

GDOT Planning Circular roundabout intersections on congested Bartow County Road

An "open house"-styled public event was set to unveil GDOT's plans for easing congestion on a major Bartow County road at its intersection with I-75.

GDOT was scheduled to host a Tuesday, Sept. 17, open house "to offer their comments and feedback" from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the GDOT District 6 office at 30 Great Valley Parkway in White, a news release stated.

The plan calls for spending about \$4.8 million to replace the two traffic lights on Cassville-White Road at the I-75 northbound and southbound ramps with modern roundabouts by 2024, said GDOT spokesman Joe Schulman.

Roundabout intersections, also known as traffic circles, are planned in an effort to reduce delays during peak traffic hours caused by vehicles turning left onto the I-75 entrance ramps, Schulman said.

He said roundabouts in other parts of Bartow County have worked to keep traffic flowing through congested areas.

About 19,450 vehicles travel the two intersections of Cassville-White Road at I-75 daily, he said.

The retail area east of I-75 near the interchange includes fast-food restaurants, a motel and two

nationally-branded truck stops.

"It can slow down with all the truck centers there," he said.

Schulman said GDOT wants "the public to come out and give us their thoughts."

Grant Waldrop, district engineer at the GDOT office in White, said, "We always appreciate it when residents take the time to let us know their thoughts about a project."

"The feedback from the public goes a long way in our planning," Waldrop said. "The open house gives us a chance to hear directly from the people most affected by our projects."

Attendees of the open house can review the project, ask questions, and express any concerns they might have about proposed improvements, a news release stated.

The plans will be available in the District 6 office and the Area 1 office for two weeks following the open house, Schulman said.

The Area 1 office is at 874 Peoples Valley Road NW, Cartersville, GA 30120, The District 6 office is at 30 Great Valley Way, Cartersville, GA 30184.

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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:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with GDOT as the statewide provider of the federally funded 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.

Beginner's Guide: How to Read Construction Plans

Knowing how to read construction plans is a critical skill

Are you a skilled tradesman? Maybe you are a general contractor or you work in the construction industry. Either way, knowing how to read construction plans is a critical skill.

Learning how to read construction plans is an essential skill for building a career as a construction worker. Construction drawings vary from simple to very complex, so understanding how to interpret the drawings is crucial for completing the project efficiently and accurately.

The ability to read construction plans will not only increase your value to your current employer but is a staple to anyone serious about advancing their career as a professional contractor.

In our beginner's guide on how to read construction plans we will cover the basics of what plans are, what sort of information they contain, and how to interpret that information.

Construction Plans are 2D Drawings

Construction plans (blueprints) are 2-dimensional architectural drawings that explain the details of a project. They provide a unique visual representation of what exactly needs to be built. Information such as dimensions, parts, placement, and materials for each

project can all be found in construction drawings to assure the project is completed correctly.

Aside from the apparent specs and dimensions, construction plans also help communicate what the project is about. They provide construction workers with other important information for the project including building codes, installation techniques, measurements, and quality standards.

Construction Plans Come in Different Sizes

Depending on the size and complexity of a project, some construction plans will require to be printed on oversized sheets while others may fit in the confines of a notebook.

With the continued advancement of technology throughout the construction industry, digital plans are becoming increasingly popular due to ease of making edits and sharing plans among construction team members.

Regardless of how the plans are presented, the importance of understanding construction drawings remains a top priority.

Construction plans are required to estimate your costs for materials and labor, obtain your permits, establish a construction schedule, and complete the project in a timely manner.

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