ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
PUBLIC NOTICE
WATERSHED PROTECTION BRANCH

November 3, 2026 Notice Issue Date	Cobb and Paulding City / County
December 2, 2026 Notice Close Date	SAS-2010-00581 Control Number

Sec. 401 Water Quality Certification
State Route 92 Widening/Reconstruction from County Street 519/Nebo Road to Old Burnt Hickory Road

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 Josh Hanselman at Josh.Hanselman@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) is seeking a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for activities associated with a road widening and reconstruction project of State Road (SR) 92 in Cobb and Paulding Counties, Georgia. The 11.7 mile-long project corridor spans the Upper Middle Chattahoochee (HUC 03130002) and Etowah (HUC 03150104) watersheds, with a midpoint at (33.938543, -84.740282). As proposed in the September 8, 2026 Request for 401 WQC, the project will widen SR 92 (Hiram Acworth Highway) from Nebo Road to Old Burnt Hickory Road in Cobb and Paulding Counties.

The project requires a USACE Section 404 permit and will permanently impact 1,900 linear feet (0.495 acre) of perennial streams, 836 linear feet (0.126 acre) of intermittent streams, and 233 linear feet (0.023 acre) of ephemeral channels. In addition, the project will temporarily impact 192 linear feet (0.048 acre) of perennial streams and 31 linear feet (0.003 acre) of intermittent streams. It will also include 0.213 acre of clearing and grubbing impacts and 0.197 acre of permanent fill impacts to wetlands. To offset the loss in aquatic function associated with the above impacts, the applicant has proposed the purchase of 1,626.94 2018 stream credits (17,105.76 Legacy credits) and 0.36 2018 wetland credits (2.88 Legacy credits) for impacts within HUC 03130002, in addition to 779 2018 stream credits (8,115.6 Legacy credits) and 0.02 2018 wetland credits (0.16 Legacy credits) for impacts within HUC 03150104, from USACE approved mitigation banks. The purchase of credits has not yet been completed.

Name and Address of Permit Applicant:

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

September 8, 2026

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

Re: Request for 401 Water Quality Certification
GDOT Project PI Nos. 621720-, 0020051, 0020050, 0007692, 0020052
Paulding and Cobb Counties
State Route 92 Widening/Reconstruction from County Street 519/Nebo Road to Old Burnt Hickory Road
SAS-2010-00581

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 a Section 404 Individual Permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the project on September 2, 2026. 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) GDOT Project PI Nos. 621720-, 0020051, 0020050, 0007692, and 0020052 follow State Route (SR) 92 in Paulding and Cobb Counties, GA, passing through the city of Hiram, GA and crossing Mill Creek and Powder Springs Creek before ending at Old Burnt Hickory Road. The project occurs within the Upper Middle Chattahoochee and Etowah watersheds [Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC) 03130002 and 03150104].

In order to alleviate traffic congestion and improve traffic flow, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) proposes to widen SR 92 (Hiram Acworth Highway) from Nebo Road to Old Burnt Hickory Road in Paulding and Cobb Counties for approximately 11.7 miles. The project proposes to widen the corridor to four 11 to 12-foot lanes (two lanes in each direction) with a 20-foot-wide raised median. A 10-foot shared-use path is proposed on the west side of the corridor, and a five-foot sidewalk is proposed on the east side of the corridor throughout the project area. The proposed project is divided into five separate PI numbers, with each PI number representing a segment of the larger proposed widening of SR 92. The PIs for the proposed widenings are described below.

PI 0020050 (Phase I) proposes to widen SR 92 from south of Maxwell Road to East Paulding Middle School. Traffic will be maintained on SR 92 during construction, however there will be one detour required for the reconstruction of Mount Vernon Church Road intersecting with SR 92. The total project length is approximately 1.51 miles and is located in Paulding County. Discharge of fill into streams will occur within this phase.

PI 0020051 (Phase II) proposes to widen SR 92 from Hiram Park Drive to south of Maxwell Road. Traffic will be maintained on SR 92 during construction, however there will be one detour required for the reconstruction of CW Sims Road intersecting with SR 92. The existing culvert over Powder Springs Creek will be replaced with an arch culvert. The total project length is approximately 2.23 miles and is located in Paulding County. Discharge of fill into streams and wetlands will occur within this phase.

PI 0020052 proposes to widen SR 92 from East Paulding Middle School to Due West Road. Two dual-lane roundabouts are proposed – one at the intersection with Due West Road (west) and the other just north at the intersection of Due West Road (east). The existing box culvert over Pickett's Mill Creek will be replaced with a bridge and the existing box culvert at Wofford Lake Tributary will be replaced with an arch culvert. No off-site detours and no temporary side street detours are proposed. However, the existing intersection of Paige Street with SR 92 will be permanently closed due to the construction of the bridge over Pickett's Mill Creek. A new connection from Paige Street to Womack Avenue will be constructed to maintain access to Paige Street. The total project length is approximately 3.82 miles and is located southwest of the City of Acworth in Cobb and Paulding Counties. Discharge of fill within streams will occur within this phase.

