

AFFIDAVIT OF ANGIE SIGMAN

Rockdale
COUNTY OF NEWTON

STATE OF GEORGIA

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My name is Angie Sigman. I am over the age of 18 and competent to testify to the matters contained in this Affidavit.

1.

I live at 160 Little Haynes Drive in Loganville, Georgia. Our neighborhood is off of Highway 138 in Newton County, Georgia. We have lived at this address for approximately 12 years. I have driven on Highway 138 on a daily basis for approximately 12 years and regularly drive past the intersection of Highway 138 and Dial Mill Road.

2.

In April 2019, I worked at the Georgia Department of Public Health. Our office was in downtown Atlanta. I would regularly drive down Highway 138 on my way to and from work.

3.

Because I regularly drove down Highway 138, I had been paying attention to the repaving work on Highway 138. It seemed like it took the contractor a long time to re-stripe the road. When the contractor did re-stripe the road, the fog line was very close to the edge of the road.

4.

There are a significant number of tractor-trailers that drive on that section of Highway 138. Because the fog line was very close to the edge of the road, the tractor-trailers would drive close to the fog line. Their wheels would drop off the edge of the road and this caused the pavement to crumble.

5.

Exhibit 7-1 is attached to this Affidavit. I understand they are pictures of the shoulder of Highway 138 where the April 3, 2019 wreck happened and were taken on the day of the wreck. The shoulder of Highway 138 had been in this condition for at least several months and possibly since January 2019.

6.

I had been thinking about reporting the shoulder of Highway 138 but did not know who to report it to.

7.

On April 2, 2019, I used the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) website to report the condition of Highway 138 in Rockdale County. I wrote as follows:

On Hwy 138 traveling towards Walnut Grove, from Salem Church Rd all the way past Miller Bottom/Dial Mill Rd, they have just paved and striped in this area. The white line (fog line) has been painted on the very edge and has crumbled on the edges...some of it is a very high drop. Hope they have not been paid for the whole job.

I received an email from GDOT stating that they received my report. A true and correct copy of my report to GDOT and their response is attached as Exhibit 7-2.

8.

The pictures in Exhibit 7-1 show the area of Highway 138 that I reported to the GDOT.

9.

I did not see the April 3, 2019 wreck, but I remember that day because I heard about the wreck from my husband, and Highway 138 was shut down, and I could not drive out of my neighborhood.

10.

After the April 3, 2019 wreck, someone placed gravel on the shoulder of Highway 138 where the wreck happened and the drop-off was.

11.

On April 4, 2019, I again used the GDOT website to report the condition of Highway 138. I wrote as follows:

As stated on Tuesday, April 2, before the fatality on Hwy 138. The pavement is crumbling where the white line is striped on both sides traveling from Salem Church Rd all the way to Old Hwy 138. There is a very big drop off that I was thinking may have been handled pretty quickly once I reported it and now someone has lost their life. It appears someone went yesterday - and I'm sure that it was after the wreck - and placed gravel where one of the drop offs is. There are plenty more drops and it is sad that it was left like this for so long. Isn't there a Quality Control person driving around to report? I can give you many areas..."

I received an email from GDOT stating that they received my report. A true and correct copy of my report to GDOT and their response is attached as Exhibit 7-3.

12.

I did not receive any response from GDOT concerning my April 2019 complaints.

13.

On June 17, 2019, I emailed State Transportation Board Member Robert L. Brown, Jr. My email read as follows:

Good Afternoon.

I've complained several times to GDOT regarding Hwy 138 where it was just paved within the last 6 months or so. Since you are in charge of the area, is it possible for you to go and see what the road looks like in the areas I reported?

Below are the reports that have been made. The first one was before the fatality...I've been behind several people that have run off the road and corrected and it is pretty scary, but should not be like this.

DOT has come out and put some gravel in certain areas, but that is not going to fix the problem where the road has crumbled.

Please let me know if you have any questions, I'll be happy to help.

A true and correct copy of the email I sent to Mr. Brown is attached as Exhibit 7-4.

