



Georgia Department of Transportation

**Cultural Resources
Collaboration and Innovation
Towards Continuous Improvement:**

**Traffic Signal Upgrades
Memorandum of Understanding**

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State Environmental Administrator

At GDOT, we are at our best when faced with a challenge...

2017 I-85 Bridge Collapse



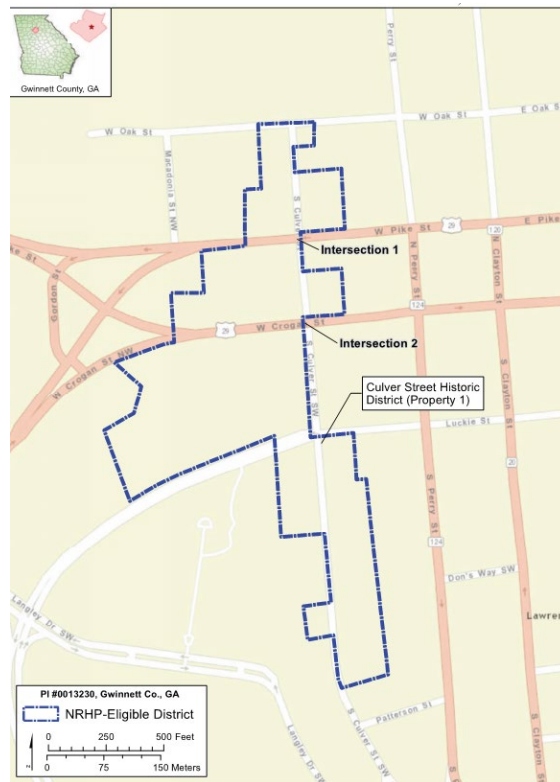
2018 Hurricane Michael



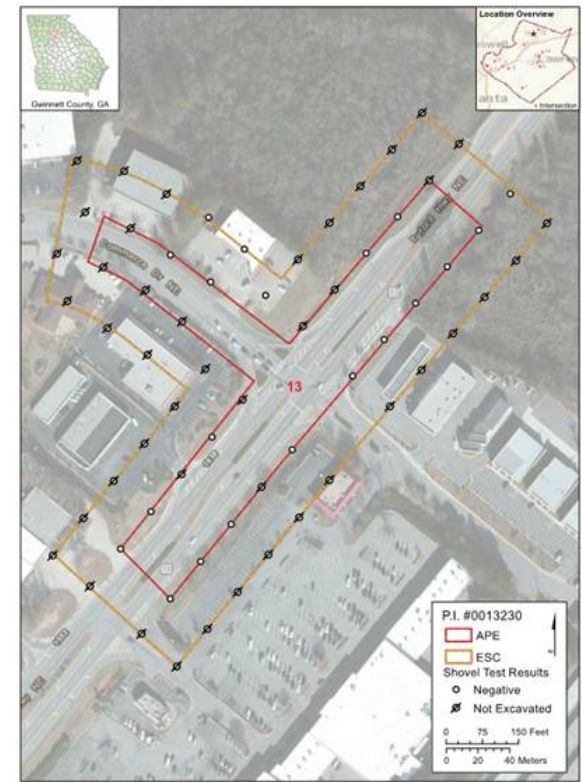
Environmental Challenges are no different

The Challenge– Statewide Signal Upgrades

- Large Survey Areas
- Huge Documents
- Big Budgets
- Extended Schedules



74 page History Report



220 page Archaeology Report

Traffic Operations Signal Upgrades

The Traffic Signal Upgrade Program

- GDOT is responsible for over 6,000 on-system signals throughout the state
- Signalized intersection upgrades from span wires to mast arms, where feasible



Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

A Procedural Law

- There are four separate required activities under the law that require documentation and coordination with agencies
- Typical agency review time is 30 days for each round of review
- Change to the Section 106 process requires coordination with SHPO and FHWA



