

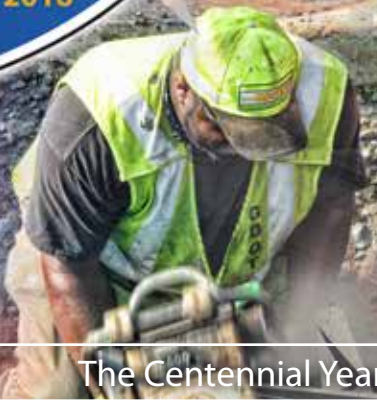
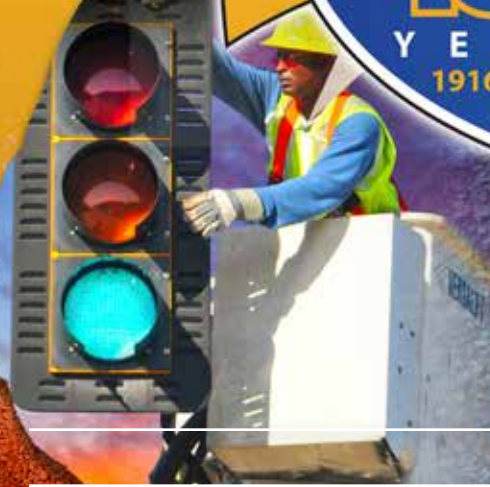


GEORGIA

MILEPOST

Winter 2016

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



The Centennial Year

The Funding Game Changer

Winter-Ready



Commissioner's Column

Our best days are ahead.



2016. The start of this New Year brings optimism for a healthy, bright future for transportation in the state of Georgia and for Georgia DOT.

2016 is also the year of GDOT's centennial. It's amazing how far we've come in just one hundred years.

This issue of Milepost covers many key happenings in store for the year. Most significant is that GDOT is preparing to receive state funds

resulting from the Transportation Funding Act (TFA) of 2015. GDOT anticipates seeing about \$870 million in the first fiscal year, which will be used to address the state's deteriorating transportation infrastructure - to restore our pavements and bridges. It will enable GDOT to perform more routine maintenance than we have been able to previously, including pavement preservation and restriping roads, and fixing potholes and guardrails. We are grateful for the Governor and the Legislature's leadership in securing this sustainable and critical transportation funding source for Georgia.

Additionally, there's fantastic news on the federal front. After a decade of short term funding patches, early December saw passage of a five-year federal highway funding bill. This long term legislation is sorely needed and will offer GDOT and other state DOTs the ability to efficiently plan and deliver major transportation projects.

Also in this issue:

- An interview with State Transportation Board Chairman Emily Dunn that offers a personal glimpse of the woman behind the gavel.
- GDOT's preparations for inclement winter weather, including innovative technologies that help increase safety.
- Acknowledgement of employees who received Department honors in 2015 for exceptional service and achievements.
- Something new - News from the Districts showcases what's happening on the district level with a page featuring each of GDOT's seven districts.

While I do believe that our best days are ahead, unfortunately, after a decade of decreased roadway fatalities, last year resulted in the first annual increase - a 21 percent rise. We attribute many of these fatalities to distracted driving and failure to use a seatbelt.

I would therefore be remiss if I did not suggest that the most essential New Year's resolution we can all make is to put down the phone, buckle up and drive alert.

DriveAlert and ArriveAlive. Let's truly make 2016 our best year ever.

Russell R. McMurry, P.E.

GEORGIA MILEPOST

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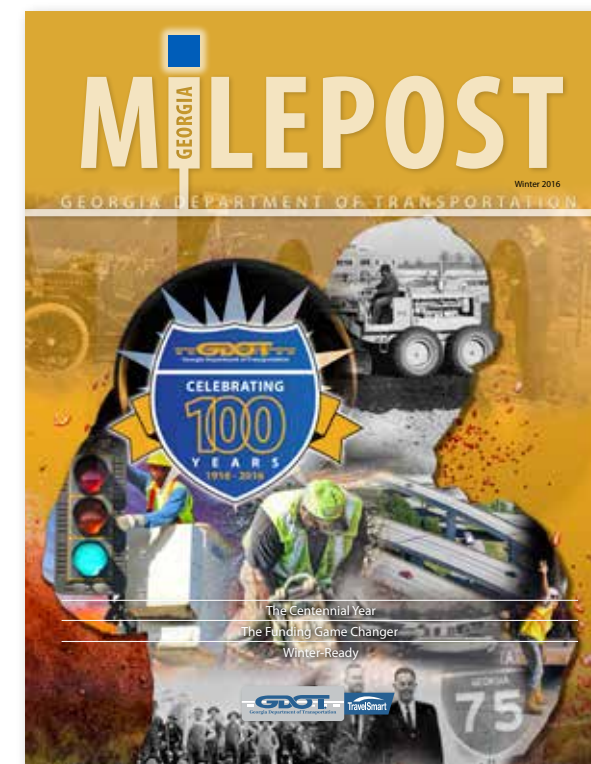
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What is TravelSmart?



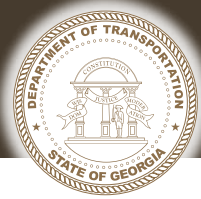
Georgia DOT is engaged in all aspects of mobility. In addition to roads and bridges, we're involved in public transit, general aviation, rail, waterways, and bike and pedestrian programs.

TravelSmart represents GDOT's umbrella of transportation services and programs. It embodies GDOT's approach to applying innovative engineering, customer-friendly design and cost-effective solutions to all facets of our transportation system.

The TravelSmart tag is a reminder that Georgia DOT works to keep Georgia moving - on all modes of transportation and in all parts of Georgia.

Georgia DOT's TravelSmart website is fast, easy to navigate and user-friendly. We hope you will visit often at www.dot.ga.gov.

On the cover: 2016 is Georgia DOT's centennial year. Collage by Cedric Mohr.



State Transportation Board Leaders



August saw elections for new executive leadership at the State Transportation Board. Emily Dunn is chairman; Robert L. Brown, Jr., is vice chairman; and Jamie Boswell is secretary.

Chairman Dunn of Blue Ridge represents Georgia's 9th Congressional District and is Georgia DOT's first female board chair. She was previously vice chairman. (see article on next page).



Dunn replaced Don Grantham of Augusta (CD 12). During Grantham's tenure as chairman, the state transportation funding bill - HB-170 - was passed by legislators.

Vice Chairman Robert Brown of Decatur represents Georgia's 4th Congressional District. He was previously board secretary. Brown has served on the Transportation Board for 10 years. He is a business, community and civic leader; a registered architect and president and CEO of an architectural and construction management firm.



Jamie Boswell of Athens is secretary.

Boswell represents the 10th Congressional District and was elected to the Board in 2013. Boswell, a business and civic leader, is president and owner of a group of insurance, real estate and appraisal companies.

Board executive elections are held annually to ensure representation at the leadership level from all regions of the state.

STB approves amended FY 16 and FY 17 budgets

In November, the STB approved Georgia DOT's Fiscal Year 2016 amended and FY 2017 budget requests.

The budgets include increases in motor fuel funds - a direct result of the passage of HB 170 - the Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (TFA) - which infuses an additional \$757 million in the FY 16 amended budget and \$820 million in the FY 17 budget requests.

The FY 16 amended budget includes an additional \$200 million for routine maintenance; an additional \$519 million for capital projects; and a \$36 million increase to benefit local governments through Local Maintenance and Improvement Grants (LMIG). The recommended FY 17 budget includes an additional \$200 million in routine maintenance; \$543 million to capital projects and \$41 million to LMIG.

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.

"The State Transportation Board is excited to approve the amended FY 16 and FY 17 budgets to be sent to the Governor and Legislature for consideration," said STB Chairman Emily Dunn. "We are truly thankful for the leadership and hard work of the House and Senate earlier this year. HB 170 ensures transportation funding which gives us the ability to approve a significant increase in Georgia's infrastructure investment."

The amended FY 16 budget and the FY 17 budget requests are pending final approval by the Governor and Legislature.

Board approves developer team selection for I-285/SR 400 Reconstruction Project.

North Perimeter Contractors was selected in December as the apparent best value development partner to design, construct and partially finance the I-285/SR 400 Reconstruction Project.

"We are excited to move this priority project forward on the targeted schedule," said Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell McMurtry. "Our short list contained four well-qualified teams, and we selected the one that we believe brings the best overall value to Georgia travelers and commuters."

The project is divided into two components - the reconfiguration of the interchange and the construction of collector-distributor lanes along both highways. Work will be done as a single public-private project.

The original valuation of the project was anticipated at a total cost of \$1.1 billion. However, through the competitiveness and resourcefulness possible with a P3 procurement, the bid of North Perimeter Contractors was \$460 million. The reduced costs of design, construction and financing now place the total project estimate at \$679 million.

A final agreement is expected to be executed in early 2016, with construction to begin in late 2016 or early 2017 and completion in 2020.

Board Honors Jay Shaw

At their November meeting, the State Transportation Board issued a resolution honoring Jay Shaw, who passed away in April. Shaw was a Board member from 2010 to 2015, representing the eighth congressional district. He served as chairman in 2013.



Shaw was a true public servant. He was a businessman, mayor of Lakeland for 10 years and served 18 years in the Georgia House of Representatives.

State Transportation Board Chairman

Getting Personal with Emily Dunn

By Liz Rothman

Emily Dunn is calm and soft-spoken. With a gentle demeanor that can be misleading.

