

**Action Requested/Required:**

- ☒ Vote/Action Requested
☐ Discussion or Presentation Only
☐ Public Hearing
Report Date: _____
Hearing Date: _____
Voting Date: _____

Department: Community Development**Presenter(s) & Title:** Bethany Watson

City Engineer

Agenda Item Title:

Discussion and Possible Action on Letter of Support for I-575 Emergency Median Opening

Summary:

The City has been working on a permit for a I-575 Emergency Median Opening, just south of exit 16 on I575. Unfortunately, GDOT has denied the permit due to "spacing is not considered as excessive- therefore, no actual benefit can be determined, at this time." City Staff is requesting a letter of support for this Emergency Median Opening for the benefit not only to Emergency Services, but for the residents and visitors of the City of Canton.

Budget Implications:Budgeted? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/ATotal Cost of Project: _____ Check if Estimated ☐Fund Source: General Fund ☐ Water & Sewer ☐ Sales Tax ☐ Other: _____**Staff Recommendations:**

Staff recommends executing a Letter of Support for an I-575 Emergency Median Opening. An emergency median opening will aid Emergency Services in providing faster response and on-scene times to Canton residents and visitors. In the event of an accident, an emergency median opening will also improve maintaining traffic flow on I-575.

Reviews:Has this been reviewed by Management and Legal Counsel, if required? ☐ Yes ☐ No**Attachments:**

Draft of Letter of Support to Commissioner Russell McMurry
Draft of Letter of Support to State Transportation Board of Georgia (GDOT Board Members)



June 5, 2025

Commissioner Russell McMurry
Georgia Department of Transportation
935 United Ave. SE
Atlanta, GA 30316-0055

RE: Support for Special Encroachment Permit for I-575 Emergency Median Opening
Permit ID: A-057-012265-6
City of Canton, County of Cherokee

Dear Commissioner McMurry,

On behalf of the Mayor and City Council, I am writing in support of the Special Encroachment Permit for the I-575 Emergency Median Opening (Permit ID:A-057-012265-6).

I am writing to express our disagreement with the recent denial of the above mentioned permit. The stated reason for denial, that the “spacing is not considered as excessive – therefore, no actual benefit can be determined, at this time,” does not align with the serious safety concerns that necessitate this project.

The need for this emergency access point is driven by a high incidence of accidents, including fatalities and single vehicle rollover crashes, particularly around a dangerous curve within this stretch of interstate. The establishment of an emergency median opening is crucial for significantly reducing emergency response times in this area.

Currently, first responders are required to travel southbound to exit 14 and then turn around to access the northbound lanes. This detour often involves encountering significant or complete traffic congestion, which critically delays the delivery of essential emergency services. The proposed median opening would directly address these delays, providing a more efficient and potentially life-saving route for emergency vehicles.

We urge you to reconsider the permit denial in light of these significant safety implications.

Sincerely,

Mayor Bill Grant
City of Canton
110 Academy Street
(770) 704-1500
Bill.grant@cantonga.gov



June 5, 2025

State Transportation Board of Georgia
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30308

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Permit ID: A-057-012265-6
City of Canton, County of Cherokee

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