



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**



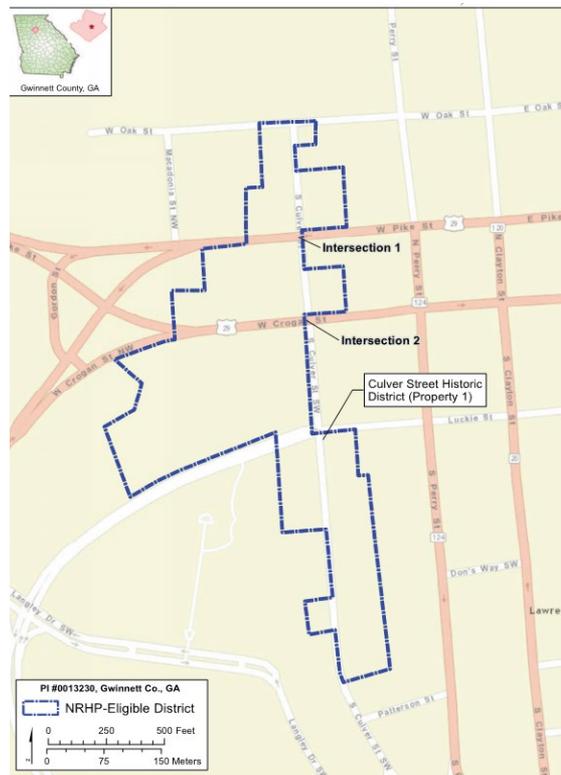
**2018 Hurricane Michael**



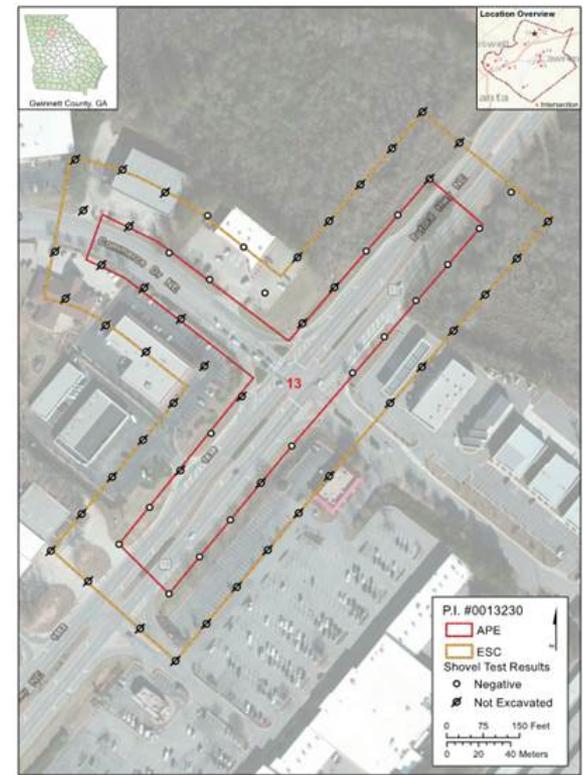
# Environmental Challenges are no different

