It is a dynamic time for transportation in Georgia. The State, its citizens and the Georgia DOT have much to be proud of and to look forward to. Between ongoing discussions with lawmakers in the nation’s capital; a proposed $184 million federal INFRA grant for the State Route 400 Express Lanes project, plus $100 million in state bonds to support infrastructure for bus rapid transit in the corridor; and breaking ground on the I-85 widening project in Gwinnett, Barrow and Jackson counties, the first MMIP project to advance to construction - these endeavors—and many others—have the potential to improve the commutes of motorists, as well as to enhance economic vitality across Georgia.

In this issue of Milepost you will notice a fresh new look, highlighted by a new GDOT logo and branding for the Department. While our old logo served us well for quite a number of years, the new design visually interprets today’s modern GDOT - streamlined, forward-focused and impactful, yet approachable. Our new logo will continue to roll out in the coming months and years. We’re excited about the new look as we continue to embrace the state’s transportation needs now and in the future.

In this Milepost, be sure to read about the replacement of the 110-year-old Courtland Street Bridge in downtown Atlanta, a design-build project using accelerated bridge construction elements to shorten construction time and minimize impacts on the public. You will also read about the accomplishments of our Equal Opportunity Office and its State Supported Funding Program under the leadership of Kimberly King; our new State Transportation Board members Jerry Shearin and Lynn Westmoreland; and how CHAMP keeps rural Georgia moving.

I believe that Georgia’s new Hands Free cell phone driving law, in effect July 1, 2018, has the potential to dramatically save lives. Georgia is the 16th state to enact a hands-free law. It is encouraging that 13 of 15 states with similar laws saw their fatality rates drop an average of 16 percent in the two years after enactment. That could have meant a savings of 247 lives in Georgia last year. Think about the life-altering injuries and the lives that could be saved this year and beyond, not to mention the families spared the unbearable grief of losing a loved one.

I ask drivers to consider all they would miss if they die in a crash, and what they would take away from their loved ones. To me, it’s common sense. I am positive that the great citizens of Georgia and those just passing through will abide by the new law and make safer driving choices. Georgia DOT’s installation of new signage announcing the Hands Free law at entry points into Georgia along all major highways will certainly help alert out-of-state drivers.

I hope you’ve had a safe, memorable and wonderful summer. Remember to watch out for children as they head back to school, and always Drive Alert to Arrive Alive.

Russell R. McMurtry, P.E.
FY 2018 Performance Measures

SAFETY

Invest in safety for Georgians and Georgia DOT employees. Tracks fatalities and injuries on Georgia’s roads.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEASURE</th>
<th>TARGET</th>
<th>Q1 JUL-SEP 2017</th>
<th>Q2 OCT-DEC 2017</th>
<th>Q3 JAN-MARCH 2018</th>
<th>Q4 APR-JUNE 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of fatalities statewide</td>
<td>Reduce fatalities by 41 each year</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>327</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work zone fatalities</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work zone injuries for Georgia DOT employees requiring medical treatment</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Average HERO response time</td>
<td>10 minutes or less</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 minutes</td>
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</table>

TOWARD ACHIEVING RESULTS

- Georgia DOT makes ongoing infrastructure investments designed to enhance safety. These include use of data and analytics to identify systemic safety projects such as improved pavement markings, cable barrier installations and rumble strips. Non-systemic projects in targeted locations include reduced conflict U-turn intersections (R-Cuts) and roundabouts. Road safety audits, where engineers walk a road to identify potential safety deficiencies, are also conducted.
- In 2017 about $100 million was invested in infrastructure safety projects, including $14 million in off-system safety.
- Georgia DOT has several marketing safety campaigns including:
  - Drive Alert Arrive Alive, which educates drivers about how changes in their driving behavior can reduce preventable crashes and save lives. Since 2015 the Office of Strategic Communications has conducted outreach to combat distracted driving. The campaign relaunched in April 2018 with new creative and visual content.
  - See & Be Seen addresses a surge in pedestrian fatalities.
  - National Work Zone Awareness Week is observed each spring to call public attention to the dangers in roadway work zones.
  - Safety On My Mind is Georgia DOT’s employee-focused initiative that inspires a safety-first culture among staff.
- It is anticipated that Georgia’s Hands-Free cell phone driving law (effective July 1, 2018) will contribute to enhanced safety on our roads.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Office of Performance-Based Management & Research
One Georgia Center
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MILEPOSTS

FY 2018 PERFORMANCE MEASURES
THIRD QUARTER

SETTING GOALS

Goals are crucial to the success of organizations like the Georgia Department of Transportation. At Georgia DOT, we align and measure our performance with our goals and objectives. Each goal relates to and supports the state’s strategic priorities.

DATA DRIVES PERFORMANCE

Performance management enables us to accomplish our mission of providing a safe and well-maintained transportation system for the people of Georgia. Harnessing and measuring data enables Georgia DOT to make decisions, adjustments and improvements that lead to fulfilling this mission.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Georgia DOT’s many performance measures - known as MilePosts - help us understand how we are doing and where we need to improve. They cover hundreds of key measures from average highway speeds to pavement conditions, the state of our bridges to average Highway Emergency Response Operator (HERO) response time, the number of fatalities on our roads to percentage of projects completed on time and on budget.

MISSION AND GOALS

Georgia DOT’s mission is to deliver a transportation system focused on innovation, safety, sustainability and mobility. This mission translates into five strategic goals relating to: safety, system preservation, project delivery, mobility and employees.

FIVE STRATEGIC GOALS

- Invest in safety for Georgians and Georgia DOT employees
- Efficiently take care of what we have
- Deliver projects on time and on budget
- Invest to improve reliability, congestion and connectivity
- Recruit, train and retain a quality workforce

Each quarter, we will share a few of these MilePosts to demonstrate how we’re measuring up.
FY 2018 Performance Measures

**System preservation:** Efficiently take care of current transportation facilities. Tracks roadway pavement and bridge conditions.

**Comprehensive pavement condition:** Tracks pavement conditions on routes surveyed and is based on route prioritization. Scores are on a 0-100 scale, with 100 being the best.

**Scores: GOOD 85-100, FAIR 70-85, POOR less than 70**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROUTE</th>
<th>TARGET</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRITICAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interoval, State Route</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>National Highway System</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Routes, GRIP Corridors</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDIUM</td>
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<tr>
<td>GEMA Routes</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOW</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>All other Uncategorized</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Bridge Condition:** Tracks bridge conditions based on strength and deck condition. GDOT continues to reduce the number of deficient bridges and is also targeting bridges in “Fair” condition, raising them to a level of “Good.”

**Bridge Condition: CRITICAL Interoval, National and State Freight Corridors, Federal Strategic Highway Network, HIGH National Highway System, U.S. Routes, GRIP Corridors, MEDIUM GEMA Routes, LOW All other Uncategorised Routes - low connectivity, less than four lanes, low regional significance**

**Bridge Condition:** Bridges in “Good” condition are kept 100% of the time.

**Bridge Condition: CRITICAL Interoval, National and State Freight Corridors, Federal Strategic Highway Network, HIGH National Highway System, U.S. Routes, GRIP Corridors, MEDIUM GEMA Routes, LOW All other Uncategorised Routes - low connectivity, less than four lanes, low regional significance**

**TOWARDS ACHIEVING RESULTS**

- **Invest to improve reliability, congestion and connectivity.** Traffic congestion causes delays, increases fuel consumption, and hinders motorists’ ability to accurately estimate travel time. This measure tracks average speeds across the most congested freeways in the metro Atlanta region. By focusing on these key roadways, GDOT can identify and address the biggest congestion challenges. The goal is to reduce congestion so that a 30 minute trip during non-peak travel hours would take no more than about 40 minutes during peak rush hours. That means an average speed of 55 mph during non-peak hours would be reduced no less than 40 mph during peak rush hours.

**MEASURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BRIDGES Percentage of all in GOOD Condition</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Off-system</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRIDGES Percentage of all in FAIR Condition</td>
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<tr>
<td>On-system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Off-system</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BRIDGES Percentage of all in POOR Condition</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>On-system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Off-system</td>
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**TOWARDS ACHIEVING RESULTS**

- **Georgia DOT’s Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP) is an initial list of 11 large-scale transportation projects that will improve mobility, and increase travel capacity, reliability and safety, help move freight more efficiently and provide economic benefits.** Once complete, it is expected that in the year 2030 there will be a five percent reduction in traffic congestion statewide.

- **Georgia Express Lanes (GEL) provide a mobility choice for drivers to pay a toll to bypass congestion and offer a clear path for transit operators. GEL relies on variable-price tolling to maintain free-flowing travel. The result is more reliable and predictable travel times - even during peak travel periods.**

- **Incident management that facilitates efficient, safe and fast roadway clearance reduces the impact of crashes on motorists. In metro Atlanta, a primary mission of the HERO program is to clear disabled vehicles from the roadway to restore normal traffic flow.**

- **The TIME Task Force Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP) encourages the quick, safe clearance of large-scale commercial vehicle incidents. By paying performance incentives to highly skilled, TRIIP-certified towing and recovery companies, delays and safety hazards are reduced.**

**STEWARDSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Deliver projects on time and on budget.** Tracks percentage of projects delivered on schedule and on budget.

**Percentage of Projects Delivered on Schedule**

Each construction contract executed to build a project includes an agreed upon timeframe by GDOT and the contractor to complete construction. However, sometimes, necessary extensions occur. This measure tracks how well GDOT is constructing projects within the agreed upon (original) contract time.

**Percentage of Projects Completed on Budget**

Each contract executed to build a project includes a dollar amount agreed upon by GDOT and the contractor to complete construction. However, sometimes, projects are completed over or under the award amount. This measure tracks how well GDOT is constructing projects within the agreed upon dollar amount (Award amount).

**TOWARDS ACHIEVING RESULTS**

- **Georgia DOT’s State Utilities Office ensures that Utility Adjustment Schedules are included in the advertisement for contractor consideration when bidding on projects.**

- **The project close-out procedure has been updated to allow for corrective work to be completed within the contract time.**

- **Georgia DOT works proactively with contractors to resolve issues as quickly as possible.**

- **These practices along with other initiatives have contributed to a significant reduction in utility delays on construction projects.**
On the cover: Have you noticed spectacular displays of vibrant flowers along Georgia’s roadsides? GDOT’s Wildflower Program colors our roads not only for beautification, but also for environmental accountability. Wildflowers foster cross-pollination by bees, butterflies and birds to help revive declining species. This shot off Camp Creek Parkway in Fulton County, shows Cosmos in full splendor. GDOT’s Wildflower Program is funded by purchase of wildflower specialty auto tags. Visit dot.ga.gov/wildflower. Photo: Cedric Mohr, GDOT.
Sam Wellborn reflects on retirement and service

For over a quarter of a century Sam Wellborn served the residents of Congressional District 3 in west central Georgia—as well as citizens of the state—with his unique passion and leadership on the State Transportation Board (STB). He retired in April.

“I always knew that I would know when it would be time to retire. And the time had come,” Wellborn explained. “Staying too long was my greatest fear.”

Wellborn is proud to have been the longest-serving board member ever. “For 26 and a half years I enjoyed working with GDOT employees and have been impressed with their work ethic. I will miss my fellow board members and people like Michael Presley [D3 district engineer], Meg Pirkle [chief engineer], Carol Comer [director of Intermodal], and the city and county officials in the Third Congressional District,” Wellborn said.

Wellborn’s service on the Board and his contributions to the state are extremely meaningful for him. Most rewarding were addressing highway beautification and the impacts made by the Gateway Committee. The rebuild of the welcome centers and rest areas, which have huge benefits for Georgia, are significant as well. Wellborn adds that he also “took pleasure in contributing to improvements in small towns that don’t often get GDOT attention. Upgraded signage, enhanced landscaping, new sidewalks and striping improvements make a huge difference in communities like Greenville, Zebulon and West Point.”

A few months into his service on the Board, Wellborn was asked what he had learned. “My answer today is the same as it was back then – it still can take too long to build a road,” he said. “We need to continue streamlining the procedures required to get things done, such as the permitting process. We need to keep enhancing our efficiencies.”

Wellborn now relishes the life of an active retiree. “This is the first time in 76 years that I have no ‘entanglements.’ I am grateful for my wife Dusty, our three children and our six granddaughters. And I have so many wonderful interests—like camellias and the Columbus Botanical Garden—that I doubt I will ever truly retire!”

First-term members on-Board

Lynn Westmoreland of Grantville, Ga., in Coweta County, was elected to the STB in June to represent west central Georgia’s Third Congressional District (CD 3). He serves the remaining term of retired member Sam Wellborn, which expires April 15, 2022.

Westmoreland, a former U.S. Congressman, served 12 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he was on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He previously served 12 years in the Georgia House, including four as minority leader.

Westmoreland serves on the STB’s Administrative, Finance and Legislative committees.

The Atlanta native attended Georgia State University. He is principle of Westmoreland Strategies LLC.

Jerry Shearin of Dallas, Ga., in Paulding County, was elected to the STB in February to represent the 14th Congressional District in northwest Georgia. He was introduced to GDOT and the details of transportation when he was chairman of the Paulding County Commission.

“It was there that I learned that major transportation projects are an extremely complex endeavor - it’s not just about need. There are a myriad of other factors—like environmental, financial, engineering and more—that must be considered,” Shearin explained. “As commission chair I spent a good deal of time dealing with transportation problems on a micro-level. In this new role, I look forward to addressing Georgia’s statewide transportation challenges on a macro-level.”

Shearin serves on the STB’s Equal Access, Intermodal, P3 and Property Utilization committees. He has a Bachelor of Science from Auburn University and is owner/operator of McAdams Insurance Agency.

Dunn honored

Board Member and former Chair Emily Dunn was recognized by the University of North Georgia as the first female chair of the State Transportation Board. The goal of their Women’s Leadership Luncheon, themed “The Confident Leader: Be Bold. Be Powerful. Be You,” was to enrich the lives of female students by showing them what they can accomplish. Dunn (UNG ’83) has represented northeast Georgia’s Ninth Congressional District since 2011.

The 14-member State Transportation Board determines policy and generally governs the Georgia Department of Transportation. Each member is elected by a caucus of Georgia General Assembly members from their specific congressional district. Board members serve staggered, five-year terms.
Rudy Bowen is a humble man who got his first job running a paper route for the Atlanta Journal when he was 11. Now, almost seven decades later, he’s a great-grandfather, a retired businessman and keen on living his life through faith. He credits his greatest accomplishments to his wife Jean and the life they share together in Gwinnett County.

Driving change. Millions of people travel on Georgia’s roads every day. In fact, Georgia was named among the top 10 fastest growing states in 2017. We need to expand our infrastructure and the programs that support it to accommodate the lifestyles we live now and those we will live in the future. When you consider the amount of time people spend in their cars each day and our ever-increasing population, we need to continue to develop innovative ways to change how people travel - creative solutions to effect change.

Looking forward. Bowen sees it simply – the Department is changing and for the better. It’s been a wonderful experience representing Congressional District 7 on the DOT board for the last 11 years. I think the department has become very transparent and has developed great leadership – that is key not only for the future of the department, but also for transportation in Georgia. Our leadership is poised for the changes that are inevitably coming in technology and lifestyle and I can’t wait to see it.