14.

I did not receive any response from Mr. Brown.

15.

On July 17, 2019, I emailed GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry. My email read as follows:

I have reported several issues on Hwy 138 that start from within the Rockdale County area and continue right inside the Newton County (or right at the line). There seems to be no interest and I was wondering if you could point me in the right direction...I've been reporting these on your website since April. After someone was killed, I notified our District contact. Still nothing. I contacted someone last week and still have not heard back.

Any help would be appreciated.

A true and correct copy of the email I sent to Mr. McMurry is attached as Exhibit 7-5.

16.

On July 17, 2019, I received an email from GDOT District Engineer, Corbett S. Reynolds. The email read as follows:

Ms. Sigman:

I received your email message from Commissioner McMurry concerning State Route 138 in Rockdale County and Newton County. The email didn't provide any information about the inquiry except that you had made many inquiries but have not received a response. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss your concerns. Please call me at 478-553-

3303 or if you would like to provide me your phone number I will gladly call you tomorrow.
Thanks,
Corbett S. Reynolds
District Engineer

A true and correct copy of the email I received from Mr. Reynolds is attached as Exhibit 7-6.

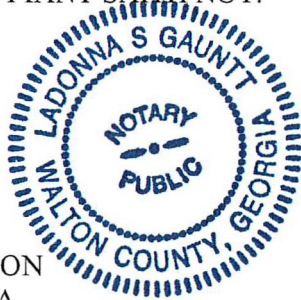
17.

I spoke with Mr. Reynolds several times. He said he would send a GDOT employee to inspect Highway 138. Mr. Reynolds told me that whenever GDOT receives a complaint, they are handled by one GDOT employee, but she has been busy. The GDOT employee who handles complaints never contacted me.

A GDOT employee contacted me and said he would send someone to look at the shoulder of Highway 138 but I never heard anything else from him or GDOT. I believe the employee was a supervisor with the Rockdale GDOT office.

The shoulder of Highway 138 where the wreck happened has been repaired, but in my opinion, the repair is not adequate. The shoulder on other parts of Highway 138 near where the wreck happened are in poor condition and have dangerous edge of pavement drop-offs. GDOT should fix them before another tragedy happens.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAITH NOT.



COUNTY OF NEWTON
STATE OF GEORGIA


ANGIE SIGMAN

Sworn to and subscribed before me on August 18, 2021.


