

AFTER ALL, YOUR ROADS ARE OUR ROADS.

On the cover:

Traffic Operations HERO operator **Bert Hutchinson** returns to his vehicle after assisting motorist on busy Interstate 75.

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WORKING TO KEEP GEORGIA MOVING



STRAIGHT TALK

Georgia Department of Transportation. Georgia DOT. GDOT.

Whatever you call us, Georgia DOT plans, constructs and maintains Georgia's state and federal highways. We're also involved in bridge, waterway, public transit, rail, general aviation, bike and pedestrian programs. Our transportation network connects our interstates, state highways, county roads and city streets.

That's the short of it. But there's more to it.

GDOT is a state agency. So it's sometimes easy to forget that we are made up of people. People who go to work. People who take their kids to school. People who travel Georgia's roads. People like you.

Our goal is to get you to your destination every day – safely and efficiently. After all, your roads are our roads.

Georgia DOT is headed in the **right direction**. That's what the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) affirmed when they reviewed GDOT's efforts to balance increasing demands with limited resources.* Take our diminished staffing. Through attrition and restructuring, we've gone from 5,949 employees in 2000 to 4,395 in 2012, a reduction of some 25%. Operational improvements—like converting existing pavement on GA 400 to provide more capacity and keep traffic moving, without the costs of paving new lanes—also demonstrate how we're innovatively using what we have. And we continually develop new strategies that enable us to do more with less.

* AASHTO GDOT Management Review Report ASH10T1, 2011.

While America's roads are crumbling, Georgia's **highways** and **bridges** are among the best in the country.* And that's despite our having one of the nation's lowest per capita budgets.† Georgia DOT prioritizes preserving our existing highways and bridges through regular maintenance and repair. And since our roads are relatively smooth, additional vehicle operating costs due to rough roads are significantly low.

* U.S. Public Interest Research Group (US PIRG), Road Work Ahead, 2010.
† AJC PolitiFact Georgia, Truth-O-Meter 8/7/12

Highway Emergency Response Operators—**HEROs**—are the key to **incident management** on metro Atlanta freeways.

The goal of a HERO is to clear the road as quickly as possible after an incident, so that normal traffic flow is restored. HEROs also assist stranded motorists and get them on their way. For HERO assistance, **dial 511**.



We are proud of our track record as good stewards of Georgia's **environment**, its **history** and its resources. When 101 unmarked African American burials were discovered as part of a roadway extension project in Bibb County, we worked with our consultant partner to carefully recover the contents, study the remains and respectfully rebury them.

Visit www.avondaleburialplace.org to see a documentary and learn more about this project.

We complete transportation projects **on-budget** and **on-time**. In a national ranking*, we were first in transportation projects completed on-budget and second in projects completed on-time.

* National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) report 20-24(37)A(01), measuring performance by 39 state DOTs from 2001 to 2010.

THERE'S A LOT MORE.

While the engineering, designing, planning and maintenance we do are pretty obvious, other things may not be so apparent. For example, we help local governments maintain their paved roads...our archaeologists, ecologists and historians ensure that the environment is not sacrificed for transportation...our divers do underwater bridge safety and waterway inspections...our materials

lab and research offices ensure that the highest quality materials and newest technologies are used for construction and maintenance projects...our recycling efforts convert scrap tire rubber into a component of asphalt...our litter removal programs use volunteers and commercial sponsors...our scenic byways and transportation enhancements programs preserve Georgia's heritage.

Georgia Department of Transportation consistently looks for innovative ways to address our key challenges: decreased transportation funding and growing traffic congestion.

These are some of the ways that Georgia DOT keeps Georgia moving. And some of the people who move Georgia DOT. For more, visit www.dot.ga.gov.

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