

**Project PI 0007495, Lumpkin, Towns, Union, and White Counties
Pedestrian Upgrades at 19 State Route (SR) Locations in GDOT District 1**

The proposed project would upgrade signal and pedestrian facilities and equipment at 19 intersections in Lumpkin, Towns, Union, and White Counties. One of the intersections proposed for improvement is US 76/SR 2/SR 17/North Main Street and River Street in Hiawassee, Georgia. The improvements at this intersection would include installation of steel strain poles with mast arms, LED countdown pedestrian signals with push button stations, signal cabinet with conduit to signals, wheelchair ramps, and curb and gutter. The proposed project would require approximately 0.015 acre of right-of-way (ROW) from within the City of Hiawassee property at the Town Square. The ROW acquisition from the City of Hiawassee property in Towns Square would be used for constructing ADA compliant wheelchair ramps and pedestrian poles. Access to the park would be maintained during construction.

Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act of 1966 refers to the temporary and/or permanent use and/or constructive use of land from a significant publicly owned park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or any historic site for transportation purposes. Hiawassee Town Square qualifies for protection as a Section 4(f) resource.

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) requires that the public have the opportunity to review and comment on the impacts before Section 4(f) *de minimis* requirements are satisfied. This notice is considered the opportunity for public review and comment to fulfill the *de minimis* requirements. Dependent upon feedback as a result of this notification, the City of Hiawassee intends to concur that the proposed project would have only a *de minimis* (minimal) impact upon the Town Square.

The City of Hiawassee is soliciting comments on the proposed project. Written statements will be accepted concerning this project until July 16, 2014. Written statements may be submitted to:

Ms. Hiral Patel, PE
Attn: Ms. Iris Hernandez
Georgia Department of Transportation
Office of Environmental Services
One Georgia Center, 16th Floor, 600 W. Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia, 30308-3607