



Engineering Services Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: March 31, 2026

Willis Forman Rd Improvements (Deans Bridge Rd. to Peach Orchard Rd.)

Right of Way Acquisition

GDOT PI # 0013703

File Reference: 26 – 014(T)

Department:	Engineering & Environmental Services
Presenter:	Dr. Hameed Malik, Director
Caption:	Motion to authorize in connection with the Willis Foreman Project (PI# 0013703) condemnation those parcels which Engineering has been unable to reach an agreement regarding value with the property owner and those parcels that counsel has determined that need to be condemned for title issues. /AE
Background:	Willis Foreman project is listed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Willis Foreman Road is a two-way rural collector with a total of two through lanes. The proposed project provides connectivity between two urban major arterials (US 1 and US 25). The purpose of this project is to improve traffic flow and public safety and minimize traffic congestion by increasing the capacity and providing improvements along Willis Foreman Road between SR4/US1 and SR121/US25. Project Improvements concept includes widening to three lanes roadway section and turn lanes as needed, widening the bridge over Spirit Creek (if needed), major intersection improvements and adding curb and gutter, sidewalks and streetlights. The project is included in Augusta Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) as partially funded by federal funds.
Analysis:	Augusta MPO TIP programed the project construction in FY2026; however, due to large number of parcels (262) acquiring all parcels and filling closing documents was not feasible to keep project construction in FY2026. GDOT assessed remaining parcels acquisition time schedule and determined moving the project construction to FY2028 provide needed time for closing remaining parcels. Augusta Engineering is making all efforts to move this project construction back in FY2027 that will create an opportunity for securing additional funds. For meeting right of way certification in 2027 deadline Augusta Commission authorization of condemnation as request is critical.

Financial Impact: Getting project programmed in TIP year 2027 creates opportunity & possibility for Augusta, GA receiving FY2027 STBG allocated funds for Willis Foreman Construction.

Alternatives: Do not approve and find alternate way to complete ROW acquisition by given deadline.

Recommendation: Motion to authorize in connection with the Willis Foreman Project (PI# 0013703) condemnation those parcels which Engineering has been unable to reach an agreement regarding value with the property owner and those parcels that counsel has determined that need to be condemned for title issues. /AE

Funds are available in the following accounts: N/A

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY: HM/OF/sr