Airport. The HSGT project is currently evaluating alignments along the I-75 Interstate highway between Chattanooga and Atlanta:

- An alignment generally within the I-75 median; and
- An alignment generally outside of the I-75 median.

South of the I-75/I-285 divergence, each of the above alignments reaches HJAIA by two distinct routes:

- Via the Norfolk Southern Railroad right-of-way between I-285 and Howell Mill Road through downtown Atlanta and then south via I-75/I-85 corridor; and
- Via I-75 to Howell Mill Road through downtown Atlanta and the I-75/I-85 corridor.

Combined together the alignments form the four full-length alignments under consideration.

Two different types of locomotive power (Maglev and steel-wheel) are being evaluated for each alignment; therefore, eight alternatives are currently under consideration.

GDOT Project PTSC0-0023-00-002

PI No. T001684

Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study

August 27, 2010

Enclosed is a list of federally listed threatened and endangered species and state protected species with a distributional range that may include the proposed project. This list, which was derived from a computerized list of threatened and endangered species provided and updated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the TN Department of Environment and Conservation, will be used during the Tier I EIS ecological evaluation of this project. Please let us know if any additional species should be on the list. Please also provide information on any known locations of existing bald and golden eagle nests and foraging areas.

Alignment options for the project are being developed and evaluated concurrently with environmental documentation and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This process, developed by GDOT to make projects more responsive to social, economic, and environmental concerns, offers you the opportunity to identify the site-specific conditions to be addressed in the Tier I EIS. Please advise us of any known project area conditions of special concern. With your assistance we can give these issues due consideration and integrate them into the development of the preferred project alignment and mode.

We appreciate your efforts in assisting us with the development of this project. We request your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If no comments are received from your agency by then, we will assume you have no comments at this time. If you need additional review time, have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Gail D'Avino, GDOT Office of Environmental Services, at 404-631-1075 or email at gdavino@dot.ga.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Glenn Bowman, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator

GB/th/bh
Attachments

Hamilton County

Bald eagle - *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (T)
Snail darter - *Percina tanasi* (T)
Cumberland monkeyface pearly mussel - *Quadrula intermedia* (E)(h)
Dromedary pearly mussel - *Dromus dromas* (E)(h)
Fine-rayed pigtoe - *Fusconaia cuneolus* (E)(h)
Orangefoot pimpleback - *Plethobasus cooperianus* (E)
Pink mucket pearly mussel - *Lampsilis abrupta* (E) (= *Lampsilis orbiculata*)
Rough pigtoe - *Pleurobema plenum* (E)(h)
Tubercled-blossom pearly mussel - *Epioblasma torulosa torulosa* (E)(h)
Large-flowered skullcap - *Scutellaria montana* (E)
Small-whorled pogonia - *Isotria medeoloides* (T)
White fringeless orchid - *Platanthera integrilabia* (C)
Virginia spirea - *Spiraea virginiana* (T)



Tennessee Natural Heritage Program
Rare Species Observations For
Tennessee Counties



Hamilton County Known Species: 69

Invertebrate Animals: 7		St. Rank	Global Rank	St. Prot.	Fed. Prot.
<i>Cambarus extraneus</i>	Chickamauga Crayfish Springs & small to medium sized streams under rocks or in vegetation; South Chickamauga Creek watershed, Hamilton County.	S1S2	G2	T	--
<i>Dromus dromas</i>	Dromedary Pearlymussel Medium-large rivers with riffles and shoals w/ relatively firm rubble, gravel, and stable substrates; Tennessee & Cumberland systems.	S1	G1	E	LE
<i>Lampsilis abrupta</i>	Pink Mucket Generally a large river species, preferring sand-gravel or rocky substrates with mod-strong currents; Tennessee & Cumberland river systems.	S2	G2	E	LE
<i>Nesticus furtivus</i>	Crystal Caverns Cave Spider Terrestrial cave obligate, S Cumberlands; Hamilton County; known only from the type locality.	S1	G1	--	--
<i>Plethobasus cooperianus</i>	Orangefoot Pimpleback Large rivers in sand-gravel-cobble substrates in riffles and shoals in deep flowing water; Cumberland & Tennessee river systems.	S1	G1	E	LE
<i>Quadrula intermedia</i>	Cumberland Monkeyface Shallow riffle and shoal areas of headwater streams and bigger rivers, in coarse sand/gravel substrates; Tennessee River system.	S1	G1	E	LE
<i>Stygobromus nortoni</i>	Norton's Cave Amphipod Aquatic cave obligate, from pools; Eastern Highland Rim and Ridge & Valley.	SH	G2G3	--	--
Nonvascular Plants: 4		St. Rank	Global Rank	St. Prot.	Fed. Prot.
<i>Lejeunea blomquistii</i>	Blomquist Leafy Liverwort Mid Elev. Gorges On Rock Or Bark	S1S2	G1G2	S	--
<i>Lejeunea sharpii</i>	Sharp's Lejeunea Calcareous Bluffs, Rock & Logs Of Wet Sinks	S1S2	G2G3	E	--
<i>Metzgeria uncigera</i>	Metzgeria Bark Of American Holly	S1	G3	S	--
<i>Microlejeunea globosa</i>	Cardot's Lejeunea Creekside Edge Of Rockhouse	S1	G3?	S	--
Other Types: 1		St. Rank	Global Rank	St. Prot.	Fed. Prot.
<i>Heron rookery</i>	Heron Rookery	SNR	GNR	--	--
Vascular Plants: 40		St. Rank	Global Rank	St. Prot.	Fed. Prot.
<i>Acer leucoderme</i>	Chalk Maple Circumneutral Rocky Woods	S3	G5	S	--
<i>Aureolaria patula</i>	Spreading False-foxglove Oak Woods And Edges	S3	G3	S	--
<i>Castanea dentata</i>	American Chestnut Mesic To Dry Forests	S2S3	G4	S	--



Tennessee Natural Heritage Program
Rare Species Observations For
Tennessee Counties



Hamilton County . . . Continued

Known Species: 69

Vascular Plants: 40 . . . Continued		St. Rank	Global Rank	St. Prot.	Fed. Prot.
<i>Clematis glaucophylla</i>	White-leaved Leatherflower Wooded Stream Banks	S1	G4?	E	--
<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>	Pink Lady's-slipper Piney Woods	S4	G5	S-CE	--
<i>Danthonia epilis</i>	Bog Oat-grass Acidic Seeps	S1S2	G3G4	S	--
<i>Delphinium exaltatum</i>	Tall Larkspur Glades And Barrens	S2	G3	E	--
<i>Diamorpha smallii</i>	Small's Stonecrop Sandstone Outcrops	S1S2	G4	E	--
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Northern Bush-honeysuckle Rocky Woodlands And Bluffs	S2	G5	T	--
<i>Diervilla sessilifolia var. rivularis</i>	Mountain Bush-honeysuckle Dry Cliffs And Bluffs	S2	G3	T	--
<i>Galium uniflorum</i>	Fragrant Bedstraw Dry Woods	S1	G4G5	S	--
<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	Yellow Jessamine Dry Openings	S1S2	G5	S	--
<i>Glyceria acutiflora</i>	Sharp-scaled Mannagrass Swamps,Ponds	S2	G5	S	--
<i>Gratiola floridana</i>	Florida Hedge-hyssop Wooded Swamps	S1	G4	E	--
<i>Helianthus occidentalis</i>	Naked-stem Sunflower Limestone Glades And Barrens; Roadsides	S2	G5	S	--
<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	Small Whorled Pogonia Mid-Elevation Dry Woods	S1	G2	E	LT
<i>Lilium canadense</i>	Canada Lily Rich Woods And Seeps	S3	G5	T	--
<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>	Wood Lily Dry Openings, Powerlines	S1	G5	E	--
<i>Lonicera dioica</i>	Mountain Honeysuckle Mountain Woods And Thickets	S2	G5	S	--
<i>Lonicera flava</i>	Yellow Honeysuckle Rocky Woods And Thickets	S1	G5?	T	--
<i>Lysimachia fraseri</i>	Fraser's Loosestrife Dry Open Woods	S2	G3	E	--
<i>Nestronia umbellula</i>	Nestronia Upland Woods	S1	G4	E	--
<i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	American Ginseng Rich Woods	S3S4	G3G4	S-CE	--



Tennessee Natural Heritage Program
Rare Species Observations For
Tennessee Counties



Hamilton County . . . Continued

Known Species: 69

Vascular Plants: 40 . . . Continued

St. Rank Global Rank St. Prot. Fed. Prot.

