

### Historical Growth Rate

A growth rate was determined for the study using annual volume statistics from the GDOT’s Traffic Analysis & Data Application (TADA) and Lowndes County census data. The growth rate calculated using GDOT’s historical traffic data is summarized in **Table 3**.

Table 3: GDOT TADA Historical Growth Rate			
Station ID	Location	2016-2020 Growth Rate	2011-2020 Growth Rate
185-0077	Old US 41 N/O Kelly Way	2.6%	2.1%
185-0075	SR 7/US 41/ N Valdosta Rd s/o Hyta Mederer Dr	3.1%	2.0%
185-0077	Old US 41 n/o Kelly Way	0.6%	1.6%
<b>5 – Year and 10 – Year Average</b>		<b>2.1%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
<b>Weighted Average</b>		<b>2.0%</b>	

The data was limited at other stations located in the study area and therefore they were not included for growth rate calculations. Growth rate calculations using historical counts from the stations are attached in **Appendix D**.

County data obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Georgia Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget Office was used to calculate an additional growth rate for the study area. The growth rates calculated for the County using census data are summarized in **Table 4** and **Table 5**. Census data from both the U.S. Census Bureau and Georgia Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget is attached in **Appendix D**.

Table 4: Georgia Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget Annual Population Estimates							
Geographic Area	Average 5-Year Growth Rate from 2020 to 2050						
	2020-2025	2025-2030	2030-2035	2035-2040	2040-2045	2045-2050	Average
Lowndes County	0.8%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%
Geographic Area	Average 10-Year Growth Rate from 2020 to 2050						
	2020-2030		2030-2040		2040-2050		Average
Lowndes County	0.7%		0.4%		0.4%		0.5%

Table 5: U.S. Census Bureau Annual Estimates of the Resident Population				
Geographic Area	2010 Census	2010 Estimate Base	2019 Population Estimate	2010 to 2019 Estimated Growth Rate
Lowndes County	109,233	109,248	117,406	0.9%

The growth rate was calculated using the different sources to determine an overall growth rate based on engineering judgment. An average growth rate of 1.1% is recommended for the study area.

The effect of COVID-19 on traffic volumes was reviewed for this study. The traffic volumes collected in January 2022 were compared to historical traffic volumes from GDOT count stations