The cowboy way. Our favorite movies have a way of defining who we are and what we enjoy. My favorites are 1950s westerns – especially the b-western movies! Everybody kids me about it. My favorite characters are Hopalong Cassidy and Roy Rogers – just all of the characters and Saturday b-movies of the 1940s and 50s.

Grandmother knows best. My grandmother always told me, ‘Any job you take, plow it until the end of the road.’ To me that means if you take on a job, you need to finish. There are plenty of projects where I would have liked to quit in the middle and walk away, but I didn’t.

Serendipitous beginnings. Bowen married Jean in 1962 after just nine months of courtship. She was a nurse in a doctor’s office in Chamblee and that’s where we met. I carried someone who was hurt to the office. The doctor I normally saw was out of town, so the nurse sent me around the corner to another doctor and that’s where I met my wife. There was something about her that made me say ‘she is a wonderful person.’ Long story short, we finally went out one evening and discovered that we both felt we were meant to be. It’s because of her – her spirit, her support for me and her faith in me – that has made my life so joyful.

Raising Bowens. Becoming a parent is both challenging and rewarding. When my daughters, and then my son, were born I recognized the importance of being a father – and the challenges and responsibilities of raising them and providing for them. Family life is very important to me.

Why we do it. Bowen believes everything we do is for a reason. I think the challenges in life and the decisions we make lead the way for our faith to give us the strength to make it through the tragedies. My faith is a driving force for everything I do. We live every day of our lives on this earth and all the decisions we make are purposeful in an effort to get to heaven.
Moving Forward

Jimmy Smith is special assistant to the Commissioner with a focus on organizational culture and knowledge management. A 28-year GDOT veteran, Smith was most recently District Two district engineer. In this new role, he works strategically to align GDOT’s culture with its mission, vision and values. He also focuses on knowledge management, which deals with retention, managing and sharing institutional knowledge across the Department.

Corbett Reynolds is the new District Two district engineer in east central Georgia. During his 19 years with GDOT, Reynolds specialized in construction and maintenance. He was most recently District Two’s assistant district engineer. He has a bachelor’s in civil engineering technology from Southern Polytechnic State University.

Grant Waldrop is the new district engineer in District Six in northwest Georgia. During his 14 years with GDOT, Waldrop specialized in traffic operations. Most recently he was D6 assistant district engineer. Other roles include regional traffic manager and district traffic engineer. Waldrop has a bachelor’s and a master’s in civil engineering from Georgia Tech and is a licensed professional engineer.

Paul Tanner is the new Planning Office administrator. The 26-year GDOT veteran was most recently the State Transportation Data Office administrator. His experience includes construction project management, contract preparation, estimating, planning, federal reporting, GIS management and statewide data collection and statistics. Tanner has a bachelor’s in civil engineering technology from Georgia Southern University.

Erik Rohde is the new Engineering Services Office administrator. Most recently he was assistant state project review engineer in Engineering Services, where he led the Value Engineering and Estimating sections. Rohde served over 20 years in the U.S. Air Force and then worked at the Minnesota DOT before starting his career with GDOT in 2003 in the Office of Roadway Design, where he eventually became design group manager. Rohde has a bachelor’s in civil engineering from Georgia Tech and is a licensed professional engineer in Georgia.

Recognitions & Distinctions

Commissioner Russell R. McMurry, P.E. was honored for leadership by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia (ACEC Georgia) with their Engineering Influence Award “in recognition of his exceptional leadership and management of the department’s response to the Interstate 85 fire and bridge collapse.”

Georgia DOT Chief Engineer Meg Pirkle, P.E. was appointed by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to a two-year term as chair of their Committee on Traffic Engineering. The committee assesses the effectiveness of traffic control strategies and devices for the efficient and safe operation of the nation’s highway system. Pirkle will serve through the end of the 2020 AASHTO Annual Meeting. Pirkle also represented Georgia DOT at the 2018 Pavement Preservation and Recycling Summit (PPRS) held in Nice, France. The international summit aims to identify and bolster promising initiatives to help restore sustainability to road transport systems. The program included speakers from around the world. Pirkle spoke about the I-85 bridge collapse and how the partnerships between state, local and federal agencies contributed to its successful rebuild.

Marlo Clowers, P.E. earned the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) certification, an industry-recognized level of proficiency in the practice of Design-Build. This coveted certification is obtained through a board review of application and documented experience, the successful completion of four courses in design build best practices, and passing an examination administered by the DBIA.

GDOT has new professional engineers. Congrats for recently passing the PE exam! Habeeb Alabi, P.E.; Jaime Carrillo, P.E.; Katelyn DiGiota, P.E.; Kevin Dirth, P.E.; Emily Dwyer, P.E.; Michael Govus, P.E.; Lily Hardman, P.E.; Darren Harris, P.E.; Teresa Hartle, P.E.; Eric Huibregtse, P.E.; Robbie Koirala, P.E.; Aneece Louaked, P.E.; Gary Pierce, P.E.; Justin Thompson, P.E.; Roderick Ware, P.E.

RAPID graduates. With 51 percent of engineers in the Office of Roadway Design having less than five years of experience, the Roadway Accelerated Program for Individual Development (RAPID) is a 12-month training program that focuses on the technical aspects of roadway design. It is a tool for individual employee development and a strategy for employee retention. The purpose of RAPID is to produce qualified candidates for the lead design engineer position. Recent graduates are Lily Hardman, Titus Johnson and Hoke Ward.
Office of EEO wins APWA Award
By Sylvia McDaniel

Georgia DOT Equal Employment Opportunity Director Kimberly A. King oversees the Department’s EEO office and the State Supported Funding (SSFP) Program that supports GDOT’s Business Resource Center. EEO and SSFP recently won an American Public Works Association (APWA) Award for its “Diversity Exemplary Practices.” APWA is comprised of local, county, state/province personnel and federal agencies as well as private sector personnel who supply products and services to these governments.

The award specifically acknowledges the Department’s Business Resource Center. Under King’s guidance the Department established the center to help GDOT-certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), registered small businesses and veteran-owned small businesses to secure opportunities in state-funded capital projects, including both design and construction, as well as maintenance contracts with GDOT. Since opening in August 2016, the center has served more than 400 firms. Additionally, 81 new DBEs, small businesses and veteran-owned firms became qualified contractors winning more than $2 million in new project dollars.

The Business Resource Center is located in metro Atlanta and open Monday through Friday. Firms outside of Atlanta have access to the same services electronically or by attending SSFP events held in their local community. Please call 678-420-5500 or visit online at dot.ga.gov.

King has been EEO director for more than five years. Upon arrival at GDOT, King brought with her over 20 years of legal practice in civil rights, human resources and collective bargaining. She earned her Juris Doctor from Southern Illinois University School of Law and her license to practice law in 1990. In 2016, the EEO office won the Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance’s Agency Service Excellence Award.

In Case You Missed It (ICYMI)
GDOT receives early federal certification for state rail safety oversight. Nearly a year in advance of the federal safety deadline, Georgia obtained approval and certification of our State Safety Oversight (SSO) Program for rail transit. Certification, required for states with rail transit systems, means that GDOT is able to continue to perform safety oversight of our rail transit systems including MARTA and the Atlanta Streetcar, and that Georgia continues to receive federal transit funding - to the extent of $194.5 million for FY 2019.

Southern Georgia now fourth TIA region. In May voters in the South Georgia T-SPLOST region approved a 1 percent 10-year transportation special purpose local option sales tax to fund regional transportation projects. The Southern Georgia Region is comprised of 18 counties and 45 municipalities, including Valdosta, Waycross, Douglas and Tifton. The Region’s Final Investment List includes 151 projects, with $625 million in budgeted project and discretionary funds. Tax collection will begin on Oct. 1, 2018. Some projects may begin construction as early as summer 2019. The program will operate under regulations as outlined in the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) legislation. Visit the TIA webpage on GDOT’s website.

