For Immediate Release:  
Thursday, June 16, 2016  
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Georgia DOT Announces Winners of Centennial Student Art Challenge
STUDENTS IMAGINE THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION

ATLANTA – Alexander envisions a magnetic hanging freeway. Ca’Liyah predicts a flying bus that runs on kudzu. And Highland foresees a vacuum that sucks you up and moves you.

These visions of the future were created by winning student artists for Georgia Department of Transportation’s Centennial Student Art Challenge – What Moves You? Imagining Tomorrow’s Transportation. Georgia DOT challenged students in grades K-12 to write a statement and visually answer the question: What does the future of transportation in Georgia look like to you?

From almost 300 very imaginative submissions, Georgia DOT judges selected a first place and second place winner in each of four grade categories.

Commissioner Russell McMurry showcased the winning selections at today’s State Transportation Board meeting.

“While a centennial is a time to reflect on the past, it is also a time to look ahead,” McMurry said. “Drones, connected vehicles and self-driving cars are a few evolving technologies that will have a tremendous impact on transportation in the not-too-distant future. We thought it would be interesting to discover what students envision.”

The winning art and statements are attached. Or visit, www.dot.ga.gov/CentennialArtContest.

Centennial Art Challenge Winners
GRADES K-3
1st Place  Alexander Chanoh Lee, Magnetic Hanging Freeway
2nd Place  Sarah Turner, The Flying Mobile

GRADES 4-6
1st Place  Highland Roberts, The City Transporter
2nd Place  Ca’Liyah Jackson, My Flying Bus

GRADES 7-9
1st Place  Zoe Beard, Driving Off the Edge
2nd Place  Molly Sims, The Mini-Copter

GRADES 10-12
1st Place  Chris Ali, Art & Creativity
2nd Place  Aaron St. Charles, Sleek Car and Anti-Gravity
It was 100 years ago - on August 16, 1916 – that the seeds were planted for what would grow into the Georgia Department of Transportation. Georgia DOT celebrates its 100th birthday with a year-long Centennial celebration that explores GDOT’s role in getting Georgia out of the mud – from the dirt roads of 1916 to the paved roads crisscrossing Georgia in 1939 to today’s modern transportation system.

For everything you want to know about the centennial, visit www.dot.ga.gov/centennial. In addition to the award winning student art entries, you’ll also find an event calendar, decade-by-decade timeline, historical items, videos and more. You can even take a Centennial Road Trip. #GDOT100

2016 is Georgia DOT’s Centennial. GDOT’s work over the last century - its focus on maintenance; planning and constructing congestion relief projects; and ensuring the safety of the traveling public - has led to a treasured quality of life for residents and has contributed to the incredible economic development of the Peach State. Start your Centennial journey HERE or visit GDOT’s Centennial webpage at www.dot.ga.gov/centennial.

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A lot of times when I go downtown, I see cars bumper to bumper heading south on I-85. I was thinking we can build poles along I-85 and the Downtown Connector and put cables like the Stone Mountain cable car ... but with big magnets. You can drive from home to the nearest freeway and a cable with a large magnet will stick your car to the cable. All you have to do is enter the exit number and relax in your car. Then this Magnetic Hanging Freeway will take you to the exit and you can drive from the exit to your office. Or even to Publix. Everybody around the United States of America and the world will come to Atlanta to see this cool freeway.

Alexander Chanoh Lee, 1st Place, Grades K-3
In my picture, I drew a car in the future. It can fly with its wings. The flames make it faster. The Flying Mobile is faster than a regular car and it will go places faster. It will get people to places faster in the future.

Sarah Turner, 2nd Place, Grades K-3
THE CITY TRANSPORTER

My creation is basically a vacuum that sucks you up and moves you city to city or place to place. It is very easy and quick. It has a low cost of $10. It represents the theme because it’s an actual futuristic form of transportation.

Highland Roberts, 1st Place, Grades 4-6
MAGNETIC HANGING FREEWAY

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Alexander Chanoh Lee, 1st Place, Grades K-3

MY FLYING BUS

In the future, Georgia vehicles will no longer be able to run on gas and students will need a better way to get to school. That is why our engineering team designed “Shiptoc,” the flying school bus. Instead of driving on roads with slow traffic and dangerous conditions in rain and snow, our school bus will fly straight across mountains, lakes and highways to each neighborhood. I could get to school in ten minutes instead of an hour! Our school bus will run on Georgia kudzu. It grows everywhere, so whenever our bus needs fuel, it can stop anywhere to get it for free!

Ca’Liyah Jackson, 2nd Place, Grades 4-6
My picture represents future transportation. In this, the car is going off the cliff with no control. People get hurt every day from doing something behind the wheel. If you ever get submerged in water, you have a way to be safe. With this future piece of transportation, you press a button on the dashboard and the car floats. It is located next to the gas pump. When you press this button, the flap opens up and starts to float. You will float to the top and you are safe and sound. Those scary moments are over with this transportation.

Zoe Beard, 1st Place, Grades 7-9
MAGNETIC HANGING FREEWAY

A lot of times when I go downtown, I see cars bumper to bumper heading south on I-85. I was thinking we can build poles along I-85 and the Downtown Connector and put cables like the Stone Mountain cable car … but with big magnets. You can drive from home to the nearest freeway and a cable with a large magnet will stick your car to the cable. All you have to do is enter the exit number and relax in your car. Then this Magnetic Hanging Freeway will take you to the exit and you can drive from the exit to your office. Or even to Publix. Everybody around the United States of America and the world will come to Atlanta to see this cool freeway.

Alexander Chanoh Lee, 1st Place, Grades K-3

THE MINI-COPTER

The Mini-Copter is your own personal helicopter, and when you buy it you get to choose how many people it sits. The technology is simple, and anyone would be able to pilot it. The Mini-Copter is voice activated, so when you tell it to turn, it turns. You can also set it to where you get to drive it yourself. It would take you where you need to be faster. It is much safer than taking an airplane. I believe that with the resources and the continuously growing tech market, anything is possible. You have heard of people having their own helicopter, but having a mini-copter as a transportation choice would be totally different. People these days only use helicopters for when they are on a mission to save someone or something like that, but with them instead of cars who knows what other things we could accomplish?

Molly Sims, 2nd Place, Grades 7-9
ART AND CREATIVITY
My piece shows a creative life of the future and how art and creativity can move you. I used a swirly slide for pedestrians so they wouldn’t have to walk, but could slide all the way into an underwater slide leading to an amazing area of different locations. Then I added birdicopters; instead of driving, people can fly these little birdies wherever they please. Cars that cannot cross to certain areas surrounded by water can use a sub-capsule that will transport them to places that cars do not go. Then lastly is the bridge. The bridge can teleport them to anywhere. This expresses fun and creative ways of my idea of transportation.

Chris Ali, 1st Place, Grades 10-12
My drawing of tomorrow's transportation was done to mimic a sleek car. I like the futuristic style while still keeping the sleek comforting car look. I chose red because it is a bold color and it's not too much for a person to take a liking to. It shows some of my personality on how I like to stay efficient and bold and still have a classic vibe. It is a small extension of myself. In the future of transportation, I believe we would have unlocked the key to antigravity and it will do wonders. My artwork represents the theme of tomorrow; it shows what we have to look forward to and that it isn't impossible. It shows that someday this will be reality and that this type of transportation would speed up evolution by a mile.

Aaron St. Charles, 2nd Place, Grades 10-12