PI 621720- proposes to widen SR 92 from Nebo Road to Hiram Park Drive. Traffic will be maintained on SR 92 during construction, however there will be four detours of varying lengths and durations required for the reconstruction of local streets intersecting with SR 92. The existing bridge over Grays Mill Creek will be widened along the proposed alignment and the bridge over Norfolk Southern Railroad will be replaced on the proposed alignment. The existing bridge over the Silver Comet Trail will be replaced on its existing alignment. The total project length is approximately 1.74 miles and is located within the City of Hiram in Paulding County. Discharge of fill into streams and wetlands will occur within this phase.

PI 0007692 proposes to widen SR 92 from Due West Road to Old Burnt Hickory Road. No offsite detours and no temporary side street detours are proposed. The total project length is approximately 2.4 miles and is located southwest of the City of Acworth in Paulding County. Discharge of fill into streams will occur within this phase.

(2) Multiple discharges of fill into streams and wetlands will occur as a result of project construction. Tables are attached that list each water identified within the project survey limits, their location coordinates, and all corresponding impacts.

(3) Maps are attached that illustrate the location of the project, major roadways, and streams and wetlands.

(4) A table, photographs, and maps are attached that describe and illustrate current site conditions including habitats and land use summaries.

(5) Each phase of the proposed project will let to construction individually and at varying times. Cumulatively, project activities are anticipated to begin in approximately December 2026 and end in approximately October 2031. Discharge into waters may occur at any time between these dates.

(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 (documents available upon request).

Issuing Agency	Type Approval	PI#	Date/ Application	Date/ Approval
GEPD	Buffer Variance	621720-	Pending	Pending
GEPD	Buffer Variance	0020051	Pending	Pending
GEPD	Buffer Variance	0020050	Pending	Pending
GEPD	Buffer Variance	0007692	Pending	Pending
GEPD	Buffer Variance	0020052	Pending	Pending
GEPD	ESPCP Review Under NPDES Permit	621720-	Pending	Pending
GEPD	ESPCP Review Under NPDES Permit	0020051	Pending	Pending
GEPD	ESPCP Review Under NPDES Permit	0020050	2/26/26	Pending
GEPD	ESPCP Review Under NPDES Permit	0007692	Pending	Pending
GEPD	ESPCP Review Under NPDES Permit	0020052	Pending	Pending
USFWS	USFWS Section 7 ESA Concurrence	621720-, 0020051, 0020050, 0007692, 0020052	7/8/26	Pending
GAHPD (SHPO)	Section 106 NHPA Concurrence of Findings	621720-, 0020051, 0020050, 0020050, 0007692,	4/14/26	Pending

		0020052		
USACE	Aquatic Resource Delineation Verification Request	621720-, 0020051, 0020050, 0020050, 0007692, 0020052	11/14/2025	11/21/2025
USACE	Practicable Alternatives Report (PAR)	621720-, 0020051, 0020050, 0020050, 0007692, 0020052	6/22/2022	9/20/2022
USACE	Section 404 Individual Permit	621720-, 0020051, 0020050, 0020050, 0007692, 0020052	9/2/2026	Pending

Key: USFWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service, ESA – Endangered Species Act, GAHPD – Georgia Historic Preservation Division, SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office

(7) GDOT notified GEPD with a request for a pre-filing meeting via email dated January 27, 2026 and GEPD responded via email on July 14, 2026 which stated a pre-filing meeting would not be necessary. This email coordination is attached.

Please copy the GDOT Ecologist, Environmental Analyst, and the USACE Project Manager on any future correspondence. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact GDOT Senior Ecologist Brian Davis at 404-631-1422 (jbdavis@dot.ga.gov) or GDOT Ecology Section Manager Jaime Collazo at 404-631-1740 (jcollazo@dot.ga.gov).