Only hands-free cell phones for drivers. Georgia’s Hands-Free Law (House Bill 673), which took effect on July 1, makes it illegal for a driver to hold a phone in their hand or to use their body to support their phone. But there’s a whole lot more to it. For information visit gahighwaysafety.org.

The right traffic data. The right time. The right quality … TADA!
Georgia DOT’s Office of Transportation Data (OTD) provides traffic data, products and services that help local governments and the public make data-driven transportation decisions concerning traffic patterns and flow, design of new roads, traffic signage or signalization needs and other determinations. In April, OTD launched a new and innovative traffic data application that seamlessly combines traffic data collection, analysis and presentation services. The Traffic Analysis and Data Application (TADA) replaces GeoCounts. For more information visit our website.

At a June outreach event in Douglasville, EEO Director Kimberly King discusses state-funded project opportunities with attendee Nick Byers of environmental services firm NBI, LLC.
When the Washington Street Viaduct (later called the Courtland Street Bridge) opened in 1907, the Atlanta Constitution called it “one of the most important undertakings by the City in recent years.” The final cost: $126,180.

Now the 110-year-old bridge, a major thoroughfare through the downtown campus of Georgia State University (GSU), which served generations of students and faculty, as well as drivers going to and from Capitol Hill, is gone. A new structure is being built in its place to safely meet increased modern traffic volumes and heavier vehicles.

Six months from closure to open to traffic

The Courtland Street Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) Project replaces all 28 spans of the original Courtland Street Bridge—from Martin Luther King Jr. Drive to Gilmer Street—over MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) rail lines, CSX rail lines and Decatur Street.

Through design-build (DB) innovation and an aggressive work schedule, the duration of the road closure was shortened from two years to six months to reduce impacts to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. A significant amount of the foundation and substructure work on the new bridge was completed before the demolition of the old bridge, helping to dramatically shorten the closure.

The new $25 million bridge is being built in the same footprint as the old bridge, with enhancements that include a 12-foot lane for buses to on- and off-load passengers, expanded sidewalks for pedestrians, and updated lighting and aesthetics. To protect surrounding structures and reduce the debris field, the old bridge was dismantled using a phased approach that used a precise demolition strategy. The new bridge, under construction, is expected to open to vehicles and pedestrians in late October 2018, about six months from closure. Offsite detours are currently in effect.

“One of the key reasons that the aggressive schedule has been maintained is the success of stakeholder coordination,” said GDOT Design-Build Project Manager Richard O’Hara. “Excellent cooperation and flexibility from key stakeholders enabled the DB team to address necessary changes and helped keep the project on schedule.”

Some innovative DB construction methods, which include elements of accelerated bridge construction are:

• Constructing protected access and exit areas through the work zone to key GSU buildings
• Employing special equipment to install new bridge foundations beneath the old bridge prior to the road closure
• Using accelerated concrete mixes and applying precast concrete beams for fast completion of the bridge superstructure

GDOT is responsible for the planning, financing and oversight of design and construction. HNTB is the project management consultant, assisting GDOT in determining the workability of the design and ensuring that it meets GDOT specifications and Federal Highway design standards. The Design-Build Team of C.W. Matthews Contracting Company and Michael Baker International is responsible for finishing the design and constructing the bridge.

The Washington Street Viaduct stood the test of time for 110 years. Photo courtesy of Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center
I just have to tell somebody - I drove across the new westbound bridge over the Ocmulgee at Hawkinsville a couple of weeks ago. I "love" that the rail beside the river has openings and you can actually see the water! It reminds me of 1920s bridges that I love. Kudos to the DOT! I hope there will be more like this one!
– S. Butler, the Herald-Leader, via email

Thank you for these videos. They’re fascinating and I think they serve a good purpose to show taxpayers how our money is being spent!!
– G. Ellenburg, via Twitter

Editor’s note: This is in response to a #BehindTheScenes video of GDOT crews conducting a bridge inspection along the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes.

My husband and I just traveled from SW Florida back to Michigan … We were very impressed with how well the I-75 “path” was maintained… weeds were being weed whacked and medians mowed and the sides of the road had virtually no debris … workers were present everywhere and they were truly working … good job Georgia
– M. Swick via Facebook

Wanted to reach out to Georgia’s DOT and say that I was very impressed with the amount of care they provide for their highways. Was driving north out of Atlanta, up towards South Carolina … and I couldn’t believe how much the state put into their highway services (grass cutting, tree limb trimming, trash gathering etc.) Very pleased with my experience and I look forward to driving through Georgia again someday!
– J. O’Boyle, via GDOT’s CONTACT US webpage

As a truck driver I like this idea and it will make it safer out there. Every day I have to save someone’s life because they don’t respect a 75-foot long 80,000 pound vehicle.
– R. Mitchum, via Twitter

Editor’s note: Post refers to GDOT’s plan to add two commercial vehicle-only lanes along I-75 northbound from Macon to McDonough.

I recently sent a question about cleaning the graffiti on the noise wall along I-20. I received a prompt response and was made aware … that removal had … taken place. Unfortunately, the noise wall was marred soon after and again, it was painted over by GDOT. I want to commend the GDOT for continuing to combat this problem … Know that your efforts are appreciated …Thank you for working hard to preserve Atlanta’s beauty.
– C. Oden, via GDOT’s CONTACT US webpage

I’m not sure who is responsible for planting the wildflowers along the median on Lawrenceville Highway in Decatur or at the 285 exits for L’ville Hwy, but thank you! It adds a bit of beauty to an otherwise unremarkable stretch of road. I’m glad that this is happening ….
– Ginny Collier, via GDOT’s CONTACT US webpage

Editor’s note: These plantings are made possible through Georgia DOT’s Wildflower Tag Program. Proceeds are used to create colorful roadsides along our state highway system.

Desonia Sands @Ms_Maybell · Mar 16
I’m so happy today! 😃😄 My commute was 14 minutes versus 35 minutes. 😊 This joy I have today is ALL because of a bridge! 36/162 😍❤️❤️❤️
@GAdeptofTrans

Editor’s note: Tweet from happy constituent about Yellow River Bridge in Newton County.
There is more to Georgia DOT than you may know. In an effort to highlight the many areas within the department, we share exclusive Behind the Scenes with Georgia DOT video footage on GDOT’s Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels.

While some roles within GDOT are behind a desk, others are on the front line – often on roadways where safety is a primary concern. One of those front line positions are our Highway Emergency Response Operators - otherwise known as HEROs. These units patrol metro Atlanta interstates making sure motorists are safe. From assisting drivers with a flat tire or a bit of gas to traffic management in the event of a stall or crash, Highway Emergency Response Operators risk their lives every day to protect ours. And yours.

During a recent ride along, I asked HERO operators Clarissa Taylor and Tracy Rush how motorists can help make our roadways safer. Taylor advised drivers to “slow down, especially when it rains.” Rush stressed the importance for motorists to “stop texting and driving.”

They also emphasized the importance of not getting out of the vehicle on the highway unless your life is in immediate danger. If possible, pull off the road, turn on your hazard lights and stay seat-belted in the vehicle with the doors locked. Call 511 for assistance.

GDOT reminds motorists that Georgia’s Move-over Law requires drivers to move-over one lane when a first responder or construction crew is on the side of the road and displaying flashing emergency lights. This includes moving over for Georgia DOT’s HERO and CHAMP units. If it is unsafe to move over, then slow down below the posted speed.

If you’re ever in need of assistance on interstates in Georgia, simply dial 511 and request a HERO in metro Atlanta or a CHAMP in rest of the state.

