



TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT

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PRESSRELEASE

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Georgia DOT and Appling County Officials Celebrate Completion of Zoar Road Upgrades and Bridge Replacements



STB Chairman Don Grantham, STB member Ann Purcell, Sen. Tommy Williams, Rep. Greg Morris, Rep. Chad Nimmer, Appling County Commission Chairman Lewis Parker along with numerous county official and project involved GDOT staff cut the ribbon for the completion of Zoar Road TIA projects.

BAXLEY, Ga. – Yesterday the Georgia DOT and local officials came together to celebrate the completion of two Transportation Investment Act (TIA) projects in Appling County with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. These projects fall within the Heart of Georgia Altamaha region, which was one of three regions in Georgia that passed the TIA by public referendum in July 2012 to allow a one penny sales tax to be collected over a ten year period for funding local and regional transportation infrastructure projects.

“Those of you from the Appling County and the Heart of Georgia Region look at each other and say thank you because what you’ve done is helped pass TIA. It is one of the most envious programs that we have in the State of Georgia right now,” stated State Transportation Board Chair Don Grantham. “I say that with all sincerity and honest because I’m from Augusta and Richmond County and we passed it,” noted Grantham.

Although these two projects were originally one and are closely related, they were divided by Appling County officials and the designer, Hofstadter and Associates, due to the



different timeframes required for construction. The first project involved replacement of three bridges along Zoar Road (County Route 575), which cross Sweetwater Creek, Bishop Creek, and the Big Satilla Tributary. In total these three bridges amount to 260 feet of new pre-stressed bridge with 100 foot approaches in each direction. This project was bid on January 14, 2013 and awarded to Southern Concrete for the sum of approximately \$1.2 million. Construction of these bridges began in spring of 2013 and was completed in March of 2015.

The second project, which immediately followed construction of the three new bridges, consisted of over 11 miles of roadway patching, widening, leveling, and resurfacing for Zoar Road. This project was bid on March 12, 2015 and awarded to Georgia Asphalt Producers of Baxley, Georgia. Construction for this project began on April 13, 2015 and is now complete. The cost of construction for this project was just under \$2.1 million.



Collections of the TIA one cent sales tax began in January 2013 to fund transportation projects in Band 1 (Jan. 2013 – Dec. 2015), which are all scheduled to begin construction by the end of 2015. To date, more than \$328 million has been collected of the budgeted TIA total of \$1.2 billion. This total includes \$68,737,178 collected of \$255,524,067 budgeted for 764 projects in the Heart of Georgia Altamaha region, which has already completed 138 Band 1 projects and has another 46 projects in the construction phase. Most of the approved projects in this region involve roadway enhancements, maintenance, and resurfacing. Several bridge and sidewalk projects are also included in the region's Approved Investment List.

Forty-six counties and their respective cities comprise the three regional districts that approved the TIA referendum in July 2012. Cumulatively, they are expected to self-generate approximately \$1.5 billion in new revenue dedicated to local transportation improvements. Georgia DOT is responsible for the management of the budget, schedule, execution and delivery of all projects contained in the Approved Investment Lists, in collaboration with local and state agencies. All projects were selected by regional commission roundtables of local elected officials after significant public input. Seventy-five percent of revenues collected will be utilized for the construction of projects on the Approved Investment List while the remaining 25 percent will be disbursed to the regions' governments each month on a predetermined formula basis for discretionary use on local transportation-related efforts. For more information on the Georgia DOT, please visit www.dot.ga.gov. Follow the Transportation Investment Act on Facebook (www.facebook.com/transportationinvestmentact) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/TIAatGDOT>). Also visit www.ga-tia.com for the latest TIA updates.

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