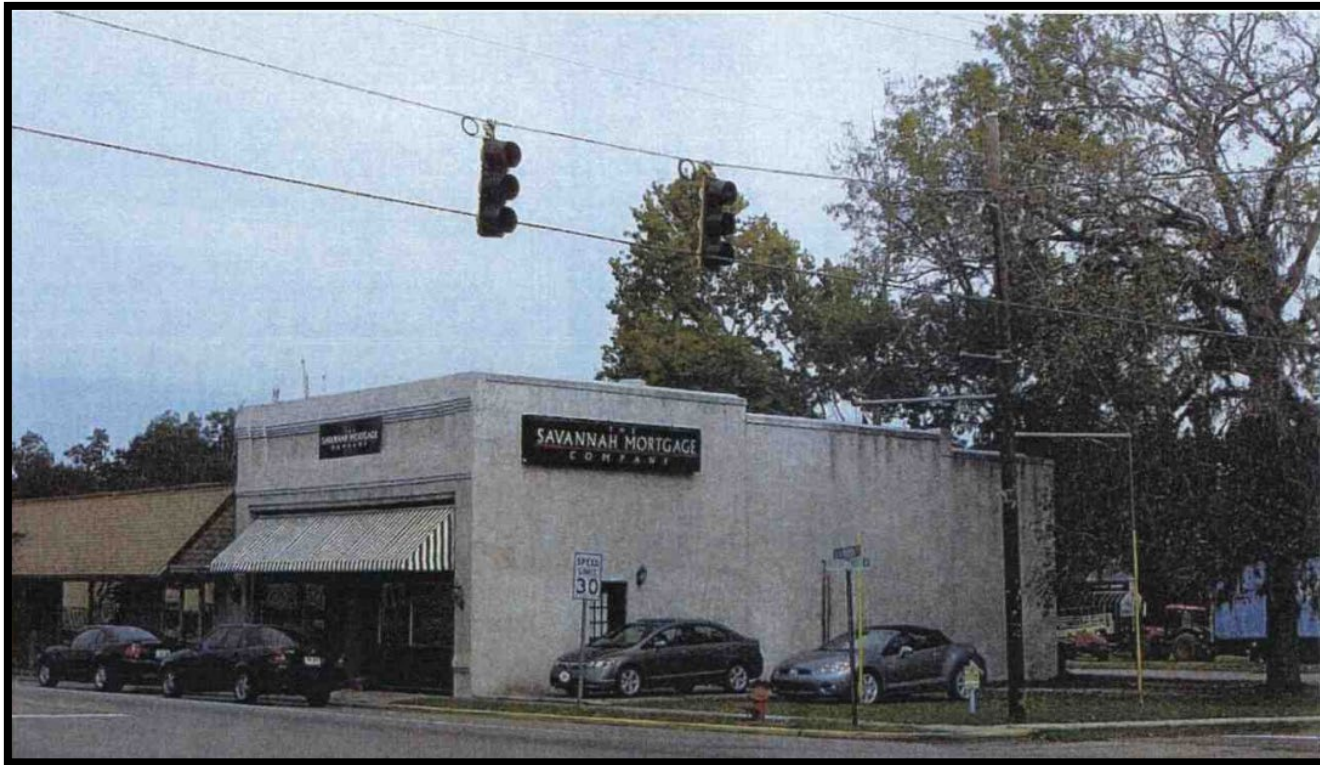
Collaboration Between GDOT Offices and Agencies

GDOT Cultural Resources Managers...

- Coordinated with Traffic Operations Management
- Analyzed Signalization Projects from 2006 with Span Wire to Mast Arm Upgrades
- Consulted with SHPO and FHWA







The Innovation: A Memorandum of Understanding with SHPO and FHWA

How is this innovative?

- Shorter timelines
- Less potential for Section 4(f)
- Fewer disagreements with agencies
- More time spent on the important issues