## 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



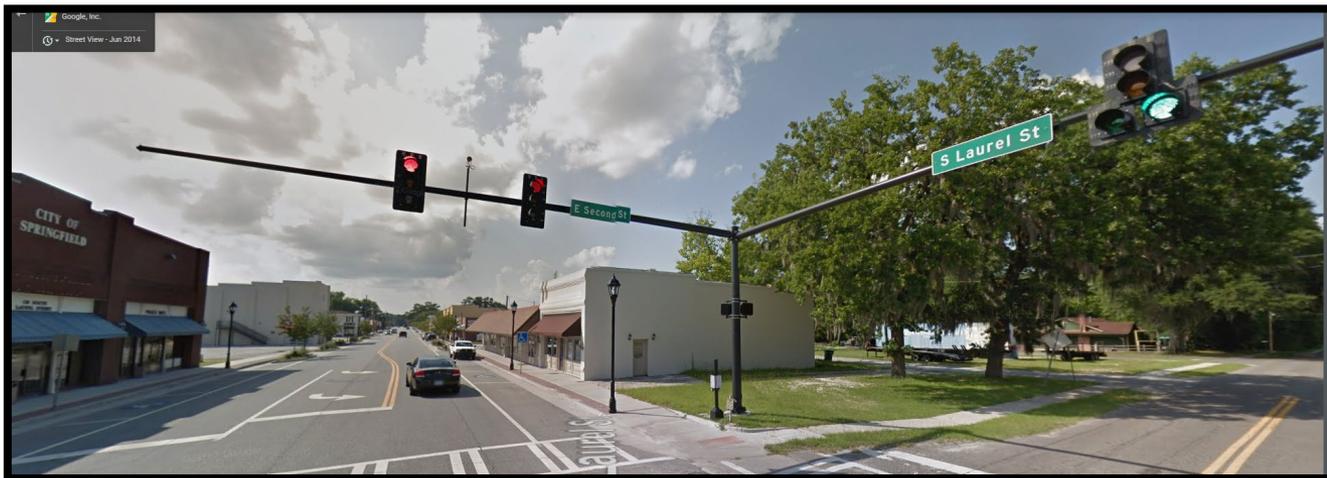
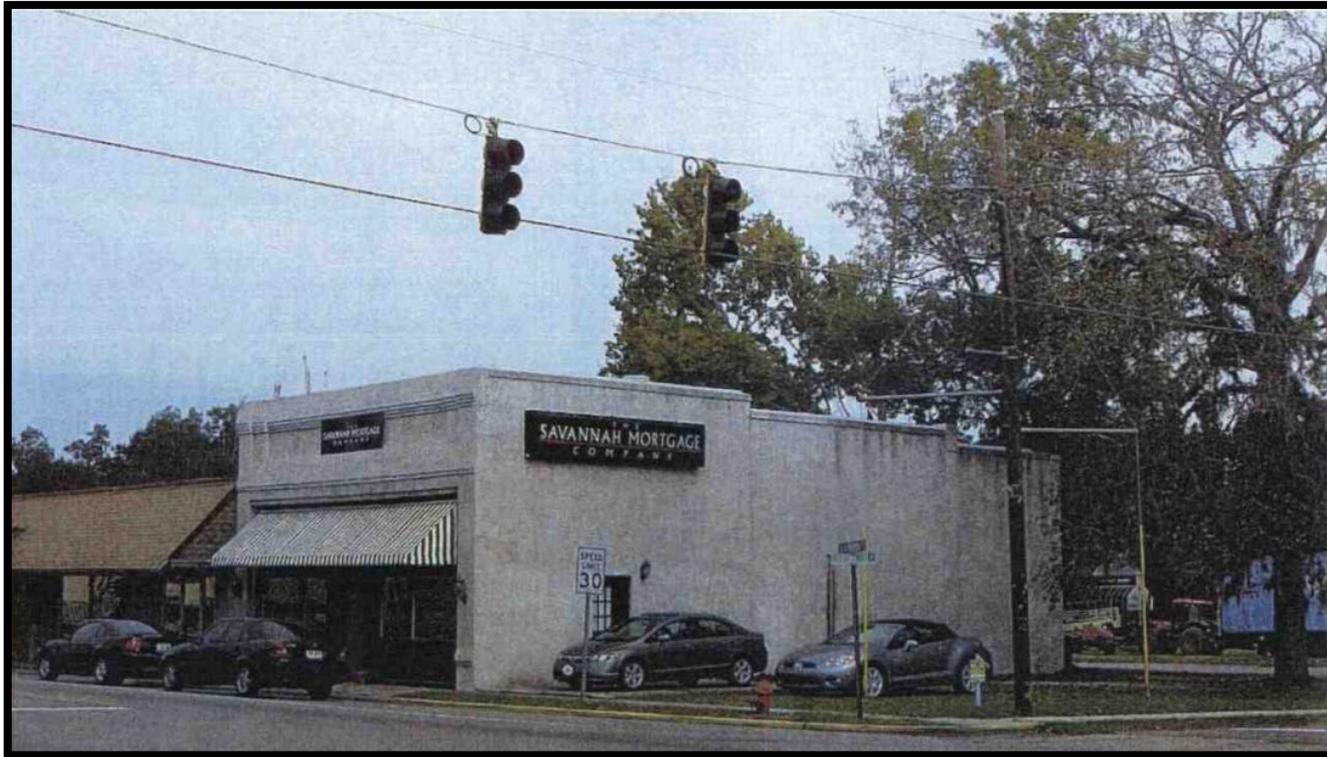
# Collaboration Between GDOT Offices and Agencies