<i>Platanthera integrilabia</i>	White Fringeless Orchid Acidic Seeps And Stream Heads	S2S3	G2G3	E	C
<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	Nuttall's Pondweed Lakes And Streams	S1S2	G5	S	--
<i>Ribes curvatum</i>	Granite Gooseberry Rocky Woods	S1	G4	T	--
<i>Sabatia capitata</i>	Cumberland Rose Gentian Dry Open Woods, Powerlines	S2	G2	E	--
<i>Sacciolepis striata</i>	Gibbous Panic-grass Floodplains And Shallow Pools	S1	G5	S	--
<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>	Ovate-leaved Arrowhead Swamps, Emmergent	S2S3	G5	S	--
<i>Scutellaria montana</i>	Large-flowered Skullcap Escarpments, Dry Woods	S2	G3	T	LT
<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	Compass Plant Barrens	S2	G5	T	--
<i>Spiraea virginiana</i>	Virginia Spiraea Stream Bars And Ledges	S2	G2	E	LT
<i>Stylisma humistrata</i>	Southern Morning-glory Dry Piney Woods	S1	G4G5	T	--
<i>Talinum mengesii</i>	Menge's Fame-flower Dry Rock Ledges	S2	G3	T	--
<i>Talinum teretifolium</i>	Roundleaf Fameflower Dry Sandy Rock Outcrops	S2	G4	T	--
<i>Thermopsis mollis</i>	Allegheny Mountain golden banner Upland Woods	S2S3	G3G4	S	--
<i>Trillium lancifolium</i>	Narrow-leaved Trillium Alluvial Woods And Moist Ravines	S1	G3	E	--
<i>Trillium rugelii</i>	Southern Nodding Trillium Rich Mountain Woods	S2	G3	E	--
<i>Viola tripartita var. tripartita</i>	Three-parted Violet Wooded Slopes	S2S3	G5T3	S	--
<i>Woodwardia virginica</i>	Virginia Chainfern Acidic Wetlands	S2	G5	S	--

Vertebrate Animals: 17

St. Rank Global Rank St. Prot. Fed. Prot.

<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk Forests and open woodlands.	S3B,S4N	G5	D	No Status
<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	Bachman's Sparrow Dry open pine or oak woods; nests on the ground in dense cover.	S1B	G3	E	--



Tennessee Natural Heritage Program
Rare Species Observations For
Tennessee Counties



Hamilton County . . . Continued

Known Species 69

Vertebrate Animals: 17 . . . Continued	St. Rank	Global Rank	St. Prot.	Fed. Prot.
<i>Aneides aeneus</i>	Green Salamander S3S4 Damp crevices in shaded rock outcrops and ledges; beneath loose bark and cracks of trees and sometimes in/or under logs.	G3G4	--	--
<i>Carpiodes velifer</i>	Highfin Carpsucker S2S3 Large rivers, mostly in Tennessee River drainage.	G4G5	D	--
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon S1B Varied habitats including farmlands, marshes, river mouths, and cities; often nests on ledges.	G4	E	No Status
<i>Gyrinophilus palleucus</i>	Tennessee Cave Salamander S2 Aquatic cave obligate; cave streams & rimstone pools; Central Basin, Eastern Highland Rim, & Cumberland Plateau.	G2G3	T	--
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle S3 Areas close to large bodies of water; roosts in sheltered sites in winter; communal roost sites common.	G5	D	--
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern S2B Marshes with scattered bushes or other woody growth; readily uses artificial wetland habitats.	G5	D	--
<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	Swainson's Warbler S3 Mature, rich, damp, deciduous floodplain and swamp forests.	G4	D	--
<i>Neotoma magister</i>	Allegheny Woodrat S3 Outcrops, cliffs, talus slopes, crevices, sinkholes, caves & karst.	G3G4	D	--
<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus longicaudus</i>	Eastern Slender Glass Lizard S3 Dry upland areas including brushy, cut-over woodlands and grassy fields; nearly statewide but obscure; fossorial.	G5T5	D	--
<i>Percina tanasi</i>	Snail Darter S2S3 Sand and gravel shoals of moderately flowing, vegetated, large creeks; upper Tennessee River watershed.	G2G3	T	LT
<i>Rallus elegans</i>	King Rail S2 Marshes, upland-wetland marsh edges, flooded farmlands, shrub swamps.	G4	D	--
<i>Sorex fumeus</i>	Smoky Shrew S4 Damp wooded areas including coniferous or mixed forests; middle and east Tennessee.	G5	D	--
<i>Sorex longirostris</i>	Southeastern Shrew S4 Various habitats including wet meadows, damp woods, and uplands; statewide.	G5	D	--
<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Bewick's Wren S1 Brushy areas, thickets and scrub in open country, open and riparian woodland.	G5	E	--
<i>Tyto alba</i>	Barn Owl S3 Open and partly open country, often around human habitation; farms.	G5	D	--

-- End of Hamilton --



August 27, 2010

Ms. Katrina Morris
Environmental Review Coordinator
GA Department of Natural Resources
Nongame Conservation Section
Wildlife Resource Conservation Center
2065 US Hwy 278, SE
Social Circle, Georgia 30025-4743

Re: Early Coordination Request for Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No. T001684 - Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study

Dear Ms. Morris:

In July 2007 the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) filed a Notice of Intent to prepare a Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) project. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in conjunction with FHWA and FRA, are in the beginning stages of project development for the above-mentioned project. By copy of this letter we are requesting your input on the proposed project as part of the early coordination process.

The HSGT study area is a 110-mile corridor located between Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (HJAIA) in Atlanta, Georgia, and downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. Please see Figure 1, Study Area Map, for a graphical depiction of the alignments that are currently being evaluated. We will also be sending you an email that contains a link that will allow you to download the GIS shape files of the different alignments for your use and comparison to the species data you may have. The proposed HSGT alignments under consideration would include two terminal stations, downtown Chattanooga and HJAIA, and as many as six intermediate stations, Five Points (downtown Atlanta), Galleria (I-285 and I-75), Town Center, Cartersville, Dalton, and Lovell Field Airport. The HSGT project is currently evaluating alignments along the I-75 Interstate highway between Chattanooga and Atlanta:

- An alignment generally within the I-75 median; and
- An alignment generally outside of the I-75 median.

South of the I-75/I-285 divergence, each of the above alignments reaches HJAIA by two distinct routes:

- Via the Norfolk Southern Railroad right-of-way between I-285 and Howell Mill Road through downtown Atlanta and then south via I-75/I-85 corridor; and
- Via I-75 to Howell Mill Road through downtown Atlanta and the I-75/I-85 corridor.

Combined together the alignments form the four full-length alignments under consideration.

Two different types of locomotive power (Maglev and steel-wheel) are being evaluated for each alignment; therefore, eight alternatives are currently under consideration.

GDOT Project PTSC0-0023-00-002

PI No. T001684

Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study

August 27, 2010

Enclosed is a list of federally listed threatened and endangered species and state protected species with a distributional range that may include the proposed project. This list, which was derived from a computerized list of threatened and endangered species provided and updated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the GA Department of Natural Resources, will be used during the Tier I EIS ecological evaluation of this project. Please let us know if any additional species should be on the list. Please also provide information on any known locations of existing bald and golden eagle nests and foraging areas.

Alignment options for the project are being developed and evaluated concurrently with environmental documentation and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This process, developed by GDOT to make projects more responsive to social, economic, and environmental concerns, offers you the opportunity to identify the site-specific conditions to be addressed in the Tier I EIS. Please advise us of any known project area conditions of special concern. With your assistance we can give these issues due consideration and integrate them into the development of the preferred project alignment and mode.

