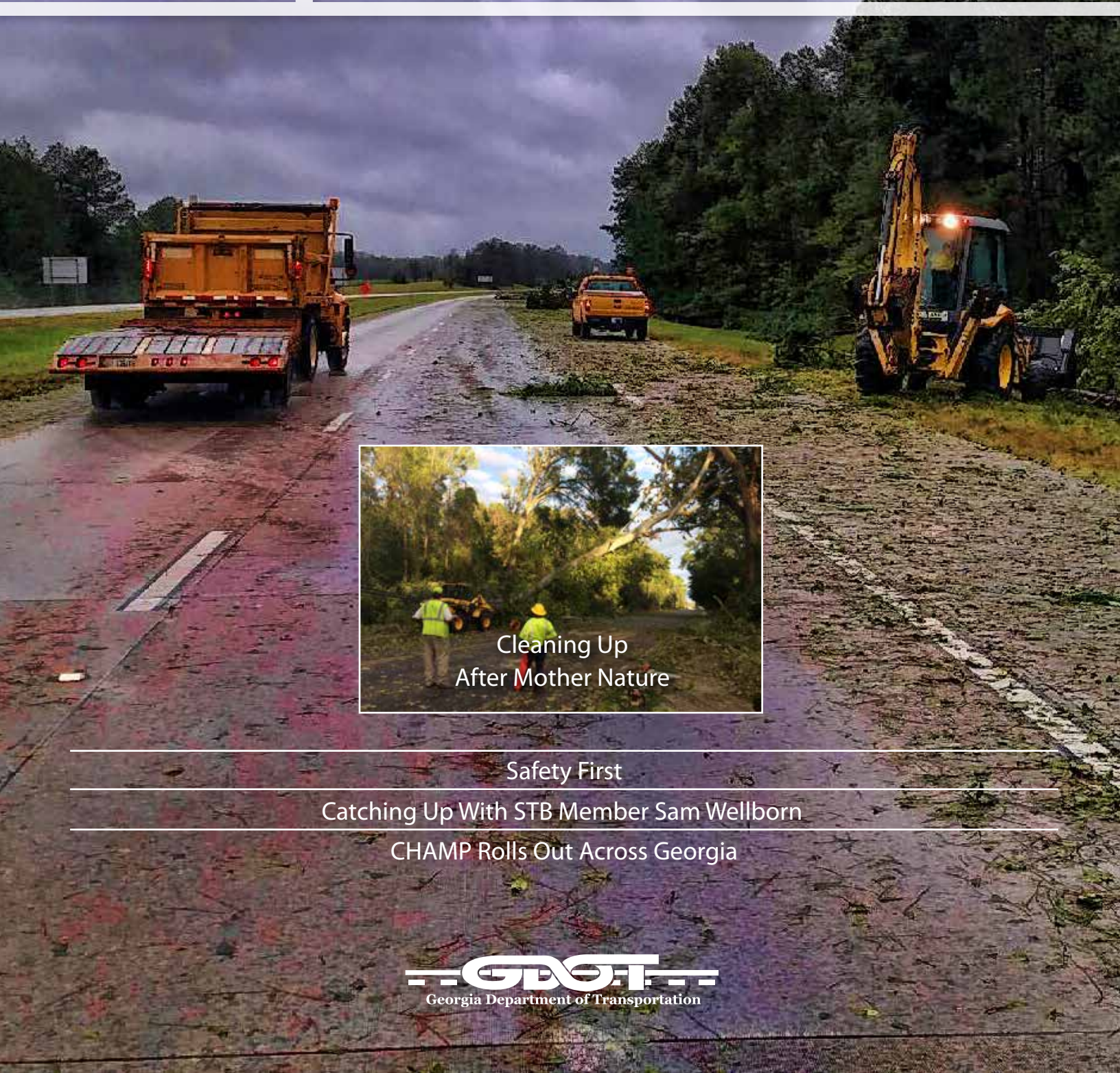


MILEPOST

GEORGIA

Spring 2017



Cleaning Up
After Mother Nature

Safety First

Catching Up With STB Member Sam Wellborn

CHAMP Rolls Out Across Georgia

Commissioner's Column

Making It Happen.



