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DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF PLANNING, DATA
AND INTERMODAL DEVELOPMENT

March 27, 2007

Mr. Gerald Ross, P.E.
Director of Planning
Georgia Department of Transportation
No. 2 Capital Square
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Ross:

It appears that there has been some misunderstanding concerning Henry County's position on the prioritization of our Transportation projects as discussed during our March 6th meeting with yourself and officials from ARC, GRTA, and the Henry County staff.

When the issues of funding the interchange improvements at Jodeco Road and adding a lane from I-75 from exit 224 to exit 216 came up, we were led to believe that Henry County needed to decide which project was a greater priority, as the funding was only available for one of these projects. Based upon the State's plans to have the Jodeco Road interchange completed by 2010, Henry County, through our SPLOST Program, has proceeded with plans to four-lane Jodeco Road on the east side of this interchange. In addition, the County has Patrick Henry Parkway under construction which will connect Jodeco Road to Eagles Landing Parkway. This parallel connector to I-75 was planned in conjunction with the interchange project. It appears to us that it would be a mistake to postpone the Jodeco Road interchange at this time. Doing so would create a new bottleneck as the new four-laned portion of Jodeco Road merges into the old two-lane bridge at the I-75 interchange.

However, as we stated in the March 6th meeting, adding lanes on I-75 from I-675 to exit 216 remains a top priority for Henry County. This "bottleneck" is a major concern for all citizens in this region; it has also been identified by the Governor as a key concern. As anyone traveling on I-75 through Henry County can attest that bottlenecks seriously impedes the flow of traffic affecting not only Henry County citizens, but also citizens from throughout Georgia. Also, it is important to note, that this stretch of I-75 serves many travelers passing through our area on the way to, or from vacation destinations throughout Georgia and Florida. Based on these facts, we feel certain that this project will pass the new requirements for cost/benefit and congestion relief from the Governor's Task Force on Congestion Mitigation.

While the initial phase of this project has already been authorized from I-675 to Eagles Landing Parkway (HE-AR-232) we greatly value your assistance in adding a second phase to this project to extend the limits to exit 216.



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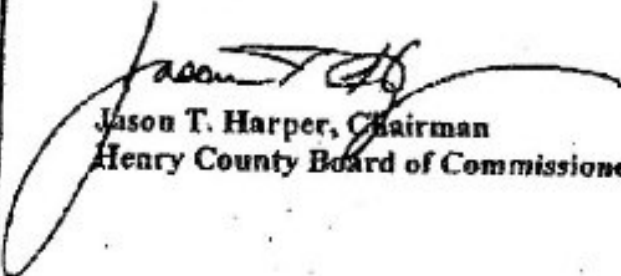
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Thanks again for all of your help in clarifying these matters, and your cooperation to help rectify these very serious issues and please know that Henry County fully supports both of these much needed projects.

Sincerely,


Jason T. Harper, Chairman
Henry County Board of Commissioners

CC:

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