



**For Immediate Release:**  
Friday, August 19, 2016

**Contact:**  
Mohamed Arafa  
770.359.9523

*Dade County*

## **MAINTENANCE SERVICE CONTRACTS TO ENHANCE SAFETY ALONG I-59**

TRENTON, Ga. – A Georgia DOT Maintenance Service contractor will begin on Monday to work on removing overgrown roadside vegetation along Interstate 59 in Dade County. Georgia DOT has just awarded three Service Maintenance contracts to Southern Clearing & Grinding, Inc. of Thomaston, Georgia, valued at nearly three million dollars for roadside vegetation removal on I-59.

This maintenance work includes the removal of roadside vegetation and clearing fifty feet from the edge of pavement on both the outside and inside shoulders of the interstate, beginning at the Alabama State line and extending to Dugan Loop Overpass. Work also includes clearing vegetation growth that overhangs the freeway.

The entire project is expected to take approximately six months to complete.

“These Maintenance Service contracts are good examples of the benefits of suitable funding for preventive maintenance investment in northwest Georgia,” said DeWayne Comer, district engineer at the DOT office in Cartersville.

Funding for these and similar Maintenance Service contracts comes from the new annual sustainable routine maintenance investment provided by the Georgia Transportation Funding Act (TFA) of 2015. In their 2015 legislative session, Georgia lawmakers addressed the state’s critical transportation infrastructure needs with passage of House Bill 170, Georgia’s transportation funding bill. The Transportation Funding Act (TFA) of 2015 is expected to generate an estimated \$870 million in the first fiscal year. This sustained annual revenue will be used to fund much-needed routine maintenance and capital improvements. For general information about the Transportation Funding Act of 2015, visit [www.GAroads.org](http://www.GAroads.org).

Georgia DOT recently announced plans for an active summer construction and maintenance season and many of the newly-awarded projects are on that extensive list. Know before you go. For details about summer construction, visit [511ga.org](http://511ga.org).

*Every day Georgia DOT employees work on roadways in close proximity to travel lanes. Whether they’re in maintenance, in construction or are HEROs, it’s dangerous. Fifty-eight Georgia DOT personnel and many more motorists, passengers and contractors’ workers have been killed in work zone crashes since 1973. When you drive in a work zone, obey the rules: Pay Attention - Slow Down - Watch for Workers. It can make the difference between life and death. Visit [www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/Workzone](http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/Workzone).*

###