

**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA
MINUTES**

**Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308**

**November 15, 2012
9:00 a.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Johnny Floyd, Chairman
Sam Wellborn
Robert Brown
Emory McClinton
Brandon Beach
Rudy Bowen
Jim Cole
Emily Dunn
Don Grantham
Jeff Lewis
Dana Lemon
Bobby Parham

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jay Shaw

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Keith Golden, Commissioner
Angela Whitworth, Treasurer
Karlene Barron, Director of Communications
Tony Collins, Director Field Services
Joshua Waller, Director of Policy and
Government Affairs
Toby Carr, Director of Planning

Todd Long, Deputy Commissioner
Gerald Ross, Chief Engineer
Matt Cline, General Counsel
Meg Pirkle, Director of Permits and Operations
Carol Comer, Director of Division of Intermodal
Russell McMurry, Division Director of Engineering
Thomas Howell, Director of Construction

Chairman Johnny Floyd called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Jeff Lewis gave the invocation.

Chairman Floyd asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2012 meetings. Sam Wellborn made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2012 meetings, seconded by Don Grantham and unanimously approved.*

Bobby Hilliard, Program Control Administrator, presented the projects proposed for the December 2012 Letting for approval. Chairman Floyd asked for a motion to approve. Sam Wellborn made a motion to approve the projects proposed for the December 2012 Letting, seconded by Rudy Bowen and unanimously approved.*

Karlene Barron, Director of Communications, highlighted the Regional Traffic Operations Program (RTOP). The program is a multi-jurisdictional, cutting edge signal timing program with a single goal to improve traffic flow by minimizing congestion and reducing delays along regional commuter corridors. RTOP accomplishes this goal by actively managing and continuously improving signal operations. There are currently 17 routes being actively managed by RTOP and 8 more routes are expected to be added in August 2013. An individual commuter traveling an RTOP corridor can expect an 8.3% reduction in the

number of stops, 12% reduction in stop-time delay, and a 9% increase in traffic flow. Last year, commuters saved 700,000 gallons of fuel and eliminated 1.2 million hours of delay as a result of traveling RTOP routes. RTOP, which began in 2010, has become an award winning program. It was recognized locally by receiving the ITS Georgia 2010 Outside the Box Award and the 2012 Outstanding Public Agency Award, and nationally by receiving the ITS America 2010 Smart Solutions Spotlight Award.

Toby Carr, Director of Planning, presented the Fiscal Year 2013-2016 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) for approval. Chairman Floyd asked for a motion to approve the FY 2013-2016 STIP. Rudy Bowen made a motion to approve the FY 2013-2016 STIP, seconded by Sam Wellborn and unanimously approved.*

Keith Golden, Commissioner, gave his monthly report, which included state fund collections; total employment figure for the month ending October 2012; and major projects opened to traffic. Commissioner Golden informed the Board of the Department's winter weather preparation efforts. The Department is in the process of executing contracts with on-call contractors in case they are needed to assist with snow and/or ice removal. Department staff conducted dry runs yesterday where they installed equipment and made sure everything was in operating order. There is also an outreach effort with local governments that is taking place. The Local Maintenance Improvement Grants (LMIG) Program has been rolled out a little differently this year and some of the grants have already been distributed. Commissioner Golden requested Board members share any feedback they are getting from jurisdictions on how they feel the program is working. Commissioner Golden also made two personnel announcements. A new Equal Employment Opportunity director will come on board December 10, 2012, and Russell McMurry will be the new Chief Engineer beginning January 1, 2013.

Jeff Lewis gave a report from the Program Delivery Committee.* Committee action was to favorably recommend the approval of Transportation Investment Act Resolution to the full Board. Jeff Lewis made a motion on behalf of the Committee for the full Board to favorably approve the TIA resolution. The motion was seconded by Sam Wellborn and unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT REGARDING
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION SALES
AND USE TAX**

I. WHEREAS, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-8-248, the proceeds of the Special District Transportation Sales and Use Tax, where approved, are collected by the State Revenue Commissioner ("Revenue Commissioner") and are disbursed by the Revenue Commissioner to the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (the "Commission");

II. WHEREAS FURTHER, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-8-249, the Commission is "responsible for the proper application of the proceeds received from the [Special District Transportation Sales and Use Tax];"

III. WHEREAS FURTHER, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-8-249, the Commission is required to "delegate the management of the budget, schedule, execution, and delivery of the projects contained in the approved investment list" to the Department of Transportation ("GDOT");

IV. WHEREAS FURTHER, the imposition of the Special District Transportation Sales and Use Tax has been authorized in three Special Districts in the State by way of elections in those Districts;

V. WHEREAS FURTHER, the Commission and GDOT(collectively “the Parties”) have identified a need to outline the terms of their collective efforts and to delineate their duties and responsibilities related to the Special District Transportation Sales and Use Tax in order to ensure the proper implementation of the projects on the approved investment lists and have previously entered into a Memorandum of Understanding dated October 4, 2012;

VI. WHEREAS FURTHER, in furtherance of the Parties’ mutual goal of effective and efficient implementation of the projects on the approved investment lists in the special districts approving the Special District Transportation Sales and Use Tax, the Parties desire to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement to specifically address the delegation of the management of the budget, schedule, execution, and delivery of the projects contained in the approved investment list for each special district as funded with special district transportation sales and use tax proceeds raised by the Transportation Investment Act of 2010 and attached hereto in substantial form as **Exhibit A**; and

VII. WHEREAS FURTHER, the Parties desire to enter into the Intergovernmental Agreement and provide for their ongoing relationship and to ensure maximum flexibility related to the implementation of the Special District Transportation Sales and Use Tax.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

SECTION 1.