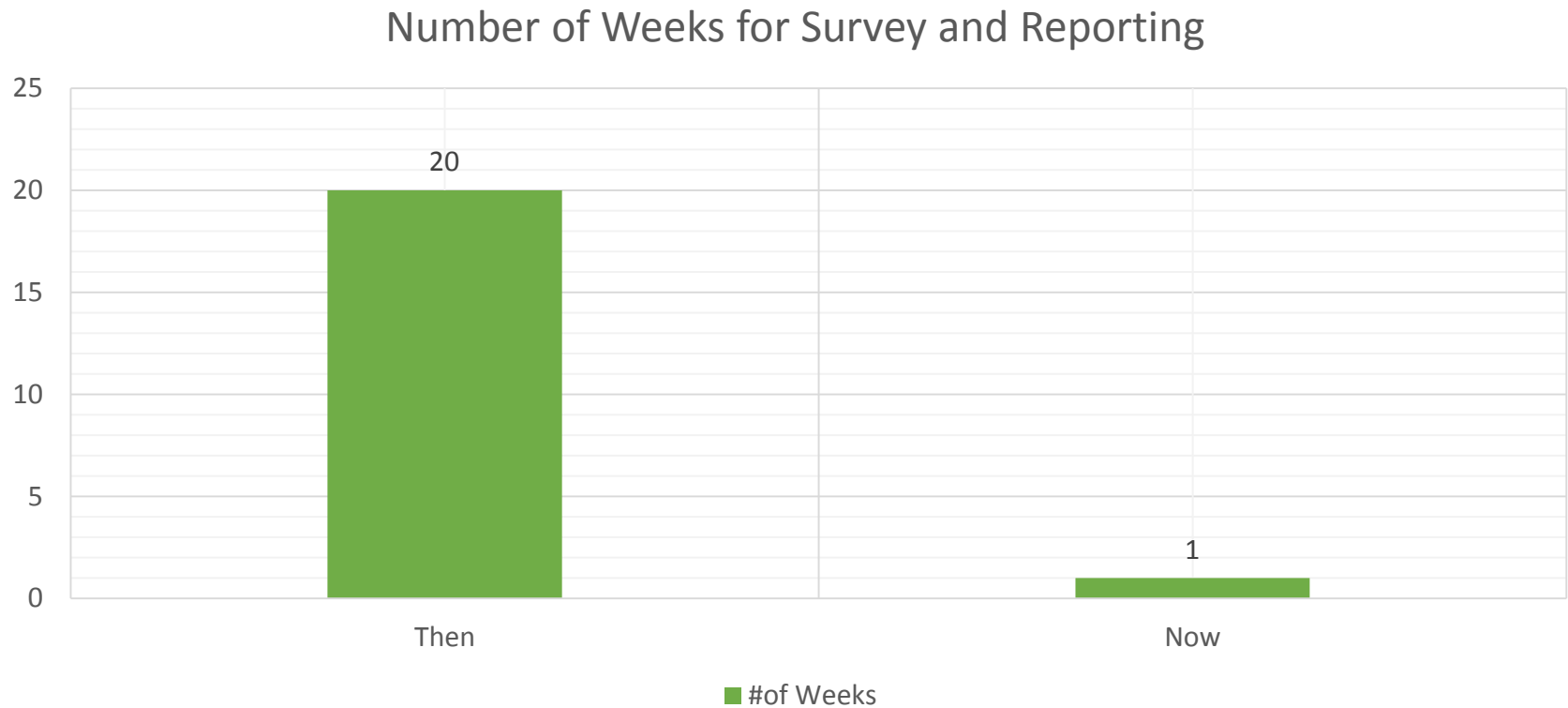


**Consistent on-time
project delivery!**



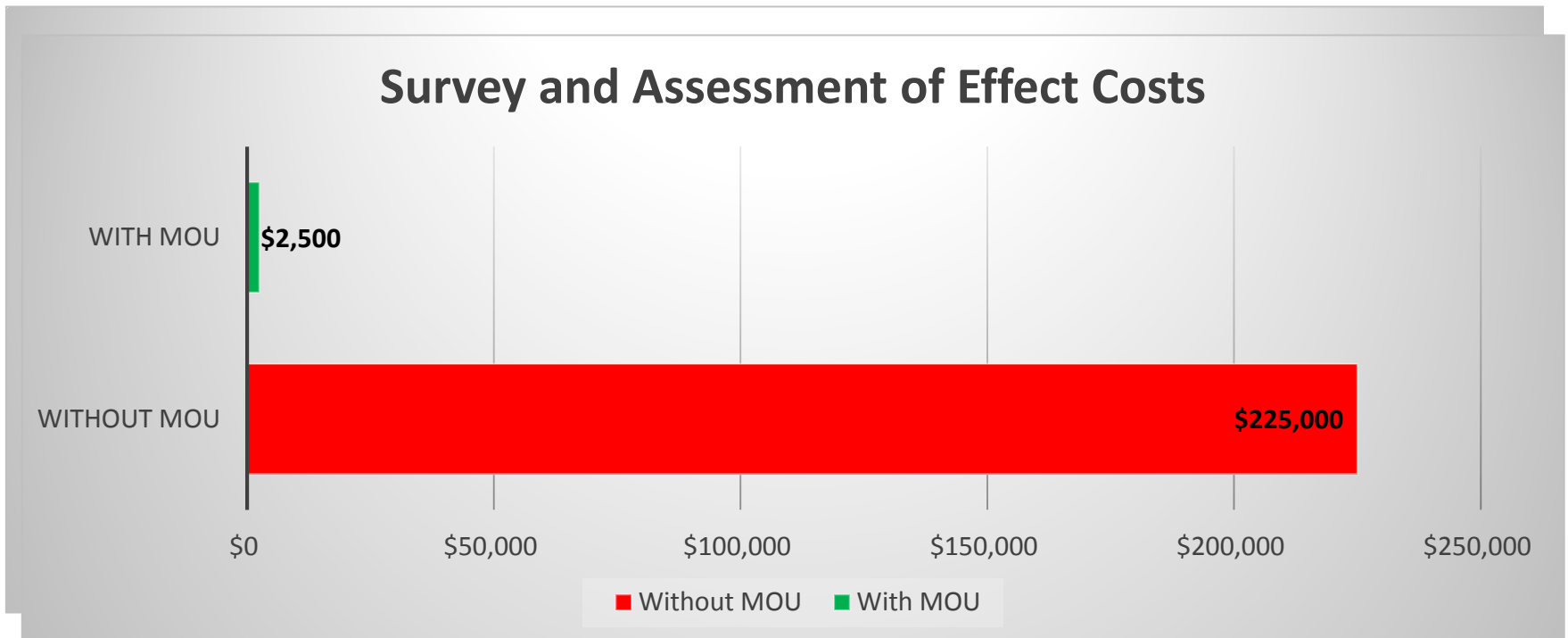
The Results – Historic Resources

