

# Georgia International Convention & Trade Center

College Park, Georgia

The Georgia International Convention & Trade Center was a large-scale expansion of the existing convention center. In order to accommodate the high volume of conventions and trade shows in the Atlanta area, the center took on an expansion of 215,000 square feet, doubling their existing footprint. With an abundance of new exhibit space, a considerable amount of new parking was needed. Over 2,000 new spaces were constructed in two on-grade parking lots and a parking deck. Traffic considerations were also an important part of the project. The final solution involved the relocation and extension of the existing road to create additional access to major thoroughfares, the addition of a side access road, and improvements to existing roadways.

Environmental issues were also a big part of the center's expansion. Since the addition needed to be built between two existing streams, there were floodplain and wetland considerations that had to be addressed. Alternate schemes were studied to develop a solution that minimized the impacts to the existing wetlands. The final plan was to extend the existing retaining wall by over one thousand feet. This, along with constructing an additional retaining wall and enclosing approximately 1,250 feet of the smaller stream in an eight-foot by eight-foot box culvert, insured that there would be minimal impact to the wetlands. Additionally, four eighty-four-inch culverts were extended to accommodate the access drive. Permitting for this project involved local, state, and federal agencies.