## 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



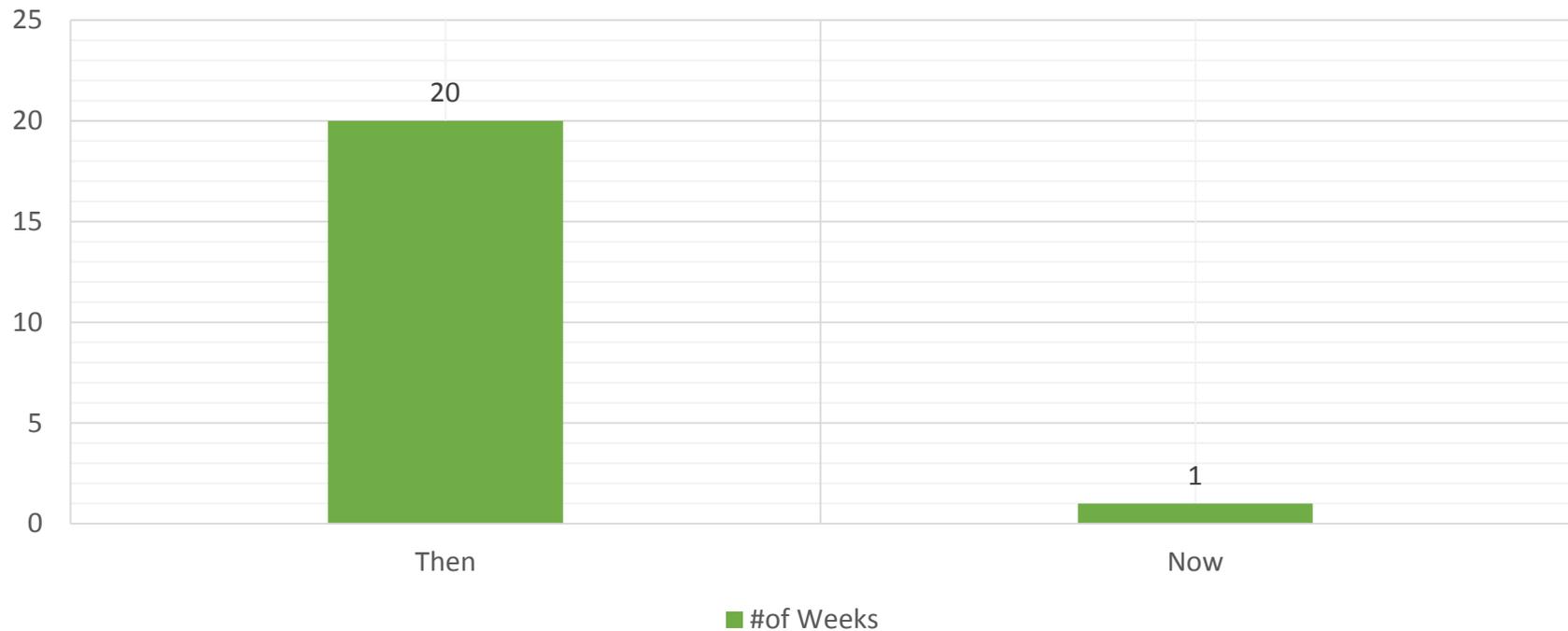
**Consistent on-time project delivery!**