Whether it's chairing the county board of education, owning and managing a small business, or serving in leadership for a national trade association, Ms. Dunn—the first female chairman of the State Transportation Board—makes things happen.



Dunn represents northeast Georgia's 9th Congressional District. *Home to the nicest people in the world, she says. The region is large, mountainous and rural with an abundance of two-lane roads. And lots of water and bridges. They are a unique people – mountain people.*

In the beginning. Dunn grew up in Copperhill, Tennessee on the border of Georgia and North Carolina. She now lives just across the state line in Blue Ridge, Georgia. *My brothers and I were raised in a traditional family. We had wonderful parents. My mom was a school teacher and my dad was a chemical engineer. They encouraged us to be well-rounded and to appreciate all kinds of things.*

Making a difference. As a home health care registered nurse early on, Dunn would bring groceries to her patients after work. *My mom had a huge impact on me. I like to think that I am like my mother. She taught me to step up. I may not always be the leader; maybe I support the leader. But I am always involved. When you get involved, you make a difference.*

What's important. Family, friends and church are central to Dunn. She is proud of her two adult daughters - Alison and Sarah. *I lost my husband and my mother in the same year - the year I turned 40. That was a time that I had to grow up. I thought I was already grown up, but I needed to dig down and get serious about raising my children and addressing my work.*

Power of persuasion. Prior to her election to the STB in 2011—her term expires in 2018—Dunn served 10 years on the Fannin County Board of Education, including four as chairman. She is one of a few women in the male-dominated amusement vending industry.

These experiences have taught me about how I lead. Mine is the power of persuasion. I try to understand where people are coming from, to build consensus and create buy-in.

Love of learning. Dunn has many interests. She recently took a class where she created a bamboo fly rod – a blend of art and of science. *I don't even fish. I say I don't have the time, but I must have spent 50 hours making this rod. The science is incredible. I had to measure to the thousandth of an inch. I also learned to use a blowtorch. It was hard—I sweated for days—but really fun.*



Not all business. Dunn loves traveling and sharing good food and wine with friends. And national parks. *I appreciate how past generations had the foresight to protect these areas for the future. And skeet shooting. I'm not very good – it will take time. I do love a challenge.* And her pets. Her cat Sacagawea is a hunter – named for the Native American woman from the Lewis and Clark Expedition. *Kindle is her dog - I thought I was getting an Amazon Kindle for Christmas.*

On board at GDOT. The STB oversees the policies and objectives of the Georgia Department of Transportation, and is a go-between for the Department, citizens and elected officials. *As Board Chair, my role, in partnership with my 13 colleagues, is to help to move transportation ahead to benefit all Georgians – whether they live in a rural area like mine, or in an urban region, an agricultural locale, on the coast or someplace in between.*

Dunn's love of learning serves her well on the State Transportation Board. For example, she recently received a lesson on "problem asphalt" that was performing poorly. *I was intrigued by an engineer who explained everything in detail from the bottom up. His knowledge and dedication were impressive. I appreciate that about many in the Department. They are passionate about what they do.*

Exciting times. In addition to GDOT's centennial in 2016, the New Year continues to see a substantial increase in work activities in preparation for receipt of state funds resulting from the Transportation Funding Act (TFA) of 2015. *There are so many positive things occurring in transportation in Georgia. We just selected the apparent best value development partner for a major project - the I-285 and SR 400 interchange reconstruction. We went for so long with inactivity. It's exciting to see cranes up and people working on Georgia Express Lanes. And the funding from TFA will enable GDOT to improve the state's transportation infrastructure.*

The strength and value of a group is in its diversity. I like being a part of a group that makes things happen. Georgians want transparency in their transportation process. The Board and the entire staff at GDOT are committed to nothing less.



Kelvin Mullins was named Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Program Administrator. Mullins is an 18-year GDOT veteran, and was most recently the TIA regional coordinator. His previous roles include construction project manager, assistant area engineer, state aid coordinator and Innovative Delivery project manager. Mullins has a bachelor's in civil engineering technology from Georgia Southern University.

Bill DuVall was designated State Bridge Engineer in November. DuVall began his full-time GDOT career in the Bridge Office in 1992. He was promoted to regional bridge inspection engineer in the Maintenance Office and later became state bridge inspection engineer. He left GDOT for nearly a year to work as a senior structural engineer in a consulting firm. He returned to the Department to take on his most recent role as assistant state bridge engineer; a position he held for 10 years. DuVall graduated from Georgia Tech on a Civil Engineer Cooperative Plan and his cooperative assignment was with Georgia DOT. He has a graduate degree in civil engineering from Georgia Tech and is a licensed professional engineer.



Hiral P. Patel was named Division Director of Engineering in December. She was most recently the administrator of the Office of Environmental Services. Previous positions include assistant office head in Program Delivery and various roles in District Construction. She has been with GDOT for over 19 years. Patel has a bachelor's in civil engineering and is a licensed professional engineer.



Jason M. Josey was selected as manager of the Highway Emergency Response Operations (HERO) unit. Josey has served on the HERO Team for over 10 years, most recently as acting HERO manager. His previous positions include Assistant Manager, BRAVO Team Supervisor, Field Training Officer and HERO operator. He serves as co-chairman of the T.I.M.E. Task Force, and is a Traffic Incident Management Enhancement/T.R.I.P instructor. Josey graduated from the United States Army Chemical School as a Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Operations Specialist. He served with the 3rd Battalion 18th Field Artillery, Ft. Sill, Ok.; and the 79th Aerial Port Squadron and the 80th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron at Dobbins ARB, Marietta, Ga. He has certifications from the Chemical Defense Training Facility in Anniston, Alabama and in HAZMAT, and a national certification in Strategic Highway Research Program 2. Josey attended Georgia State University.

American Public Works Association (APWA) Georgia Chapter awarded projects representing the best achievements in the public works profession:

- Highway 51 at Lake Hartwell was named Project of the Year for Emergency Repairs costing less than \$5 million
- Highway 10/U.S. 78 bridge over the Apalachee River was named Project of the Year for Historic Preservation
- Highway 11/Broad Street pavement rehabilitation in Winder received two awards:
 - Small Cities/Rural Communities Transportation Project of the Year
 - Technical Innovation Project of the Year

Georgia Engineers Week Engineering Excellence 2015 Gala Awards recognized three GDOT projects:

- Canton Road Bridge & GA NE Railroad Bridge Replacement over SR3/US 41 project received the Honor Award
- I-85/GA 400 Interchange Ramps and North Fork Creekside Trail Design/Build project received a State Award for Engineering Excellence
- North Broad Street Redevelopment project in Winder received a State Award for Engineering Excellence.

The **Office of Planning** Metro Atlanta Operational Planning Study received the Institute of Transportation Engineers' 2015 Transportation Planning Council Best Project Award. The national award is given to the most innovative plan or study to solve a transportation related issue.

The Back River Bridge replacement received the Pile Driving Contractors Association (PDCA) Project of the Year award in the marine category. The 60-year-old bridge, one of the major means of access into the City of Savannah, was replaced with a new pre-stressed concrete bridge with expanded shoulders, greater vertical clearance and a dedicated exit lane for safer travel. While the bridge joins the states of Georgia and South Carolina, Georgia DOT provided project administration and the majority of the project funding. The new bridge opened to all traffic in July 2015.

Office of Environmental Services projects received a number of recent awards:

- Georgia Planning Association (GPA) awarded a special Honorable Mention to the SR 144 environmental assessment (EA), the first NEPA study to be so honored. Cooperation among stakeholders—GDOT, Adrian Collaborative, and FHWA—resulted in a shortened schedule that met a tight deadline for funding.
- American Association for State and Local History 2015 Award of Merit for the Abercorn Archaeology project.
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) 2015 Environmental Excellence Award in Ecosystems, Habitat, and Wildlife for the Longleaf Pine and Gopher Tortoise Habitat Restoration Project.
- Resolution from Thlopthlocco Tribal Town in recognition of GDOT's cultural commitment. To ensure the proper treatment and consideration of American Indian archaeological sites discovered during the environmental screening process, GDOT consults with tribal governments on federally-funded road projects. The Thlopthlocco Tribal Town (TTT) government issued a resolution recognizing GDOT's commitment to tribal consultation, education, and cultural preservation. Consultation with federally-recognized tribes is a requirement of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

A bridge for Highway 82/15 Alternate over Big Curry Creek in Jefferson County was named Georgia's best bridge. The 2015 Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality (GPTQ) Award is for the best bridge deck steel cover in the state. The bridge deck steel cover adds to the overall structural integrity of a bridge, eliminates the rusting of the reinforcing steel and is important to the life of the bridge. The GPTQ - a partnership between Georgia Department of Transportation, Georgia Highway Contractors Association (GHCA) and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Georgia - recognizes high-quality road and bridge projects each year.

GDOT employees receive top honors for 2015



The **Wayne Shackelford Leadership Award** is the Department's highest award. It is presented to a single employee who has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, commitment to the Department, and service to the public. This year's recipient is **George Christensen**, assistant budget administrator in the Office of Budget Services. Christensen has a wealth of financial knowledge and experience; he aligns budgets; makes funding and program recommendations; and was instrumental in providing funding scenarios and projections for the joint study commission and the 2015 legislative session as it relates to House Bill 170.