For HERO and other Behind the Scenes footage be sure to follow GDOT on all of our social media channels.
In addition to the recently expanded routes in Macon, along I-95 in the east and I-75 and I-20 in northwest Georgia, the CHAMP program recently added new equipment to further enhance response to incidents along the interstates. These larger box trucks carry additional resources such as fuel spill containment pads and pools, additional flares and traffic control, advance warning signs and a much larger capacity to remove vehicles and cargo from crash scenes.

CHAMP patrols interstates outside metro Atlanta from 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. seven days a week. CHAMP is a complimentary service provided to motorists by the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Call 511 for CHAMP assistance.

CHAMP received the 2018 American Public Works Association (APWA) Georgia Chapter award for Management and Technical Innovation of the Year.
Customer Service & Performance Excellence Awards 1st Quarter 2018

Congratulations to these Georgia DOT employees and teams who were nominated by peers, leadership or external customers for their outstanding customer service or performance.

DISTRICT 1 (See photos on page 14)
Katie Strickland, District Communications Officer, Customer Service Excellence. Cognizant of how her work affects the big picture; inspires peers to communicate better, perseveres, strong work ethic.

Sandy Forrester, Area 4 Support Assistant, Customer Service Excellence. Great follow-up externally and internally. In her short time with GDOT has quickly learned offices and their roles to refer inquiries to the correct department.


DISTRICT 2 (See photos on page 15)
Robin Black, Accounting, Program Associate, Customer Service Excellence. Her dedication and high standards in tracking vehicle mileage, upkeep and fuel expenses ensure that equipment is properly maintained.

Special Outfits Snow and Ice Team, Asphalt, Paving and Bridge, Performance Excellence. Worked countless hours, day and night shifts, during the treacherous winter season to make it safe for the traveling public. Whatever their assignment, they go above and beyond.

Michael Taylor, Damon Frost, Caleb Lord, Maintenance, Performance Excellence. Prepared and delivered the Maintenance Skills Development (MSD) program, which led to changes in hiring practices, training and pay incentives for CDL holders.

DISTRICT 3 (See photos on page 16)
Shane Adams, Area 1 Sr. Permits Inspector, Customer Service Excellence. Provides highest level of professionalism for external and internal customers. A team player, he has filled in as area engineer and assistant area engineer when vacancies have occurred.


Linda Simon, Human Resources Technician, Performance Excellence. Fosters teamwork; demonstrates initiative and empathy; ensures questions and needs are addressed.

Signal Team, Performance Excellence. During Hurricane Irma, developed a system to power traffic signals on state routes in the event of an extended power outage. They kept Georgians moving!

DISTRICT 4 (See photos on page 17)
Jill Nagel, District Communications Officer, Customer Service Excellence. Juggles duties to meet the communications needs of management, board members, media and citizens. Spearheaded public information campaign for safety enhancement projects to clear overgrown trees on interstate rights-of-way.

Area 1 Maintenance Crews, Performance Excellence. This team of talented and experienced equipment operators, combines crews to accomplish large jobs. Dominated in District Rodeo; placed statewide; and represented GDOT at nationals.

Eddie Vann Watts, Accounting, Finance Clerk, Performance Excellence. Dedicated, results-driven and consistently meets or beats monthly fuel card reconciliation deadlines. Exemplary employee.

Houlihan Bridge Team, Maintenance, Performance Excellence. When the Houlihan Bridge needed to close due to structural cracks in beams on the swing span, the team had a laborious task to remove grates and set platforms. Their dedication allowed the contractor to finish swiftly and the bridge opened a day early.

DISTRICT 5 (See photos on page 18)
Jill Nagel, District Communications Officer, Customer Service Excellence. Provides highest level of professionalism for external and internal customers. Cognizant of how her work affects the big picture; inspires peers to communicate better, perseveres, strong work ethic.

Area 1 Maintenance Crews, Performance Excellence. This team of talented and experienced equipment operators, combines crews to accomplish large jobs. Dominated in District Rodeo; placed statewide; and represented GDOT at nationals.

Eddie Vann Watts, Accounting, Finance Clerk, Performance Excellence. Dedicated, results-driven and consistently meets or beats monthly fuel card reconciliation deadlines. Exemplary employee.

Houlihan Bridge Team, Maintenance, Performance Excellence. When the Houlihan Bridge needed to close due to structural cracks in beams on the swing span, the team had a laborious task to remove grates and set platforms. Their dedication allowed the contractor to finish swiftly and the bridge opened a day early.

DISTRICT 6 (See photos on page 19)
Michael Long, Traffic Specialist, Customer Service Excellence. In his 25 years at GDOT, including 20 in District Traffic Operations, Long has helped prevent crashes on our roads. He is quick to assist, to tackle new and unusual tasks, and to coordinate with others to develop solutions.

Grant Waldrop (D6) and David Hedeen, Meghan Hedeen and Adrienne Conley, Office of Environmental Services; Customer Service Excellence. Following a project meeting, they went out of their way, and above and beyond expectations, to assist a fellow GDOT employee when his vehicle was inoperable after a collision.

Highway 92 Phase 4 Project Team, Jun Birnkammer, Jennifer Deems, Bruce Savage (D6); Olu Anyaebosi, Fletcher Miller, Steve Gaston (GO), Customer Service Excellence. According to Paulding County DOT, the team’s performance, positive attitude, excellent customer service and dedication led to innovative design and solutions that ensured the project moved forward.

www.dot.ga.gov
Kathy Zahul and the District Seven Team, Customer Service Excellence. Proactively anticipate district needs; go out of their way to attend meetings and other gatherings to help constituents understand projects. They ensure the District performs at its best.

Adam LaBaud, Equipment Operator, Performance Excellence. Shows leadership on and off the road; helps new employees with CDL training and goes the extra mile to assist others.

Derrick Greene, Traffic Operations, Traffic Signal Technician, Performance Excellence. When it comes to difficult situations, Greene doesn’t quit – he trouble shoots. Refreshing to know that Greene is out there resolving traffic signal issues.

Brodick Williamson, Bridge Shop, General Trades Craftsman, Performance Excellence. Leads by example; the first one to get the job started; has been the most consistent employee at the Bridge Shop.

Danny Griffin, Procurement Coordinator, Traffic Operations, Performance Excellence. Ensures quick turn-around on time sensitive purchases for the HERO unit. Instrumental in getting required equipment for Express Lane Master Operators and their trucks.

Highway 92 Phase 4 Project Team, Olu Anyaebosi, Fletcher Miller, Steve Gaston (GO); Jun Birnkammer, Jennifer Deems, Bruce Savage (D6), Customer Service Excellence. According to Paulding County DOT, the team’s performance, positive attitude, excellent customer service and dedication led to innovative design and solutions that ensured the project moved forward.

Jerome Temple, Systems Administrator, IT Infrastructure, Performance Excellence. The IT District Server Upgrade Project required complex hardware replacement be done without interruption to customers. As primary project manager and technical lead, he deployed the equipment with minimal service outage.

Joseph Cates, IT Support Specialist, IT Infrastructure, Customer Service Excellence. His skills and knowledge enable him to be the first line of defense in diagnosing a multitude of daily problems. Personable and provides professional customer service.

Cathy Slaughter, Lori Thornton, John Wills, Mail Services Team, Customer Service Excellence. Each day this team goes beyond the normal standards of customer service as they make their deliveries with quiet professionalism and a smile. Hard-working and committed.

Donn Digamon, Bridge Design Group Leader, Office of Bridge Design, Customer Service Excellence. Whether he’s working day and night to ensure plans are ready for beam production in an emergency like the I-85 rebuild or he’s traveling to districts to proactively search for issues, he is dedicated to public safety.