We appreciate your efforts in assisting us with the development of this project. We request your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If no comments are received from your agency by then, we will assume you have no comments at this time. If you need additional review time, have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Gail D'Avino, GDOT Office of Environmental Services, at 404-631-1075 or email at gdavino@dot.ga.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Glenn Bowman, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator

GB/th/bh
Attachments

Listed Species in Bartow County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Mammal				
Gray bat <i>Myotis grisescens</i>	E	E	Colonies restricted to caves or cave-like habitats; forage primarily over water along rivers or lake shores	Human disturbance and vandalism in caves, pesticides, flooding of caves by impoundments, and loss of insect prey over streams degraded by siltation and pollution
Bird				
Fish				
Cherokee darter <i>Etheostoma scotti</i>	T	T	Shallow water (0.1-0.5 m) in small to medium warm water creeks (1-15 m wide) with predominantly rocky bottoms. Usually found in sections with reduced current, typically runs above and below riffles and at ecotones of riffles and backwaters.	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Etowah darter <i>Etheostoma etowahae</i>	E	E	Shallow riffle habitat, with large gravel, cobble, and small boulder substrates. Usually found in medium and large cool water creeks or small rivers (15-30 m wide) with moderate or high gradients and rocky bottoms.	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Invertebrate				
Cylindrical lioplax Lioplax cyclostomaformis	E	No State Status	Gill-breathing snail that lives in mud under large rocks in rapid currents over stream and river shoals. Historic population in Armuchee Creek, Floyd County, probably extirpated.	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Plant				
Bay star-vine <i>Schisandra glabra</i>	No Federal Status	T	Twining on subcanopy and understory trees/shrubs in rich alluvial woods	
Tennessee yellow-eyed grass <i>Xyris tennesseensis</i>	E	E	Gravelly open, calcareous, seepy margins and wet meadows along spring-fed headwater streams	
Twinleaf <i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i>	No Federal Status	E	Rich moist deciduous woods over limestone	

Listed Species in Catoosa County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Mammal				
Gray bat <i>Myotis grisescens</i>	E	E	Colonies restricted to caves or cave-like habitats; forage primarily over water along rivers or lake shores	Human disturbance and vandalism in caves, pesticides, flooding of caves by impoundments, and loss of insect prey over streams degraded by siltation and pollution
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Fish				
Flame chub <i>Hemitremia flammea</i>	No Federal Status	E	Springs and springfed streams	
Mountain madtom <i>Noturus eleutherus</i>	No Federal Status	T	Gravelly or rocky streams	
Popeye shiner <i>Notropis ariommus</i>	No Federal Status	T	Mountain stream; gravelly streams	
Snail darter <i>Percina tanasi</i>	T	T	Adults live and spawn in gravel shoal habitat in the South Chickamauga Creek (population found 1980); larvae drift downstream to nursery areas	
Stargazing minnow <i>Phenacobius uranops</i>	No Federal Status	T	Clear, moderate-gradient streams and small rivers. Inhabits riffles and, more commonly, runs 15-50 cm deep. Adults and juveniles found over clean or slightly silted gravel and small to medium rubble.	
Plant				
Large-flowered skullcap				Logging, wildfires, livestock

<i>Scutellaria montana</i>	E	T	Mature oak-pine forests with sparse understory	grazing, residential development, and small populations coupled with limited distribution
Glade-cress <i>Leavenworthia exigua exigua</i>	No Federal Status	T	Open areas on limestone cedar glades where soil is gravelly and usually <5cm deep; associated with a blue green alga (<i>Nostoc sp.</i>) in wet months	
Great Plains ladies-tresses <i>Spiranthes magnicamporum</i>	No Federal Status	E	Grassy areas in open or partial shade on flat, limestone outcrops (cedar glades) where the soil is a heavy, sticky clay	

Listed Species in Cherokee County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia. Active eagle nests were located in Cherokee County in 1997-1999 and 2000-2002.	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Fish				
Amber darter <i>Percina antesella</i>	E	E	Gentle riffle areas over sand and gravel substrate that becomes vegetated (primarily with <i>Podostemum</i>) during summer	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Bluestripe shiner <i>Cyprinella callitaenia</i>	No Federal Status	T	Brownwater streams	
Cherokee darter <i>Etheostoma scotti</i>	T	T	Shallow water (0.1-0.5 m) in small to medium warm water creeks (1-15 m wide) with predominantly rocky bottoms. Usually found in sections with reduced current, typically runs above and below riffles and at ecotones of riffles and backwaters.	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Etowah darter <i>Etheostoma etowahae</i>	E	E	Shallow riffle habitat, with large gravel, cobble, and small boulder substrates. Usually found in medium and large cool water creeks or small rivers (15-30 m wide) with moderate or high gradients and rocky bottoms.	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Frecklebelly madtom <i>Noturus munitus</i>	No Federal Status	E	Rivers with moderate to swift current over substrates ranging from coarse gravel to boulders, submerged trees, and brush.	
Freckled darter <i>Percina lenticula</i>	No Federal Status	E	Fast deep rocky riffles of small to medium streams	
Freckled madtom	No Federal	E	Rivers with moderate to swift current over substrates ranging from	Extremely rare. Stream impoundment and habitat

<i>Noturus nocturnus</i>	Status		coarse gravel to boulders, submerged trees, and brush.	degradation.
Plant				
Bay star-vine <i>Schisandra glabra</i>	No Federal Status	T	Twining on subcanopy and understory trees/shrubs in rich alluvial woods	
Indian olive <i>Nestronia umbellula</i>	No Federal Status	T	Dry open upland forests of mixed hardwood and pine	

Listed Species in Clayton County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia.	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Wood stork <i>Mycteria americana</i>	E	E	Primarily feed in fresh and brackish wetlands and nest in cypress or other wooded swamps. Active rookeries were located in Camden County 1991-2001.	Decline due primarily to loss of suitable feeding habitat, particularly in south Florida. Other factors include loss of nesting habitat, prolonged drought/flooding, raccoon predation on nests, and human disturbance of rookeries.
Invertebrate				
Oval pigtoe mussel <i>Pleurobema pyriforme</i>	E	E	River tributaries and main channels in slow to moderate currents over silty sand, muddy sand, sand, and gravel substrates	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation

Listed Species in Cobb County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia.	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Fish				
Bluestripe shiner <i>Cyprinella callitaenia</i>	No Federal Status	T	Brownwater streams	
Cherokee darter <i>Etheostoma scotti</i>	T	T	Shallow water (0.1-0.5 m) in small to medium warm water creeks (1-15 m wide) with predominantly rocky bottoms. Usually found in sections with reduced current, typically runs above and below riffles and at ecotones of riffles and backwaters.	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Highscale shiner <i>Notropis hypsilepis</i>	No Federal Status	T	Blackwater and brownwater streams	
Plant				
Bay star-vine <i>Schisandra glabra</i>	No Federal Status	T	Twining on subcanopy and understory trees/shrubs in rich alluvial woods	
Georgia Aster <i>Aster georgianus</i>	Candidate Species	T	Post oak savannah/prairie communities. Most remaining populations survive adjacent to roads, utility rights of way, and other openings.	
Indian olive <i>Nestronia umbellula</i>	No Federal Status	T	Dry open upland forests of mixed hardwood and pine	
Michaux's			Sandy or rocky open woods, usually on ridges with a disturbance history (periodic fire, prior	Low reproductive capability (dioecious), low genetic variability associated with

sumac <i>Rhus michauxii</i>	E	E	agricultural use, maintained right-of-ways); the known population of this species in Cobb County has been extirpated (last seen in county in 1900)	geographic isolation, hybridization with <i>R. copallina</i> and <i>R. glabra</i> , and habitat loss due to development
Open-ground whitlow-grass <i>Draba aprica</i>	No Federal Status	E	Shallow soils on granite outcrops, especially beneath eastern redcedar	
White fringeless orchid <i>Platanthera integrilabia</i>	Candidate Species	T	Red maple-blackgum swamps; also sandy damp stream margins; on seepy, rocky, thinly vegetated slopes. Also known as Monkey-face Orchid .	

