

# Forsyth County Transportation Plan

## Public Meeting #1 Summary

### Meeting Dates

Six public open house meetings were hosted during the first round of public engagement:

- Wednesday, April 12: Forsyth Conference Center, Lanier Technical College
- Monday, April 17: West Forsyth High School, Cafeteria
- Wednesday, April 19: Central Park Recreation Center, Banquet Room
- Monday, April 24: Lambert High School, Cafeteria
- Thursday, April 27: Hampton Park Library, Meeting Room

### Promotion & Outreach

Press releases were drafted and distributed by Forsyth County Communications staff to local print and news outlets. Releases were timed two weeks in advance of the open houses to announce the series. Another release reminded the public about the meetings and announced the online survey for those who could not attend. County staff also distributed information about the meetings via its monthly electronic newsletter and Facebook. Flyers announcing the meeting were available at all County Public Library branches. Lastly, members of the Stakeholder and Technical Advisory Committees were encouraged to share information about the meetings with their networks.

### Attendance

A total of 79 individuals attended the open house meetings.

### Summary

This first round of public meetings was an opportunity to share information collected by the Consultant Team regarding existing conditions. It also helped to confirm the public's specific issues and ideas regarding AM peak congestion, PM peak congestion, high crash intersections, and the bicycle/pedestrian network. For each topic, the public was asked to use numbered dots to pinpoint specific areas where they had ideas or issues. Each comment was accompanied by a corresponding comment card where participants could provide further explanation.

Feedback was also sought on the plan goals. Each participant was given four green dots to select the four plan goals most important to them. Lastly, the public was invited to tell others

about remaining meetings, to submit a general comment form, and to participate in the online survey.

The presentation boards can be viewed on the project website at <http://forsythtransportationplan.com/review.php>. The online survey can be accessed at <http://forsythtransportationplan.com/contribute.php>.

Topic area feedback received from the public per topic area will be used by the Project Team to specifically identify issue areas.

### AM Peak Congestion

Comment #	Comment
1	Speed needs to be reduced. There is no acceleration lane to pick up speed when turning right toward 20. New entry to Victory is not in a good place (access management). I am not a fan of traffic lights as they slow traffic down and make things worse perhaps a traffic circle would work
2	Traveling south on 141 to Sharon...when making the left turn on Sharon a longer left turning bay and upon entering Sharon two lanes, moving back the sidewalk that's in the street.
3	ITS improvement/investment. Smarter traffic signals. Traffic engineering improvement for flow of traffic during peak times.
4	Widen GA 306 from 400 to 369 to ease traffic.
97	Consider a light at Drew Campground & Hopewell Road. Terrible back up in the morning.
98	Do not widen Howard Road - improvements done several years ago. No more widening of this road please. A lot of old homesteads right on the road.
99	What happens with merging traffic when you get to Cumming city limits? Will there be a bypass around the city?
100	Before intersection of Bethelview + Canton Hwy, there is a lane that shouldn't be a full turn lane, but people (plenty) use it as such. There needs to be better access mgmt to prevent curb cuts. Level of svc "C" does not reflect actual morning congestion there - I am in it every day. "E" or "F".

### PM Peak Congestion

Comment #	Comment
1	More frequent use of roundabouts instead of traffic lights.
2	Traffic turning right onto 306 from Hwy 400N has 2 right turn lanes. This intersection gets clogged with right turns turning on red blocking the intersection. Perhaps a no turn on red between 4-7 on high congestion times would be beneficial
3	Going east on McGinnis Ferry Rd. in evening is tough from 141 to the river; spill over from Gwinnett
4	Additional roadway network needed to disperse traffic and provide access to 306 and to Browns Bridge
5	This area is shown as being less congested in PM peak than AM peak. My experience living 5 miles into Gwinnett on Buford Dam is that PM is much more congested. 12 miles = 25 minutes in AM; 35-45 min in PM
97	Out of town to Dr. Bramblett is bad congestion.
98	On Pilgrim Mill from town in afternoon towards 400 is stop and go from before Episcopal Church until intersection with Holtzclaw which is past 400. Coming from lake on Pilgrim Mill in afternoon backs up 1/2 mile before Holtzclaw.
99	Perhaps there needs to be a way to go around the city limits rather than always having to go through it to get to the other side of the County.
100	Make 369 four to six lane and accommodate thru traffic and truck traffic better.
101	Hwy 9N to 369 very heavy from Antioch and Spot Road north. Always heavy now from 306 connector (library) to 306.
102	Holtzclaw & Pilgrim intersections grade need to be addressed - traffic backups and steep incline from lake.
103	Hwy 9 from 306 south to Sawnee Drive backed up every morning and afternoon.
104	At Old Atl Road/Southern Circle/James Burgess is a problem.
105	This is not [LOS] green; closer to red. Future construction projects need to better address traffic during construction including project management, company selection, penalties/rewards and utilities
122	More yellow. Extend 400 N to 53 with 3rd lane each way.
123	Traffic around the square is HORRIBLE!!!