Sincerely,

Amber Phillips/jmc

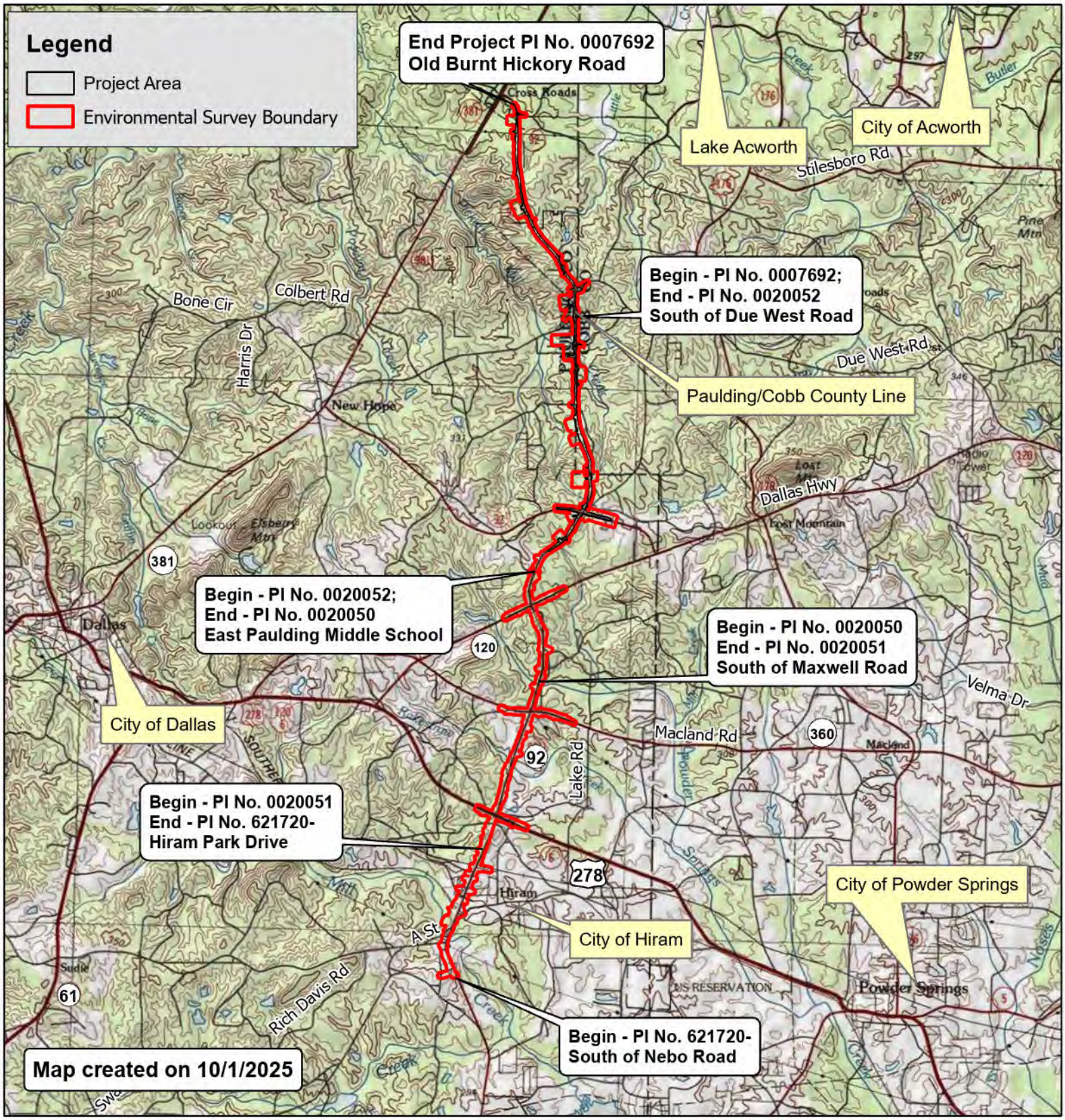
Amber Phillips
State Environmental Administrator

AP/JMC/bd

Brian Kent
GDOT PI Nos. 621720-, 0020051, 0020050, 0007692, 0020052
September 8, 2026

Enclosure

cc:
Ruth Solomon-Roberson, GDOT Project Manager
Supriya Kamatkar, GDOT Project Manager
Amanda Von Oldenburg, GDOT Environmental Analyst
Daryl Williams, GDOT ECB
Lisa Westberry, GDOT Mitigation
Carla Benton-Hooks, GDOT Environmental Program Manager
Sunshine Clements, GDOT Environmental Program Manager
GDOT IOEQ Inbox (IOEQsubmittals@dot.ga.gov)
Josh Hanselman, EPD E&S Unit
Jacob Kelly, EPD E&S Unit
Jonathan Calabria-Russell, EPD E&S Unit
EPD-GDOT Inbox (epd.gdot@dnr.ga.gov)
Nicole Liette, USACE Project Manager
Michelle Baldwin, VHB Consultant Ecologist
Alex Levy, VHB Consultant Project Manager
Abby Donnelly, HNTB Consultant Project Manager



USA_Topo_Maps: Copyright:© 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

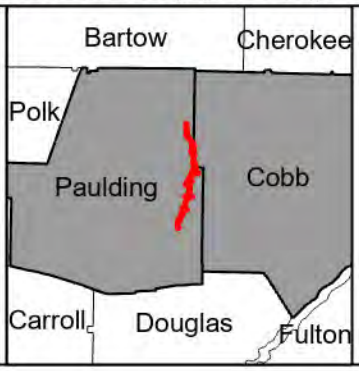


Figure 1
Project Vicinity Map

SR 92 from Nebo Rd to Old Burnt Hickory Rd
P.I. # 621720-, 0020050, 0020052, and 0007692
Cobb and Paulding Counties

0 0.5 1 2 3 4
Miles

N