Example: Upgrades to 20 Signal Locations



The Results – Historic Resources

Example: Upgrades to 20 Signal Locations

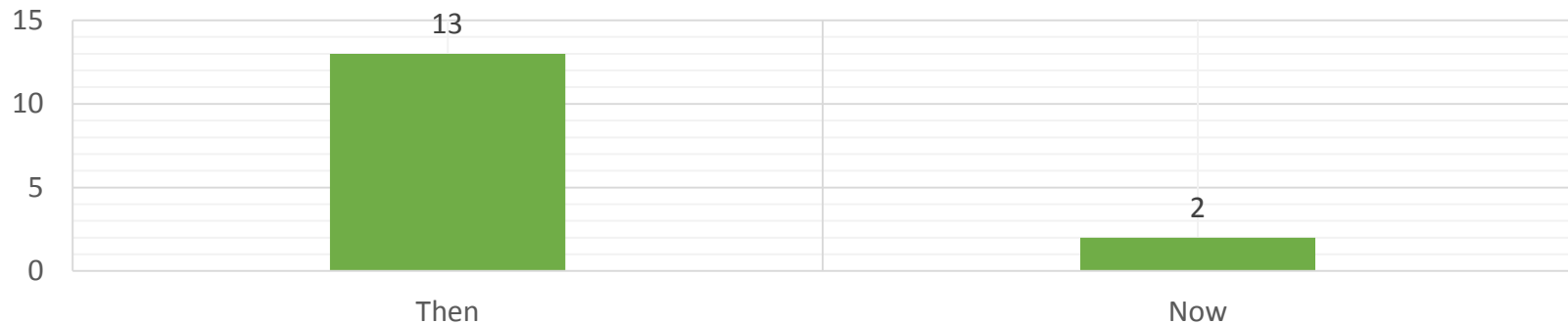


Cost Savings: \$222,500!

