

STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

State and Federal Legislative Update



April 18, 2018

Legislative Agenda Items

- HR 1090 (Rep. Watson)—Crisp & Jeff Davis Counties Change of Use Resolutions, **passed House 166 to 0; passed Senate 50 to 0**
- S.B. 445 (Sen. Gooch)—Annual Statutory Update, **passed with amendment → strikes lines 16 and 17: provisions of subsections (a) and (b) applicable only to federal-aid highway contracts.**
 - Section 1: pre-bid inspection requirements
 - Section 2: public bid web advertisement
 - Section 3: §13-10-91 bid document due date
 - Section 4: R/W Access Update
 - Section 5: Surplus R/W Disposal Process Update
 - Section 6: County-City Freight Coordination (Amendment)

Broadband/Wireless Deployment

S.B. 402

- “Achieving Connective Everywhere” (ACE) Act
- Affirms GDOT’s authority to create and implement a long-term policy with regard to deploying broadband services on the right of way of interstate highways and state owned roads

Class III Railroad Tax Credit

H.B. 735

- Exempts land within railroad's right of way from county or municipality storm water fees
- Creates an income tax credit for Class III railroads, or short line railroads
- Credit amounts to 50% of the railroad track maintenance expenditures
 - Capped at \$3500 for each mile owned
- Sunset for income tax credits set for January 1st, 2024

Freight Railroad Program

S.B. 89

- Establishes a Georgia Freight Railroad Program (situated as a part of Intermodal)
- Funding is subject to appropriations
- Establishes 3 subprograms:
 - Rail Enhancement
 - Rail Preservation Plan
 - Rail Industrial Plan

Distracted Driving

H.B. 673: Hands-Free Georgia Act

- Expands texting prohibition on drivers to include a prohibition on physically holding a phone while operating a vehicle.
- Drivers can use only a single button to initiate or terminate a phone call.
- Increases the punishment for the second violation from 1 point to 2 points on the driver's license.



Transit Legislation

H.B. 930

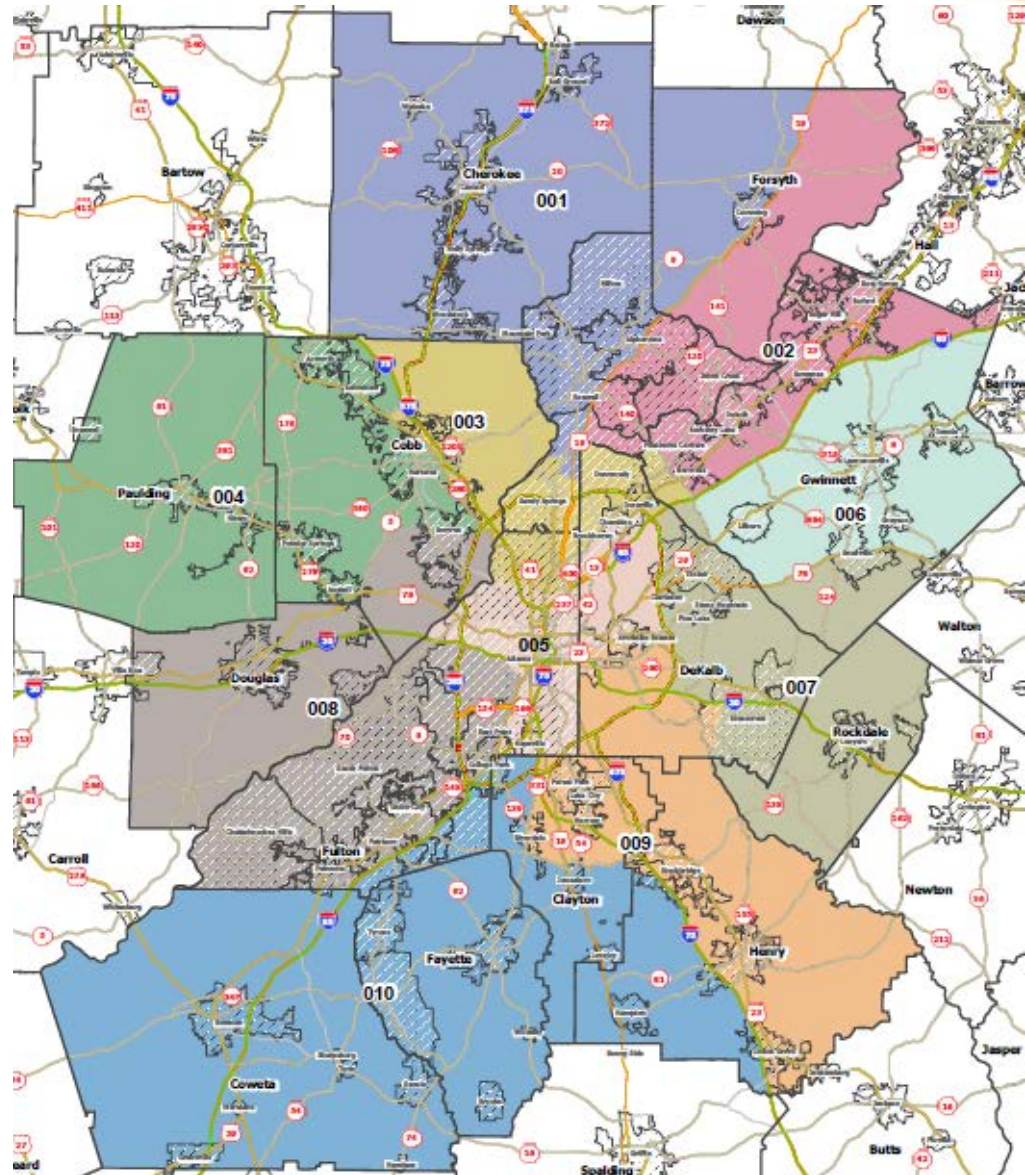
- The conference committee report was adopted on the final day of the legislative session.
- Creates new creates a new regional governance and funding structure for transit in Metro Atlanta ATL (Atlanta Transit Link)
- Intends to improve the coordination, integration and efficiency of transit in the region
- The Bill empowers the ATL to contract for delivery of transit services, delivery of capital projects and ensure unified branding for transit across the region.
- At a local level, the Bill expands transit-specific local sales and use tax, empowering Counties within the ATL to raise additional sales tax of up to 1% for up to 30 years
- GRTA Executive Director will serve as interim executive director of the ATL until the board is constituted and an executive director is appointed by the board.

H.B. 930

ATL Board Structure

Creates 16-member Board of Directors.

- Board Chair appointed by Governor
- 2 chosen by Lt. Governor
- 2 chosen by Speaker
- GDOT Commissioner (ex officio, non-voting)
- 10 District-based, chosen by caucus of House & Senate delegation; Chair(s) of County Commission(s); & 1 Mayor chosen by a caucus of mayors



Federal Update

Federal FY18 Appropriations

- Fully funds FAST Act authorization levels.
 - \$44.2B for Federal Highway Administration programs
 - \$9.7B for Federal Transit Administration programs
- No new rescission of highway contract authority.
- Includes an additional ≈\$2B for formula distribution to states:
 - Available until September 30, 2021
 - Construction projects—Surface Transportation Block Grant Program
 - Estimated Availability to Georgia: \$83,601,740 (53% sub-allocated)



Questions?