

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

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Over \$600,000 in landscape grants awarded to local communities

TENNILLE – The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has awarded 17 Roadside Enhancement and Beautification Council (REBC) grants valued at \$600,666. The awards, from the 2016 program, will be used for enhancement and beautification projects along Georgia's state routes.

The program (previously called the GATEway Grant program) uses revenue from permit fees paid to GDOT by outdoor advertising companies for vegetation removal in front of outdoor advertising signs. Funds from the grants are allocated towards purchasing and installing plant material along state routes.

Any organization, local government, or state agency may apply for a grant of up to \$50,000 for landscape enhancement of the state right-of-way that involves the local community and displays the area in an attractive manner. Awarded funds may be used for landscape plant material, sod, topsoil, mulch and labor costs. A local commitment to long-term maintenance is also required. The REBC encourages the use of Georgia Grown materials for projects.

"The REBC Grant Program is a great opportunity for local organizations and governments to enhance community pride," said GDOT Landscape Architect Manager Bill Wright. "Beautification also enriches the experience of the traveling public as they drive along state routes in local areas."

The REBC is comprised of representatives from organizations and agencies appointed by the Governor. They include the Outdoor Advertising Association of Georgia, Sierra Club, Garden Club of Georgia, Georgia Wildlife Federation, Georgia Conservancy, UGA College of Environment and Design, House and Senate Transportation Committee Chairpersons and the GDOT Deputy Commissioner. The council reviews the applications and makes award recommendations to the GDOT Commissioner.

Since 2008, the Department has awarded 143 REBC grants totaling more than \$5.5 million dollars to local governments and civic groups.

"We are pleased that we can assist local governments and communities with these funds," GDOT Commissioner Russell R. McMurry, P.E. said. "GDOT is committed to enhancing quality of life throughout

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Georgia. Partnering with communities and organizations to improve their local landscape is one way we can do this.”

Applications for the next round of awards will be announced when additional funding is available.

Visit the REBC Grant program website: www.dot.ga.gov/IS/Funding/REBC. For questions about the grant program, e-mail landscape@dot.ga.gov or call 404.631.1387.

2016 REBC Grant Award recipients are listed below. Or see list attached.

Grant Recipient	Award	Location	Congressional District
Acworth	\$ 41,515.00	92	11
Adairsville	\$ 25,475.00	I-75	11
Airport West CID	\$ 21,081.25	6	5
Bartow County	\$ 20,922.25	I-75	11
Chamblee	\$ 44,445.00	141	6
Clarkston	\$ 50,000.00	I-285	4
Columbus	\$ 32,657.00	85	3
Dunwoody	\$ 47,000.00	I-285	6
Ellaville	\$ 4,000.00	3	2
Gateway Marietta CID	\$ 50,000.00	I-75	11
Griffin	\$ 50,000.00	3	3
Helen	\$ 42,850.00	17	9
Jesup	\$ 50,000.00	38	1
Oxford	\$ 16,462.15	81	4
Sylvester	\$ 21,950.00	520	2
Troup County	\$ 50,000.00	I-85	3
Washington	\$ 32,309.45	10	10

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