Listed Species in Fulton County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia.	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Invertebrate				
Gulf moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus pencillatus</i>	E	E	Medium streams to large rivers with slight to moderate current over sand and gravel substrates; may be associated with muddy sand substrates around tree roots	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Shiny-rayed pocketbook mussel <i>Hamiota subangulata</i>	E	E	Medium creeks to the mainstems of rivers with slow to moderate currents over sandy substrates and associated with rock or clay	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Fish				
Bluestripe shiner <i>Cyprinella callitaenia</i>	No Federal Status	T	Brownwater streams	
Cherokee darter <i>Etheostoma scotti</i>	T	T	Shallow water (0.1-0.5 m) in small to medium warm water creeks (1-15 m wide) with predominantly rocky bottoms. Usually found in sections with reduced current, typically runs above and below riffles and at ecotones of riffles and backwaters.	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Highscale shiner <i>Notropis hypsilepis</i>	No Federal Status	T	Blackwater and brownwater streams	
Plant				
Bay star-vine <i>Schisandra</i>	No Federal Status	T	Twining on subcanopy and understory trees/shrubs in rich alluvial woods	

<i>glabra</i>				
Piedmont barren strawberry <i>Waldsteinia lobata</i>	No Federal Status	T	Rocky acedic woods along streams with mountain laurel; rarely in drier upland oak-hickory-pine woods	

Listed Species in Gordon County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Mammal				
Gray bat <i>Myotis grisescens</i>	E	E	Colonies restricted to caves or cave-like habitats; forage primarily over water along rivers or lake shores	Human disturbance and vandalism in caves, pesticides, flooding of caves by impoundments, and loss of insect prey over streams degraded by siltation and pollution
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Reptile				
Alabama map turtle <i>Graptemys pulchra</i>	No Federal Status	Rare	Rivers, creeks, and lakes	
Invertebrate				
Alabama moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>	T	T	Rivers and large creeks. Prefers stable gravel or sandy gravel substrates.	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Coosa moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus parvulus</i>	E	E	Stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in high quality free-flowing streams and rivers	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Georgia Rocksnail <i>Leptoxis downei</i>	Candidate Species	E	Shoals, riffles and reefs of small to large rivers. Historically occurred in upper Coosa River. Found in Oostanaula River in Floyd and Gordon Counties	
Southern acornshell mussel <i>Epioblasma</i>	E	E	High quality upland streams ranging in size from large creeks to small rivers; stable sand/gravel/cobble substrate in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation

<i>othcaloogensis</i>				
Southern clubshell mussel <i>Pleurobema decisum</i>	E	E	Rivers of medium size with a moderately high gradient and with areas of stable substrate characterized by sand-gravel sediments	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Southern pigtoe mussel <i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>	E	E	Stable gravel and sandy gravel substrates in high-quality free-flowing streams and rivers	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Triangular kidneyshell mussel <i>Ptychobranchus greeni</i>	E	E	High quality rivers and large creeks in stable gravel and sandy gravel substrates	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Upland combshell mussel <i>Epioblasma metastrata</i>	E	E	High quality, free-flowing rivers and large creeks; stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Fish				
Blue shiner <i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>	T	E	Medium to large clear cool streams with gravel-rubble-small boulder substrates; found in streams draining into the Coosa and Oostanaula Rivers	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Goldline darter <i>Percina aurolineata</i>	T	T	Main channel of rivers in white-water rapids \geq 2-3 feet deep	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Trispot darter <i>Etheostoma trisella</i>	No Federal Status	T	Mountain streams	
Plant				
Georgia Rockcress <i>Arabis georgianus</i>	Candidate Species	T	Rocky bluffs and slopes along waterways; also on sandy, eroding riverbanks	
Georgia rock-cress <i>Arabis georgiana</i>	Candidate Species	T	Rocky (limestone, shale, granite-gneiss) bluffs and slopes along watercourses; also along sandy, eroding riverbanks	

Large-flowered skullcap <i>Scutellaria montana</i>	E	T	Mature oak-pine forests with sparse understory	Logging, wildfires, livestock grazing, residential development, and small populations coupled with limited distribution
Purple sedge <i>Carex purpurifera</i>	No Federal Status	T	Mixed mesophytic or cove hardwoods with a wide array of canopy species, rich vernal flora, and calcareous soils	
Tennessee yellow-eyed grass <i>Xyris tennesseensis</i>	E	E	Gravelly open, calcareous, seepy margins and wet meadows along spring-fed headwater streams	
Trailing meadowrue <i>Thalictrum debile</i>	No Federal Status	T	Near streams in rich alluvial soils of forested floodplains over limestone bedrock	

Listed Species in Murray County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Mammal				
Indiana bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E	E	Hibernate in caves; offspring primarily reared in wooded streamside habitat; forage primarily in riparian and floodplain areas; known hibernacula cave in Dade County since 1960's.	Human disturbance and vandalism in caves, deforestation and stream channelization, natural hazards such as cave flooding or cave-ins, and possibly insecticide poisoning
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia. Active eagle nests were located in Murray County 1995-1999 and 2000-2002	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Invertebrate				
Alabama clubshell <i>Pleurobema troshelianum</i>	Candidate Species	T	Moderate to high gradient reefs, shoals and riffles of small to large rivers in the Coosa River system. Found in Murray and Whitfield Counties	
Alabama moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>	T	T	Rivers and large creeks. Prefers stable gravel or sandy gravel substrates.	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Coosa moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus parvulus</i>	E	E	Stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in high quality free-flowing streams and rivers	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Fine-lined pocketbook mussel <i>Hamiota altilis</i>	T	T	High quality, free-flowing rivers and large creeks; stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Georgia pigtoe			Moderate to high gradient reefs, shoals and riffles of small to large	

<i>Pleurobema hanleyanum</i>	Candidate Species	E	rivers in the Coosa River system. Found in Murray and Whitfield Counties	
Gulf moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus pencillatus</i>	E	E	Medium streams to large rivers with slight to moderate current over sand and gravel substrates; may be associated with muddy sand substrates around tree roots	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Ovate clubshell mussel <i>Pleurobema perovatum</i>	E	E	High quality, free-flowing large to small rivers and streams in stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrate	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Painted clubshell <i>Pleurobema chattanoogaense</i>	Candidate Species	E	Moderate to high gradient reefs, shoals and riffles of small to large rivers in the Coosa River system. Found in Murray and Whitfield Counties	
Southern acornshell mussel <i>Epioblasma othcaloogensis</i>	E	E	High quality upland streams ranging in size from large creeks to small rivers; stable sand/gravel/cobble substrate in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Southern clubshell mussel <i>Pleurobema decisum</i>	E	E	Rivers of medium size with a moderately high gradient and with areas of stable substrate characterized by sand-gravel sediments	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Southern pigtoe mussel <i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>	E	E	Stable gravel and sandy gravel substrates in high-quality free-flowing streams and rivers	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Triangular kidneyshell mussel <i>Ptychobranchnus greeni</i>	E	E	High quality rivers and large creeks in stable gravel and sandy gravel substrates	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Upland combshell mussel <i>Epioblasma metastrata</i>	E	E	High quality, free-flowing rivers and large creeks; stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Fish				
			Gentle riffle areas over sand and gravel substrate that becomes	

Amber darter <i>Percina antesella</i>	E	E	vegetated (primarily with <i>Podostemum</i>) during summer; last taken in Etowah River in 1980; historic population in Shoal Creek probably extirpated by construction of Allatoona Reservoir in 1950	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Blue shiner <i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>	T	E	Medium to large clear cool streams with gravel-rubble-small boulder substrates; found in streams draining into the Coosa and Oostanaula Rivers	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Conasauga logperch <i>Percina jenkinsi</i>	E	E	Pool areas with flowing water and substrates of rubble, gravel and sand; spawns seasonally in riffle areas over gravel; critical habitat designated in the Conasauga River from the GA/TN border to GA Hwy 2 Bridge	Habitat loss due to habitat degradation and poor water quality
Coldwater darter <i>Etheostoma ditrema</i>	No Federal Status	T	Springs and gravelly streams	
Frecklebelly madtom <i>Noturus munitus</i>	No Federal Status	E	Rivers with moderate to swift current over substrates ranging from coarse gravel to boulders, submerged trees, and brush.	
Freckled darter <i>Percina lenticula</i>	No Federal Status	E	Fast deep rocky riffles of small to medium streams	
Goldline darter <i>Percina aurolineata</i>	T	T	Main channel of rivers in white-water rapids > 2-3 feet deep	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Holiday darter <i>Etheostoma brevirostrum</i>	No Federal Status	T	Rocky streams	
River darter <i>Percina shumardi</i>	No Federal Status	E	Large to medium rivers, deep chutes and riffles, coarse gravel substrates	
Trispot darter <i>Etheostoma trisella</i>	No Federal Status	T	Mountain streams	
Plant				
Golden seal <i>Hydrastis canadensis</i>	No Federal Status	E	Rich woods and cove forests in the mountains	

Large-flowered skullcap <i>Scutellaria montana</i>	E	T	Mature oak-pine forests with sparse understory	Logging, wildfires, livestock grazing, residential development, and small populations coupled with limited distribution
Purple sedge <i>Carex purpurifera</i>	No Federal Status	T	Mixed mesophytic or cove hardwoods with a wide array of canopy species, rich vernal flora, and calcareous soils	

