COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Public Works	Presenter(s):	Phil Mallon
Meeting Date:	Thursday, March 8, 2012	Type of Request:	Old Business

Wording for the Agenda:

Consideration of staff's recommendation to work with planners at the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), and neighboring jurisdictions to identify and program regionally-significant transportation improvements along I-85 in the vicinity of Bohannon Road, SR 74, SR 92, Fayetteville Road and SR 138.

Background/History/Details:

Preliminary engineering work is underway for improvements at the interchange of SR 74 and I-85 within the City Limits of Fairburn. Although not finalized, improvements may include a Diverging Diamond Interchange or a Partial Cloverleaf. These options were presented to the public at a Public Information Open House on February 28th. Either option would provide substantial Level of Service improvements compared to current conditions. This work has funding programmed under Project No. FS-AR-821.

Despite these proposed improvements at the Interchange, staff feels there is opportunity, and need, for additional regionally-significant capacity, operational and safety improvements in this general area. Said improvements could include a collector-distributor system along this stretch of I-85, new access to and from the Interstate at SR 92 and/or Bohannon Road, interchange improvements at SR 138, and other ideas. Both of the concepts for FS-AR-821 are compatible with these future "Phase 2" Interstate improvements and the enhancements would be complementarity to one-another. An example "Phase 2" project already programmed is FS-202B1 (Upgrades to existing Oakley Industrial Boulevard between SR 138 and Fayetteville Road).

One specific goal of this request is to ultimately have the "Phase 2" project(s) programmed in ARC's PLAN 2040 and thus possibly be eligible for Federal Aid if additional funding sources become available.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Board consensus for staff to work with GDOT, ARC and neighboring jurisdictions to identify and program regionally-significant transportation improvements on and along I-85 in the vicinity of Bohannon Road, SR 74, SR 92, Fayetteville Road and SR 138.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

No funding is required at this time.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	Yes	If so, when?	Wednesday, January 4, 2012
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	Yes
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval	Yes		

Staff Notes:

3. <u>Commissioner Brown would like to discuss the possibility of preparing a resolution to send to the Georgia Department of Transportation encouraging the design of a full-fledged plan for the proposed improvements to the interchange at Georgia Highway 74 and I-85</u>:

Commissioner Brown and Public Works Director Phil Mallon presented this item for discussion. A copy of the request and backup, identified as "Attachment No. 11", follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof.

Commissioner Brown announced that the Engineer for Fairburn Troy Besseche was also present today for this discussion. He said Phil, Troy and himself had attended a meeting with subcontractive engineering firm QK4. He said they had discussed several things related to the interchange. He said much to their credit, QK4 has seemed to take a lot of those things into consideration. He said there were several factors that are beyond our control including (1) the amount of money budgeted for the project in the TIA referendum and (2) the current road network and what we can afford to do. He said he had been working on this interchange situation since 2002 and expressed concern with trying to get the maximum impact of something that would be more meaningful and long lasting and try to have a plan in place.

Commissioner Brown remarked that one scenario was if the TIA referendum does pass, DOT currently has substantial funding set aside already for a number of those projects that are included in the TIA referendum. He said if it passes there would be additional funds to do those projects thus freeing up a lot of Georgia Department of Transportation funds that might be used in this project. He said if there was not a full fledged plan with these elements included in it and they were not recognized by the DOT and the governing authorities, then when the money does become available you would be at square one. He said one of the elements that they had looked at was the half diamond S.R. 92, the collector distributor lanes along I-85 and then adding some capacity to SR 54 on the Fayette County side.

Chairman Frady asked who would be drawing up these plans to send to the DOT and Commissioner Brown replied that QK4 the subcontractive engineering firm. Chairman Frady asked who would pay for these plans and Commissioner Brown said the County had paid a portion of it, Peachtree City had put in some funding as well as Fairburn and DOT.

Public Works Director Phil Mallon interjected that there would be a meeting in late January or February to show these drawings.

After further discussion, County Administrator clarified that Mr. Mallon would go back to the ARC and DOT to see if it was feasible to do an expansion of the scope and if that was not feasible, then create a new scope and a resolution of support. Chairman Frady suggested Mr. Mallon also work with Fairburn Engineer Troy Besseche on this project since it was in the City of Fairburn.

After some discussion, there was a consensus of the Board for Mr. Mallon to go back to the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Department of Transportation and take a look at the feasibility of an expansion of the scope of the existing project related to the interchange at I-85 and S.R. 74 and if that is not feasible, to create a new project; followed by a resolution of support.