

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
PUBLIC NOTICE
WATERSHED PROTECTION BRANCH

September 11, 2026
Notice Issue Date

Troup County
City / County

October 10, 2026
Notice Close Date

SAS-2021-00631
Control Number

Sec. 401 Water Quality Certification

LaGrange Bypass from East of County Road (CR) 282/Youngs Mill Road to
State Route (SR) 1 & LaGrange Bypass/N Davis Road from SR 14/United States
Highway (US) 29 To Youngs Mill Road - US Army Corps of Engineers Sec. 404 Permit Application

This notice is issued to inform the public that a request has been received for water quality certification (WQC) in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The public is invited to comment during this 30-day period on the proposed activity. Information pertaining to the project is attached to this notice. Since the request is specific to 401 WQC, only comments pertaining to water quality are considered under the certification review process. Comments may be submitted via e-mail to: EPD.WQC@dnr.ga.gov. Comments may also be provided in writing to: Program Manager, Wetlands Unit, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. SE, Suite 1052 East, Atlanta, GA 30334. Include the words “Water Quality Certification Comment” and the Control Number above in the e-mail subject line or on the top of the first page of written comments to ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the appropriate staff. For additional information, contact Jacob Kelley at Jacob.kelley@dnr.ga.gov.

Type of Permit Application: 401 Water Quality Certification

Applicable Law: Federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1341

Applicable Rules: 40 CFR part 121

Description and Location of Proposed Activity:

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) TIA is seeking a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for activities associated with a bypass corridor construction project in Troup County, Georgia. The project is in Middle Chattahoochee-Lake Harding watershed (HUC 03130002) with its midpoint at (33.0771029, -85.0022597). As proposed in the May 20, 2026, Request for 401 WQC, the project includes the construction of a 1.14-mile-long bypass connecting County Road (CR) 282/Youngs Mill Road with SR 1/US 27 and would widen approximately 0.87 mile of North Davis Road, and would widen North Davis Road from two to four lanes for approximately 2.5 miles, ending just south of SR 14/US 29/Hogansville Road in Troup County.

The project, as currently proposed, requires a USACE Section 404 permit and entails 1,696 linear feet (0.533 acre) of permanent impacts and 200 linear feet (0.067 acre) of temporary impacts to perennial streams, 337 linear feet (0.023 acre) of permanent impacts and 51 linear feet (0.005 acre) of temporary impacts to intermittent streams, 504 linear feet (0.055 acre) of permanent impacts to ephemeral channels, and 8.61 acres of permanent impacts to wetlands. To offset the loss in aquatic function associated with the above impacts, the applicant has proposed the purchase of 2,140.25 (2018) stream credits (22,977.00 Legacy credits) and 2.53 (2018) wetland credits (65.04 Legacy credits) for proposed wetland impacts would be purchased from a USACE approved mitigation bank servicing the Middle Chattahoochee – Lake Harding watershed (HUC 03130002). The purchase of credits has not yet been completed.

Name and Address of Permit Applicant: Ms. Amber Phillips
Georgia Department of Transportation
Office of Environmental Services
600 W. Peachtree Street, NW, 16th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30308



Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 631-1000 Main Office

August 27, 2026

Brian Kent, Program Manager
Environmental Protection Division
2 MLK Jr. Dr. S.W., Suite 1462
Atlanta, GA 30334
ATTN: Michael Berry

Re: Request for 401 Water Quality Certification Application for GDOT Project PI Nos. 0014077 & 0014078
Troup County
LaGrange Bypass from East of County Road (CR) 282/Youngs Mill Road to State Route (SR) 1 & LaGrange Bypass/N Davis Road from SR 14/United States Highway (US) 29 To Youngs Mill Road
SAS-2021-00631

Dear Mr. Kent,

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) requests Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GEPD) issuance of Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) for the above referenced project. GDOT submitted an Individual Section 404 Permit Application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the project on May 20, 2026. GDOT notified GEPD with a request for a pre-filing meeting via email on July 23, 2026. A response was received on August 5, 2026 indicating that a pre-filing meeting will not be requested by EPD. Per the CWA Section 401 Certification Rule, this certification request contains all seven requirements outlined in section 121.5 (b) for an individual permit.

(1) Project PI Nos. 0014077 and 0014078 propose to construct a bypass corridor around the northeast quadrant of the City of LaGrange, Georgia. PI No. 0014077 would construct a 1.14-mile-long new location bypass connecting County Road (CR) 282/Youngs Mill Road with State Route (SR) 1/United States Highway (US) 27 and would widen approximately 0.87 mile of North Davis Road from two to four lanes. PI No. 0014078 would widen North Davis Road from two to four lanes for approximately 2.5 miles, ending just south of SR 14/US 29/Hogansville Road. The total disturbed acreage of the project would be approximately 150 acres. The purpose of this project is to provide a bypass corridor around the City of LaGrange to alleviate traffic congestion and improve operations in the city center.