Listed Species in Whitfield County (updated May 2004)				
Species	Federal Status	State Status	Habitat	Threats
Mammal				
Indiana bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E	E	Hibernate in caves; offspring primarily reared in wooded streamside habitat; forage primarily in riparian and floodplain areas; known hibernacula cave in Dade County since 1960's.	Human disturbance and vandalism in caves, deforestation and stream channelization, natural hazards such as cave flooding or cave-ins, and possibly insecticide poisoning
Bird				
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	Inland waterways and estuarine areas in Georgia.	Major factor in initial decline was lowered reproductive success following use of DDT. Current threats include habitat destruction, disturbance at the nest, illegal shooting, electrocution, impact injuries, and lead poisoning.
Invertebrate				
Alabama clubshell <i>Pleurobema troshelianum</i>	Candidate Species	T	Moderate to high gradient reefs, shoals and riffles of small to large rivers in the Coosa River system. Found in Murray and Whitfield Counties	
Alabama moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus acutissimus</i>	T	T	Rivers and large creeks. Prefers stable gravel or sandy gravel substrates.	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Coosa moccasinshell mussel <i>Medionidus parvulus</i>	E	E	Stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in high quality free-flowing streams and rivers	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Conasauga logperch <i>Percina jenkinsi</i>	E	E	Pool areas with flowing water and substrates of rubble, gravel and sand; spawns seasonally in riffle areas over gravel; critical habitat designated in the Conasauga River from the GA/TN border to GA Hwy 2 Bridge	Habitat loss due to habitat degradation and poor water quality
Fine-lined pocketbook mussel	T	T	High quality, free-flowing rivers and large creeks; stable gravel	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water

<i>Hamiota altilis</i>			and sandy-gravel substrates in moderate to swift currents	quality degradation
Georgia pigtoe <i>Pleurobema hanleyanum</i>	Candidate Species	E	Moderate to high gradient reefs, shoals and riffles of small to large rivers in the Coosa River system. Found in Murray and Whitfield Counties	
Ovate clubshell mussel <i>Pleurobema perovatum</i>	E	E	High quality, free-flowing large to small rivers and streams in stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrate	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Painted clubshell <i>Pleurobema chattanoogaense</i>	Candidate Species	E	Moderate to high gradient reefs, shoals and riffles of small to large rivers in the Coosa River system. Found in Murray and Whitfield Counties	
Southern acornshell mussel <i>Epioblasma othcaloogensis</i>	E	E	High quality upland streams ranging in size from large creeks to small rivers; stable sand/gravel/cobble substrate in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Southern clubshell mussel <i>Pleurobema decisum</i>	E	E	Rivers of medium size with a moderately high gradient and with areas of stable substrate characterized by sand-gravel sediments	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Southern pigtoe mussel <i>Pleurobema georgianum</i>	E	E	Stable gravel and sandy gravel substrates in high-quality free-flowing streams and rivers	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Triangular kidneyshell mussel <i>Ptychobranthus greeni</i>	E	E	High quality rivers and large creeks in stable gravel and sandy gravel substrates	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Upland combshell mussel <i>Epioblasma metastrata</i>	E	E	High quality, free-flowing rivers and large creeks; stable gravel and sandy-gravel substrates in moderate to swift currents	Habitat modification, sedimentation, and water quality degradation
Fish				
Amber darter	E	E	Gentle riffle areas over sand and gravel substrate that becomes vegetated (primarily with <i>Podostemum</i>) during summer;	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat

<i>Percina antesella</i>			critical habitat designated in the Conasauga River from the GA/TN border to Tibbs Bridge	degradation, and poor water quality
Blue shiner <i>Cyprinella caerulea</i>	T	E	Medium to large clear cool streams with gravel-rubble-small boulder substrates; found in streams draining into the Coosa and Oostanaula Rivers.	Habitat loss due to dam and reservoir construction, habitat degradation, and poor water quality
Coldwater darter <i>Etheostoma ditrema</i>	No Federal Status	T	Springs and gravelly streams	
Flame chub <i>Hemitremia flammea</i>	No Federal Status	E	Springs and springfed streams	
Frecklebelly madtom <i>Noturus munitus</i>	No Federal Status	E	Rivers with moderate to swift current over substrates ranging from coarse gravel to boulders, submerged trees, and brush.	
Freckled darter <i>Percina lenticula</i>	No Federal Status	E	Fast deep rocky riffles of small to medium streams	
Holiday darter <i>Etheostoma brevirostrum</i>	No Federal Status	T	Rocky streams	
Trispot darter <i>Etheostoma trisella</i>	No Federal Status	T	Mountain streams	
Plant				
Large-flowered skullcap <i>Scutellaria montana</i>	E	T	Mature oak-pine forests with sparse understory	Logging, wildfires, livestock grazing, residential development, and small populations coupled with limited distribution
Tennessee yellow-eyed grass <i>Xyris tennesseensis</i>	E	E	Gravelly open, calcareous, seepy margins and wet meadows along spring-fed headwater streams	

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Bartow County, Georgia

Generated from conservation database on July 16, 2010

Animals

Cambarus fasciatus (Etowah Crayfish)
Etheostoma ditrema (Coldwater Darter)
Etheostoma etowahae (Etowah Darter)
Etheostoma jordani (Greenbreast Darter)
Etheostoma rupestre (Rock Darter)
Etheostoma scotti (Cherokee Darter)
Hybopsis lineapunctata (Lined Chub)
Hybopsis sp. 9 (Etowah Chub)
Lasmigona holstonia (Tennessee Heelsplitter)
Lioplax cyclostomaformis (Cylindrical Lioplax)
Lythrurus lirus (Mountain Shiner)
Macrhybopsis sp. 1 (Coosa Chub)
Macrhybopsis storeriana (Silver Chub)
Myotis grisescens (Gray Myotis)
Notropis volucellus (Mimic Shiner)
Tyto alba (Barn owl)
Villosa nebulosa (Alabama Rainbow)

Natural Communities

Forest, sagpond (Sagpond Forest)
Shrub/scrub veg. sagpond (Sagpond Scrub-shrub)

Plants

Acorus americanus (Sweetflag)
Alnus maritima (Seaside Alder)
Berberis canadensis (American Barberry)
Buchnera americana (Bluehearts)
Calystegia catesbeiana ssp. sericata (Silky Bindweed)
Camassia scilloides (Wild Hyacinth)
Carex buxbaumii (Brown Bog Sedge)
Cheilanthes alabamensis (Alabama Lipfern)
Crataegus triflora (Three-flowered Hawthorn)
Delphinium tricornis (Dwarf Larkspur)
Dryopteris celsa (Log Fern)

Fothergilla major (Mountain Witch-alder)
Glyceria pallida (Pale Manna-grass)
Hottonia inflata (Featherfoil)
Oldenlandia boscii (Bluets)
Panax quinquefolius (American Ginseng)
Phacelia fimbriata (Fringed Phacelia)
Polemonium reptans (Jacobs Ladder)
Rudbeckia heliopsidis (Little River Black-eyed Susan)
Schisandra glabra (Bay Star-vine)
Symphyotrichum georgianum (Georgia Aster)
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae (New England Aster)
Trillium lancifolium (Lanceleaf Trillium)
Viburnum rafinesquianum var. *rafinesquianum* (Downy Arrowwood)
Xyris tennesseensis (Tennessee Yellow-eyed Grass)

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Catoosa County, Georgia

Generated from conservation database on July 16, 2010

Animals

Cambarus extraneus (Chickamauga Crayfish)
Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis (Eastern Hellbender)
Cyprinella spiloptera (Spotfin Shiner)
Erimonax monachus (Spotfin Chub)
Etheostoma cinereum (Ashy Darter)
Etheostoma duryi (Black Darter)
Etheostoma jessiae (Blueside Darter)
Etheostoma rufilineatum (Redline Darter)
Etheostoma zonale (Banded Darter)
Gomphus consanguis (Cherokee Clubtail)
Hemitremia flammea (Flame Chub)
Ichthyomyzon bdellium (Ohio Lamprey)
Lampsilis fasciola (Wavy-rayed Lampmussel)
Leptoxis praerosa (Onyx Rocksnail)
Lythrurus fasciolaris (Scarlet Shiner)
Myotis grisescens (Gray Myotis)
Necturus maculosus maculosus (Common Mudpuppy)
Notropis ariommus (Popeye Shiner)
Notropis atherinoides (Emerald Shiner)
Notropis volucellus (Mimic Shiner)
Noturus eleutherus (Mountain Madtom)
Percina evides (Gilt Darter)
Percina sciera (Dusky Darter)
Percina tanasi (Snail Darter)
Phenacobius uranops (Stargazing Minnow)
Pleurocera pyrenella (Skirted Hornsnail)
Villosa trabalis (Cumberland Bean)
Villosa vanuxemensis (Mountain Creekshell)

