

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION,  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,  
AND THE  
CITY OF SAVANNAH  
FOR  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (GDOT)  
P.I. NO. 0008358, WEST DERENNE/HAMPSTEAD AVENUE  
CONNECTOR,  
P.I. NO. 0008359, EAST DERENNE FROM ABERCORN STREET TO  
HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY,  
PI 0010236, SR 21 FROM CS 346/MILDRED STREET TO SR 204  
CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**AN AGREEMENT TO PREPARE COMMITMENTS TO MINIMIZE AND MITIGATE  
DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH AND ADVERSE EFFECTS TO THE RESIDENTS AND  
BUSINESS OWNERS OF THE TATEMVILLE, UNIVERSITY PLACE, AND POPLAR PLACE  
NEIGHBORHOODS, THE HAMPSTEAD OAKS APARTMENTS, AND THE SAVANNAH  
SUMMIT, IN THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT DERENNE BETWEEN I-516 AND  
HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY**

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**WHEREAS**, the GDOT Project P.I. Nos. 0008358, 0008359, and 0010236 propose to improve DeRenne Avenue between I-516 and Harry S. Truman Parkway in Chatham County, Georgia, and is federally funded; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Savannah and the GDOT have determined the project would introduce new transportation infrastructure to address inadequate mobility and congestion along DeRenne Avenue; and would result in disproportionately high and adverse effects to the residents of the Tatemville, University Place, and Poplar Place neighborhoods as well as the Savannah Summit – collectively known as Environmental Justice (EJ) populations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Savannah has developed a Relocation Assistance Program (RAP) to minimize and mitigate the disproportionately high and adverse effects to the EJ populations, and has agreed to establish an advisory committee consisting of local agency partners, the GDOT, and FHWA to implement the RAP; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the GDOT, City of Savannah, and FHWA agree that the action shall be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations in order to minimize and mitigate impacts of the action on EJ populations.

## STIPULATIONS

The City of Savannah and the GDOT shall ensure that the following measures are carried out:

### 1. EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING:

**1a.** The RAP committee, in cooperation with the GDOT and its partner members, would organize a minimum of five (5) educational training or counseling classes to develop public knowledge and skills related to home buying, mortgages, homeownership, household budgeting, affordable housing, rental housing, and housing options with emphasis on the long-term implications of housing costs. The classes should be held as close to the project corridor as possible, and preferably within walkable distance of the most heavily affected populations in the University Place, Poplar Place, and Tatemville neighborhoods.

**1b.** The City of Savannah will handle and pay for all costs to hold each of the five (5) training classes, including advertisement and space rental.

**1c.** The City of Savannah will coordinate with GDOT and FHWA to develop appropriate advertisements that may include, but are not limited to, signage, newspaper announcements, emails, and flyers. The wording of each advertisement will be subject to the City of Savannah's approval prior to distribution. Notice of each class will be provided to the public no less than 30 days in advance.

**1d.** The City of Savannah will ensure that at least three (3) classes are held prior to right-of-way authorization for Project DeRenne, and that the remaining two (2) classes are held within the first year of the right-of-way acquisition process.

### 2. ONGOING COUNSELING:

**2a.** The RAP committee will establish a sub-committee or designated partner who would be available throughout the right-of-way acquisition phase, relocations, and construction to counsel individual renters, owners, and businesses in the best options for housing and business operations (ownership versus renting) with the funds they receive from the right-of-way acquisition process.

**2b.** The RAP committee would appoint a partner or individual who will field questions from EJ populations affected by Project DeRenne and make referrals to public and non-profit (i.e. free resources) agencies that would be most appropriate for the relocation or impact type (ex. housing versus business, renter versus owner).

**3. HOW-TO PAMPHLETS and HOUSING LISTS:**

**3a.** The RAP committee will create a “How-to” pamphlet or fund copies of existing pamphlets that address Section 8 and Public Housing waiting lists, and how to engage the agencies who manage low-income housing programs in Savannah.

**3b.** The RAP committee will create and maintain (updated monthly beginning three (3) months prior to right-of-way acquisition and through construction) a list of available Section 8 and Public Housing, and a list of vacant lots, unoccupied houses, rental units, and business locations within a one-mile buffer of the Project DeRenne corridor. The RAP committee will identify and appoint a representative from its membership, partners, or other organizations in Savannah to ensure the list of available housing is easily accessible to the public via websites, email, and in hard copy form (ex. it will be available at a City of Savannah office within walking distance of the Project DeRenne corridor).

**3c.** The RAP committee would create and maintain (updated once monthly beginning at least three (3) months prior to right-of-way acquisition and through construction) a list of phone numbers, email addresses, and general contact information for public and non-profit assistance available in Savannah, and the list would briefly describe the types of assistance each agency or program can provide. The RAP committee will identify and appoint a representative from its membership, partners, or other organizations in Savannah to ensure the list is accurate and easily accessible to the public via websites, email distribution lists, and in hard copy form (ex. it will be available at a City of Savannah office within walking distance of the Project DeRenne corridor).

**4. PROGRESS and REPORTING:**

**4a.** The City of Savannah will provide monthly updates to the GDOT and FHWA on the progress of the mitigation. These updates shall include progress updates for each Stipulation contained herein, including but not limited to the number of, location, and attendance at classes, and a record of each individual or business requesting assistance.

**4b.** Each year following the execution of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) until it is terminated, the City of Savannah shall provide all parties to this MOU a summary report detailing work undertaken pursuant to its terms. Such report shall be comprehensive and include any scheduling changes proposed, any problems encountered and steps to resolve the issue, and any disputes and objections received in the GDOT’s and city’s efforts to carry out the terms of this MOU.

**5. AMENDMENTS:**

This MOU may be amended when such an amendment is agreed to in writing by all signatories. The amendment will be effective on the date a copy signed by all the signatories is filed with the FHWA. If right-of-way, letting, or construction is delayed, the GDOT commits to amending this agreement, as needed.

Execution of this MOU by the GDOT, FHWA, and City of Savannah and implementation of its terms evidence that FHWA and GDOT have taken into account the effects of this action on environmental justice populations.

**6. REVIEW AND TERMINATION:**

This MOU and all conditions, responsibilities, and requirements will terminate 12 months from the date GDOT certifies that right-of-way acquisition is complete for each project (PI Nos. 0008358, 0008359, 0010236).

The MOU and all conditions, responsibilities, and requirements will be reviewed by all parties 8 months from the date GDOT certifies that right-of-way acquisition is complete for each project to verify that all stipulations have been satisfied. Any time prior to this date, FHWA may consult with the other signatories to reconsider the terms of the MOU and amend it in accordance with Section 5.

Any individual elements of the MOU that have not been completed may be revised and renegotiated without renegotiation of the MOU in its entirety, in accordance with requirements in Section 5 of the MOU.

**CITY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

The Mayor and Alderman of the City of Savannah

**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Russell McMurry, P.E., Commissioner

**FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Moises Marrero, Division Administrator

