

**MINUTES**  
**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**#2 Capitol Square**  
**Atlanta, Georgia 30334**

**March 20, 2008**

**10:00 a.m.**

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mike Evans, Chairman  
Garland Pinholster, Vice Chairman  
Roy Herrington  
Billy Langdale  
Sam Wellborn  
Robert L. Brown, Jr.  
Emory McClinton  
Rudy Bowen  
Larry Walker  
Bill Kuhlke, Jr.  
David Doss  
Raybon Anderson  
Dana Lemon

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sam Wellborn

**DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Commissioner Gena Abraham  
Kevin Clark, COO  
Buddy Gratton, Deputy Commissioner  
Mary Harris  
Earl Mahfuz  
Todd Long  
Gerald Ross  
Jo Ann Chance  
Sandra Burgess  
Jeff Hill  
Michael Cooper  
Steve Henry  
Ericka Davis

Chairman Mike Evans opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Billy Langdale gave the invocation.

Chairman Evans asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2008 meetings. Bill Kuhlke made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2008 meetings, seconded by Garland Pinholster and unanimously approved.\*

Todd Long, Director of Preconstruction, requested approval of the projects proposed for the April 2008 Letting. Chairman Evans asked for a motion to approve. Bill Kuhlke made a motion to approve the projects proposed for the April 2008 Letting, seconded by Roy Herrington and unanimously approved.\*

Mike Thomas, Director of Planning, Data & Intermodal Development requested approval for the revisions proposed for the Construction Work Program for March 2008. Raybon Anderson made a motion to approve the revisions to the Construction Work Program, seconded by Rudy Bowen and unanimously approved.\*

Commissioner Gena Abraham gave her monthly report, which included the state fund collections; total employment figure for February 29, 2008 and major projects open to traffic.\*

Commissioner Abraham also requested approval of the following resolution. Raybon Anderson made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Roy Herrington and unanimously approved.

### **Resolution**

*Whereas*, Donna Cravey, a native of Ben Hill County, began her career with the Georgia DOT in June 2003 as a Public Works Civil Technician; and

*Whereas*, Donna Cravey is responsible for the public works infrastructure construction inspection and maintenance in the Georgia Department of Transportation District Four's Fitzgerald Area Office; and

*Whereas*, while overseeing the State Route 107 resurfacing project on January 8, 2008 she went above and beyond the call of duty to save the life of a Ross of Georgia, Inc. employee who collapsed while on the job; and

*Whereas*, upon seeing the employee in distress she put her CPR certification to use in the most critical of times and performed CPR until emergency personnel arrived; and

*Whereas*, her actions exemplify the character and morality that sets the standard for each and every Georgia DOT public servant; and

*Whereas*, as the result of her decisiveness and quick thinking, Donna Cravey was presented with the Department's Life Saver Award and will be revered as a hero amongst us.

*Now, therefore, be it resolved* that Donna Cravey be commended for her courageous act during a time of crisis and each member of the Board offers heartfelt appreciation for her dedication to being an upstanding citizen and Georgia DOT employee.

*Be it further resolved* that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a suitable copy be provided to Donna Cravey in recognition of her devoted and commendable service to the state of Georgia and its citizens.

*Adopted this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008*

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Commissioner Abraham also requested approval of the following Comprehensive Zoning Resolution. Roy Herrington made a motion to approve the following Comprehensive Zoning Resolution, seconded by Rudy Bowen and unanimously approved.

**Resolution**

WHEREAS, the State Transportation Board did, in regular session on November 18, 1971, adopted a policy on outdoor advertising an

WHEREAS, said policy adopted by the State Transportation Board contained a Schedule "A" pertaining to cities and counties in Georgia which maintained comprehensive zoning plans; and

WHEREAS, the State Transportation Board has directed its staff to make necessary recommendations in order that Schedule "A" of the said Outdoor Advertising Policy may be kept current with current changing conditions in cities and counties regarding comprehensive zoning plans; and

WHEREAS, the State Transportation Board did, in regular session on December 18, 1975, adopt a Resolution which said the Board would review all comprehensive zoning plans submitted for initial approval or for renewal approval, to ascertain and determine if said zoning plans can be certified for purposes of outdoor advertising consistent with State/Federal Law or the Federal/State Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has determined that the following recommendation is appropriate regarding comprehensive zoning plans:

<u>CITY/COUNTY</u>	<u>COMPREHENSIVE ZONING</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
Bartow County	Comprehensive Zoning Plan	Approve
Meriwether County	Comprehensive Zoning Plan	Approve
Columbus Consolidated	Comprehensive Zoning Plan	Approve
City of Baxley	Comprehensive Zoning Plan	Approve
City of Clayton	Comprehensive Zoning Plan	Approve
City of Austell	Comprehensive Zoning Plan	Approve
City of Folkston	Comprehensive Zoning Plan	Approve

NOW THEREFORE, be resolved that the State Transportation Board, in regular session this date, does hereby amend Schedule "A" of the Department of Transportation Outdoor Advertising Policy by including the above named recommendations.