Natural Communities

Cu/rv submesic needleleaf ever. forest (Cedar Glade)
Mountain spring (Mountain Spring)

Plants

Asplenium ruta-muraria (Wall Rue Spleenwort)
Astranthium integrifolium (Wild Daisy)
Baptisia australis var. *aberrans* (Glade Blue Indigo)
Bouteloua curtipendula (Side-oats Grama)
Buchnera americana (Bluehearts)
Camassia scilloides (Wild Hyacinth)
Dalea gattingeri (Gattinger Prairie Clover)
Delphinium carolinianum ssp. *calciphilum* (Glade Larkspur)
Eleocharis compressa (Spikerush)
Erigenia bulbosa (Harbinger-of-spring)
Fraxinus quadrangulata (Blue Ash)
Helianthus occidentalis (Barrens Sunflower)
Heliotropium tenellum (Delicate Heliotrope)
Hydrastis canadensis (Goldenseal)
Hypericum dolabriforme (Glade St. Johnswort)
Isoetes butleri (Glade Quillwort)
Juncus filipendulus (Texas Plains Rush)
Leavenworthia exigua var. *exigua* (Least Gladecress)
Liatris squarrosa var. *hirsuta* (Glade Gay-feather)
Matelea obliqua (Limerock Milkvine)
Mertensia virginica (Virginia Bluebells)
Onosmodium molle ssp. *occidentale* (Marble-seed)
Ophioglossum engelmannii (Limestone Adder-tongue Fern)
Parnassia grandifolia (Largeleaf Grass-of-Parnassus)
Pediomelum subacaule (Nashville Breadroot)
Polemonium reptans (Jacobs Ladder)
Rudbeckia grandiflora (Largeflower Coneflower)
Scutellaria leonardii (Glade Skullcap)
Scutellaria montana (Large-flowered Skullcap)
Silphium radula (Rosinweed)
Spiranthes magnicamporum (Great Plains Ladies-tresses)
Sporobolus heterolepis (Prairie Dropseed)
Symphotrichum pratense (Silky Aster)
Thaspium pinnatifidum (Glade Meadowparsnip)
Viola egglestonii (Glade Violet)

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Cherokee County, Georgia

Generated from conservation database on July 16, 2010

Animals

Acipenser fulvescens (Lake Sturgeon)
Cambarus fasciatus (Etowah Crayfish)
Etheostoma etowahae (Etowah Darter)
Etheostoma rupestre (Rock Darter)
Etheostoma scotti (Cherokee Darter)
Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle)
Hybopsis lineapunctata (Lined Chub)
Hybopsis sp. 9 (Etowah Chub)
Macrhybopsis sp. 1 (Coosa Chub)
Noturus munitus (Frecklebelly Madtom)
Noturus nocturnus (Freckled Madtom)
Percina antesella (Amber Darter)
Percina lenticula (Freckled Darter)
Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus (Northern Pine Snake)

Plants

Cypripedium parviflorum (Yellow Ladyslipper)
Eurybia jonesiae (Piedmont Bigleaf Aster)
Lygodium palmatum (Climbing Fern)
Lysimachia fraseri (Fraser's Loosestrife)
Nestronia umbellula (Indian Olive)
Prunus virginiana (Chokecherry)
Schisandra glabra (Bay Star-vine)
Xerophyllum asphodeloides (Eastern Turkeybeard)

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Clayton County, Georgia

Generated from conservation database on July 16, 2010

Animals

Notropis hypsilepis (Highscale Shiner)
Percina crypta (Halloween Darter)
Quincuncina infucata (Sculptured Pigtoe)
Utterbackia peggyae (Florida Floater)

Plants

Cypripedium acaule (Pink Ladyslipper)

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Cobb County, Georgia

Generated from conservation database on July 16, 2010

Animals

Ammodramus henslowii (Henslow's Sparrow)
Cambarus howardi (Chattahoochee Crayfish)
Elliptio arctata (Delicate Spike)
Elliptio fraterna (Brother Spike)
Etheostoma scotti (Cherokee Darter)
Hemidactylum scutatum (Four-toed Salamander)
Medionidus penicillatus (Gulf Moccasinshell)
Notropis hypsilepis (Highscale Shiner)
Nyctanassa violacea (Yellow-crowned Night-heron)
Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus (Northern Pine Snake)
Plethodon websteri (Webster's Salamander)

Plants

Arabis missouriensis (Missouri Rockcress)
Calystegia catesbeiana ssp. *sericata* (Silky Bindweed)
Cypripedium acaule (Pink Ladyslipper)
Draba aprica (Sun-loving Draba)
Melanthium latifolium (Broadleaf Bunchflower)
Nestronia umbellula (Indian Olive)
Platanthera integrilabia (Monkeyface Orchid)
Pycnanthemum curvipes (Stone Mountain Mint)
Rhus michauxii (Dwarf Sumac)
Schisandra glabra (Bay Star-vine)
Symphotrichum georgianum (Georgia Aster)
Zanthoxylum americanum (Northern Prickly-ash)

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Fulton County, Georgia

Generated from conservation database on July 16, 2010

Animals

Aimophila aestivalis (Bachman's Sparrow)
Cambarus howardi (Chattahoochee Crayfish)
Cyprinella callitaenia (Bluestripe Shiner)
Elliptio arctata (Delicate Spike)
Etheostoma scotti (Cherokee Darter)
Falco peregrinus (Peregrine Falcon)
Hamiota subangulata (Shinyrayed Pocketbook)
Hemidactylum scutatum (Four-toed Salamander)
Medionidus penicillatus (Gulf Moccasinshell)
Notropis hypsilepis (Highscale Shiner)
Nyctanassa violacea (Yellow-crowned Night-heron)
Quincuncina infucata (Sculptured Pigtoe)

Plants

Cypripedium acaule (Pink Ladyslipper)
Cypripedium parviflorum (Yellow Ladyslipper)
Dryopteris celsa (Log Fern)
Fothergilla major (Mountain Witch-alder)
Hexastylis shuttleworthii var. *harperi* (Harper Wild Ginger)
Listera australis (Southern Twayblade)
Monotropsis odorata (Sweet Pinesap)
Panax quinquefolius (American Ginseng)
Rhus michauxii (Dwarf Sumac)
Schisandra glabra (Bay Star-vine)
Symphyotrichum georgianum (Georgia Aster)
Waldsteinia lobata (Barren Strawberry)

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Gordon County, Georgia

Generated from conservation database on July 16, 2010

Animals

Acipenser fulvescens (Lake Sturgeon)
Amblema elliottii (Roundlake)
Elimia capillaris (Spindle Elimia)
Elliptio arca (Alabama Spike)
Epioblasma metastriata (Upland Combshell)
Epioblasma othcaloogensis (Southern Acornshell)
Etheostoma ditrema (Coldwater Darter)
Etheostoma jordani (Greenbreast Darter)
Etheostoma rupestre (Rock Darter)
Etheostoma trisella (Trispot Darter)
Gomphus consanguis (Cherokee Clubtail)
Graptemys pulchra (Alabama Map Turtle)
Hybopsis lineapunctata (Lined Chub)
Lampsilis ovata (Pocketbook)
Leptoxis foremani (Interrupted Rocksnail)
Lythrurus lirus (Mountain Shiner)
Macrhybopsis sp. 1 (Coosa Chub)
Macrhybopsis storeriana (Silver Chub)
Medionidus acutissimus (Alabama Moccasinshell)
Medionidus parvulus (Coosa Moccasinshell)
Moxostoma carinatum (River Redhorse)
Percina aurolineata (Goldline Darter)
Pleurobema decisum (Southern Clubshell)
Pleurobema georgianum (Southern Pigtoe)
Pleurocera showalteri (Upland Hornsnail)
Ptychobranhus foremanianus (Rayed Kidneyshell)
Quadrula rumphiana (Ridged Mapleleaf)
Tyto alba (Barn owl)
Villosa vanuxemensis (Mountain Creekshell)

Plants

Amorpha nitens (Shining Indigo-bush)
Arabis georgiana (Georgia Rockcress)
Carex grayi (Asa Gray Sedge)
Carex purpurifera (Purple Sedge)

