



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CONNECTING SAVANNAH**

### **Recommended Transportation Concepts Are Focus of May 24<sup>th</sup> Public Open House Meeting**

**Process Results:**

Attached please find a one-page summary of results for the Connecting Savannah process. The highlights include a brief description of key transportation improvements, estimated costs and schedule for implementation for top transportation priorities including improvements on Hampstead Avenue, DeRenne Avenue and Bay Street, and policies associated with pedestrian, bicycle and transit improvements. Electronic copies of renderings are also attached for your use and distribution.

**More Information:**

If you would like more information such as copies of previous meeting presentations, summaries and other reports on the Connecting Savannah process, please visit the Transportation home page of the Metropolitan Planning Commission website at [www.thempc.org](http://www.thempc.org).

**Meeting Date:**

Connecting Savannah Public Open House Meeting  
Tuesday, May 24, 2005  
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Coastal Georgia Center  
305 Fahm Street  
Savannah, GA

**Meeting Format:**

The meeting is an open house format, meaning the general public and media representatives are encouraged to drop in at anytime during 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to review displays, to speak with study team representatives, and to make comments on the proposed concepts. Comments will be accepted in written form (comment forms will be provided) and verbally by speaking to a court reporter (one-on-one).





## CONNECTING SAVANNAH: Summary of Process Results

### Pedestrian/Bicycle and Transit Policy Actions

- Five specific actions were selected to strengthen the planning and funding for alternative modes of transportation including revising subdivision and zoning regulations to meet requirements of pedestrian and bicycle policies, an ordinance to support the transportation amenities program and coordination with the upcoming Chatham Area Transit (CAT) Transit Development Plan Update

### DeRenne Avenue Congestion

- **DeRenne Traffic Signal Retiming, Ambulance Signal Pre-emption and Intersection Improvements**
  - Retime signals to improve flow of traffic
  - Provide ambulance signal pre-emption on DeRenne Avenue
  - Implement intersection improvements on West DeRenne (Montgomery Street to Abercorn Street) to improve traffic flow
  - Estimated Cost: \$1.6 million immediately
- **Transportation Coordinator**
  - Fund Transportation Coordinator position for two years to work with hospitals on DeRenne to develop and implement traffic reduction strategies such as carpooling and vanpooling
  - Estimated Cost: \$0.1 million in next two years
- **Hampstead Avenue Connector**
  - Reduce traffic on DeRenne Avenue by providing a new four-lane divided roadway from Montgomery Street to Abercorn Street with bike lanes and sidewalks
  - Estimated Cost: \$25.5 million which includes \$9 million immediately for engineering and right-of-way acquisition
- **DeRenne Avenue Six-Lane Widening**
  - Widen DeRenne from Abercorn to Truman Parkway to provide six lanes to improve traffic flow and emergency vehicle access
  - One option, among several potential alternatives that would result from a more detailed study, addresses commercial intrusion by providing a linear park that requires taking of houses on the southern portion of the roadway
  - Estimated Cost: \$34 million (not including park development) which includes \$1 million immediately for concept engineering and selection of preferred design concept

### Bay Street Improvements

- Retime the signals to ensure most efficient operation of Bay Street Traffic
- Install audible pedestrian signals at every signalized intersection on Bay Street from Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to Broad Street
- Install left-turn lanes and median on Bay Street
- Estimated Cost: \$1.3 million in next three years

### Traffic Control Center

- Develop concept for a state-of-the-art traffic control center with cameras, monitors, and staffing that enables better and faster response to changing traffic conditions due to traffic, weather, and other incidents
- Estimated Cost: \$0.3 million immediately for study

### Truman Parkway Extension and Second Bridge

- Initiate studies to determine environmental impacts and to assess applicability of tolls for these two projects that would complete a loop around Savannah and decrease through traffic on some east-west routes
- Estimated Cost: \$2.0 million in next three years for initial studies

