



## Commission Meeting

Meeting Date: February 18, 2025

Memorandum of Understanding with Augusta Canal Authority

Augusta Canal Walking Bridge Design & Construction Project

File Reference: 24-014 (A)

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<b>Department:</b>	Engineering & Environmental Services
<b>Presenter:</b>	Dr. Hameed Malik
<b>Caption:</b>	Approve entering Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Augusta Canal Authority for installation and construction of a pedestrian trail and bridge along/over the Augusta Canal to create opportunities for greater access to Public Levee Trail. Also, authorize Mayor to sign attached MOU document.
<b>Background:</b>	Georgia Legislators included \$500,000 in GDOT amended FY2024 budget for partially funding construction of Pedestrian Bridge over Augusta Canal in the vicinity of Lake Warren. At present there is no connection to the Canal Trail from the River Watch side of the canal. The concept is to create a walking trail along recently dredged Lake Warren and connect it to the Canal Trail (located at opposite bank of the canal) by constructing the pedestrian bridge over the Augusta Canal. Concept development and funding efforts are led by an Augusta State Representative. Completing this trail including bridge preliminary estimated cost is around \$2 million.
<b>Analysis:</b>	Partnering with Augusta Canal Authority will be a more cost-effective approach, and MOU would allow this organization to extend its River Levee Trail thereby increasing the opportunities for recreation for the citizens of Augusta, as well as citizens of surrounding communities. Construction of proposed Trail provides West Service Area of Augusta direct connectivity to the Augusta Canal Trail system. It will have beneficial quality of life and economic growth impact. The project will be constructed in phases and the Canal Authority requests initial funding for completing Phase 1 tasks that primarily consist of concept & easements plan development.
<b>Financial Impact:</b>	The project has \$500,000.00 allocation from the State of Georgia. Augusta, Georgia received these funds through GDOT LMIG Program. Funds in amount of \$288,900.00 are available from \$500,000.00 received amount to support the project Phase 1 tasks as proposed by the Canal Authority.
<b>Alternatives:</b>	Do not approve and identify alternative way to complete the project.

**Recommendation:** Approve entering Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Augusta Canal Authority for installation and construction of a pedestrian trail and bridge along/over the Augusta Canal to create opportunities for greater access to Public Levee Trail. Also, authorize Mayor to sign attached MOU document.

**Funds are available in the following accounts:** GA State funding through GDOT LMIG Program  
335-041110-54.14210

**REVIEWED AND**  
**APPROVED BY:**