Chaerophyllum procumbens (Spreading Chervil)
Delphinium tricornis (Dwarf Larkspur)
Eleocharis tenuis var. *verrucosa* (Warty Slender Spikerush)
Erigeron bulbosus (Harbinger-of-spring)
Panax quinquefolium (American Ginseng)
Parietaria pensylvanica (Pennsylvania Pellitory)
Polemonium reptans (Jacobs Ladder)
Quercus palustris (Pin Oak)
Sabatia capitata (Cumberland Rose Gentian)
Scutellaria montana (Large-flowered Skullcap)
Thalictrum debile (Trailing Meadowrue)
Trillium lancifolium (Lanceleaf Trillium)
Xyris tennesseensis (Tennessee Yellow-eyed Grass)

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Murray County, Georgia

Generated from conservation database on July 16, 2010

Animals

Acipenser fulvescens (Lake Sturgeon)
Amblema elliottii (Roundlake)
Cambarus cymatilis (Conasauga Blue Burrower)
Cambarus speciosus (Beautiful Crayfish)
Corynorhinus rafinesquii (Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat)
Cyprinella caerulea (Blue Shiner)
Elimia capillaris (Spindle Elimia)
Elliptio arca (Alabama Spike)
Epioblasma metastriata (Upland Combshell)
Epioblasma othcaloogensis (Southern Acornshell)
Etheostoma brevirostrum (Holiday Darter)
Etheostoma ditrema (Coldwater Darter)
Etheostoma jordani (Greenbreast Darter)
Etheostoma rupestre (Rock Darter)
Etheostoma trisella (Trispot Darter)
Graptemys geographica (Map Turtle)
Graptemys pulchra (Alabama Map Turtle)
Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle)
Hamiota altilis (Finelined Pocketbook)
Hybopsis lineapunctata (Lined Chub)
Lasmigona holstonia (Tennessee Heelsplitter)
Lythrurus lirus (Mountain Shiner)
Macrhybopsis sp. 1 (Coosa Chub)
Macrhybopsis storeriana (Silver Chub)
Medionidus acutissimus (Alabama Moccasinshell)
Medionidus parvulus (Coosa Moccasinshell)
Moxostoma carinatum (River Redhorse)
Myotis leibii (Eastern Small-footed Myotis)
Neotoma floridana haematoreia (Southern Appalachian Woodrat)
Notropis asperifrons (Burrhead Shiner)
Noturus munitus (Frecklebelly Madtom)
Ophiogomphus edmodo (Edmund's Snaketail)
Percina antesella (Amber Darter)
Percina aurolineata (Goldline Darter)
Percina jenkinsi (Conasauga Logperch)
Percina kusha (Bridled Darter)
Percina lenticula (Freckled Darter)

Percina shumardi (River Darter)
Pleurobema decisum (Southern Clubshell)
Pleurobema georgianum (Southern Pigtoe)
Pleurobema hanleyianum (Georgia Pigtoe)
Ptychobranhus foremanianus (Rayed Kidneyshell)
Quadrula rumphiana (Ridged Mapleleaf)
Sorex hoyi (Pygmy Shrew)
Strophitus connasaugaensis (Alabama Creekmussel)

Natural Communities

Forest, sagpond (Sagpond Forest)
Mountain spring (Mountain Spring)

Plants

Agastache nepetoides (Yellow Giant Hyssop)
Aureolaria patula (Spreading Yellow Foxglove)
Carex appalachica (Appalachian Sedge)
Carex platyphylla (Broadleaf Sedge)
Carex purpurifera (Purple Sedge)
Carex scabrata (Sedge)
Chrysosplenium americanum (Golden Saxifrage)
Coreopsis latifolia (Broadleaf Tickseed)
Cypripedium acaule (Pink Ladyslipper)
Cypripedium parviflorum (Yellow Ladyslipper)
Dryopteris celsa (Log Fern)
Erigenia bulbosa (Harbinger-of-spring)
Hydrastis canadensis (Goldenseal)
Hydrophyllum macrophyllum (Largeleaf Waterleaf)
Hypericum dolabriforme (Glade St. Johnswort)
Juncus filipendulus (Texas Plains Rush)
Juncus gymnocarpus (Naked-fruit Rush)
Leavenworthia uniflora (Gladecress)
Lonicera dioica (Limber Honeysuckle)
Melanthium latifolium (Broadleaf Bunchflower)
Panax quinquefolius (American Ginseng)
Penstemon smallii (Small's Beardtongue)
Phlox amplifolia (Broadleaf Phlox)
Platanthera peramoena (Purple Fringeless Orchid)
Polymnia laevigata (Tennessee Leafcup)
Sabatia capitata (Cumberland Rose Gentian)
Scutellaria montana (Large-flowered Skullcap)
Stachys hispida (Hispid Hedge-nettle)
Stachys nuttallii (Nuttall's Hedge-nettle)
Symphyotrichum georgianum (Georgia Aster)
Thermopsis fraxinifolia (Ash-leaf Bush-pea)
Trientalis borealis (Starflower)
Xerophyllum asphodeloides (Eastern Turkeybeard)

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Rare Animals, Plants and Natural Communities of Whitfield County, Georgia

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Animals

Amblema elliotii (Roundlake)
Cambarus cymatilis (Conasauga Blue Burrower)
Cambarus extraneus (Chickamauga Crayfish)
Cyprinella caerulea (Blue Shiner)
Cyprinella spiloptera (Spotfin Shiner)
Elliptio arca (Alabama Spike)
Epioblasma metastrata (Upland Combshell)
Epioblasma othcaloogensis (Southern Acornshell)
Etheostoma brevirostrum (Holiday Darter)
Etheostoma ditrema (Coldwater Darter)
Etheostoma jessiae (Blueside Darter)
Etheostoma jordani (Greenbreast Darter)
Etheostoma rufilineatum (Redline Darter)
Etheostoma rupestre (Rock Darter)
Etheostoma trisella (Trispot Darter)
Gomphus consanguis (Cherokee Clubtail)
Graptemys geographica (Map Turtle)
Graptemys pulchra (Alabama Map Turtle)
Hamiota altilis (Finelined Pocketbook)
Hemitremia flammea (Flame Chub)
Hybopsis lineapunctata (Lined Chub)
Lampsilis ovata (Pocketbook)
Lasmigona holstonia (Tennessee Heelsplitter)
Lioplax cyclostomaformis (Cylindrical Lioplax)
Lythrurus fasciolaris (Scarlet Shiner)
Lythrurus lirus (Mountain Shiner)
Macrhybopsis sp. 1 (Coosa Chub)
Macrhybopsis storeriana (Silver Chub)
Medionidus acutissimus (Alabama Moccasinshell)
Medionidus parvulus (Coosa Moccasinshell)
Moxostoma carinatum (River Redhorse)
Notropis asperifrons (Burrhead Shiner)
Noturus munitus (Frecklebelly Madtom)
Percina antesella (Amber Darter)
Percina jenkinsi (Conasauga Logperch)
Percina kusha (Bridled Darter)
Percina lenticula (Freckled Darter)

Percina sciera (Dusky Darter)
Pleurobema decisum (Southern Clubshell)
Pleurobema georgianum (Southern Pigtoe)
Pleurobema hanleyianum (Georgia Pigtoe)
Pleurocera pyrenella (Skirted Hornsnail)
Ptychobranchus foremanianus (Rayed Kidneyshell)
Quadrula rumphiana (Ridged Mapleleaf)
Sorex hoyi (Pygmy Shrew)
Strophitus connasaugaensis (Alabama Creekmussel)
Thryomanes bewickii (Bewick's Wren)
Toxolasma cylindrellus (Pale Lilliput)

Natural Communities

Cu/rv cave (Cumberland Plateau/ridge and Valley Cave)
Mountain spring (Mountain Spring)

Plants

Chaerophyllum procumbens (Spreading Chervil)
Cypripedium acaule (Pink Ladyslipper)
Cypripedium parviflorum (Yellow Ladyslipper)
Hydrophyllum macrophyllum (Largeleaf Waterleaf)
Isoetes appalachiana (Bigspore Engelmann's Quillwort)
Lysimachia fraseri (Fraser's Loosestrife)
Mertensia virginica (Virginia Bluebells)
Panax quinquefolius (American Ginseng)
Phlox amplifolia (Broadleaf Phlox)
Polemonium reptans (Jacobs Ladder)
Scutellaria montana (Large-flowered Skullcap)
Trillium lancifolium (Lanceleaf Trillium)
Trillium pusillum (Dwarf Trillium)
Xyris tennesseensis (Tennessee Yellow-eyed Grass)

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Georgia Wildlife Resources Division
2070 U.S. Hwy. 278, SE, Social Circle, GA 30025



August 27, 2010

Mr. Kevin Brown
State Conservationist
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
675 U.S. Courthouse
801 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203

Re: Early Coordination Request for Project PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI No. T001684 - Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study

Dear Mr. Brown:

In July 2007 the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) filed a Notice of Intent to prepare a Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation (HSGT) project. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in conjunction with FHWA and FRA, are in the beginning stages of project development for the above-mentioned project. By copy of this letter we are requesting your input on the proposed project as part of the early coordination process.