Resolved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008.

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Commissioner Abraham also requested approval of the following Comprehensive Zoning Resolution. Raybon Anderson made a motion to approve the following Comprehensive Zoning Resolution, seconded by Bill Kuhlke and unanimously approved.

**Resolution**

WHEREAS, the State Transportation Board did, in regular session on November 18, 1971, adopted a policy on outdoor advertising an

WHEREAS, said policy adopted by the State Transportation Board contained a Schedule "A" pertaining to cities and counties in Georgia which maintained comprehensive zoning plans; and

WHEREAS, the State Transportation Board has directed its staff to make necessary recommendations in order that Schedule "A" of the said Outdoor Advertising Policy may be kept current with current changing conditions in cities and counties regarding comprehensive zoning plans; and

WHEREAS, the State Transportation Board did, in regular session on December 18, 1975, adopt a Resolution which said the Board would review all comprehensive zoning plans submitted for initial approval or for renewal approval, to ascertain and determine if said zoning plans can be certified for purposes of outdoor advertising consistent with State/Federal Law or the Federal/State Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has determined that the following recommendation is appropriate regarding comprehensive zoning plans:

<u>CITY/COUNTY</u>	<u>COMPREHENSIVE ZONING</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
Paulding County	Amendment to Comprehensive Zoning Plan, Land Lot 308	Deny

NOW THEREFORE, be resolved that the State Transportation Board, in regular session this date, does hereby amend Schedule "A" of the Department of Transportation Outdoor Advertising Policy by including the above named recommendations.

Resolved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008.

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Chairman Evans requested that David Doss give a report from the Public Private Committee meeting.

David Doss gave a report from the Public/Private Committee. He stated that Gerald Ross gave a presentation on HOV to HOT Lanes and presented a resolution to the committee to take to the full Board for approval. David Doss stated there was some discussion regarding the resolution and recommended changes. David Doss made a motion to approve the following resolution with the recommended changes, seconded by Garland Pinholster and unanimously approved.

#### **Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, the State Transportation Board's approved Mission Statement is:

*"The Georgia Department of Transportation provides a safe, seamless, and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to its citizens and environment"; and,*

**WHEREAS**, the mission statement of the State Road and Tollway Authority (the "Authority") is that:

*"SRTA maintains and operates safe and efficient toll facilities, provides innovative transportation finance opportunities, and identifies user financed facilities to enhance the mobility of Georgians"; and,*

**WHEREAS**, Over the past 25 years, despite substantial increases in Federal, State, and local transportation spending – much of it from fuel taxes – we have witnessed a rapid growth in highway congestion and in the last 25 years, highway funding has increased 100 percent, yet congestion over the same period has increased 300 percent and this systemic failure is impacting our families, our businesses, and our environment; and,

**WHEREAS**, US. Department of Transportation Secretary Mary Peters has said, "State and local leaders who are willing to stand up, acknowledge the limitations of our current policies and pursue fundamentally different strategies to financing and managing their transportation systems" should be rewarded; and,

**WHEREAS**, Georgia's geographic location is recognized as the "Crossroads of Commerce" in the Southeastern United States because of such assets as Georgia's vital Interstate and State Highway System, Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and the vibrant ports of Savannah and Brunswick; and,

**WHEREAS**, the severity of the metropolitan-Atlanta region's current traffic congestion is likely to worsen as the population continues to grow; and,

**WHEREAS**, managed lane corridors represent a strategic and innovative investment in the transportation infrastructure of Georgia; and,

**WHEREAS**, high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes are dedicated highway segments intended to serve authorized high occupancy vehicles as well as alternative fuel vehicles, motorcycles and transit, thereby improving safety, operations, and travel times in and around major metropolitan areas; and,

**WHEREAS**, high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes are increasingly being used around the country as a means to better manage HOV lanes, providing predictability of travel and mobility options for eligible vehicles; and,

**WHEREAS**, the State Transportation Board and the Board of the State Road and Tollway Authority, hereinafter collectively the "parties", recognizes that by adopting a managed lanes policy the parties can collectively play an important role in helping "Keep Georgia Moving with Quality Transportation"; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Georgia Department of Transportation is actively developing a *Managed Lane System Plan* which the parties will utilize to explore and investigate ways to implement a financeable managed lane corridor system as quickly as possible; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Authority is authorized by Georgia law to fix, charge, and collect tolls on, and operate and manage, roads and other "land public transportation systems".