### High Crash Intersections

Comment #	Comment
1	Bad sight lines. Long light cycle makes people run lights
2	Safety issue at Pilgrim Mill and GA 400. Traffic backs up on 400 with cars exiting at exit 16, Pilgrim Mill Rd.
3	Traffic signal at Post and Bentley
4	Traffic signal at Post and Polo/Vickery
5	Speed and flow of traffic on GA 20 varies constantly. Sudden stops result in rear end collisions.
6	Large development at Longlake; stop light needed
97	Hamilton roundabout? Left turn off Bentley is impossible onto Post. Accident waiting to happen. A right hand lane is impossible in the AM.
98	Getting on 400 north of Costco is currently unsafe due to having to cross traffic when trying to get to the 400 entrance ramp with no caution light or stop sign.
99	Make 369/400 intersection a cloverleaf or ramp - get rid of traffic light. Then widen 369 to handle truck traffic and thru traffic better.
100	Traffic signal at Hyde and 20.
101	High accidents reported at the intersection of Hwy 9 and Mountain Rd.
103	Concerned that a large number and serious accidents will occur at Windermere Parkway and Suffolk Drive if the proposed U-turn lane is installed there.
104	Old Atlanta and Mathis Airport/Windermere: Align the lanes; go to controlled left turns; enforce road laws
105	Please take the left turn lane south on Old Atlanta Road to James Burgess to a hard stop left turn light. Currently left turn is allowed when line of sight is limited. Thanks!
106	Mathis Airport Parkway and Bagley has become more and more dangerous with people trying to access MAP from Bagley.
152	The intersection of Fowler Road and Rt 9 needs a traffic light. In high traffic times of the day, it is very difficult to access Rt 9 to go in and out of the Orchards development. The new high school will exacerbate the problem
153	Majors has a great deal of traffic in the morning and evening passing through the Polo Fields development. There are two stop signs in that stretch of Majors. It would be great to construct roundabouts in the place of the two stop signs to improve traffic flow.

Comment #	Comment
1	Bicycles are a viable form of transportation if the county would actually provide for them. (1) why doesn't our new and improved Castleberry have bike lanes? (2) Why are any bicycles allowed on certain sections of road i.e., Majors Rd between Hwy 9 and the bridge? There are no sight lines, no shoulder and nowhere to go. (3) Why are there no signs warning bicycles that road in front of them is too dangerous for them to traverse?
2	Sidewalks on Castleberry south of Bethelview
4	Management of noise and light pollution due to increased development and traffic (preserve and maintain green space and rural areas)
5	A right turn bay that is long enough to get off the road and keep the traffic flowing
5	Bike connections to Sawnee Mountain. Betis Tribble entrance, too.
6	Heavy pedestrian traffic at Brookwood and McGinnis Ferry and to Winward Pkwy
97	There is a need for sidewalks along Rt 20 the entire length of the widening project.
98	Not bike friendly between sidewalk area and signed shared roadway
99	Make all/lots more of the NW area with bicycle friendly as growth moves out there.
101	Need sidewalks on Southern Cir.
102	Need bicycle lane on Mullinax Road all the way from Union Hill Rd to Hwy 9

### Plan Goals

Each participant was given four green dots to select the four plan goals most important to them. The following table summarizes the number of votes received for each plan goal:

Goal	Votes
Develop project and policy strategies to complement and implement the county's Comprehensive Plan vision	6
Preserve and enhance through appropriate strategies including transportation demand and access management techniques	0
Enhance safety and security for motorized and non-motorized travel	8
Ensure financial viability of transportation system	1
Manage congestion	11

Goal	Votes
Conserve natural and built resources	7
Promote appropriate economic development relevant to desired land use	1
Provide alternative solutions for transportation consistent with local, regional, and statewide jurisdictions	4
Develop mobility and connectivity within and between transportation modes	5
Encourage sustainable development	4
Accommodate growth within and immediately adjacent to county	1
Facilitate the movement of goods	0
Promote complete street concepts by ensuring balance for all users	3
Support reduction of greenhouse gases consistent with pending policies	0
Position infrastructure recommendations to take advantage of multiple funding sources	2

### General Comments

- Sidewalk on Haw Creek Circle from Haw Creek East to Haw Creek West. When the office park and Cue Barbeque were asking for input, I as president (14 years) of Ivey Walk said Haw Creek Circle needs a sidewalk due to ped traffic. By some loophole, County said they didn't have to construct. When Nissan dealership was seeking input - same request. Same loophole exclusion. Vehicles on Haw Creek Circle travel 60+ mph, for some don't make the turn in the road and drive up our embankment. Plus in past 6 months, 2 incidents of DUI drivers plowing into our exterior subdivision fence. Pedestrian traffic has greatly increased in past 10 years with people walking on Haw Creek Circle to retail jobs on Market Blvd.
- (1) Bicyclists are a nuisance that need to be given their own lanes. (2) Where's the local bus service? (3) We need to encourage MARTA to come into downtown Cumming. (4) Can local shopping centers provide shuttles? (5) Golf cart paths connecting greenway to local amenities (hospitals, shopping centers, post office, libraries).
- Bridgetown subdivision would like a signal on 369 so that they can reach the schools past Settingdown Rd. Perhaps work with developer building across street.
- (1) Develop collection points between "last mile" for commute & mass transit. (2) Provide east-west connectivity - everyone doesn't want to go downtown. (3) Focus transit options on east-west connection rather than just down 400. (4) Turn 369 into a norther arc - I85 NE of Gainesville - I20 West of Douglasville - Curse you Roy Barnes! (5)

Get the greenways built - finish Big Creek, then connect Sawnee Mtn - Matt Park & Eagle Beak.

- Inter-county transportation for seniors is a plus. Expand Dial A Ride (maybe later/earlier hours?). Keep growth controlled!! Street lights major roads
- There must be better transportation for senior citizens. Street lights along 400 and all major roads.
- We should be building roads to accommodate the Comprehensive Plan, not encourage growth beyond that. Impact of road construction on traffic has to be better addressed. There are many examples but Old Atlanta Road is the best. Excuses and blame need to be replaced with a project plan that prevents the mess in the future. People in the county want to maintain a rural feel so the roads should strive for aesthetics which accomplish it.
- Please inspect bridge on McGinnis Ferry west of Jones Bridge/Brookwood. Nearest cross street is Montvale Crossing.
- Total waste of my trip. No Forsyth County officials at public event.