(2) Attached is a table that documents each aquatic resource impact and its GPS coordinates.

(3) Attached is a figure that illustrates the site boundary and all associated aquatic resources.

(4) The current site conditions consist of residential and commercial properties, silviculture land uses, and undeveloped forested land along Davis Road Bypass/North Davis Road. Habitat types observed along the project corridor include mixed pine-hardwood forest, pine forest,

hardwood forest, scrub-shrub wetland, early successional habitat, clearcut silviculture land, and maintained/developed land. Attached is a photolog documenting current site conditions.

(5) Construction of the two projects will be phased, with PI No. 0014077 scheduled to let in December 2026, and PI No. 0014078 scheduled to let in May 2028. Proposed activity for PI No. 0014077 is anticipated to begin in February 2027 and be completed in August 2029. Proposed activity for PI No. 0014078 is anticipated to begin in July 2028 and be completed in July 2030.

(6) A list of all other federal, interstate, tribal, state, territorial, or local agency authorizations required for the proposed project, including all approvals and denials already received, is outlined in the following table:

Attachment A – ORM Table

Issuing Agency	Type Approval	Agency File Number	Date/ Application	Date/ Approval
USFWS	Section 7 ESA Concurrence, FWCA Concurrence	2023-0053127 (PI Nos. 0014077 & 0014078)	9/15/2025	9/25/2025
USACE	Aquatic Resource Delineation Verification Request	SAS-2022-00165 (PI No. 0014078)	2/22/2022	5/12/2022
USACE	Aquatic Resource Delineation Verification Request	SAS-2021-00631 (PI No. 0014077)	7/25/2022	8/4/2022
USACE	Aquatic Resource Delineation Verification and Scope of Analysis Request	SAS-2021-00631 (PI Nos. 0014077 & 0014078)	12/23/2024	1/17/2025
USACE	Local Coordination Procedures (LCP) Checkpoint 1	SAS-2021-00631 (PI Nos. 0014077 & 0014078)	9/23/2022	2/23/2023
USACE	Practicable Alternatives Review (PAR)	SAS-2021-00631 (PI Nos. 0014077 & 0014078)	5/5/2023	6/30/2023
USACE	Individual Permit (IP)	SAS-2021-00631 (PI Nos. 0014077 & 0014078)	5/20/2026	Pending
GAEPD	Buffer Variance	BV-141-26-01 (PI No. 0014077)	5/20/2026	8/10/2026
GAEPD	Buffer Variance	Pending (PI No. 0014078)	Pending	Pending
GAEPD	NPDES Permit	PI Nos. 0014077 & 0014078	Pending	Pending
GAEPD	401 WQC	Unknown	Pending	Pending
GA HPD (SHPO)	Section 106 NHPA Concurrence of Findings	HP-250414-002 (PI Nos. 0014077 & 0014078)	8/21/2025	8/21/2025
GA HPD (SHPO)	Section 106 NHPA Concurrence of Findings	HP-250414-002 (PI Nos. 0014077 & 0014078)	6/30/2025	7/28/2025

Key: United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), Georgia Historic Preservation Division (GA HPD), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

(7) Attached is the email correspondence initiated July 23, 2026, between GDOT and GEPD documenting that a pre-filing meeting request was submitted to the certifying authority at least 30 days prior to submitting the certification request.

The project proponent hereby certifies that all information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete to the best of their knowledge and belief. The project proponent hereby requests that

PI Nos. 0014077 & 0014078, Troup County
August 27, 2026

the certifying authority review and take action on this CWA 401 certification request within the applicable reasonable period of time.

Please copy the GDOT Ecologist, Environmental Analyst, and the USACE Project Manager on any future correspondence. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact GDOT Consultant Ecologist Andrea Wahl at 678-247-2568 (andrea.wahl@atkinsrealis.com).