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Transportation Board and the Board of the Authority direct their respective executive leadership and staffs, in partnership with one another, and in the best interests of the citizens of the State of Georgia, as follows:

1. To utilize best practices to determine the operational and financial feasibility of managing traffic congestion through the use of occupancy and pricing to provide viable transportation options for the State of Georgia; and,
2. In the event managed lanes are determined to be beneficial and cost-effective by the State Transportation Board and the Board of the State Road and Tollway Authority, the staff will:
  - a. Recommend governing policies for managed lanes to include occupancy and pricing on both applicable new-location facilities and within existing transportation corridors; and,
  - b. Recommend a system of managed lanes separated from the general purpose lanes with strategic access points along the transportation corridors; and,
  - c. Actively pursue public outreach activities to educate the public on the benefits of managed lanes.

**Adopted by the State Transportation Board this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008.**

Robert Brown gave a report from the Finance Committee. He stated that Terri Slack, COO, State Tollway Authority, Dianne Pope, Director of Finance & Investing Commission and Tommy Hill, CFO, State of Georgia gave presentation on GARVEE Bonds, which included how GARVEE Bonds are processed; GARVEE ratings and programs. He also stated that Earl Mahfuz, Treasurer, gave a presentation on the FIRE Unit, which included processes and accomplishments and review of inactive projects.\*

Garland Pinholster gave a report from the Legislative Committee. He stated that Buddy Gratton gave a presentation on the status of proposed legislation for the 2008 Legislative Session, which included funding; red light cameras, outdoor advertising; truck weights; design build and other transportation bills. He also stated that Buddy Gratton gave an update on the status of two bills the Department recommended, Senate Bill 444 and House Bill 1026.

Chairman Mike Evans gave a presentation regarding the history of Billy Langdale years served on the DOT Board, which included years of service and accomplishments while serving on the Board.\* Chairman Evans also requested a motion for the following resolution. Raybon Anderson made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Emory McClinton and unanimously approved.

#### **Resolution**

**Whereas**, Mr. William Pope “Billy” Langdale became a member of the State Transportation Board of Georgia in 1988 and has served the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District with great distinction and honor, faithfully representing his constituents with the highest degree of integrity; and

**Whereas**, Mr. Langdale graduated from Valdosta High School in 1938, attended the University of Georgia, Mercer University and Valdosta State College and then joined his family’s turpentine business; and

**Whereas**, Mr. Langdale served his country with courage and valor during World War II, achieving the rank of Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps and receiving a Bronze Star in the Battle of Piva Forks, Bougainville; and

**Whereas**, Mr. Langdale has established himself as an extraordinarily successful businessman in Lowndes County, heading several companies in the Valdosta area where he remains active in the community, belonging to the Valdosta Country Club, the Elks Club, the American Legion and a host of other civic and charitable organizations; and

**Whereas**, Mr. Langdale has tirelessly served on several State Transportation Board committees and served as Board Chairman in 1995; and

**Whereas**, he has provided sage counsel and advice to Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioners Gena Abraham, Harold Linnenkohl, Tom Coleman, Wayne Shackelford and Hal Rives; and

**Whereas**, during his tenure on the State Transportation Board, Mr. Langdale has the remarkable distinction of never having missed a regular board meeting during his 20 years of service, ensuring that his constituents are always represented in deliberations; and

**Whereas**, throughout his tenure on the State Transportation Board, Mr. Langdale has been an unwavering and influential advocate for meeting the mobility needs of all Georgians, championing such statewide transportation infrastructure programs as the Governor's Road Improvement Program (GRIP).

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the State Transportation Board recognizes and appreciates Board Member Billy Langdale's outstanding contributions and service in meeting the transportation needs of the people of Georgia and extends to him its very best wishes upon the occasion of his retirement from the Board.

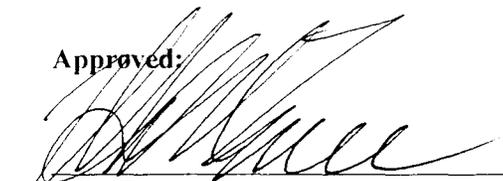
**Be it further resolved** that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a suitable copy be provided to Billy Langdale in recognition of his devoted and commendable service to the State Transportation Board and the Georgia Department of Transportation.

**Adopted this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008.**

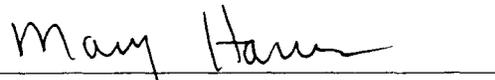
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There being no further business, Chairman Evans asked for a motion to adjourn. Raybon Anderson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Garland Pinholster and unanimously approved.

**Approved:**

  
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Mike Evans, Chairman

**Respectfully submitted:**

  
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Mary Harris, Acting Board Secretary

**\*Denotes documentation in file.**