John Battle, Bobby Standard, Bishop Jackson, Transportation Specialists, Office of Equipment Management, Performance Excellence. Essential in assisting with repairing equipment during snow and ice inspections; helped make brine farm expansion efficient; installed new pumps, flow meters and tanks. They ensure that operators understand policies and procedures.

Kenneth Davis, Motor Vehicle Operations Manager, Office of Equipment Management, Performance Excellence. Davis temporarily assumed the role of shop manager when there were unexpected vacated positions in District Seven’s Equipment Maintenance Shop. His efforts enhanced the unit’s efficiency and effectiveness; equipment down time was reduced.


Matt Carrol, Ecologist and Cayley Champeau, Historian, Office of Environmental Services, Performance Excellence. In addition to high quality routine project work, their collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to create a template for programmatic use on state-funded projects helps OES coordinate more efficiently and effectively.

GDOT OFFICES
(See GDOT employee website for photos)

Theron Bond, Independent Assurance Engineer, Office of Materials & Testing, Performance Excellence. When advised not to expose his eyes to dust after cataract surgery, he chose to delay the procedure in order to complete annual lab inspection duties. This is one example of his dedication.

Mary Cooley, Geologist, Office of Materials & Testing, Performance Excellence. As subject matter expert in geologic information, provides input for engineering and makes herself available after hours. Recently passed Professional Geologist exam. Continually exceeds expectations.

Lloyd Powell, Pavement Asset Manager, Maintenance Activity Unit, Performance Excellence. Gathers and uses field investigation and historic data to issue service contracts to help keep routes safe for the public. Epitomizes service and ensures high level of performance for all.

Esteban Carillo, Dave Wegener, Fred Mathis, Sam Harris, Tabitha Turner, RTOP Teams 1 and 2, Performance Excellence. These teams continuously set and achieve aggressive goals for traffic operations in metro Atlanta; including creation of automated traffic signal measures, which made Georgia the first state to be able to quickly and accurately report on the health and performance of critical arterials.


Aaron Steede, Traffic Ops Supervisor, Traffic Operations, Performance Excellence. As subject matter expert for development and implementation of the Georgia Permitting Application System (GPAS), he worked with GDOT’s IT department to improve and streamline the signal permitting process.

Victoria Coulter, Civil/Traffic Engineer, Traffic Operations, Performance Excellence. High levels of performance through mastery of traffic signal engineering, timing and maintenance. While maintaining daily responsibilities, took on projects that would challenge engineers beyond her experience level.

Kenneth Davis, Bridge Design Group Leader, Office of Bridge Design, Customer Service Excellence. Whether he’s working day and night to ensure plans are ready for beam production in an emergency like the I-85 rebuild or he’s traveling to districts to proactively search for issues, he is dedicated to public safety.
Evaluates the needs of all to get the job done. The high pressure and fast-moving transportation environment requires patience, attentiveness and the tenacity required to work in Environmental Services, Customer Service Excellence. Displays justifications for suitable and economical equipment. The Ecology section looked into getting tablets, provided thorough knowledge and judgement. Elizabeth “Libby” Messick, Environmental Planner, Office of Environmental Services, Performance Excellence. This quick learner looks at the big picture, while assessing all moving parts; builds strong working relationships.

Jim Pomfret, Environmental Program Manager, Office of Environmental Services, Performance Excellence. As a manager, leads with integrity, fairness and a positive attitude. Finds time to assist employees; demonstrates high level of commitment; team player and role model.

David Borchardt, NEPA Senior Planner, Office of Environmental Services, Customer Service Excellence. Exceptional performer who goes above and beyond with consultants; proactive in project management. When the Ecology section looked into getting tablets, provided thorough knowledge and judgement. David Hedeen, Meghan Hedeen, Adrienne Conley, Office of Environmental Services; and Grant Waldrop, D6, Customer Service Excellence. Following a project meeting, they went out of their way, and above and beyond expectations, to assist a fellow GDOT employee when his vehicle was inoperable after a collision.

Ryan Pawlikowski, Ecologist, Office of Environmental Services, Customer Service Excellence. Professional and cheerful with internal and external partners; good relationships with consultants; proactive in project management. When the Ecology section looked into getting tablets, provided thorough knowledge and judgement. Sunshine Beba, Environmental Planner, Office of Environmental Services, Customer Service Excellence. Displays patience, attentiveness and the tenacity required to work in the high pressure and fast-moving transportation environment. Evaluates the needs of all to get the job done.

Amy Ramsey, Office Manager, Office of Performance-Based Management and Research, Performance Excellence. An outstanding and vital member of the OPMR team; strategically brings organization to tasks; and—with remarkable insight—develops plans for their sustainability.


Anne-Rose Loy, ROW Specialist, Office of Right of Way, Performance Excellence. An exceptional and valued member of the Surplus Property team; manages leased properties; initiated new methods of tracking lease payments using spreadsheets; more than doubled her case load when the team lost a member.

Oscar Thomas, Transportation Specialist, Office of Right of Way, Performance Excellence. Accountable and helpful; anticipates coworkers’ needs; goes “the extra mile” to accomplish ROW’s goals – especially in locating surplus properties to store GDOT equipment following the I-85 fire. Committed to exceptional work and delivering results.

Tiffany Robinson, State Local Government Coordinator, Office of Right of Way, Performance Excellence. Despite a very large workload—performing two jobs for the past two years—her performance excels. Always has a smile, is responsive. Works to modernize and streamline processes.

Nancy Black and Kimberly Banks, Office of Right of Way, Performance Excellence. Hardworking, valuable, dependable and dedicated; have gone above and beyond to ensure that the processing of over 200 petitions this past year were delivered in a timely manner.

Fran Castle, Accounting Supervisor, Office of Right of Way, Customer Service Excellence. Did a remarkable job in converting an extensive list of vendors to an electronic ACH payment format, which was both efficient and time-saving.

Jason O’Neal, Civil Engineer, Office of Roadway Design, Performance Excellence. His abilities, attitude and work ethic related to complex projects—specifically the SR 92 widening project—are exceptional. A “get it done” engineer who produces high volume, quality work under stress, while maintaining a calm professionalism.


Ryan Mickens, Design Engineer, Roadway Design, Performance Excellence. Dedicated, outstanding work ethic, a good mentor. A great resource for project inquiries.

Chris Rudd, Assistant Office Head, Office of Roadway Design, Customer Service Excellence. Valued for his knowledge and fairness; when approached with a design question, provides good answers or points you in the right direction.

Bertha Bryant, Highway Systems Manager, Office of Transportation Data, Performance Excellence. Committed, determined, flexible, cooperative; possesses insight and mental fortitude. Her PDP class presentations engage the audience.

Bradley Stephens, Program Manager, Office of Transportation Data, Performance Excellence. Even when his plate is full he routinely goes the extra mile to ensure that the team receives support, often staying late. His engagement fosters an environment of high morale where everyone feels valued and respected.

Joseph Monti, GIS Analyst, Office of Transportation Data, Performance Excellence. A role model and mentor among his peers; provides clarity. An ideal GIS professional and invaluable member of OTD.
News from the Districts

The Georgia Department of Transportation has seven district offices that operate and maintain the state transportation system at the local level. Each district has a district engineer who plans, organizes and directs district activities. Districts are subdivided into area offices that are overseen by an area engineer. The district communications officer (DCO) is the district spokesperson, who provides information to the community, the media and local officials.
Ospreys build nests on new platforms at SR 53 Boling Bridge Replacement

With Georgia DOT’s aggressive efforts to rehabilitate or replace bridges around the state, it’s not surprising that sometimes nature presents challenges. That is the case in Gainesville with the Boling Bridge replacement. Boling Bridge carries motorists over the Chestatee River (Lake Sydney Lanier) on State Route 53. The old bridge, one of the iconic “big green bridges” on the lake, is a metal truss structure, with steel trusses overhead.

