

## SAVANNAH TREE FOUNDATION

*Preserve. Protect. Plant. Since 1982.*

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October 15, 2015

Chatham County, Department of Engineering  
124 Bull St # 430  
Savannah, GA 31401

Subject: Proposed Sandfly Roundabout

Dear Chatham County Engineering:

The Savannah Tree Foundation (STF) is requesting more detailed information on the proposed road improvement in the Sandfly area, particularly the roundabout joining Skidaway Road at Montgomery Cross Road. Members of the STF Board have reviewed the published plan available on the County Engineer's webpage, but would like answers to the following:

#### Questions:

1. What are the project design criteria and how were these factored into the project?
2. What data were used to justify the proposed action, i.e., were traffic survey data compiled along with other data sources? STF would like a copy of these data sources along with the interpretation of them used in the project design.
3. What was the No Action alternative? Was it considered in the design?
4. Why is the slip lane to Skidaway heading south necessary, as well as the one heading west to Montgomery Cross Road? Roundabouts function best when all traffic enters the circle, and slip lanes (especially in this type of context) tend to reduce their safety and functionality. Eliminating those slip lanes would significantly reduce the size of the project that would aid in protection of existing trees and community character.
5. Was an option considered for a sidewalk only on the east side of Skidaway Road, and none on the west side? Since the right of way is very constrained, we'd like for the County to consider an option that would allow for a sidewalk with a more generous tree lawn along the east side, which would by necessity eliminate the sidewalk on the west side. If development proceeds with the parcels on the west side, the County could negotiate with property owners to also have a sidewalk and tree lawn along that side as well.

Our concerns for the project, as we understand it currently, are as follows:

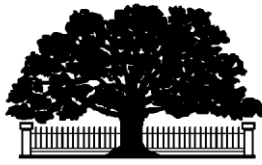
#### Concerns:

6. The continued loss of large oaks within the county, a drawing feature for local citizens and visitors as well. Any tree that is to be preserved during construction should have a minimum 1 foot diameter protected root zone for each inch diameter of tree.
7. A complete tree survey of the site should be included with the project drawings. Has a tree survey been completed by a certified arborist?



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8. Was the Georgia Conservancy's Blue Print for Sandfly considered during the planning of this road project? The location of this Blue Print is;  
<https://www.georgiaconservancy.org/uploads/Blueprints/Sandfly.pdf>
9. What new trees will be planted, and where?

Please provide answers and available data to address our Questions and Concerns above at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Karen Jenkins,  
Executive Director  
Savannah Tree Foundation



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