Notary Public

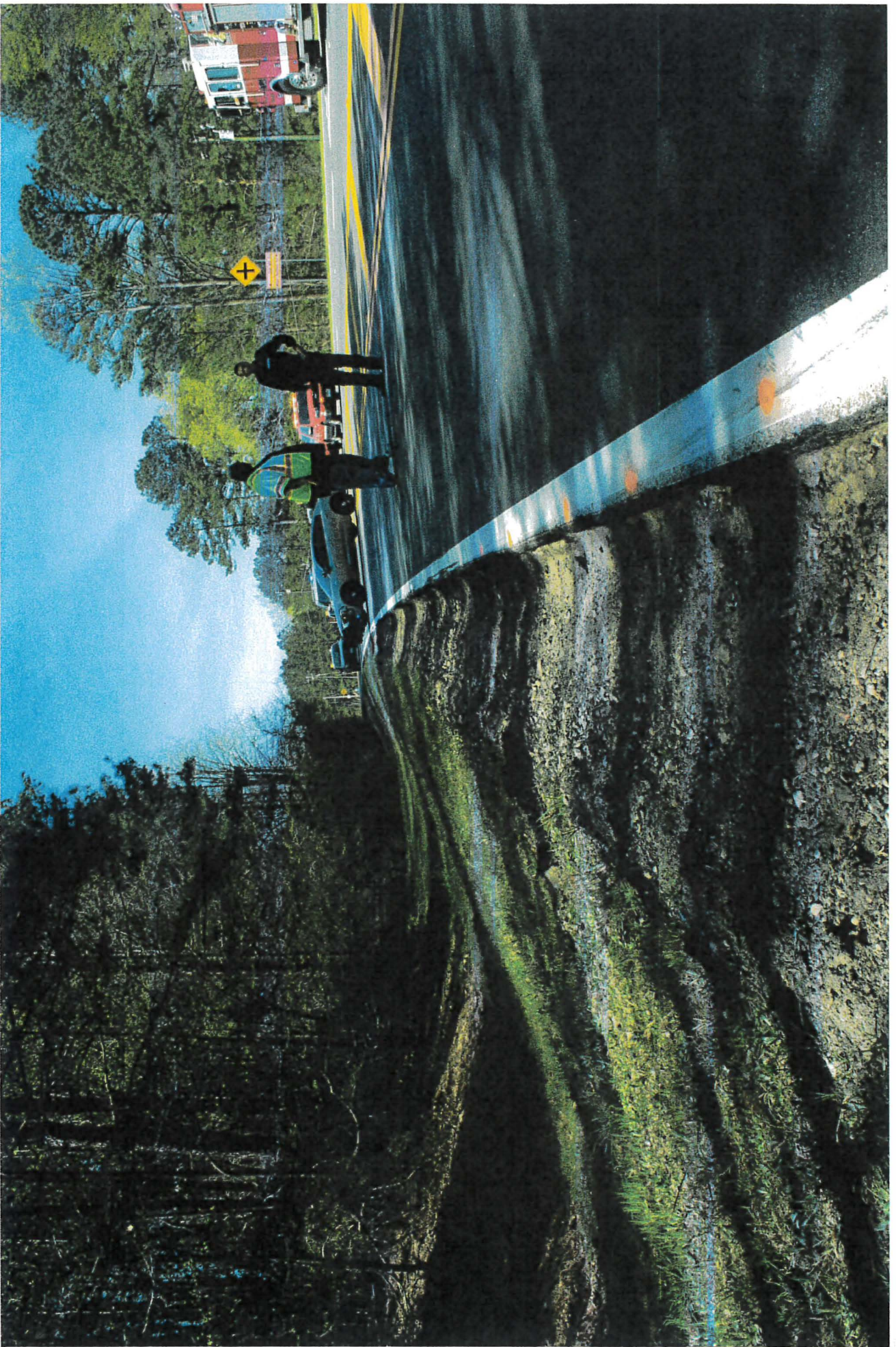
My commission expires: 11/21/21

Exhibit 7-1











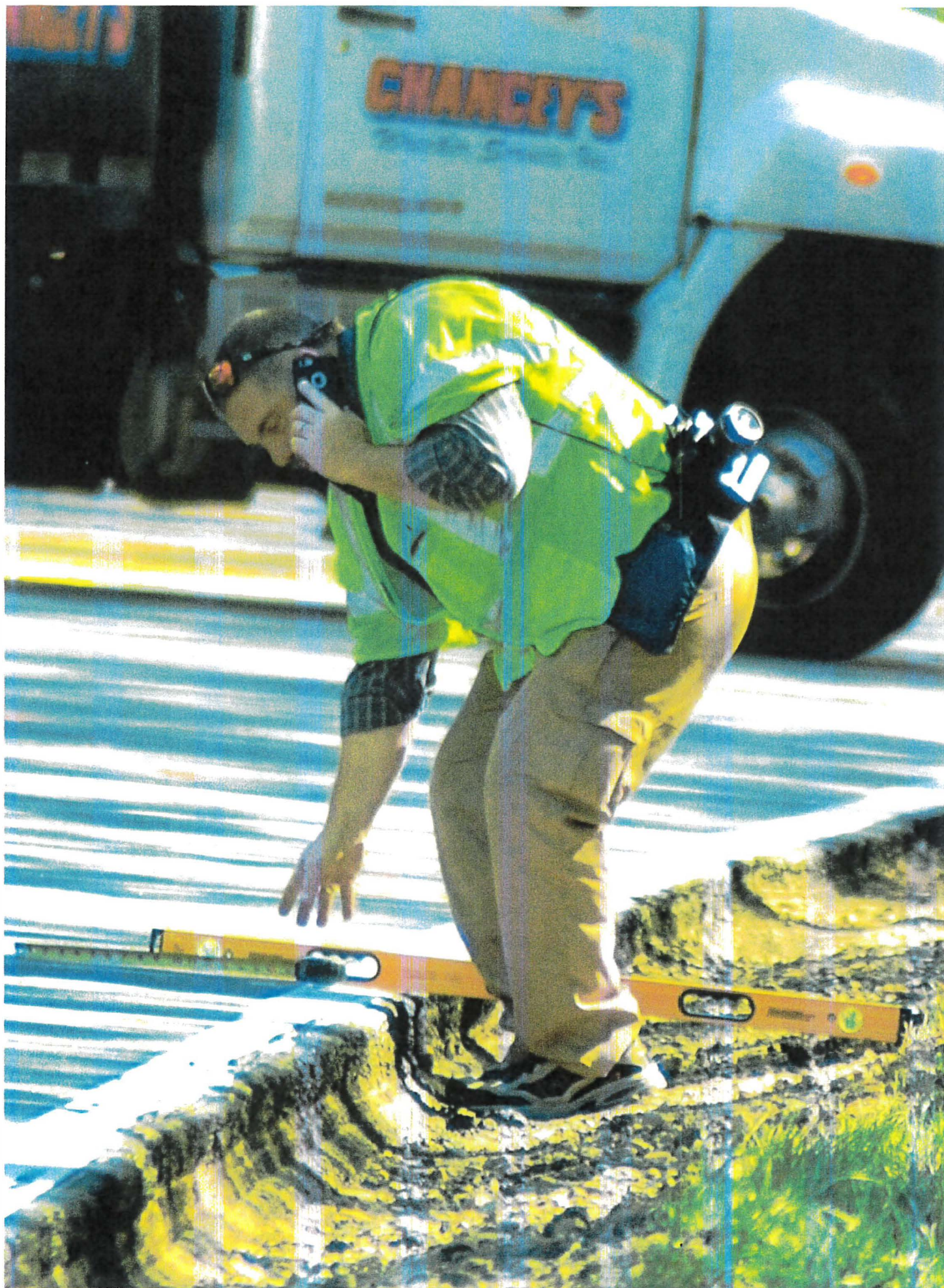


Exhibit 7-2

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Customer Service** <CustomerService@dot.ga.gov>

Date: Tue, Apr 2, 2019 at 12:14 PM

Subject: Summary of your submission to the Georgia Department of Transportation

To: angie.sigman@gmail.com <angie.sigman@gmail.com>

[cid:gdot2018.png]

Thank you for submitting your feedback to the Georgia Department of Transportation. Your comments have been received by our Office of Communications, Customer Service Unit and will be handled in a timely manner.

We care about and actively seek your input on our projects and programs, and want to hear from you. However, this is an unmonitored inbox. If you have any questions or comments regarding your submitted inquiry, please call our customer service center at (404) 631-1990, and have your Inquiry Number available.

Thank you.

Your Inquiry Number is IMS000000099095

Submitted on 4/2/2019 12:13:09 PM

Name: Angie Sigman

Phone/Email: / angie.sigman@gmail.com

Contact Method: Email

GDOT District: 7 County: Rockdale

Subject: Report Maintenance Need

Your Comments: On Hwy 138 traveling towards Walnut Grove, from Salem Church Rd all the way past Miller Bottom/Dial Mill Rd, they have just paved and striped in this area. The white line (fog line) has been painted on the very edge and has crumbled on the edges...some of it is a very high drop. Hope they have not been paid for the whole job.

Privacy Policy

Thank you for visiting the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) web site. We are committed to providing the public access to transportation-related information in a safe and secure online environment. This privacy policy covers the collection and use of information submitted by the public through the Contact GDOT form. The Contact GDOT form gives the public an opportunity to submit their feedback about Georgia's transportation system.