Sincerely,



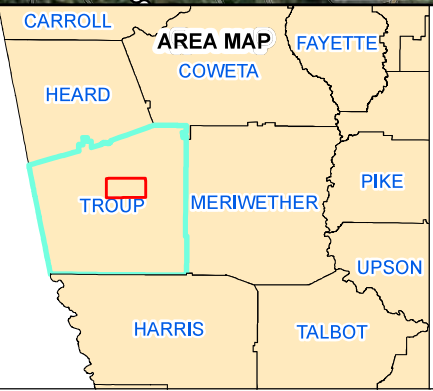
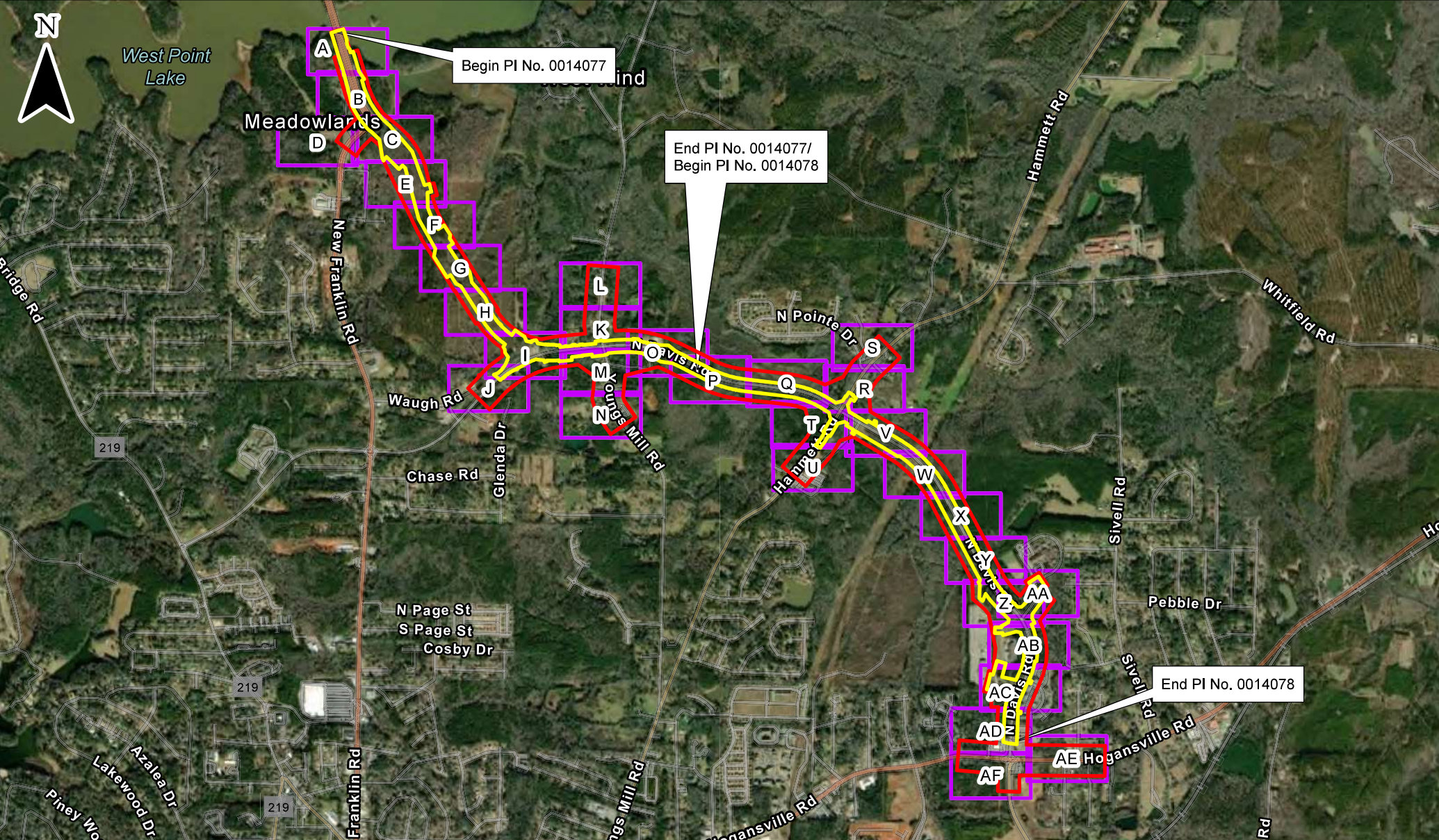
Amber Phillips
State Environmental Administrator

AP/AW/mk

Enclosure

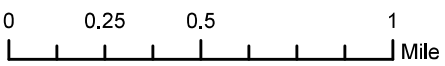
cc:

Shanda Marsh, GDOT Project Manager
Rachel Shouse, GDOT Environmental Analyst
GDOT Environmental Inbox (ENV_Inbox@dot.ga.gov)
Daryl Williams, GDOT ECB
Lisa Westberry, GDOT Mitigation
GDOT IOEQ Inbox (IOEQsubmittals@dot.ga.gov)
EPD-GDOT Inbox (epd.gdot@dnr.ga.gov)
Nicole Liette, USACE Project Manager
Eric Somerville, EPA
Megan Kelley, Kimley-Horn & Associates
Chelsea Harris, AECOM



Legend

-  Survey Area
-  Project Limits
-  Matchline



Maxar, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS

Figure 3-0: Index Map (Aerial)

PI Nos. 0014077 and 0014078
Troup County, Georgia

LaGrange Bypass from E of CR
282/Youngs Mill Road to SR 1

December 2024