



US 441 IMPROVEMENTS MADISON BYPASS TO WATKINSVILLE BYPASS

GDOT is considering improvements to US 441 from the Madison Bypass to the Watkinsville Bypass. We need your input, and we are making it easy to get involved this fall. We will be offering two Public Information Open Houses and an online survey. Read on to find out more!

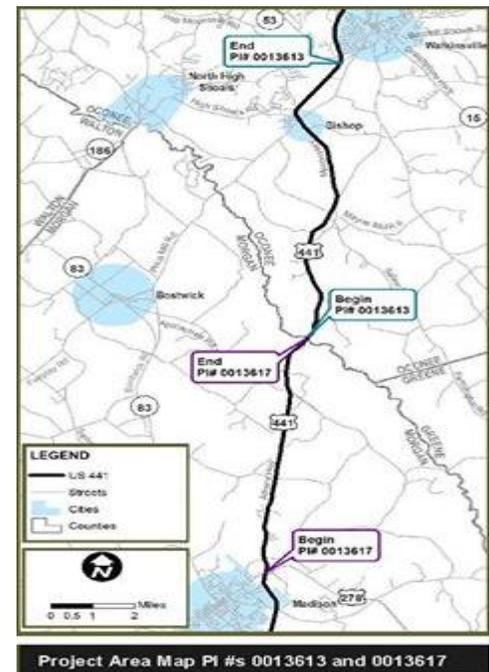
Public Information Open Houses GDOT will be holding two Public Information Open Houses, one in Oconee County and one in Morgan County. Each meeting will cover the entire two county project areas, and the same information will be presented and the same format will be followed. We are holding two meetings simply for your convenience. Come to whichever works better for you:

- **5 pm to 7 pm, October 25, Oconee County Veterans Park Community Center, 3500A Hog Mountain Road, Watkinsville, GA**
- **5 pm to 7 pm, November 1, Morgan County High School Cafeteria, 1231 College Drive, Madison, GA**

GDOT representatives will attend these meetings to discuss the project findings to date, establish local priorities, and identify potential resources in the corridor.

Online Survey If you can't make it to a public meeting, or would prefer another means of letting your concerns known to the project team, please visit our online survey. The survey seeks public input on local priorities and transportation needs.

The survey will take approximately ten minutes of your time, and is accessible from our project website: www.dot.ga.gov/BS/Projects/US441 Act quickly! The survey will only be available from October 13 through November 17.



Excerpt: www.dot.ga.gov/BuildSmart/Projects/Documents/US441/US441Newsletter-Fall2016.pdf

About the GDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on GDOT contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Facilitate liaisons between the Prime Contractor and DBEs.
- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor.
- Provide access to training increases DBE
- Expertise in handling of daily business operations.
- Help DBEs produce sound bid proposals.

About the Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with GDOT as the statewide provider of the federally fund Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Supportive Services Program.

We want to increase the number of certified DBEs participating in highway and bridge construction, as well as assist DBEs in growing and eventually becoming self-sufficient.

Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

Want to Succeed with your Business? (Avoid these 5 Mistakes)



1. Inaccurately gauging demand for your product or service:

Remember – just because *you* like jalapeño-flavored pickled okra, that doesn't mean *everyone* likes it. Too many small businesses fail because the owner overestimates demand. Test demand for your product or service by vetting it with a wide range of friends and family who will be brutally honest with you.

2. Entering a crowded market without a distinct competitive advantage:

You may cook an incomparably delicious hamburger or make a mean pizza, but before you try to build a business around that talent, think about how you are going to distinguish your business from every other hamburger or pizza restaurant. Without a well-defined competitive advantage, it's tough to compete in a marketplace where it typically takes a lot of time and money to build a viable brand. Make sure you have a competitive advantage that stands out.

3. Forgetting to count the costs:

Building a house, successfully launching a business requires a thorough, upfront accounting of costs, both financial and personal. Under capitalization is one of the top reasons for business failure, before you launch, make sure you have a budget that includes not only startup costs but the living expenses. It's better to overestimate the costs and be pleasantly surprised than to project an overly rosy scenario and end up bankrupt.

4. Failing to delegate and ignoring critical functions:

No one person is great at every facet of running a business, so make sure you identify each critical function and delegate tasks to the best person to get the job done. Use your strengths to the company's best advantage and offload functions that others can do better. Also, make sure you never ignore the things you don't like to do. You can go bankrupt just as fast for failing to pay federal payroll taxes as you can if you don't generate sales. Get the right people on your team and be sure each one is in the right position.

5. Not planning for profitability:

One of the first things you should do when making a business plan is to define the business model. Running a non-profit or charity can be satisfying, and it definitely takes business skills, but before you can succeed in any type of business, you'll need to know your profit model inside and out. Establish the key performance indicators (KPIs) for your business that will let you know how your company is performing. If the numbers show you are in a steep decline, take action and make changes before you crash. But you can only do that if you define and measure your numbers.

Escerpt: www.entrepreneur.com/article/245081

Supportive Services Offered



- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
- Mobilization Financing
- Bonding Assistance
- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Building a Website
- Plan Reading



CEI is an educational organization providing the highest quality construction training in the industry. Over 100,000 owners, estimators, project managers, field supervisors, office support staff, foremen, laborers, and key management personnel have attended courses that are offered nationwide. The courses provide students with construction skills training and the critical information needed to be effective within their companies and organizations.

Call 855-432-1DBE (1323) or visit us online at www.gadbesupport.com

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