Information Collection

GDOT can collect some or all of the following personal information from the Contact GDOT form.

First and Last Name

County of Residence

Phone Number

Email Address

Information voluntarily submitted about our Department and transportation system.
Use

The information collected from the Contact GDOT form is used to help our Department accurately and efficiently handle inquiries submitted by the public. All information is collected and used in accordance with existing laws, rules, regulations and policies. This data is not gathered or used for commercial marketing purposes. GDOT does not disclose any personal information collected online to entities outside of state and federal agencies.

Hands-free cell phone use now law when driving in Georgia. When drivers use cell phones and other electronic devices it must be with hands-free technology. It is illegal for a driver to hold a phone in their hand or use any part of their body to support a phone. There are many facets to the new law. For details, visit <https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/>

Exhibit 7-3

Your Inquiry Number is IMS000000099155

Submitted on 4/4/2019 12:19:30 PM

Name: Angie Sigman

Phone/Email: /angie.sigman@gmail.com

Contact Method: Email

GDOT District: 7 County: Rockdale

Subject: Operational & Safety Improvement

Your Comments: As stated on Tuesday, April 2, before the fatality on Hwy 138.

The pavement is crumbling where the white line is striped on both sides traveling from Salem Church Rd all the way to Old Hwy 138. There is a very big drop off that I was thinking may have been handled pretty quickly once I reported it and now someone has lost their life. It appears someone went yesterday - and I'm sure that it was after the wreck - and placed gravel where one of the drop offs is. There are plenty more drops and it is sad that it was left like this for so long. Isn't there a Quality Control person driving around to report? I can give you many areas...

Exhibit 7-4

From: **Angie Sigman** <angie.sigman@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 17, 2019 at 5:29 PM
Subject: Issues in Rockdale/Newton Counties for Hwy 138
To: <robrown@dot.ga.gov>

Good Afternoon.

I've complained several times to GDOT regarding Hwy 138 where it was just paved within the last 6 months or so. Since you are in charge of the area, is it possible for you to go and see what the road looks like in the areas I reported?

Below are the reports that have been made. The first one was before the fatality...I've been behind several people that have run off the road and corrected and it is pretty scary, but should not be like this.

DOT has come out and put some gravel in certain areas, but that is not going to fix the problem where the road has crumbled.

Please let me know if you have any questions, I'll be happy to help.

Sincerely,

Angie Sigman

Citizen of Newton County

160 Little Haynes Dr, Loganville, GA 30052

Exhibit 7-5

From: **Angie Sigman** <angie.sigman@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jul 17, 2019 at 3:34 PM

Subject: Issues with Rockdale County Road Hwy 138 into Newton County

To: <rmcmurry@dot.ga.gov>

I have reported several issues on Hwy 138 that start from within the Rockdale County area and continue right inside the Newton County (or right at the line). There seems to be no interest and I was wondering if you could point me in the right direction...I've been reporting these on your website since April. After someone was killed, I notified our District contact. Still nothing. I contacted someone last week and still have not heard back. Any help would be appreciated.

Thanks!

Exhibit 7-6

From: **Reynolds, Corbett** <creynolds@dot.ga.gov>
Date: Wed, Jul 17, 2019 at 5:41 PM
Subject: State Route 138
To: angie.sigman@gmail.com <angie.sigman@gmail.com>

Ms. Sigman:

I received your email message from Commissioner McMurry concerning State Route 138 in Rockdale County and Newton County. The email didn't provide any information about the inquiry except that you had made many inquiries but have not received a response. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss your concerns. Please call me at 478-553-3303 or if you would like to provide me your phone number I will gladly call you tomorrow.

Thanks,

Corbett S. Reynolds
District Engineer



District 2-Tennille
643 Highway 15 S
Tennille, GA 31089
478.553.3303 office
478.232.3430 cell

Hands-free cell phone use is the law when driving in Georgia. When drivers use cell phones and other electronic devices it must be with hands-free technology. There are many facets to the law. For details, visit <https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/highway-safety/hands-free-law/>.