The **Innovator Award** acknowledges ingenuity, innovation and ability to develop solutions that make a lasting impact on the Department. This year GDOT recognizes **Sheila Hines**, State Bituminous Construction Engineer from the Office of Materials and Research. Hines has revolutionized the way the Department operates. She has been instrumental in researching and developing specifications on GDOT's micro-milling technology that so far has saved \$34.8 million for pavement preservation projects. Her work will continue to benefit GDOT and other highway agencies.



The **Community Service Award** is for volunteerism or service that improves the quality of life for others. This year's recipient - **Natasha Davis**, D1 Assistant Contracts Manager/Maintenance - tutors, mentors and empowers young women and girls who are interested in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields. She and a friend also provide an annual \$1,000 scholarship to a graduate from her high school.



The **Team Award** is presented to a team that makes exceptional contributions with measurable results toward the achievement of Department goals. This year's team is from the **Office of Maintenance** – **Thomas Mims**, Maintenance Liaison/OGC; **Bryan Haines**, D2 District Administrative Officer/Maintenance; and **Richie Swindell**, D5 State Maintenance Engineer (now D2 Asst. District Maintenance Assets Engineer).

Following the winter storm of 2014 that crippled the Atlanta area, the State Maintenance Office tasked its liaison team to review, recommend and rewrite the winter weather response plan for the metro Atlanta area. The team met with district staff, GEMA (Georgia Emergency Management Agency), GSP (Georgia State Patrol), consultants and other states to address areas of concern; and conducted training and dry run exercises statewide. The plan - a tremendous success in the 2015 winter season - changed the way Georgia DOT responds to winter weather.

The **Safety Award** is presented to:

District 4 – Best Preventable Vehicle Accident Record and Most Improved Preventable Vehicle Accident Record

District 6 – Best Overall Safety Record, Best Medical Treatment Record, Most Improved Overall Safety Record Most Improved Medical Treatment Record, and Most Improved Lost Time Injury Record

District 7 – Best Lost Time Injury Award

Welcome New Employees

One of GDOT's goals is *making GDOT a better place to work will make GDOT a place that works better*. Welcome to the GDOT team.

Abolanle Kafayatu Abikoye, Environmental Services
 Keith Jeremiah Adams, District 3
 David Warren Arrington, District 3
 Ruslet Baronvil, District 3
 Eric Barrow Beatty, District 6
 Joshua W. Belknap, Bridge & Structural Design
 David Tyler Berry, District 3
 Brent Andrew Blanchette, District 4
 Jarvis Randall Bowen, District 6
 Bryan S. Bragg, District 2
 Craig Darnell Brown, District 3
 Robert K. Brown, District 3
 Marcus Tyrone Casteel, District 3
 Stephen R. Chadwick, District 6
 Kristal Tiara Cobb, Human Resources Office
 Jonathon Everiage Cochran, District 1
 Jeanine Emma Coleman, District 6
 James Edward Coody Jr., District 3
 Ronald Eugene Cross Jr., District 4
 Louie Bernard Curry Jr., District 5
 Melvin Darren Dawson, District 6
 Keith N. Dickie, IT Infrastructure
 Revis Cleavon Dixon, District 4
 Martin P. Eiberger, District 3
 Henry S. Gamel, District 6
 Jeffrey Aaron Garnett, Environmental Services
 Zachary Bishop Golden, District 4
 Gerald Daniel Green, District 4
 Kevin Taylor Harpe, District 3
 Hunter John Harrell, District 4
 Michael Alan Hatch, District 6
 Fabio Rashad Hood, District 2
 Evan Robert Horah, District 1
 Ladarrius DeAndra Hudson, District 5
 Koby Gordon Hughes, District 1
 Arnaud Damien Huguet, Urban & Multimodal Design
 Xavier Javari Hunter, District 3
 Jonathan L. Jackson Jr., District 3
 Rodney O. Jackson Jr., District 5
 Kevin Lewis Jackson, District 3
 Adrail Leemarr Jones, District 1
 Bruce Zacheairria Jones, District 4
 Edward David Keheley, District 6
 Pamela Denise King, EEO
 Keerthisha Kommaraju, IT App Support & Development
 Hugh Felder Lambert, District 1
 Kristen Mae Leffel, District 4

Demetrius De Shawn Lewis, District 2
 Liu Qiang Lin, Bridge & Structural Design
 Robert Allen Love, District 4
 Shawn Matthew Lowery, District 6
 Angel Luis Madera, Urban & Multimodal Design
 Shanda G Marsh, District 3
 Sylvia Lenora McDaniel, Communications
 Amanda Elaine McGill, District 6
 Vance Jerrard Mitchell, Urban & Multimodal Design
 Tony D. Moore, District 3
 William Lee Mulkey, District 3
 Ricky Freeman Mullins, District 6
 Brandon Andrew Newhall, Urban & Multimodal Design
 Matthew Todd Owen, District 4
 Darrian Anthony Parham, District 1
 Jason Lloyd Parker, District 6
 Leetitia Renee Petty, District 4
 Jonathon Scott Ray, District 5
 Michelle Denise Render, General Accounting
 Brandon Michael Renfro, District 3
 Nicholas Kareem Reviere, District 3
 Ethan Kyle Roberson, Environmental Services
 Ameenah Bernadette Saleem, Program Delivery
 Yvonda Smith Scales, District 6
 Daniel Eugene Shaw, District 6
 Danny Solomon, District 3
 Jordan Charles Stanley, IT App Support & Development
 Tabari Akida Sturdivant, Communications
 Afton Denise Tankersley, Environmental Services
 Kevin Nathaniel Taylor Jr., Bridge & Structural Design
 Ernest Lee Thomas, District 6
 John Richard Thomas, District 6
 Ikeia D. Thurman, District 3
 Robert Charles Tidwell, District 6
 Michael E. Tiller, District 3
 Alvin Lewis Trader III, District 1
 James Harold Walden Jr., District 1
 Jasmyn Quietta Walker, District 7
 Hoke Gordon Ward, Urban & Multimodal Design
 Otha Curtis Webb, District 3
 Quintravious Rashad Wheeler, District 2
 Swannie Ray Wilson, Intermodal Programs
 Devin Tyler Woodruff, District 4
 Maria Gabriella Yanez-Urbe, Program Delivery
 Tyler Seth Yearwood, District 1

*Fulltime non-temporary new hires from 9/1/15 to 12/1/15

COMMISSIONER'S MERIT & ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



The Commissioner's Merit Award is presented to individuals or teams for exceptional service, achievement and high quality work that has a positive impact on citizens, workforce, business partners and/or operations. Division award recipients are:

Robert Sterling, Division of Administration

Sterling has grown tremendously as a construction claims engineer. He has taken on the more technical aspects of the claims process by pushing past research and information gathering to the analytics and strategizing. Robert has become a resource for the field districts.

John Anthony Poindexter and Michael Stubbs, Division of Construction; Office of Materials and Testing

While OMAT's maintenance staff decreased from five employees to two, Poindexter and Stubbs have worked to ensure the office was operable. They traveled thousands of miles across Georgia to respond to distress calls while providing excellent service to employees. Their dedication and positive attitude makes GDOT a better place to work.

Francis Castle and Gerald Hargrove, Division of Engineering

With a combined 53 years at GDOT, Castle and Hargrove - from the Right of Way Accounting Office - conduct research and provide answers for citizens, consultants, attorneys and internal Department personnel. They consistently demonstrate teamwork and commitment while providing timely and knowledgeable customer service.

Division of Finance – General Accounting Payables Group -- Brook Bliss, Salina Brattain, David Frissell, Alisha Hinton, Dorleane Killingsworth, Andra Matthew, Michael Mellard, Lauren Smith, Tanina Spooner, Jasmine Stephens, Ardra Truitt

This group is committed to providing quality service to internal and external customers while fostering a true team environment. Their improved focus on error prevention has led to performance improvements including a decrease in the Department's financial errors.

Donna Stinson, Division of Intermodal

Stinson strives to provide exceptional technical assistance. Her wealth of knowledge in the administration of the statewide rural transit program makes her an asset in training incoming public transportation coordinators. Stinson is a leader among her peers, and has been instrumental in the success of the Intermodal Division Transit Program.

Division of Operations – Office of Maintenance OEM Brine Production Team - Roderick Browning, Bobby Chambers, Jim Leben, Darrell Norris, Jeff Stone, Randy Walker

Following the 2014 winter storm, the Office of Equipment Maintenance was tasked to spec, procure, install and operate the Department's first brine production unit. Due to this team's relentless efforts, the first use of salt brine on state routes in Georgia was a huge success.

Mary Zirock, Deputy Commissioner's Staff, Office of Procurement

Zirock is an advocate for development of her staff's knowledge and skills. She has sought training and educational opportunities for them and coordinated procurement conferences for district and satellite offices. Her exceptional service, achievement and quality of work have resulted in positive impacts to the citizens of Georgia.

Division of P3/Program Delivery – 285/400 Environmental Permitting Team - Carla Benton-Hooks, Marlo Clowers, Tshiamala Katala, Brad McManus, Sharilyn Meyers, Hiral Patel

This team came together in 2014 to scope, strategize and deliver the necessary Environmental Approval and Permit requirements under a high priority schedule in order to procure the 285-400 Interchange Design Build Finance project. They worked diligently to complete a very time-consuming task. With a number of high level risks from multiple fronts, they focused on the best strategies. Their hard work, originally intended to get FHWA approval in 12 months, resulted in obtaining approval in 347 days.

Dave Cox and William Eastin, Office of Planning

With the federal funding uncertainty at the end of 2014, the Department looked to address the STIP and the work program, while maintaining delivery schedules and funding gaps. Cox and Eastin developed a "live" project scoring and funding allocation tool that allows projects to be evaluated against a set of criteria. The tool enabled the Department to lay the ground work towards the 10-year Strategic Plan.

Chief Engineer's Staff – Engineering Services - Estimating Team - Joel Cantoran, David English, Tyler Lumsden, Harriet Oxford, Troy Patterson, Darin Purvis, Stephen Sander, Lee Sheffield, Doug Torres

This dedicated team of estimators provides exceptional service to citizens and business partners. By utilizing costing methods that involve bid history for common items and scratch estimates for high value items, they provide fair and reasonable costs that often lead to a tremendous savings that benefits the public.

The Commissioner's Achievement Award is presented to individuals or teams for outstanding service, achievement, creative idea or innovation that has a positive impact. These division employees were awarded the Commissioner's Achievement Award:

Bob Maguire, Division of Administration

Maguire leads a statewide team of Safety and Risk Managers who review preventable accidents and focus on prevention of future accidents. Due to their efforts in working with Claims Management Resources, the Department received \$6 million in the past year to recover losses for damaged state property. Maguire is considered an authority on safety.

Noelia Jaramillo, Division of Construction

Jaramillo took the initiative to pursue training for field identification of streams in order to improve her review of projects for NPDES and 404 permit compliance. Due to budget constraints, she worked to provide training that was invaluable to the Erosion Control Liaisons and will improve efforts to preserve and protect state and federal waters, and avoid permit violations and consent orders.

Harry Boxler, Division of Intermodal

Following the resignation of the project team leader Boxler took on the responsibility of updating the State Rail Plan. The 2015 update will serve as a blueprint for delivery of strategic rail projects and studies necessary to maintain vital connections. Without Boxler's knowledge in transportation planning, his hard work and willingness to do what's needed to get the job done, the update would have required significantly more resources to complete.

Gary Edge, Division of Operations

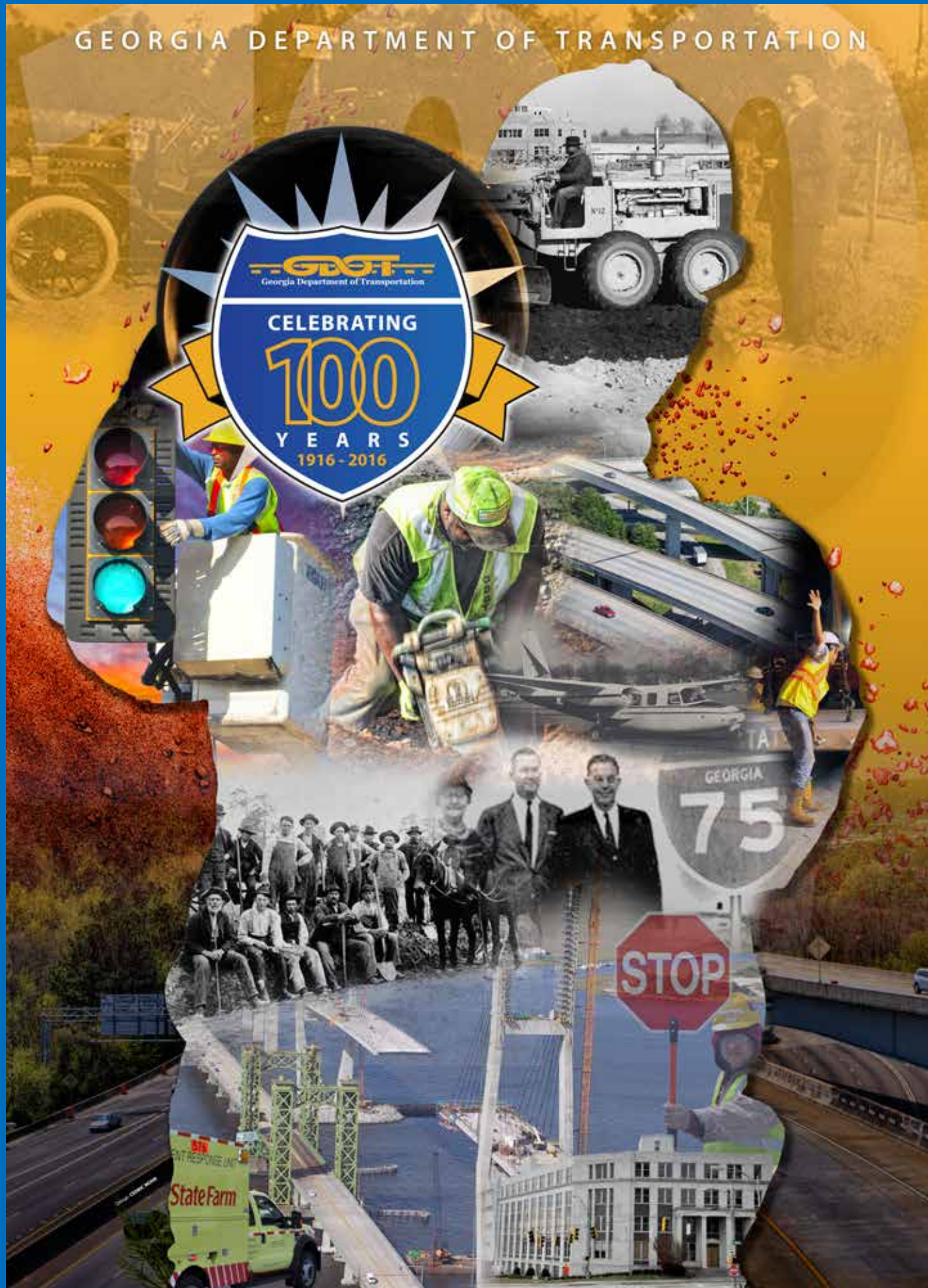
Through his efforts to update mileage reports on Georgia's public roads, Edge developed new processes that streamline local mileage reporting efforts. This resulted in the most local government mileage feedback in the history of the annual program. Edge stepped up and made the project a resounding success. His work will be emulated in future years.

Donnie Robbins, Division of Engineering

As a court coordinator, Robbins works with special assistant attorney generals, who offer high praise for his support, professionalism and excellent service. Although he is eligible to retire, because of his loyal dedication he agreed to continue with the Department. His work ethic and leadership should be recognized by his peers and the Department.

Julia Billings and Kaycee Mertz, Division of Planning

Their "can-do" spirit in the management, oversight and completion of the SR 6 Access Management Study resulted in an engaged stakeholder outreach process and recommendations that will result in the improved long-term mobility of people and freight along this key corridor. The study spanned four counties and involved numerous cities, CIDs and other stakeholders.



MUD was a powerful metaphor for members of the early-twentieth-century Good Roads Movement. Mud represented much that seemed antiquated about rural life. For Progressive Era advocates of paved highways, farmers stuck in rutted muddy roads symbolized the cultural isolation and economic inefficiency that seemed to prevent farmers from joining the urban-industrial progress of the age. It was in this spirit that the seeds of what would become the Georgia Department of Transportation were first planted.*

**History of the Georgia Department of Transportation 1916 through 2016, by Shane Hamilton, Ashton Ellet and Stephen Durham, University of Georgia.*

100 YEARS OF SIMPLY THE BEST IN SAFETY, SERVICE AND INNOVATION

By Liz Rothman

August 16, 2016 is Georgia DOT's 100th birthday.

We're celebrating all year long with statewide events for employees and for the public. Please join us as we explore GDOT's evolution from humble beginnings to the age of intelligent transportation.

When the Georgia Legislature created the State Highway Commission—now Georgia Department of Transportation—in August 1916, they could not have envisioned what was ahead.

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.

The Centennial project is a collaboration between the Georgia DOT offices of Communications, Research and Environmental Services.

Start your Centennial journey by visiting GDOT's Centennial webpage:

www.dot.ga.gov/Centennial

Trigger memories - yours or your ancestors - as you scroll through snapshots of Georgia's transportation history. Our gallery features photos, maps, publications, equipment, and signs from years past. Maybe you can help identify some of the people and places – just click on the identification icon.

- View historical documents - like the first annual report from 1919
- Journey through Georgia's transportation past with our decade-by-decade timeline.
- Plan your Centennial participation with our statewide calendar of events - like District Road Shows, historical talks and a classic car rally. Check often to see what's added.
- Take a Centennial Road Trip through Georgia.
- Enjoy video interviews and oral histories.
- Be sure to follow us on social media #GDOT100.

"The narrative of the Georgia Department of Transportation is remarkable. Building and maintaining Georgia's state transportation network has not been an easy path," notes Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioner Russell McMurry. "Funding was an issue from the beginning – motorists wanted good roads, but were hesitant to pay for them. While GDOT has faced numerous challenges, we have also realized substantial successes due in no small part to the contributions of dedicated employees and partners, past and present. This Centennial celebration is a tribute to them."

What Moves You?

Imagining Tomorrow's Transportation.

The GDOT Centennial Student Art Challenge asks students to tell a visual story about what they envision in the future of transportation in Georgia.

- Open to students in grades K-12, living in Georgia, and attending public, private or home-school.
- Winners receive their original art framed; an award certificate; and five sets of postcards showcasing the winning works of art.
- Entries must be postmarked by February 26.

For details, visit:

www.dot.ga.gov/Centennial

Be sure to tell your child about the Centennial Student Art Challenge

ENTRY DEADLINE: February 26.

State funds address critical infrastructure

Welcoming a new era in Georgia transportation.

By Liz Rothman

Georgia has the tenth largest state transportation network in the nation, and is a recognized leader in transportation innovation. While historically ranked among the states with the lowest in per capita spending for transportation, Georgia has done a great job despite limited resources.

Georgia legislators step up

In their 2015 legislative session Georgia lawmakers addressed the state's critical transportation needs. As a result of their actions last July, Georgia DOT will start to see a significant influx of state funds to be used for much-needed routine maintenance and capital improvements. In the first fiscal year as much as \$870 million is expected to be generated as a result of Georgia's transportation funding bill - the Transportation Funding Act (TFA) of 2015 (aka House Bill 170). In the second year, up to \$1 billion is anticipated.

The TFA is the single biggest transportation investment in the history of Georgia. It's a true game-changer. It will move Georgia—and everyone in Georgia—ahead.

Russell R. McMurry, GDOT Commissioner

Sustainable state funding - year after year

"Georgia DOT is thrilled to see the positive impact that will result from the Transportation Funding Act of 2015. It will allow us to make a substantially higher investment in taking care of our aged infrastructure," McMurry said. "Our focus is to restore our pavements and to get our bridges repaired so that the structures have long-term performance and their conditions do not restrict commerce."

Preparing now

GDOT is preparing so that projects can advance quickly once funds are received. The Department is not increasing staff, but will rely on the use of contractors.

In addition to addressing a backlog of road and bridge maintenance needs, GDOT is prioritizing projects with a focus on increased routine maintenance - pavement preservation, vegetation management, increased mowing and safety enhancements.

"Bridge replacements are a top priority, and we anticipate increasing Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) funds for local governments. We have also established an off-system safety program to address safety on local roads," McMurry noted.

Moving ahead

HB-170 is not only a mechanism for reliable state transportation funding, it will also help reduce the state's reliance on federal funds. Projects that use federal funds can require more regulations that often result in added costs and delays. McMurry cites a project in Columbus as an example. "We received bids in August 2015 for a major interchange project that was nothing more than a napkin sketch 2-1/2 years before. The federal process could have easily added one to two years to the project."

Long-term federal funding

In early December, after 10 years of short-term funding patches to bolster the federal Highway Trust Fund, Congress approved and President Obama signed a five-year \$305 billion highway bill that provides state DOTs with the certainty needed to plan major transportation projects. In fact, due to the previous uncertainty regarding federal reimbursement, GDOT had postponed putting \$123 million worth of projects out to bid in December.

"As revenues from Georgia's TFA begin to come in, we can really make a difference in transportation for this state," said McMurry. "And now that a long-term federal aid transportation bill has become a reality, GDOT can more efficiently and effectively plan, program and deliver major transportation projects."

To learn more about Georgia's infrastructure and transportation projects, visit www.GAroads.org.

GDOT is winter-ready

With manpower, resources & technology

By Aleta Edwards

It comes every year without fail – winter weather! And every year Georgia DOT's commitment to keeping our roadways safe is tested. In 2016, the first test came in January, with successful implementation of the winter weather plan to address snow and ice in north Georgia and to a lesser extent in metro Atlanta and central Georgia.

Following the severe winter storm of 2014, the Department renewed its commitment to Georgia motorists through the development of a comprehensive winter preparation plan. This statewide multi-agency plan was designed to ensure Georgia DOT had the resources and manpower necessary to keep Georgia moving through snow and ice.

In preparation for the 2016 winter weather season, Georgia DOT further improved its efforts with the introduction of state-of-the-art technology, additional resources and increased roadway monitoring.

"As we learn from the past, the Department has adopted a more proactive approach to respond to inclement weather," said State Maintenance Engineer Dale Brantley. "This year we have access to up-to-the-minute tracking and forecasting systems for better detection of snow and ice; the ability to deploy thousands of maintenance and construction employees to assist in affected areas; and additional resources to efficiently brine, treat and de-ice our roads."

Cutting-edge technology

Georgia DOT is relying heavily on technology this winter to enhance roadway monitoring and maintenance. One of the main technologies the Department will leverage is its enhanced web-based reporting system, Web EOC (Emergency Operating Center). This allows live monitoring and reporting of GDOT relief efforts via mobile device. For the first time, maintenance and construction workers statewide will input information into Web EOC live from the site of a winter weather incident. This first responder technology allows employees to enter events as they occur and provide status updates as they are resolved. This streamlines the Department's internal and external communications to increase awareness and preparedness.

GPS trackers were also installed in strike team vehicles in order to efficiently dispatch the closest vehicle to the scene of an incident. GPS trackers partnered with cameras positioned on major interstates and state routes increase GDOT's ability to quickly identify and resolve incidents. This technology allows Georgia DOT to reduce response time, alleviate congestion and increase safety.

Additional roadway sensor locations were added to help more confidently predict weather conditions. The Road Weather Information System (RWIS) is able to identify the temperature of the roads and detect if ice, precipitation or wind is present. The expanded network of RWIS capabilities includes all airports in the state and the ability to view real-time weather conditions in surrounding states.

"Even while using the best weather information technology, Mother Nature can throw you a curve ball," said GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry. "Our employees are dedicated to doing what it takes to ensure the safety of our citizens. When the unexpected happens, we are prepared and ready."

Safety First

To assist Georgia DOT in maintaining motorist safety during a winter weather event, the Department urges Georgians to avoid driving on icy roads and to always drive alert. Real time weather advisories will caution drivers about road conditions. Motorists should also watch for Georgia DOT crews working to clear snow and ice from interstates and state routes – always follow at least 100 feet behind these vehicles.

With 1,900 Georgia DOT employees on-call to service the roads; access to cutting-edge technology; and the introduction of additional resources, the Department is prepared to serve the people of Georgia this winter.

For more information, visit:

www.dot.ga.gov/DS/Emergency/WinterWeather.

WATCH FOR BLACK ICE!

Black ice is a thin, often invisible sheet of ice that

forms on the roadway, especially on bridges and

overpasses and in low lying areas. Black ice is possible

when temperatures are below freezing and there is

moisture on the roadway. While the Department will

monitor and address historically known black ice areas

and look to address black ice when it occurs, the threat

of black ice is always possible. The public is urged

to use caution at all times and to avoid driving

during extreme winter weather.



NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS

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 which 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.



DISTRICT 1

Gainesville/Northeast Georgia

TERI POPE

District Communications Officer

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ONE

District 1 employees honored for exemplary work

Kim Byers receives the 2015 Commissioner's Achievement Award.

In her role as local government right-of-way coordinator, Byers, a 20-year GDOT veteran, readies projects for construction. In Fiscal Year 2015, she coordinated the purchase of 192 parcels.

"Kim works with cities and counties to ensure they follow acquisition procedures and regulations," said GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry. "She often goes 'above and beyond' to help local governments by drafting deeds and petitions."

Winter Weather Response Teams earn the 2015 Commissioner's Merit Award.

When winter weather isolated Dawson, Lumpkin and White counties on February 16, 2015, the Area One and Area Four Winter Weather Teams – totaling 85 individuals - responded boldly to open state routes in spite of winter precipitation.

Ice began to accumulate at 6 p.m. and within 30 minutes trees were falling into the roadway - bringing down utilities and cutting off access to state routes. Motorists, trapped by fallen trees and utility lines, were stranded in their vehicles.

"Maintaining access on our network of state routes during emergency weather situations ensures the safety of our citizens and their families. These GDOT Teams worked 18 hour shifts to plow snow, spread salt and remove debris," said McMurry. "The trees had to be cut and pulled from the roadway by hand, one at a time. I believe this backbreaking and dangerous work in frigid temperatures was a heroic response."

These men and women opened state routes which allowed emergency responders and utility companies into the area.

Congratulations to D1's Natasha Davis...

Winner of the statewide Commissioner's Community Service Award. See page 6.

Winder's North Broad Street project continues to reap accolades.

Best project under \$10 million. Engineering News Report (ENR) named the City of Winder's SR 11/North Broad Street Reconstruction and Enhancement project as the Southeast's "Best Project under \$10 million." The awards competition recognizes construction and design excellence in the Southeast region.

Achievements in public works. The Georgia Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) choose the Winder project for two awards representing the best achievements in the public works profession: Small Cities Transportation Project of the Year; and Technical Innovation Project of the Year for the use of precast concrete panels to expedite work and minimize impacts.



Kim Byers with Commissioner Russell McMurry and D1 District Engineer Brent Cook



Clearing trees downed from a winter storm



DISTRICT 2

Tennille/East Central Ga.
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TWO

D2 celebrates opening of new office building.

There were many smiles in October when District Two celebrated the official ribbon-cutting for their brand new building. The old facility, built in 1957, housed the Tennille Office for 58 years.

TIA funds push fourth quarter construction.

The majority of the Central Savannah River Area projects that are funded either totally or in part by Transportation Investment Act (TIA) collections rest within Richmond and Columbia counties. Highlights include major non-expansion upgrades to River Watch Parkway and the local, Augusta-Richmond County-managed Berkmans Road Widening and Realignment project. As the first TIA band comes to a close, Richmond and Columbia County residents are seeing over 100 million TIA dollars at work.

A roundabout approach.

Georgia DOT recently approved \$57,000 in Traffic Operation Quick Response Project Program funding for a Newton County roundabout that replaced a four-way stop at the intersection of SR 36 and SR 212. This endeavor represents a continual collaboration between the Department and local governments.

The modern roundabout is a circular intersection where entering traffic yields to vehicles already on the roadway. Roundabouts have geometric features that reduce speed and offer substantial safety advantages and excellent operational performance. To learn more, visit www.dot.ga.gov/roundabouts.

Tennille District Office homecoming.

District Two hosted a retiree reception honoring former district employees. Retirees shared fond memories and photos of their former workplace. The gathering was an ideal precursor for the Department's 2016 centennial celebration.

Working to improve pedestrian safety.

Georgia DOT, with Gresham Smith and Partners, organized a downtown Milledgeville Road Safety Audit (RSA). The 2015 gathering, hosted by Georgia College, brought together representatives from the City of Milledgeville, Georgia Military College (GMC), Live Healthy Baldwin and others for a formal safety performance examination of key local and state route intersections. The final RSA report identified short-term, intermediate and long-term safety solutions, which Georgia DOT is considering in cooperation with local city government and vested community partners.

D2 employees honored with Commissioner's awards.

- **Foster Grimes**, a Transportation Specialist 2 in the Design Office, won the Commissioner's Achievement Award. Grimes is the "go to" person for complicated specialized tasks and quick solutions to roadway design and construction issues, as well as IT and computer software problems.
- **Michael Lumpkin**, Area 5 foreman, now retired, received the Commissioner's Merit Award. Lumpkin is a productive team member and leader who inspires. He shows dedication to the traveling public and his fellow employees with attention to detail and initiative. He seeks opportunities for self-development, and takes pride in his work and that of his crew.



District employees show off their beautiful new headquarters.



Milledgeville Road Safety Audit. From left: GDOT D2 Traffic Engineer Brock Tyson and Metro Utilities Engineer Matthew Sammons; Jeff Gray, Georgia Military College; Jeremy Busby, Gresham, Smith and Partners. Photo credit: Kyle Collins, D2



At the reception for retirees, (L-R) District Engineer Jimmy Smith joins former DEs Tony Collins, Mike Thomas, Charles Norris and Edwin Thompson, Sr. in front of the old Tennille District Office Building. Photo: Gina Shepperd



DISTRICT 3

Thomaston/West Central Ga.
KIMBERLY LARSON
District Communications Officer
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THREE

Maintenance employees showcase skills.

District 3 celebrated the accomplishments of our maintenance employees at the Annual State Equipment Operator's Safety and Training Conference. We sent 12 district winners to the state competition held in Dublin. From there, two employees advanced to the regional competition. **Ronald Ogletree** in Single Axle Dump and **Bryan Kemp** in Tractor Mower represented GDOT at the regionals held in South Carolina in September. We placed second in the overall Team Event.

You never know when First Lady Sandra Deal will drop in.

When Georgia's First Lady and her entourage were en route to Atlanta after leaving Statesboro earlier in the day, they stopped by our Macon Area Office. Mrs. Deal was interested in the brick and marble architectural design of the building and of the Frank Pinkston engraving, a memorial to the former State Transportation Board member and Georgia General Assembly representative for whom the building is officially named.

State Transportation Board meets in LaGrange.

In October the STB held its monthly meeting in the city of LaGrange. Mayor Jim Thornton showed a video highlighting the city's transportation needs. He also accompanied board members on a tour of the city, which included a visit the site of the proposed Hamilton Road widening project, expected to transform the congested, two-lane road into a four-lane thoroughfare with a center turning lane. A GDOT public information open house, held the week prior, saw a turnout of 200 people.

Solar vehicle charging station a first.

Georgia's first solar charging station for electric vehicles was unveiled at the Georgia Visitor Information Center on I-85 in West Point, Ga. Kia Motors and the Ray C. Anderson Foundation partnered to create the charging station.

District 3 STB member Sam Wellborn said the charging station is an accomplishment for the state and would place Georgia as a leader in this type of sustainable technology.

The solar charger is a level three "quick charge" that provides an 80 percent battery charge in less than 45 minutes. It allows the driver of an electric car to drive from Mobile to Atlanta – a distance of over 325 miles.

Hannah Solar LLC installed the station. It is the first of its kind at a visitor's information center in the Southeast.

Employees recognized at D3 annual meeting.

Pam Saulsbury of the Macon Area Construction Office received the Commissioner's Achievement Award. Her strong work ethic, dedication and exceptional skills enabled her to evolve from managing moderately complex projects to ultimately being sought out by Area Management to assume the project manager role on a \$15 million interchange reconstruction project on I-16 in Twiggs County.

Teresa Renfro of the District Maintenance Office was honored with the Commissioner's Merit Award for her comprehensive understanding and knowledge of maintenance manuals and reporting systems; her ability to extract statistical data; and for the guidance and support she provides to field personnel which helps ensure accurate and timely reporting.



Sandra Deal (center) with her associates and GDOT Area Engineer Kraig Collins (stripe shirt), Area Program Assistant Lee Lafferty (grey shirt) and Assistant Foreman Darren Hart (orange shirt).



Pam Saulsbury and Commissioner McMurry



Teresa Renfro and Commissioner McMurry



DISTRICT 4

Tifton/Southwest Ga.
NITA BIRMINGHAM
District Communications Officer
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FOUR

District 4 employees honored with Commissioner's awards.

District Traffic Operations Manager **Geno Hasty** received the Commissioner's Merit Award. Hasty exemplifies dedication and customer service with a practical, no-nonsense approach balanced by a sensitivity of the issues. Hasty retired in September and the vacancy was filled by Ken Werho, formerly of the Office of Traffic Operations.

District Utility Engineer **Jerry Wayne Smith** received the Commissioner's Achievement Award. Smith is committed to providing exceptional customer service. He attends all available training and was instrumental in seeing that the foremen and assistants in Area One were properly trained in the use of the Georgia Asset Management System (GAMS).

District safety record earns statewide awards.

- Best Preventable Vehicle Accident Record
- Most Improved Preventable Vehicle Accident Record.

The district's safety record of nine preventable vehicle accidents is a 1 percent reduction from last year.

District responds to safety concerns of Decatur County school officials.

Traffic Operations and the District Engineer continually worked with school officials in Decatur County to address concerns about traffic control in front of Bainbridge High School on U.S. 84/SR 38. Traffic signals were installed to supplement earlier enhancements the district had implemented (extension of the school zone, relocation of the flashers and lengthening the deceleration/right turn lane at the driveway most frequently used by students). School officials were so pleased that they held a groundbreaking for the traffic light installation. Local and state dignitaries attended, as well as District Engineer Chad Hartley and District Traffic Operations Manager Scott Purvis.

Two major projects wrap up in southwest Georgia.

The North Leesburg Bypass connects U.S. 19 to SR 195 and was built to relieve downtown and school traffic congestion (the population of Leesburg triples during school hours). The project also included another important safety upgrade with construction of a grade-separated crossing of the Norfolk-Southern railroad tracks that run parallel to U.S. 19. The construction contract amount was \$8.3 million.

In Albany, city officials and Albany State University celebrated the opening of the Broad Avenue Memorial Bridge with a Veterans Day dedication and community bridge walk. A large crowd turned out for the dedication of the new bridge that replaced the previous structure closed in 2009 due to foundation damage. Deputy Commissioner Mike Dover spoke and presented the bridge to the city. Also representing GDOT were State Transportation Board Member Johnny Floyd, District Engineer Chad Hartley, District Construction Engineer Scott Chambers, Albany Area Engineer Cliff Webb and Assistant Area Engineer for Construction Derrick Wilkerson. The construction contract amount was \$12 million.



Geno Hasty (center) with D4 District Engineer Chad Hartley and GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry



Jerry Wayne Smith (center) with District Engineer Chad Hartley and Commissioner Russell McMurry



GDOT Deputy Commissioner Mike Dover presents a certificate to Albany Mayor Dorothy Hubbard to officially transfer ownership of the Broad Avenue Memorial Bridge to the city.



DISTRICT 5

Jesup/Southeast Ga.
JILL NAGEL
District Communications Officer
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FIVE

The state of the Port of Savannah.

Georgia Ports Authority Executive Director Curtis Foltz addressed more than 1,300 attendees during the 2015 State of the Port address held in Savannah in September. Foltz recapped the fiscal year for the busiest container port in the Southeast U.S., and explained how the Port of Savannah achieved record volumes with no congestion. He also discussed \$142 million in upcoming port infrastructure investment and progress toward deepening the Savannah Harbor.

The harbor deepening, currently in the construction phase, will deepen the shipping channel from 42 to 47 feet to allow today's larger, more efficient vessels to transit the channel with heavier loads and greater scheduling flexibility.

D5 employees receive honors.

Area Engineer **Ron Nelson** received the Commissioner's Merit Award. Nelson demonstrates the importance of customer service with property owners, local businesses, board members and officials. He tackles new opportunities with a desire to learn and teach team members and new TEA employees. Nelson was selected district wide trainer of construction employees in record keeping and erosion control documentation. He has a positive impact on employees and customers, and consistently delivers exceptional service and high quality work.

Teresa Tootle of the Design Office received the Commissioner's Achievement Award. Her extensive knowledge of construction and design, her distinctive accomplishments, her professionalism and her leadership have directly contributed to the successful operations of the District 5 Design Office. She has done an excellent job designing several projects for D5 and consistently receives accolades for her work. Tootle is always eager to help others. She exemplifies outstanding service and selflessness.

Computer Systems Analyst **Stacey Czech** received the Commissioner's Achievement Award. Czech stays abreast of updates on the WDS (Windows Deployment Services) server. She assists members of the team in understanding and using this resource to expedite the deployment of computers. Czech was instrumental in successfully completing recent computer deployments in a timely manner and without major issues. Her role during our recent iPhone deployment allowed completion to be timely and trouble free as well.

D5 continues reign as GDOT State Roaddeo skills champions.

The 2015 Southeastern Roaddeo held in Myrtle Beach, S.C. saw numerous trophies for D5 and for the tenth consecutive year they held their crown as GDOT champs.



At the 2015 State of the Port Address, from left: GDOT District 5 District Engineer Karon Ivery; GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry; GPA Executive Director Curtis Foltz; State Transportation Board Member Ann Purcell; GDOT D5 Communications Officer Jill Nagel; GDOT D5 Savannah Office Area Engineer Joseph Capello



Joining the D5 Roaddeo Team: District Engineer Karon Ivery (center bottom row); Asst. District Maintenance Engineer Brian Scarborough (standing far left); Asst. DE/District Maintenance Engineer Robert McCall (standing far right)

The D5 team: Kneeling (l-r): Turksha Wyatt 2nd place/tandem dump truck; Alex Jenkins 2nd place/lowboy; (Karon Ivery); James Lawson; Robert Norwood 2nd place/single axle dump truck. Standing (l-r): (Scarborough); Tony Reddish; Johnny Clemmons; Aaron Sloan; Mark Manning 1st place/tandem dump truck; Ray Harris; Demetrius Ford; Walker (Bubba) Parker 1st place/ backhoe; Ronald Spellman; Orman Spradley; Curtis Barnard; (Robert McCall)



DISTRICT 6

Cartersville/Northwest Ga.

MOHAMED ARAFA

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SIX

Record attendance at PIOH.

Cherokee County residents flocked to the city of Ball Ground in September for the Georgia DOT Public Information Open House for the proposed project to improve Highway 20 from I-575 in Canton to Georgia 400 in Cumming. GDOT shared the results of the Screen 2 Analysis and attendees expressed their preferences for the project.

The meeting - held at Calvary Baptist Church - had the highest attendance ever for a GDOT public information open house in District 6. With a total of 469 in attendance, the meeting was 153 above the last record for a PIOH for the US 411 Connector held in Cartersville in 2008.

Improved safety and enhanced mobility at Gordon County interchange.

There were happy motorists in Gordon County when construction of the I-75 and Union Grove Road interchange was completed and the ramps were opened to traffic in October. The reconstruction project also included construction of a bridge and approaches and a realignment of Johnson Lake/Belwood Road. The project had been under construction since 2012.

"We understand the inconvenience this project has caused residents," said D6 District Engineer DeWayne Comer. "We are glad to finish our construction work and give the new and improved interchange back to the traveling public."

We hear you Cherokee County.

When State Senator Brandon Beach hosted a Cherokee County Transportation Town Hall Meeting with GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry in attendance, he knew that the county had significant traffic problems. Beach, who represents the eastern half of Cherokee County in the state legislature, wanted to hear the public's ideas, preferences and concerns about transportation infrastructure in the county.

He led the town hall to focus on "things that can be done, make a difference, and aren't that expensive." He also highlighted what the Georgia General Assembly and the Georgia Department of Transportation are doing to address needs in the county.

Cherokee County is seeing the early benefits of such meetings. Georgia DOT recently completed a resurfacing and restriping of a portion of SR 20 with an additional eastbound lane to SR 20, beginning at I-575 and extending to Brooke Park Drive. The project, initiated by public feedback received at the Town Hall, has provided quick relief from congestion caused by fast commercial development.

L.B. Ahrens, chairman of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners, identified this project as a top priority, and urged Georgia DOT to help make it happen.

"I am proud that through our working relationship with state and local officials that we can help another Cherokee County community meet its immediate transportation needs," McMurry said. "These interim improvements will enhance the safe mobility of Cherokee County's residents."

Such projects help "provide Cherokee citizens with a better traffic situation and a better quality of life," Beach explained. "If folks can get home 15 to 20 minutes earlier to eat dinner with the family or attend their kid's ballgame, that's what I'm trying to achieve."

GDOT honors D6 employees.

Location Engineer **Bryan Lott** received the Commissioner's Merit Award. Lott provides excellent internal and external customer service, and timely, accurate surveys. He documents the team's work load and provides a weekly status report. Lott determines the best ways to utilize resources and frequently makes recommendations to improve survey functions. Outside of his GDOT work schedule, Lott takes professional development courses; he is working toward obtaining the Land Surveyor in Training certification (LSIT).

Construction Project Manager **Jordan Clement** received the Commissioner's Achievement Award. Clement - hard working and dependable - effectively approaches construction problems calmly. He treats customers with respect, listens to their concerns and strives to find a solution to meet their needs and those of the Department. Clement has developed his lower level inspectors to become more independent and well-skilled. Clement sets the standard for what a GDOT employee should be.

District Six receives statewide Safety Awards.

We received Best Overall Safety Record, Best Medical Treatment Record, Most Improved Overall Safety Record, Most Improved Medical Treatment Record and Most Improved Lost Time Injury Record. Our safety record reflects reductions of 1% or more in these areas.

Congratulations!

Right of Way Specialist **Eka Okonmkaeto** was named the September Volunteer of the Month by the Project Management Institute (PMI) Atlanta Chapter. For the past two years, Okonmkaeto served as the lead for Technology Forums Registration. She was recognized for being a dependable lead for the industry forums, and for her ability to ensure timely set up for the forums.



DISTRICT 7

Chamblee/Metro Atlanta Ga.

ANNALYSCE BAKER

District Communications Officer
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SEVEN

South Fulton motorists get welcome relief at busy intersection.

Relief came in the form of a traffic signal which District 7 Traffic Operations installed at the State Route 92 and Ridge Road/Butner Road intersection in December.

SR 92 serves Douglas and South Fulton counties. The two-lane 55 mile per hour state route experienced major commercial and residential development at the intersection in 2005 - causing the residential developer to widen the intersection to accommodate future growth.

After the real estate market crashed, developers could no longer build homes - leaving a widened intersection regulated only by stop signs. Over the years crashes increased - some resulting in fatalities.

In an effort to improve safety, the community took action. Residents petitioned the District, the Fulton County Department of Public Works, and a Fulton County Commissioner to install a traffic signal and make other safety improvements.

"Based upon the studies we conducted, we saw a need to make permanent and temporary operational and safety improvements to the intersection," said Patrick Allen, assistant district engineer and district Traffic Operations engineer manager. "According to data from the studies, we determined that a roundabout is the best permanent solution. Until construction begins for the roundabout, we installed a temporary signal to help reduce the amount and severity of crashes at the intersection."

The District plans to construct the roundabout in about three years.

Georgia 811 honors GDOT District 7 employees.

Georgia 811 honored two Utilities employees at the D7 annual meeting.

Assistant District Utilities Engineer **Sharon Witherspoon** received the "Damage Prevention Award" based on her efforts to promote damage and safety awareness in the Metro region. Witherspoon often advises local utility agencies to "call before they dig" in order to reduce the risk of injury or death.

Metro Utilities Engineer **Danah Bonny** received the "Secretary of the Year Award" due to her service as secretary of the DeKalb County Georgia Utilities Coordinating Council. Bonny sets the standard for active involvement and participation; much of what she accomplishes is behind the scenes.

[Call 811 before you dig. Georgia 811 promotes safety and damage prevention to underground utilities. Georgia law mandates that, before mechanized digging or excavation, you contact Georgia 811 to have utility lines marked. Call 811 or visit \[www.georgia811.com\]\(http://www.georgia811.com\).](#)

D7 employees honored by GDOT.

Area Engineer **Sebastian Nesbitt** receive the Commissioner's Merit Award. Nesbitt, one of the best area engineers in D7, is a mentor for new and upcoming area engineers. He coaches others and often shares his methods that lead to successful outcomes. Nesbitt is praised by local municipalities regarding his customer service and commitment to providing timely results. When disputes occur he focuses on the concerns at hand to develop effective solutions.

Permit Inspector **Krishna Persaud** received the Commissioner's Achievement Award. Persaud excels at every task. His efforts have improved both efficiency and effectiveness of the Maintenance Office, allowing them to better serve the public. Despite a demanding work load, Persaud worked additional hours to bring the Interstate tunnel lights back to full efficiency. His expertise with electrical applications allowed him to improve visibility and increase safety for Interstate commuters traveling through downtown Atlanta.

District Seven earns statewide Safety Award.

D7 received the Best Lost Time Injury Award with a safety record of one injury involving lost work days.



Sebastian Nesbitt with Commissioner McMurry and D7 District Engineer Kathy Zahul



Krishna Persaud with Commissioner McMurry and D7 District Engineer Kathy Zahul

Letters, Emails, Notes & Tweets

I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation for the Hero services I received... Hero driver Marcus Alsobrook (#430) came to my rescue. He was very knowledgeable and friendly. He solved my problem and went "the extra mile." For his assistance I want to say thank you. He is my hero.

C. Dale

... Officer Tracy #576 with the State Farm Hero Unit assisted me when I had a flat tire on 166 in Fulton County. He was very helpful, professional and patient even as his shift was approaching he completed helping me. He is to be commended for helping in such a way even when it was extremely hot that day, I felt very at ease that he arrived to help. Please thank Officer Tracy #576...

B. Kearse

Editor's note: The writer is referring to HERO Tracy Rush.

When driving through Atlanta, we've found the I-75, I-85, and I-20 markings on the road to be particularly helpful! Signs can be confusing, sometimes, but with the symbols on the road, itself, it's so much easier to navigate. Thank you!

D. Burnett

It was just a few weeks ago that I sent a request from this website to ask that the lane lines south of exit 36 on I-95 be painted as I thought they were a hazard. I just passed the GDOT trucks doing just that. From myself and all drivers traveling this stretch of highway. A heartfelt THANK YOU to all. This will save lives!

M. Stowe

We want to thank your Hero operators that assisted us when our right front tire had a blowout on I-85 ... There was something in the road, it was at night, and it flattened our tire instantly. I was able to get the car onto the shoulder, but the traffic flying by at 70+ MPH was scary. I called 511 and one of your operators could see our car via your cameras. She was able to dispatch a Hero truck within about 30 minutes, which on a Friday night was amazing. My wife and daughter were terrified. We did exit the car and stand behind the guardrails. Both of your guys were super nice, changed our tire, loaded the flatten tire into the trunk and helped us enter safely into the traffic lane. Thank you and your people so much!

L. Veneble

Editor's note: When an assistance request comes in, the 511 console operator at the Transportation Management Center (TMC) keys the issue into the NaviGator software system. The dispatcher - using the NaviGator software - sees the "need" and dispatches the nearest HERO Operator to that location.

A few weeks ago I emailed GDOT to inquire about resurfacing status of GA 20 mainly in Forsyth County and Post Rd also in Forsyth County. I received a timely reply about lack of funds for resurfacing, but the potholes would be addressed. Well, no good deed should go without comment. As far as I can tell, it seems a good number of those pesky potholes have been filled. Thanks to whomever followed through on my initial email and actually did what they said!!!

Sincerely, A.P. Gulla

Editor's note: Constituency Services Representative Cindy Bennett received the request and forwarded it to District One Area 4 Engineer Matt Needham who had the route inspected and assigned for temporary repairs.

I just wanted to ... send a note of thanks. I am one of the 6 Environmental Emergency Responders in GA for DNR EPD ... the tanker lost 6000 gallons of diesel in the accident ... We had to move quick to recover it before it impacted more of our natural resources. I could not have done my job as well as I did without the help of your team, and especially Phillip Acorn ... went above and beyond the call of duty helping us out with his vast knowledge of the area and the people. He was able to find people, equipment, materials, locations, GSP, etc. at the drop of a hat for us so that we could move mass amounts of impacted soil out and backfill right away so we could keep a safe working site and safe right-of-way ... In all of my 13 years in Emergency Response, I have never had a response to such a large spill on a state right-of-way go as smooth...We couldn't have done it without Phillip and your team...

M. Cortes

GA DNR Environmental Protection Division
Brunswick, GA

Editor's Note: In addition to Highway Maintenance Foreman Phillip Acorn, the District 4 team includes Jerry Hughes, Donnie Carter, Delane Heath, Trent Taylor, John Alexander, Ronnie Brogdon, Chad Sowell, Jeff Sexton, Jamie Cook, Danny Cross and David Kelly.

My husband and I were recently driving through GA on the interstate ... My husband had made the comment earlier that we needed to stop for gas ... Well, all of a sudden we were out of gas on the interstate with temperature of at least 95 degrees. We got AAA on the phone and it would be 2 hours. We called a couple of other options but it was going to be a long time before anyone could bring us gas. There was road work going on and some men came to pick up their orange canisters and I flagged them down and asked if they had any gas ... They did not but would send their supervisor down to help us ... About 30 minutes later a GA DOT truck pulled up with gas and smiles ... We are so grateful for kind and caring men who helped us in GA. Thank you Joshua and Joel for giving us gas and getting us home. You didn't have to do what you did—and then you wouldn't take money or even a cash gift for helping us. You don't always find good men like that! These men are to be commended for their service to us and the people of GA. I can't thank them enough. These guys deserve a raise!!! Thank you again for your kindness and the time you took to help us out. God bless you richly. Sincerely,

R. & L. Steakley

Editor's note: Sender is referring to District 3's Josh Miller, Highway Maintenance Foreman 2; and Joel Johnson, Equipment Operator 3.

Hi Commissioner McMurry-

I wanted to give kudos to your TMC 3rd Shift Crew ... My husband was coming home from work around 4am and he got a flat tire ... had to stop on the side of the highway in a very dark area where he couldn't see enough to change the tire himself and he didn't have his flashlight. We actually have AAA service, but ... no one ever came out. However, I called 511 and was immediately dispatched to a very nice TMC agent. She was very pleasant (I actually heard the smile in her voice at 4am!) and expeditious. Though she could not give me an estimated time, I called back about 8 minutes later and another courteous agent was able to locate the unit on GPS. Before I could get off the phone, the HERO unit pulled up. My husband said the guy was extremely courteous and professional. He was back home in no time. I called them back to thank them and spoke to the supervisor Billie Rose. So kudos to Billie Rose and the 3rd Shift TMC crew. They were great.

M. Wilkins

State Road and Tollway Authority

Editor's note: Billie Rose is the assistant supervisor of the Transportation Management Center (TMC). Third shift crew members that may have been on shift that night are Samantha Morrow, Bianca Brown, Michael Blackwell and Monica Owens.

Please share your letters and emails with us. Email erothman@dot.ga.gov.

GDOT TidBits

This resolution may change a life.

Georgia saw 1,414 roadway fatalities in 2015. That's the first annual increase in a decade. And it's a significant number - 244 more deaths than 2014.

This year, take the pledge to DriveAlert ArriveAlive:

- Buckle up
- No texting and driving
- Drive alert

It's a matter of life and death.

Take the pledge at

www.dot.ga.gov/DAAA



Georgia's first U.S. bicycle route links Atlanta to Chattanooga.

U.S. Bicycle Route 21 (USBR 21) is Georgia's first U.S. Bicycle Route designation. Georgia DOT coordinated with Tennessee to designate the 161 mile Georgia section of the route, which will eventually connect Atlanta to Cleveland, Ohio, when it is complete.

Katelyn DiGioia is GDOT's bicycle and pedestrian coordinator.

"Georgia is excited to join other states in the development of the USBRS with the designation of USBR 21. This route begins in Atlanta and connects by way of the Silver Comet Trail and country roads to Chattanooga."

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) approved 2,141 miles of new U.S. Bicycle Routes, including the Georgia to Tennessee line. The system now includes over 11,000 miles of routes in 23 states and the District of Columbia. It will eventually be the largest bicycle route network in the world, encompassing more than 50,000 miles of routes.

For more information, visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/Travel/BikePed>



What's up with Georgia Express Lanes?

To address the busiest and most congested corridors in the metro Atlanta region, a network of new toll lanes—with a combined total of 52 miles—is under construction or in development through a partnership between Georgia DOT and the State Road and Tollway Authority. The I-75 South Metro, Northwest Corridor and I-85 Extension projects are valued in excess of \$1.25 billion.

Construction on I-75 South Metro Express Lanes—Georgia's first reversible toll system—is 50% complete with opening scheduled in early 2017.

Nearly 30 miles of NWC construction encompasses 39 bridges, including the state's longest inland bridge. It is expected to open to traffic in 2018.

Construction is scheduled to start this summer on the ten-mile I-85 Extension project, designed to tie into the existing 16-miles of I-85 Express Lanes. The extension is scheduled for a 2018 opening.

Express lanes offer reliable trips even during peak periods; better options for transit and vanpool riders; economic development opportunities; and are a cost-effective way for the state to improve transportation options.

Georgia DOT is working with SRTA and the Atlanta Regional Commission to program an entire network of express lanes.

For more information and to subscribe to weekly updates, visit www.dot.ga.gov/expresslanes.



TIA wraps up Band One.

Band 1 of the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Program ended on December 31. As promised to the citizens of the three TIA regions - who in 2012 approved the 10-year one percent sales tax to fund regional and local transportation projects - all Band 1 projects are complete or have entered the construction phase.

In the Heart of Georgia Altamaha (HOGA) region, \$66 million in TIA funds was committed for 204 Band 1 projects. The projects in the region included the resurfacing of 154 miles of roadway, and the replacement or rehabilitation of seven bridges.

The River Valley region began construction on eight projects in Band 1 for a total value of \$91 million in TIA funding. From an innovative linear park designed to encourage pedestrian and bicycle transportation in Columbus, to a \$20 million interchange reconstruction aiming to address congestion near Fort Benning, the River Valley region demonstrates that no project is too big or too small for TIA.

In the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) 49 Band 1 projects were funded for a total value of \$144 million. Projects like the restoration of the historical hangar doors at Daniel Field and realignment of Berckman's Road illustrate how a taxpayer funded initiative can be tailored to suit the needs of any region.

The TIA Program has a total of 871 projects divided into three delivery bands. For information about Band 1 projects and to preview those in Band 2, visit the new TIA website at www.ga-tia.com.

Last year there were **1,414** fatalities on Georgia's roads.
That's the first annual increase in a decade.



In 2016, let's resolve to keep our eyes on the road, not on the phone. And to always buckle up.

DRIVE ALERT ARRIVE ALIVE

#ArriveAliveGA



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