Atop these trusses families of osprey birds would build nests and return each spring to live. Since the new bridge will not have overhead trusses, a special provision in the construction contract provided for the erection of two 40-foot timber poles with platforms to encourage the osprey to nest in these new areas. GDOT partnered with Jackson EMC and Scott Bridge Company to make the timber platform installation happen.

It appears the plan is working as sticks and branches have been spotted along with birds inhabiting the new platforms.

The osprey are somewhat of a staple to lake life culture. They are not only important to the ecosystem, but also to citizens who live on the lake, who are used to seeing the birds during the spring and summer.

It’s phenomenal to see the osprey building nests on these new platforms. Hopefully they’ll be laying eggs in the nest soon.

The Boling Bridge replacement is 76 percent complete and completion expected in April 2020.
Helping hand in Augusta
When Jim Blount, with the Augusta Housing Authority, noticed a drainage issue that caused flooding to a warehouse off US 78/Gordon Highway near downtown, he chatted with a nearby GDOT Augusta Area Wide crew. They quickly solved the clog.

“The customer talked to us and we literally came out the next day and started the work. That’s what we try to do every time,” said GDOT Assistant Foreman Brad Coulston. “When there is a problem, we take care of it.”

Blount made sure the local GDOT crew received kudos.

“I wanted to pass along the thanks and for doing it in a way that looked like they really enjoyed it,” Blount said.

River Watch Parkway major milestone celebration
Columbia County officials joined Georgia DOT and state delegation members on April 17 to cut the ribbon on the recently completed River Watch Parkway Extension project that widened and reconstructed 3.1 miles of roadway including Old Petersburg Road, Old Evans Road and a section of Washington Road at Towne Center Drive. E.R. Snell Contractor Inc. was the prime contractor for the $35.8 million construction project made possible by $20 million of Transportation Investment Act funds.
No push-ups at this boot camp

This past spring the District completed the first two-week Maintenance Skills Development Program 1 (MSDP) for new maintenance employees. A total of 30 newly hired maintenance workers completed the program prior to their field assignment. The MSDP consisted of classroom instruction and field training exercises to assist the new employees with their understanding of essential maintenance duties. Participants considered hands-on training with equipment as the most valuable part of the program, which also emphasized workplace safety as a critical element for employees and the traveling public. As a continuous improvement effort, the District will conduct a quarterly survey of participants and their foremen to determine how the program can be enhanced in the future to better prepare new maintenance employees for their field assignments.

Replacement bridge in Crawford County opens in 120 days

The fourth of 51 bridges fast-tracked for modernization through the design-build (DB) method opened to traffic in Crawford County in March. GDOT replaced the 49-year-old bridge at Avera Road over Culpepper Creek in only 120 days using $1.4 million in funding from the Transportation Funding Act (TFA) of 2015. The DB process combines design engineering and other preconstruction services with construction into a single contract.

An Elbert County bridge located at Double Bridges Road over Coldwater Creek opened the month prior. Two additional bridges in the program opened to traffic in 2017, including one in Coweta County along Bradbury Road over Yellow Jacket Creek and one in Morgan County at Newborn Road over Little River. The Department used design-build to replace the bridges in a shorter period of time.

“This design-build bridge program is substantially expediting project delivery and providing communities with new bridges able to accommodate school buses and emergency response vehicles,” State Innovative Delivery Administrator Darryl VanMeter said, “Using the design-build delivery method, we are able to reduce the typical construction time period significantly.”

Congratulations D3 employees recognized for excellence!

CHAMP has successful first year
Coordinated Highway Assistance and Maintenance Program (CHAMP) operators logged more than 9,000 incidents in the program's first year of operation on Interstate 75 in southwest Georgia. CHAMP began local operations in March 2017. The program is praised by motorists who are pleasantly surprised to see a CHAMP operator stop and offer help, as well as by law enforcement officers who say it allows them to concentrate on traffic enforcement. CHAMP has been a huge help during inclement weather, when operators have worked longer shifts to assist with increased interstate traffic.

Douglas perimeter road railroad overpass offers safer commute
Two of four lanes of the new Douglas SR 135/perimeter road railroad overpass near Iron Road opened April 24, ending wait times and potential conflicts between motorists and trains. It's not unusual for as many as 22 trains to cross the tracks in one day. The overpass that replaces the at-grade railroad crossing is part of the $32.7 million Georgia Department of Transportation project to widen and reconstruct SR 135. The project begins at U.S. 441, where it ties into the southwest portion of perimeter road, and ends at SR 32. The project is about 59% complete and the contractor is East Coast Asphalt LLC.
Congratulations 2018 District Five Maintenance Equipment Roadeo Winners

GDOT’s annual statewide district-wide equipment operation skills competition—the GDOT ROADEO—was held in May in Dublin, Georgia. All seven GDOT districts participated in the six competitive categories. This “friendly” competition among districts is a great time to recognize the operational skills of our employees and for personnel across the districts to get to know each other.

District Five was the overall champion, winning first place in four of the six categories. Winners were:

- **Ray Harris**, First Place, Tandem Axle Dump Truck
- **Demetrius Ford**, First Place, Single Axle Dump Truck
- **Chad Thigpen**, First Place, Backhoe
- **Ramsey Clark**, First Place, Motor Grader
- **Tony Clark**, Second Place, Motor Grader
- **Charles Batten**, Second Place, Tractor Truck with Lowboy Trailer

Participants who placed in the top two in each category head to Rogers, Arkansas in September to compete in the Southeastern Regional Roadeo against equipment operators from other state DOTs. The regional event promotes skills advancement and safety training for heavy equipment operators. Classes include judging clearances while operating equipment, pre-trip inspections and other safety training specific to the unique operations performed by state DOT workers.

We're proud of our Customer Service & Performance Excellence Award winners.

**3. Area 1 Maintenance Staff**, Performance Excellence.
- Javeyan Beal, Grady Bennett, Nick Brannen, Ramsey Clark, Tony Clark, Chris Coley, Aaron Daniels, Demetrius Ford, Randall Griffin, Chris Harper, Benjamin Higgins, Ethan Johnson, Raymond Killiebrew, Kevin Mercer, Wade Morris, Allen Oliver, Vernon Phillips, Dustin Powell, Freddie Powell, Maurice Reid, Billy Richardson, Cliff Sapp, Norman Smith, William Chad Thigpen, Sierra Thompson, Brian Troha, Tonya T. Turner, Timothy E. Tyson and James Vann Jr.

As District Communications Officer, I was proud to receive a Commendation for Customer Service Excellence.
A focus on intersection safety

Intersections are a major part of addressing road safety challenges. That is why intersection safety is a focus of Georgia DOT in northwest Georgia. We continue to develop strategies and countermeasures to address intersection safety, deploy resources and implement projects designed to make intersections safer.

Roundabouts and Reduced Conflict U-turn (RCUT) intersections are two of the most innovative and effective safety countermeasures.

The several roundabouts built over the past decade have been shown to substantially reduce the types of crashes that result in injury or loss of life.

Nowhere is this more evident than at the intersection of State Route 225 and Mount Carmel Church Road in Murray County, an intersection previously controlled by a four-way stop. Periodic analyses showed a consistent increase in crashes over time.