# The Results - Historic Resources

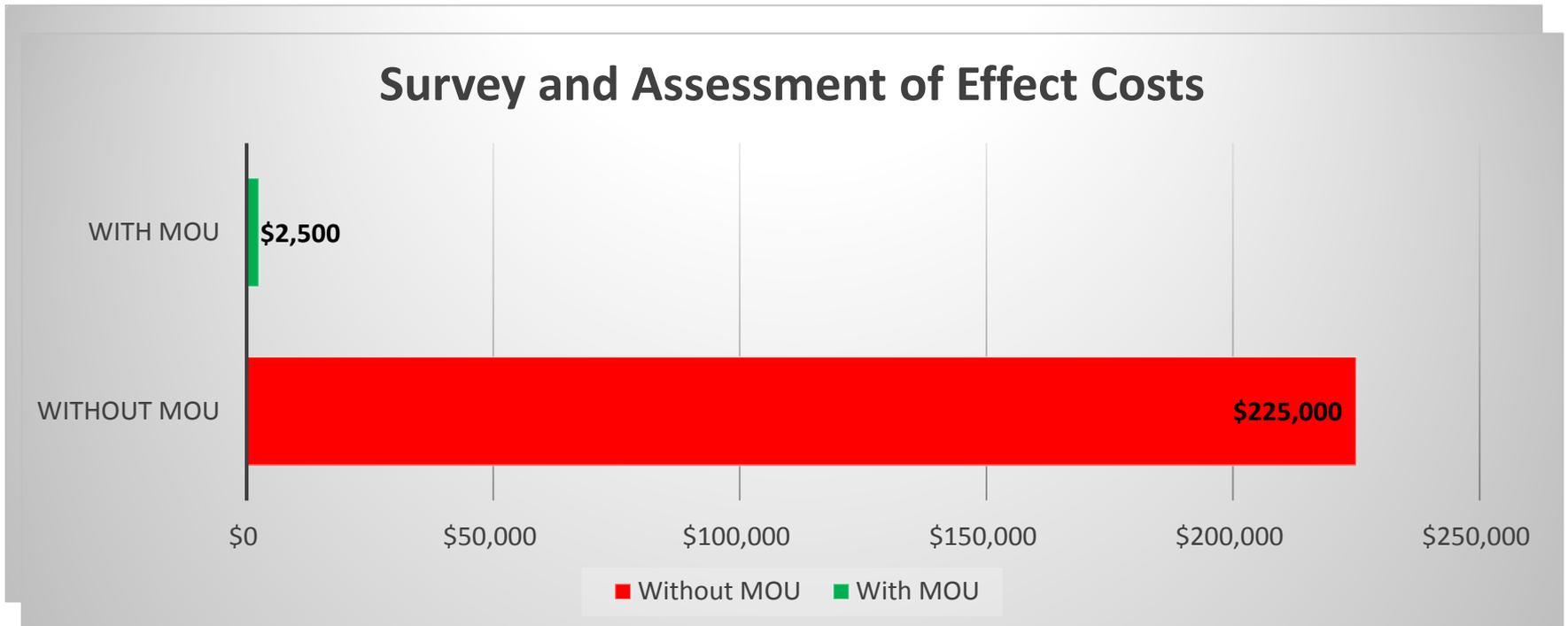
## Example: Upgrades to 20 Signal Locations