The HSGT study area is a 110-mile corridor located between Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (HJAIA) in Atlanta, Georgia, and downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. Please see Figure 1, Study Area Map, for a graphical depiction of the alignments that are currently being evaluated. We will also be sending you an email that contains a link that will allow you to download the GIS shape files of the different alignments for your use and comparison to the species data you may have. The proposed HSGT alignments under consideration would include two terminal stations, downtown Chattanooga and HJAIA, and as many as six intermediate stations, Five Points (downtown Atlanta), Galleria (I-285 and I-75), Town Center, Cartersville, Dalton, and Lovell Field Airport. The HSGT project is currently evaluating alignments along the I-75 Interstate highway between Chattanooga and Atlanta:

- An alignment generally within the I-75 median; and
- An alignment generally outside of the I-75 median.

South of the I-75/I-285 divergence, each of the above alignments reaches HJAIA by two distinct routes:

- Via the Norfolk Southern Railroad right-of-way between I-285 and Howell Mill Road through downtown Atlanta and then south via I-75/I-85 corridor; and
- Via I-75 to Howell Mill Road through downtown Atlanta and the I-75/I-85 corridor.

Combined together the alignments form the four full-length alignments under consideration.

Two different types of locomotive power (Maglev and steel-wheel) are being evaluated for each alignment; therefore, eight alternatives are currently under consideration.

GDOT Project PTSC0-0023-00-002

PI No. T001684

Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study

August 27, 2010

Alignment options for the project are being developed and evaluated concurrently with environmental documentation and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This process, developed by GDOT to make projects more responsive to social, economic, and environmental concerns, offers you the opportunity to identify the site-specific conditions to be addressed in the Tier I EIS. Please advise us of any known project area conditions of special concern. With your assistance we can give these issues due consideration and integrate them into the development of the preferred project alignment and mode.

We appreciate your efforts in assisting us with the development of this project. We request your response within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If no comments are received from your agency by then, we will assume you have no comments at this time. If you need additional review time, have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Gail D'Avino, GDOT Office of Environmental Services, at 404-631-1075 or email at gdavino@dot.ga.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Glenn Bowman, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator

GB/th/bh
Attachment



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West Georgia Sub Office
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NOV 19 2010

Coastal Sub Office
4980 Wildlife Drive
Townsend, Georgia 31331

Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
ATTN: Mr. Alan Ware

RE: Early Coordination, PTSC0-0023-00-002, PI T001684, Atlanta-to-Chattanooga High-Speed Rail

Dear Mr. Bowman:

Thank you for your September 3, 2010, letter regarding the referenced Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) project. We submit the following comments under provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

The referenced project proposes to construct a 110-mile, high-speed rail line from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport to downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee. Four alignments that generally follow the existing Interstate 75 corridor are currently being considered as alternatives.

We support the purpose and need of this project, especially its potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We recommend that, in future public and agency informational meetings, GDOT determine and disclose the reduction in tons of carbon dioxide in relation to ridership numbers. Additionally, discussions of project cost estimates should include anticipated cost savings in future road expansions, if the resulting project increases the design life of Interstate 75 and collector roads through traffic reductions or other means.

You provided us geographic information system shape files of alternatives on September 14, 2010, and we participated in GDOT's October 19, 2010, presentation for Federal and other agencies. In your September 14, 2010, letter, GDOT indicated 27 threatened and endangered species as potentially occurring in Georgia counties traversed by the project. Using the supplied shape files, we refined this list of potential species by layering the four alignments (labeled by GDOT as: MAG 75SC 100810; LO 75NS 100422; LO 75 SC 100810; and MAG 75NS 100618) over our threatened and endangered predictive range polygons. The four alignments intersect the potential ranges of the following threatened or endangered species:

1. Michaux's sumac (*Rhus michauxii*);
2. large-flowered skullcap (*Scutellaria montana*);
3. Tennessee yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris tennesseensis*);
4. gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*);
5. blue shiner (*Cyprinella caerulea*);
6. upland combshell (*Epioblasma metastrata*);
7. Southern acornshell (*Epioblasma oothcaloogensis*);
8. Cherokee darter (*Etheostoma scotti*);
9. fine-lined pocketbook (*Hamiota altilis*);
10. Alabama moccasinshell (*Medionidus acutissimus*);
11. Coosa moccasinshell (*Medionidus parvulus*);
12. snail darter (*Percina tanasi*);

Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E.
Page 2

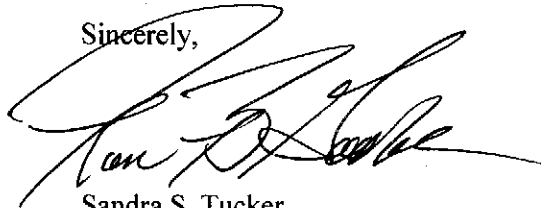
13. Southern clubshell (*Pleurobema decisum*);
14. Southern pigtoe (*Pleurobema georgianum*);
15. triangular kidneyshell (*Ptychobranthus greeni*).

Based on relatively recent occurrence records of threatened and endangered species near or adjacent to the Interstate 75 right-of-way, we anticipate that the project has a high risk of directly or indirectly impacting the following species: (1) large flowered skullcap; (2) Tennessee yellow-eyed grass; (3) Cherokee darter; (4) gray bat; (5) triangular kidneyshell; and (6) the fine-lined pocketbook. Critical habitat is also designated for the portion of the Oostanaula River where it intersects with the project corridor.

As required by the ESA, all practicable options should be considered for avoiding and minimizing impacts to federally-listed species and critical habitat. Where applicable, GDOT should evaluate clear-span crossings of occupied threatened and endangered aquatic habitats and designated critical habitat. Increases in impervious surface area in certain portions of the Etowah River basin should be attenuated, as recommended by the draft Etowah Habitat Conservation Plan (www.etowahhcp.org). All efforts should be investigated to avoid impacting a large population of Tennessee yellow-eyed grass that occurs on GDOT-owned property, near the US 411 interchange with Interstate 75: the current alternatives depict direct displacement of this population. Additional and site-specific information on threatened and endangered species can be provided by us and through consultation with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

We look forward with working with your agency as you refine design alternatives. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact staff biologist Pete Pattavina, at 706-613-9493, ext. 236.

Sincerely,



Sandra S. Tucker
Field Supervisor

cc: Rich Williams, GDOT
Katy Allen, P.E., FHWA
Katrina Morris, GDNR
file

12.0 NORFOLK SOUTHERN COORDINATION LETTER



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Joel E. Harrell, III
Resident Vice President

(404) 897-3131
joel.harrell@nscorp.com

July 7, 2010

Mr. Alan Ware
Passenger Rail Projects
Georgia Department of Transportation
Intermodal Programs
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Dear Alan,

This letter is in response to our recent conversations about projects and operations with the Atlanta area and the possible alignment for the Atlanta to Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Study that Georgia Department of Transportation is carrying out. While from your basic description of the proposed project it would be somewhat difficult to determine what, if any, impact any possible alignment or associated infrastructure would have on Norfolk Southern and its current freight corridors and especially the impacts within the general region of Hapeville, Georgia and Hartsfield Jackson International Airport. It has been Norfolk Southern's position to not allow any passenger operations within our freight corridors that will exceed 90 mph operating speed. I feel it is safe to say that Norfolk Southern would look to keep any high speed passenger technology, alignment or operations out of the Hapeville/ Atlanta airport area and out of our existing right of way.

I would hope that as any project progresses, Norfolk Southern will be consulted and or asked to join the conversation early on to discuss any areas of possible interference or interface with our right of way and associated freight lines

Sincerely,

Joel E. Harrell, III

Joel E. Harrell, III



Georgia Department of Transportation

ATLANTA-CHATTANOOGA HIGH SPEED GROUND TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

TIER 1 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT Appendix F - Distribution

Prepared by:

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)
Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)

September 2016

PTSCO - 0023-00-002

PI: No. T001684

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