The Results – Archaeological Resources

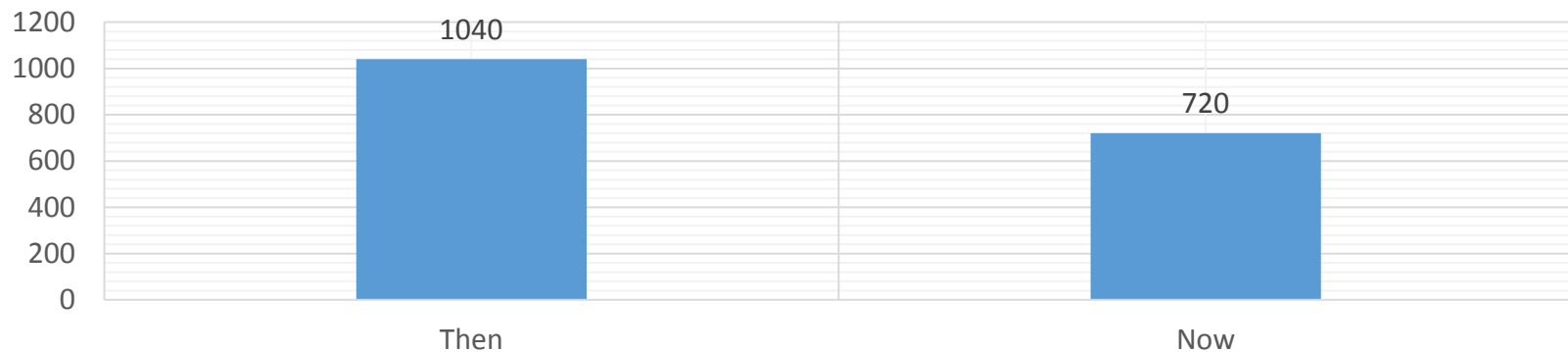
Example: Upgrades to 20 Signal Locations