Number of Weeks for Survey and Reporting



# The Results - Historic Resources

Example: Upgrades to 20 Signal Locations

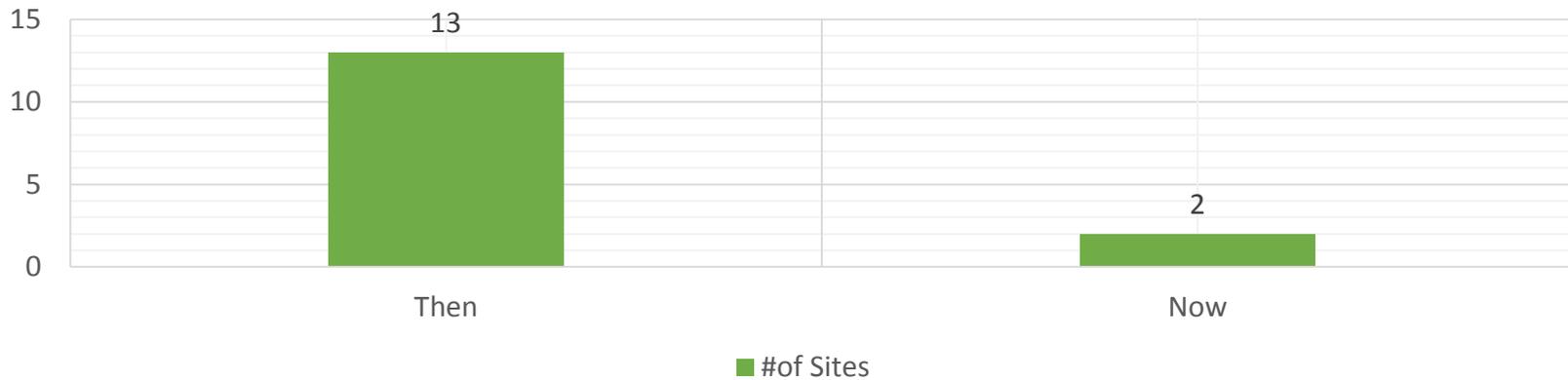


**Cost Savings: \$222,500!**

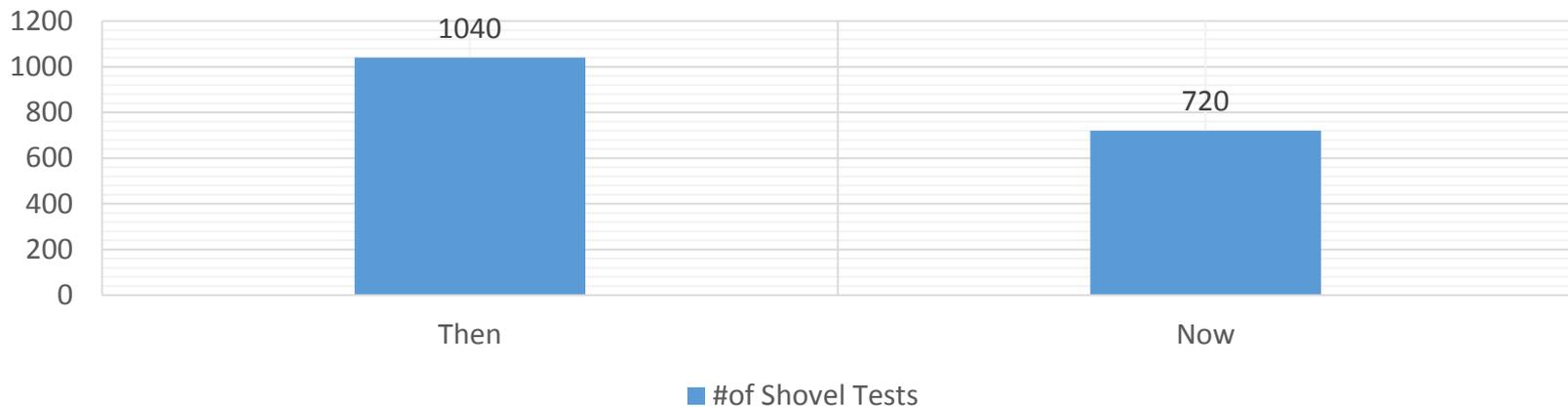
# The Results - Archaeological Resources