A roundabout project was designed, installed and opened to traffic in April 2017. After a year in operation, its performance in enhancing safety has been impressive. Just look at the tracking numbers:

- Before the all-way stop (Jan. 2006 to May 2010): 4.8 crashes/year (including 20 injuries, 2 fatalities)
- With the all-way stop (May 2010 to April 2017): 2 crashes/year (including 5 injuries)
- After the roundabout (April 2017 to March 2018): 1 crash/year (including 0 injuries, 0 fatalities)

An RCUT is an intersection design that restricts left turns and through movements at an intersection, but allows the same movement downstream using a U-turn. It significantly reduces intersection crashes by changing how minor road traffic crosses or turns left at a major road.

The District plans to install RCUT intersections in all 17 counties of northwest Georgia. We tracked crashes at the two that are operational. The numbers show that RCUTS really reduce/cut crashes significantly. Take a look:

- US 27 at Kierbow Road in Carroll County
  - Before installation of RCUT (Jan. 2011 to May 2016): 1.8 crashes/year (including 16 injuries, 2 fatalities)
  - After installation of RCUT (May 2016 to April 2017): 1 crash/year (including 0 injuries, 0 fatalities)

- SR 6 and S Main Street in Dallas
  - Before installation of RCUT (Jan. 2014 to Dec. 2017): 4.5 crashes/year (including 16 injuries, 3 fatalities)
  - After installation of RCUT (December 2017 to May 2018): 0 crashes

D6 employees recognized for excellence

1. Grant Waldrop, then District Traffic Engineer (now DE), Customer Service Excellence.
5. Bruce Savage, District R/W Team Manager, Customer Service Excellence.
Resurfacing to create smoother ride for commuters in Cobb and Fulton counties

To address the deteriorating condition of the roadway surface, crews recently began resurfacing approximately 11 miles on I-75 from the Chattahoochee River in Fulton County to just north of Allgood Road in Cobb County, from I-285 eastbound over I-75 to just west of the Chattahoochee River Bridge, and all ramps and collector-distributor (CD) lanes not currently included in the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes project.

The resurfacing project, valued at $34.8 million, is expected to be completed by February 2019. The project is a joint venture between C.W. Matthews Contracting Company, Inc. and E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc.

Roadway construction continues throughout metro Atlanta

This summer the region has seen ongoing resurfacing and non-stop construction projects. Motorists should continue to expect heavy traffic delays and plan ahead before heading out.

Keep these major-impact projects in mind:

• Reconstruction of the Atlanta Road Bridge over I-285 in Cobb County
• Ongoing bridge work for intersection improvements on I-285 at Flat Shoals Road. The project is anticipated to be completed in February 2019.
• The DDI project at I-285 and SR 6/Camp Creek Parkway, designed to reduce the number of crashes, lessen congestion and add a safe path for pedestrians with a barrier-separated walkway. Construction is expected to begin later this summer.

In the coming months motorists should expect the gearing up of construction on the Transform 285/400 project, which is designed to help reduce traffic congestion and enhance safety in the area near the I-285/SR 400 interchange in metro Atlanta.
Welcome New Employees

You and Georgia DOT together are we! Joining our team in various roles:

General Accounting
- Bridjette Lasha Crawley
- Matthew Read Covington
- Jarrod Kyle Cordel
- Tracey Monique Cooke

Traffic Safety & Design
- Omayra Delsocorro Comas
- George Roosevelt Colbert Jr.

Environmental Services
- Dalton James Bowie
- Matthew Todd Bodkin

Traffic Operations
- Antonio Lee Butler
- Eugene Burnam
- Leroy Bullard Jr.
- Lateishia Denene Brown

Environmental Services
- Matthew Trett Blocker
- Robert Earl Clanton
- Luigi Capaci

Multimodal Design
- Franklin R. Peek
- Ethan Scott Parker

Traffic Operations
- Jeremy Jerome Johnson
- Reginald Kenneth Cooper

General Accounting
- Matthew Read Covington
- Bridjette Lasha Crawley
- Xavier Rashad Crumpier

Traffic Operations
- Moakina Shahon Cunningham
- Todd K. Daniels
- James Waturi Davis
- Charles Franklin Dennis Jr.
- Patricia Downs

Traffic Operations
- Sandra Fielder
- Thomas Wyne Fishburne
- Thomas Ewing Fleming IV
- Stephanie Ann Fletcher
- Fredrick Alonzo Fluxer II
- Antonio Demond Fowler
- Quantez Trejuan Q. Freeman
- Jonathan Chris Gaines Jr.
- Sonja Jill Tomlin Garland
- Tommy L. Garland
- Dominic Michael Gary
- Elizondra Monique Gehaart
- Gregory L. Gensel Jr.
- Anthony Keith Gerke
- Jeffrey Sean Gillyard
- Kierederius Lee Glover
- Randall D. Goswick
- Anthony Alonsa Grant
- Tyler James Harding
- Christopher Lamar Harper
- Thomas I. Harrison III
- Marcus Devonte Hawkins
- Xavier Montrel Hawthorne
- Timmy Deon Hills
- Xaviere Quenties Lowe
- C. Andrea Rutledge
- Michelle Rashad Yancey

Traffic Operations
- Michael Anthony Chestnut II
- Michael Spencer Blackburn
- Jose Del Rio Hernandez
- Nathan Scott McColley
- Kevin Thomas Ronnie Mahardy
- Max Leon Markoinski
- Thomas J. Mason Jr.
- C. Andrea Rutledge
- Joseph Bernard Mulley
- Paris Esquivel
- Daniel Kenton Krawczuk
- Sandra Felder
- James M. Dowd Sr.
- Dylan J. Eaton

Traffic Operations
- Abena Anima Owusu-Ansah
- Jenna Catherine Osbun
- Treshauna Michele Osbie
- William Blake Ragon
- Pamela Michelle Johnson
- Rashawn Demario Johnson
- Keysee Meshell Jones Jr.
- Brandon Taylor Jones
- Rodney Adam Jowers
- James W. Dewey Keith
- Titus Aloysius Kimble
- Bradley Wayne Kimbro
- Lakesha Inez Koen
- Rabinda Koirala
- Daniel Kenton Krawczuk
- Lisa Harley Leemore
- William Blake Ragon

Traffic Operations
- Jason Alan Livengood
- Joseph Lynn Logan-Pugh
- Xavier Quintavius Ogletree
- Kevin Thomas Ronnie Mahardy
- Jonathan Charles Mulkey
- Ena Parnell

Traffic Operations
- Lawrence Seth Barton
- Toby Warren Barnes
- Bradly P. Baker
- Janaun J. Ivy
- Wayne Tyrone Hurley
- Janet Lynn Hunt
- Jonathan Michael Horne
- Terrance Oneil Holt
- Reginald Clifton James
- Christopher Mark Hash
- Thomas I. Harrison III
- Christopher Lamar Harper
- D'Monique Nichelle Green

Traffic Operations
- John Wesley Johnson
- Jeremy Jerome Johnson
- Jeremy Quintavius Ogletree
- John D. Ogletree
- Michael T. Shepherd

Traffic Operations
- Michael Terrance Pitts
- Brian Andrew Pilling
- Keenan Rodney Phillips
- Franklin R. Peek
- Ethan Scott Parker

Traffic Operations
- Lonnie Pleasant
- Brian Andrew Pilling
- Keenan Rodney Phillips
- Franklin R. Peek
- Ethan Scott Parker

Traffic Operations
- Mable Luster Pitts
- Brian Andrew Pilling
- Keenan Rodney Phillips
- Franklin R. Peek
- Ethan Scott Parker

Traffic Operations
- Mabel Luster Pitts
- Brian Andrew Pilling
- Keenan Rodney Phillips
- Franklin R. Peek
- Ethan Scott Parker

Traffic Operations
- Michael Terrance Pitts
- Dustin Lee Powell

Fulltime non-temporary hires
- 1/18/3-31/18

Summer 2018 Georgia Milepost
Traditional World War I memorial poppies in Walton County are a tribute to veterans.