The Intergovernmental Agreement in substantial form attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is hereby approved.

SECTION 2.

The Commissioner of Transportation is hereby authorized to execute the Intergovernmental Agreement and empowered to take all steps necessary to ensure the finalization and implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement including finalizing and changing or amending terms and conditions of the Intergovernmental Agreement as necessary prior to its execution to ensure the proper carrying out of the Parties’ responsibilities related to the implementation of the Special District Transportation Sales and Use Tax.

SECTION 3.

In implementing the Intergovernmental Agreement, the Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to approve such amendments to the Intergovernmental Agreement as the Commissioner of Transportation deems necessary or appropriate to the effective implementation of the Special District Transportation Sales and Use Tax provided that such amendments shall be consistent with the Transportation Investment Act of 2010 and shall be reported to the State Transportation Board at its next meeting after execution of such amendments.

Adopted this 15th day of November, 2012.

Chairman Floyd asked for a motion to approve Gerald Ross’ retirement resolution. Robert Brown made a motion to approve the retirement resolution, seconded by Emory McClinton and unanimously approved.

A Resolution By The State Transportation Board

Whereas, Gerald M. Ross, graduated from Tennessee Technological University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and began his career with the Georgia Department of Transportation in 1982 serving as a Transportation Engineer in the Office of Traffic Operations; and

Whereas, Mr. Ross has served the Georgia DOT and the citizens of the State for over 30 years in the roles of Transportation Engineer II, III and IV; as a Assistant Administrator in the Office of Urban

Design; Executive Assistant to the Chief Engineer, Administrator in the Office of Road Design, Division Director of Planning, Director of Public Private Partnerships (P3), Chief Engineer, Deputy Commissioner and Interim Commissioner; and

Whereas, throughout those 30+ years, Mr. Ross has designed and managed some of Georgia's most impactful transportation projects including the Kennedy interchange, Lithonia Industrial Boulevard, I-20 in DeKalb County, South Fulton Parkway, I-85 @ SR316 , Harry S. Truman Parkway in Chatham County and interstates I-75, I-85, I-95; and

Whereas, Mr. Ross has demonstrated his keen interest in mentoring employees and students by being instrumental in creating programs to nurture, train and empower our employees; programs like Succession Planning and Executive Leadership Visits; and

Whereas, Mr. Ross has been a catalyst to improving the delivery of GDOT's transportation program which led to the creation of the Office of Program Delivery, instructing and hiring project managers that are able to make cost and time saving decisions, and drive the timely transition of projects through different phases; and

Whereas, Gerald heralded the Department through the delivery of the \$1 billion dollar stimulus program, ensuring that 401 maintenance, safety, new capacity and capital improvement projects met the schedule; and

Whereas, serving as P3 Director, he has been instrumental in meeting critical deadlines to ensure that one of Georgia's largest projects moves forward; and

Whereas, he has been a member of the, the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) and the Institute of Transportation Engineers; has served on AASHTO's Standing Committee on Highways, AASHTO's Standing Committee on Planning and AASHTO's Subcommittee on Design; has served on and guided GDOT's Research Advisory Committee, always seeks to bring a national perspective to engineering of Georgia's transportation system; and

Whereas, no one wears a bow-tie, quite as well as Gerald does;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Transportation Board recognizes Gerald M. Ross, PE for his exemplary work and contributions to transportation system, the State, his loyal and devoted service to the Georgia Department of Transportation and we wish him the very best in future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a suitable copy be presented to Gerald M Ross in recognition of his commitment, dedication and selfless service.

Adopted this 15th day of November, 2012.

Sam Wellborn gave a report from the Gateways Committee.* Don Grantham made a motion to the full Board to favorably approve a formal partnership arrangement with I-75/85 Connector Gateway of Georgia in the amount of \$1.7 million. The motion was seconded by Emory McClinton and unanimously approved. Sam Wellborn concluded his report by making comments on the Wildflower Program, recognizing District One, and thanking all responsible for providing such beautiful wildflowers.

Robert Brown gave a report from the Statewide Transportation Planning Committee.* Committee action was to favorably recommend the approval of STIP to the full Board.

Dana Lemon gave a report from the Intermodal Committee.* There was no action taken at this meeting.

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

Under new business, Brandon Beach stated his concern about the continuing decrease in motor fuel dollars. He requested that Commissioner Golden look at surrounding states to see if they are having decreases in motor fuel dollars and if it is comparable to Georgia's. Commissioner Golden stated that he would do the analysis that Brandon Beach requested. He would also research the matter among other DOTs while at the AASHTO meeting.

Sam Wellborn acknowledged former speaker Terry Coleman in attendance and thanked him for his service and support of the Board.

Chairman Floyd asked for a motion to approve moving the December 2012 Board meeting to the second Thursday of the month. Sam Wellborn made a motion to approve moving the December 2012 Board meeting to the second Thursday of the month, seconded by Emory McClinton and unanimously approved.

Chairman Floyd stated that the Legislative Biennial will be held in Athens on December 9-11, 2012. He also stated that the Transportation Summit will be held in Atlanta on November 29, 2012. He requested everyone be in attendance if possible.

There being no further business, Chairman Floyd asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robert Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Emory McClinton and unanimously approved. Chairman Floyd adjourned the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Approved:



Johnny Floyd, Chairman

Respectfully submitted:



Elizabeth Osmon, Executive Secretary

***Denotes documentation in file.**