## Example: Upgrades to 20 Signal Locations

#of Sites

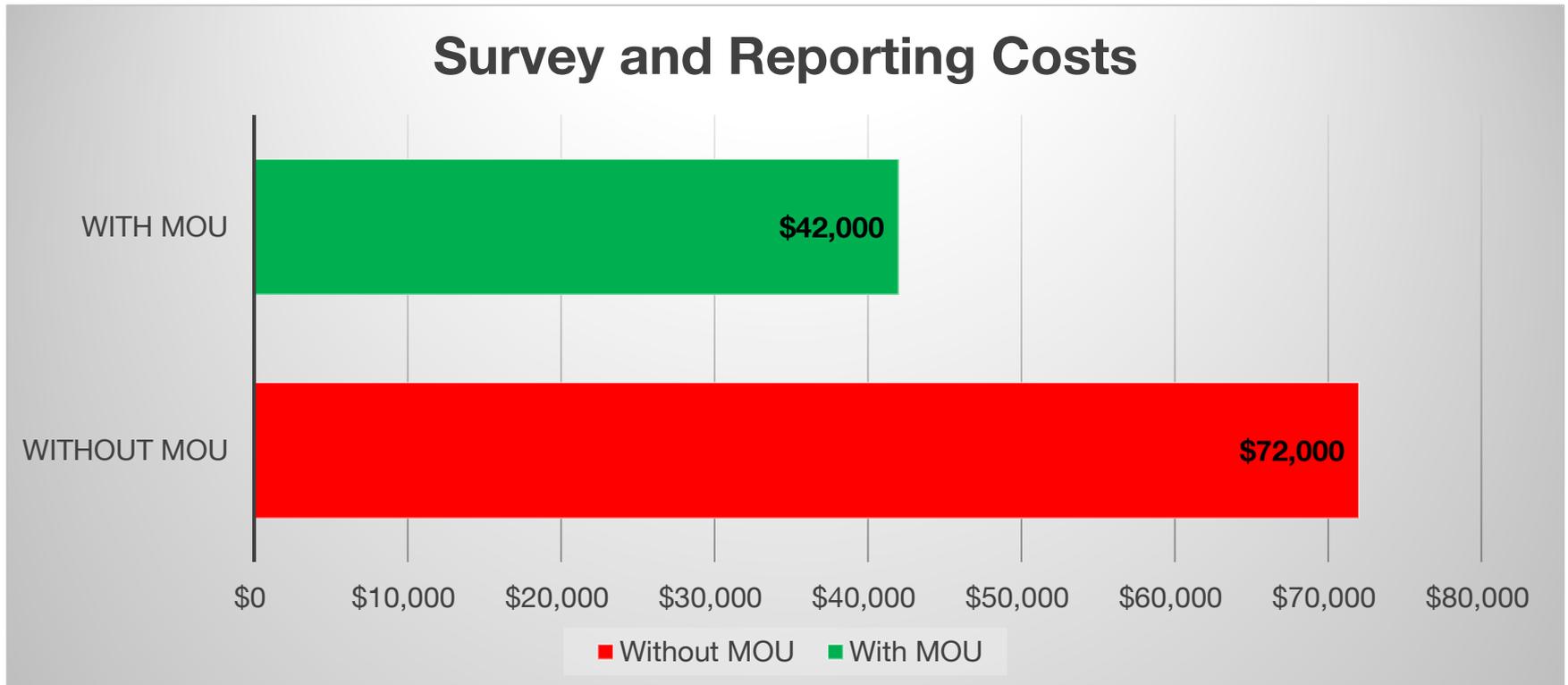


# of Shovel Tests



# The Results - Archaeological Resources

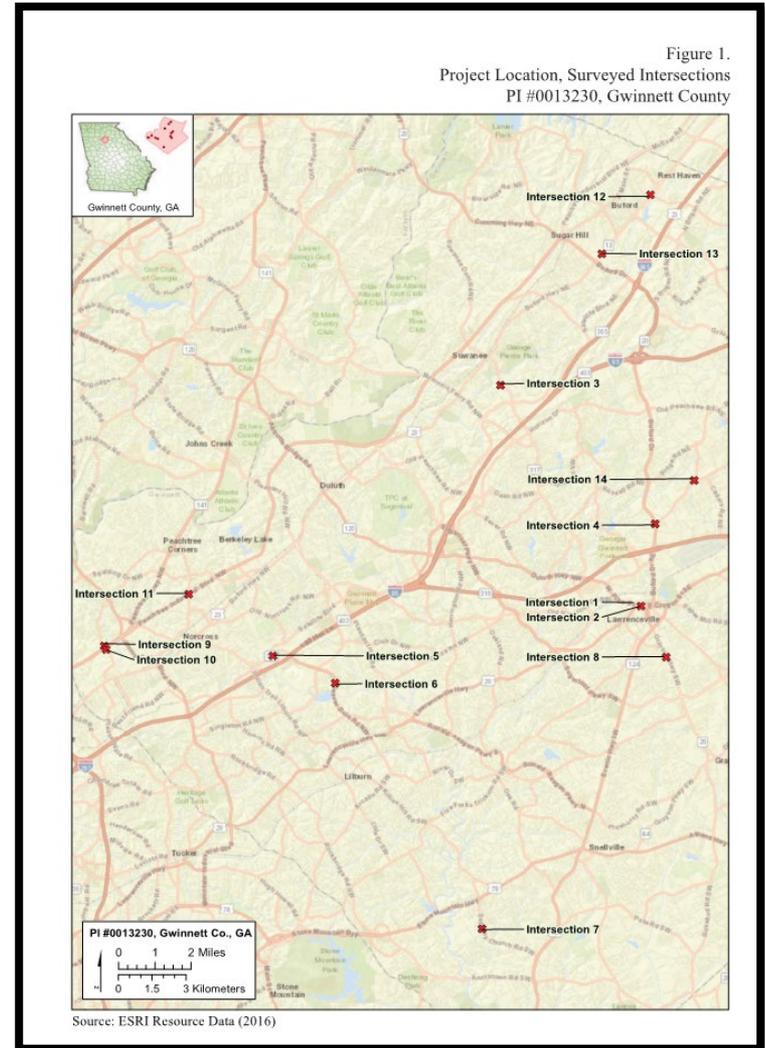
Example: Upgrades to 20 Signal Locations



**Cost Savings: \$30,000!**

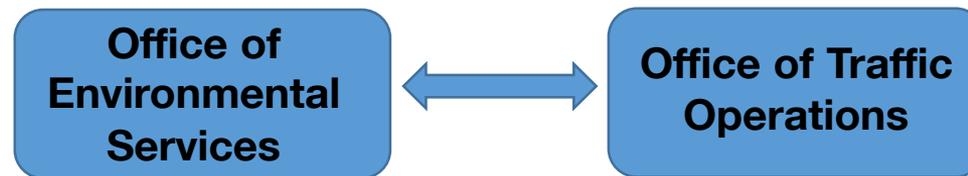
# Continuous Improvement

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**