#of Sites



■ #of Sites

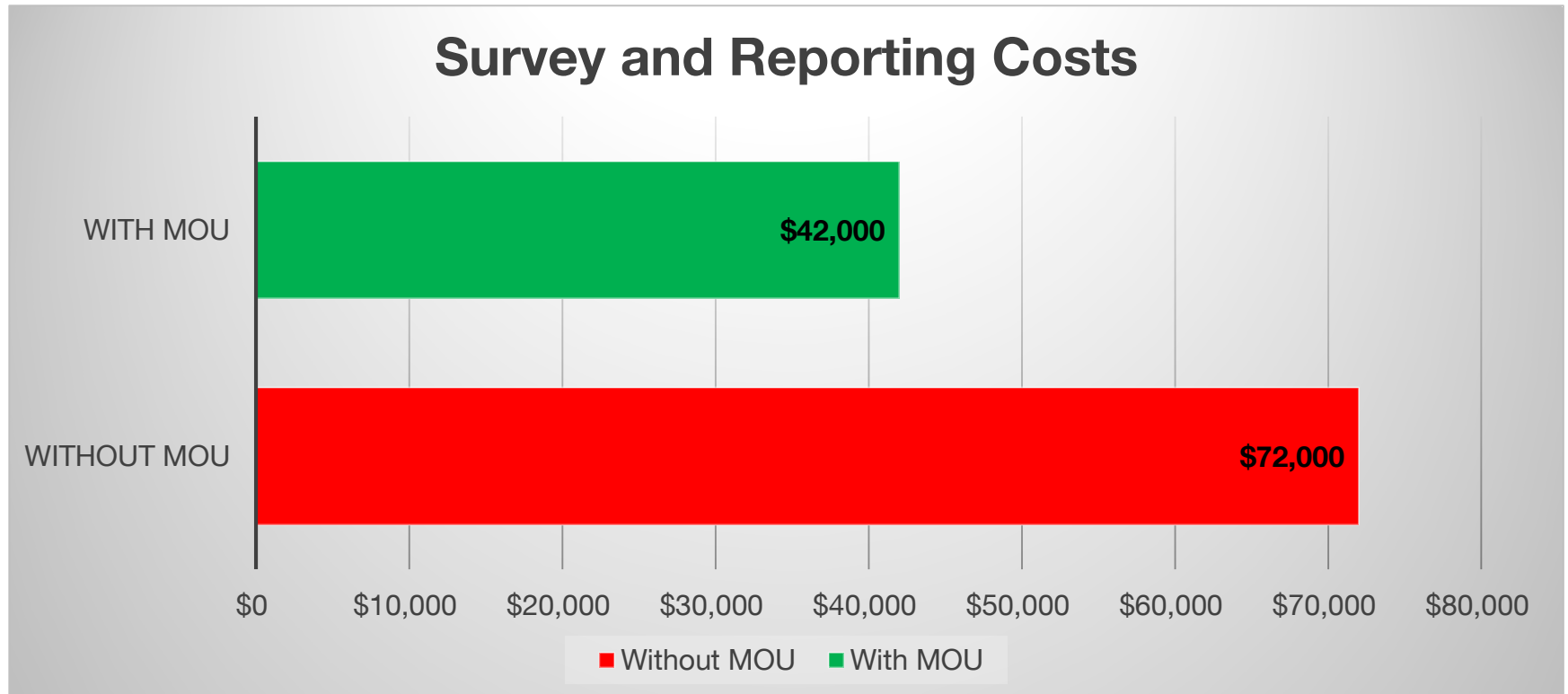
of Shovel Tests



■ #of Shovel Tests

The Results – Archaeological Resources

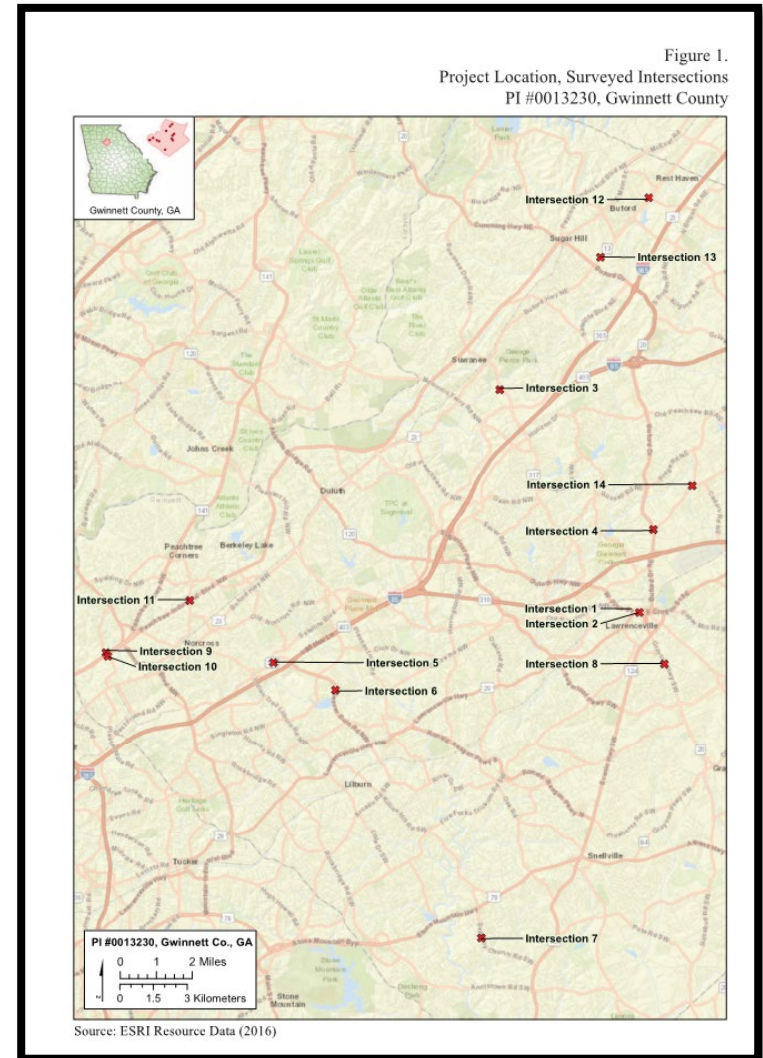
Example: Upgrades to 20 Signal Locations



Cost Savings: \$30,000!

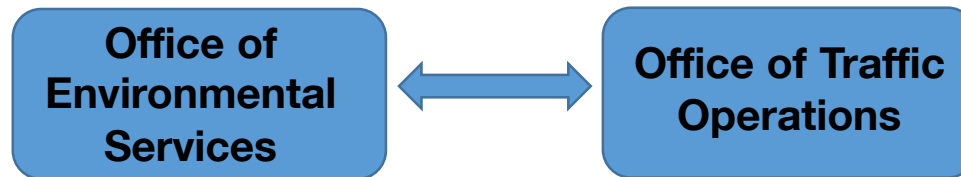
Continuous Improvement

The MOU significantly cuts down on project costs and delivers projects faster



Potential Total Cost Savings for GDOT per Project: \$252,500

"Obligation to be Great"



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION