

**MINUTES
STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308**

March 17, 2011

9:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Rudy Bowen, Chairman
Johnny Floyd, Vice Chairman
Jay Shaw
Sam Wellborn
Robert Brown
Emory McClinton
Brandon Beach
Jim Cole
Emily Dunn
Don Grantham
David Doss
Bobby Parham
Dana Lemon

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Vance Smith, Commissioner
Gerald Ross, Deputy Commissioner/Chief Engineer
Elizabeth Osmon
Kate Pfirman
Sandra Burgess
Matt Cline

Chairman Rudy Bowen opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Johnny Floyd gave the invocation.

Chairman Bowen asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2011 meetings. Johnny Floyd made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2011 meetings, seconded by Robert Brown and unanimously approved.*

Genetha Rice-Singleton, Program Control Administrator, presented the projects proposed for the April 2011 Letting for approval. Chairman Bowen asked for a motion to approve. Sam Wellborn made a motion to approve the projects proposed for the April 2011 Letting, seconded by Robert Brown and unanimously approved.*

Matt Cline, General Counsel, gave a legal update, which included one mediation that was settled; two closed cases; two new civil actions filed and 11 new ante-litem notices filed.

Dana Lemon gave a presentation on the proposed Atlanta Beltline Lease & Purchase Option Agreements, which included the option agreement for acquisition of real property and intergovernmental lease agreement. There was some discussion regarding the lease agreement. Dana Lemon made a motion to waive the 10 Day Rule to approve the Intergovernmental Lease Agreement and Option Agreement for Acquisition of Real Property between the Department of Transportation and the Atlanta Development Authority for the Atlanta Beltline, seconded by Sam Wellborn and unanimously approved. Dana Lemon also made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Lease Agreement and Option Agreement for Acquisition of Real Property for the Atlanta Beltline, seconded by Sam Wellborn and unanimously approved. * David Doss stated Board members toured the Beltline and it was an eye opener on how the Beltline with impact Atlanta. David Doss also stated that he thought the Beltline is an important project and he was going to give the Beltline a TE Grant for \$50,000 and encouraged Board members to give TE funds to the project also.

Commissioner Vance Smith gave his monthly report, which included state fund collections; total employment figure ending February 28, 2011 is 4,720. Commissioner Smith requested that Mike Thomas, Director Field Services, give the Board an update on GDOT Resources Needed to Achieve Minimal Level of Service. Mike Thomas presented information to the Board regarding funding/resources to achieve a minimum staffing level of service for routine maintenance, which included critical staffing necessary and current equipment needs (replacement and repair). There was some discussion regarding the staffing levels and equipment. David Doss requested that Board and staff take steps necessary to implement the plan for staff and equipment. Dana Lemon requested that DOT staff provide information to the Finance Committee next month on funding a mechanism to implement the plan for minimum staff level and equipment. Brandon Beach requested that DOT staff provide information for a formula for comparison on hiring employees or outsourcing to a private entity. Chairman Bowen requested that DOT staff provide the Board a plan in the next 30 days on their recommendation to implement the plan for minimum staffing levels and equipment and include spending on outsourcing or hiring employees.

Robert Brown requested that DOT staff look at medium and maximum staffing levels and not just the minimum level of staffing that is required. Emory McClinton requested that DOT staff do a reassessment of express lane closures on weekends, especially when events are occurring, so that it will have less impact on the traveling public.

Commissioner Vance Smith continued his monthly report. Commissioner Smith stated that he and DOT staff attended meetings in Washington, D.C., which included a meeting with Congressman John Mica to discuss streamlining project delivery.

Commissioner Vance Smith also requested that the Board approve the following resolution. Chairman Bowen asked for a motion to approve the following resolution. Brandon Beach made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Dana Lemon and unanimously approved.

Resolution

Whereas, the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce applied for Georgia Scenic Byway designation for a 60-mile route traversing State and County roads in Effingham County; and

Whereas, this route possesses five Scenic Byway intrinsic qualities – cultural, natural, archeological, historic and recreational; and

Whereas, the Historic Effingham-Ebenezer Scenic Byway Committee, with the assistance of the Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia, has worked with the citizens, organizations and local governments in the proposed byway area to develop a route and prepare a Corridor Management Plan; and

Whereas, the Historic Effingham-Ebenezer Scenic Byway Committee has involved the Georgia Scenic Byways Program and Georgia Department of Transportation staff in the development of the route, application, and Corridor Management Plan; and

Whereas, the locally-approved Corridor Management Plan incorporates or identifies appropriate strategies, goals, priorities, objectives, schedules, programs, and agreements to protect and enhance the Scenic Byway features; and

Whereas, Section 1047 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) established a Scenic Byways Program under Title 23, United States Code, and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) continues the program under Sections 1101(a)(12) and 1802; and

Whereas, the Georgia Department of Transportation is the designated Scenic Byway Agency for the State of Georgia.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the 60-mile route that begins in Rincon at SR 21 and 4th Street, turns right on Ebenezer Road to Ebenezer, turns back to Long Bridge Road and follows it to the end, turns right on Stillwell-Clyo Road to SR 119, turns right on SR 119 to Tuckassee King Road, turns left to the boat landing, turns back to SR 119 to Early Street Extension, turns left into Springfield, turns right on Rabun Street, turns left on Laurel Street, turns right onto SR 119 through Guyton to the Ogeechee River Landing, turns back on SR 119 to Honey Ridge Road, turns right on Honey Ridge Road to Central Avenue in Pineora, continues onto Sand Hill Road, turns left onto SR 80 through Eden, turns right onto Meldrim Road into Meldrim, turns right onto Bay Road, and turns left onto Old River Road and ends at I-16; through Effingham County; be designated as a Georgia Scenic Byway, and hereafter be known as the "Historic Effingham-Ebenezer Scenic Byway".

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be included in the minutes of this meeting and the Commissioner of Transportation be instructed to install appropriate signs designating this facility.

Adopted this the 17th day of March 2011.

Commissioner Vance Smith asked the Board to approve the following resolution. Chairman Bowen asked for a motion to approve the following resolution. Sam Wellborn made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Johnny Floyd and unanimously approved.

Resolution

Whereas, the Hawkinsville Better Hometown Program applied for Georgia Scenic Byway designation for a 65-mile route traversing State and County roads in Pulaski and Wilcox Counties; and

Whereas, this route possesses five Scenic Byway intrinsic qualities – scenic, historic, cultural, archeological and recreational; and

Whereas, the Enduring Farmlands Scenic Byway Committee, with the assistance of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, has worked with the citizens, organizations and local governments in the proposed byway area to develop a route and prepare a Corridor Management Plan; and

Whereas, the Enduring Farmlands Scenic Byway Committee has involved the Georgia Scenic Byways Program and Georgia Department of Transportation staff in the development of the route, application, and Corridor Management Plan; and

Whereas, the locally-approved Corridor Management Plan incorporates or identifies appropriate strategies, goals, priorities, objectives, schedules, programs, and agreements to protect and enhance the Scenic Byway features; and

Whereas, Section 1047 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) established a Scenic Byways Program under Title 23, United States Code, and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) continues the program under Sections 1101(a)(12) and 1802; and

Whereas, the Georgia Department of Transportation is the designated Scenic Byway Agency for the State of Georgia.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the 65-mile route that begins at the Old Opera House in the City of Hawkinsville, travels on US 129, SR 233 and SR 112 to the City of Rochelle and along US 280 to the City of Abbeville, and on Cannonville Road and SR 112 to the City of Pineview and back to Hawkinsville via Richland Church Road and SR 129 , through Pulaski and Wilcox Counties; be designated as a Georgia Scenic Byway, and hereafter be known as the “Enduring Farmlands Scenic Byway”.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be included in the minutes of this meeting and the Commissioner of Transportation be instructed to install appropriate signs designating this facility.

Adopted this the 17th day of March 2011.

Chairman Bowen asked for a motion to approve the following resolution. Dana Lemon made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Sam Wellborn and unanimously approved.

Resolution

WHEREAS, Spencer D. Pass, Sr. was born on October 5, 1965 in Atlanta, Georgia and graduated from Gordon High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pass attended Elkins Institute and Phillips Junior College and was faithful in his community and church where he used his gift of song in the ministry for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pass started his career at the Georgia Department of Transportation in 2008 where he was committed to serving the public through his work as a Highway Emergency Response Operator (HERO), and he spent many hours assisting motorists on metro Atlanta’s interstate highways; and

WHEREAS, every day, around the clock, HEROs respond to calls for assistance by motorists on metro Atlanta’s busy roadways. Despite extensive safety training, the very nature of their work all too often puts them in hazardous situations.

WHEREAS, Mr. Pass was generous with his time and abilities, focused on the safety of others, and sure of the power of prayer in his life. His spirituality, pride and positive attitude left a lasting positive impression on everyone he met; and

WHEREAS, the death of Spencer Pass on January 31, 2011 has left us deeply saddened and we embrace his family to show our support and love. He will be missed but not forgotten.

NOW, THEREFORE be it resolved that the State Transportation Board and the Georgia Department of Transportation, express our sorrow on his passing and our appreciation, on behalf of the people of Georgia, for the loyal and devoted service of our former employee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a suitable copy be presented to his family.

ADOPTED, this the 17th day of March, 2011.

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Chairman Bowen requested a five minute break.

Brandon Beach gave a report from the Legislative Committee.* Brandon Beach made a motion to remove HB 202 (School Safety and Infrastructure bill) from the legislative agenda, seconded by Sam Wellborn and unanimously approved.

David Doss gave a report from the Public Private Partnership (P3) Committee.* There was no action taken at the meeting.

Jay Shaw gave a report from the Finance Committee.* There was no action taken at the meeting.

Robert Brown gave a report from the Statewide Transportation Plan/Strategic Planning Committee.* There was no action taken at the meeting.

Under new business, Chairman Bowen recognized Gordon Jett, State Facilities Manager, for receiving a Senate resolution, SR 391, commending his public service. David Doss stated that the High Speed Ground Transportation steering committee considered a resolution to encourage securing a \$13.9M grant for the Atlanta to Chattanooga high speed rail project. David Doss made a motion to adopt the resolution to encourage securing a \$13.9M grant for the Atlanta to Chattanooga high speed rail project, seconded by Emory McClinton and unanimously approved.

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Board and the Department have supported the Atlanta-Chattanooga High Speed Ground Transportation Project in resolutions from 2004 forward; and,

WHEREAS, the Department cooperated with the Tennessee Department of Transportation to apply for available federal funds to continue and complete environmental planning work on the project; and,

WHEREAS, the US Department of Transportation awarded the Department \$13.8 Million for this purpose; and,

WHEREAS, over \$3 Million of the maximum required matching funds of \$3.9 Million have been successfully raised; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has contributed \$1.5 Million of these funds; and,

WHEREAS, the Department requires Federal cooperation to complete the necessary Cooperative Agreement for the Project to secure the funds and allow activities on the next phase of the project to commence:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board restates its strong support for the project and for securing the awarded funds as soon as possible; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board urges the Commissioner to undertake whatever steps are necessary to bring about this result; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board instructs the Commissioner to inform the Congressional Delegation of this support and request assistance in securing timely federal cooperation from the US Department of Transportation.

ADOPTED this 18th day of March 2011.

David Doss stated that this is his last Board meeting and that his time on the Board had been a privilege. David Doss made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of personnel and litigation, seconded by Dana Lemon and unanimously approved.

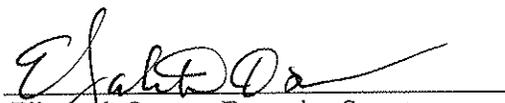
Dana Lemon made a motion to resume the regular meeting, seconded by Johnny Floyd and unanimously approved. Chairman Bowen stated that no action was taken in executive session. Brandon Beach thanks David Doss for his leadership in the area of P3 and Robert Brown recognized David Doss' contributions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25a.m.

Approved:


Rudy Bowen, Chairman

Respectfully submitted:


Elizabeth Osmon, Executive Secretary

***Denotes documentation in file.**