When they say “everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it,” they can’t be talking about the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Between tropical storms and tornadoes, a hurricane and extreme winter weather, the men and women of Georgia DOT do a lot more than talk about the weather. Much more.

Over the past months they have worked to protect and serve the citizens of Georgia before, during and after extreme weather events – and often in difficult and stressful

conditions. They have left loved ones for extended periods, traveled to other parts of the state to address threats, pre-treated roads and cleaned up debris. Several of our employees lost their own homes, yet worked on; and in some cases their commitment to ensure the safety of others meant not knowing the status of their own families. Our employees left home with a resolve to complete a mission that is bigger than GDOT - a mission to help Georgia!

A special thanks to our maintenance forces, to our 24/7 team at GEMA who coordinated with our sister agencies, the Traffic Management Center, our HERO operators, our bridge design engineers and inspectors, our construction staff and traffic signal crews, and those who were on standby. And to the less visible—yet crucial—district, administration, IT, communications, procurement, operations and human resources staffs, who plan year-round for emergency response.

Safety is Georgia DOT’s number one priority and combating the effects of extreme weather is one of many safety initiatives. In this issue of Milepost you’ll also read about GDOT’s endeavor to address an increase in fatalities on Georgia’s roads for the second consecutive year. We are also aiming to reduce preventable workplace accidents within GDOT.

Transportation needs are rapidly changing and meeting those changes requires new approaches. Take, for example, the innovative reversible express lanes—Georgia’s first—that recently opened south of Metro Atlanta along Interstate 75.

Also, note our new Coordinated Highway Assistance & Maintenance Program that serves interstates outside of HERO territory in Metro Atlanta. The addition of CHAMP to our safety program makes Georgia the first state to provide statewide interstate highway assistance.

With spring comes work zone awareness, a great time to remind drivers that whenever you approach a work zone - pay attention, slow down and watch for workers. Work zone safety is in your hands.

And as always – drive alert so you and others can arrive alive.

Russell R. McMurry, P.E.

MILEPOST

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Cedric Mohr
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Kyle Collins, District Two

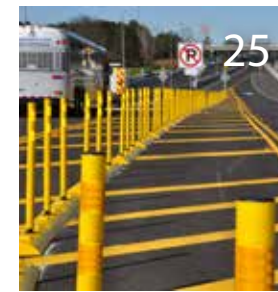
Kimberly Larson, District Three

Nita Birmingham, District Four

Jill Nagel, District Five

Mohamed Arafa, District Six

Tori Brown, District Seven



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On the cover: Southeast Georgia after Hurricane Matthew.

Large photo: I-16, Bulloch County.

Inset photo: SR 57, Glennville, Tattall County. Photo: Kyle Collins, GDOT



ACROSS THE BOARD

Purcell & Wellborn re-elected



Photo: Cedric Mohr, GDOT

Ann R. Purcell of Rincon (First Congressional District) and Sam Wellborn of Columbus (Third Congressional District) were unanimously re-elected to full five-year board terms by legislators from their respective congressional districts.

Board Secretary Ann R. Purcell represents CD 1 in southeast Georgia, including the ports of Savannah and Brunswick and the state's coastline. She was first elected to the board in 2013. Purcell, a community and civic leader, previously served 18 years in the Georgia House of Representatives, where she chaired the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee. Purcell is a graduate of Georgia Southern College.

Sam Wellborn has served on the board for 25 years and is its longest serving member. He represents CD 3 in west central Georgia. His previous roles include board chairman. Wellborn was president and CEO of Columbus Bank and Trust Company. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia.

Board visits Lowndes County

Major transportation projects in Lowndes County and the South Georgia region were featured at the board meeting held in Valdosta late last year at the invitation of Board Member Tim Golden, who represents Georgia's 8th Congressional District. These included GRIP projects like widening SR 133 from South Albany to I-75 and widening SR 38/US 84 from Waycross to Homerville. The Board occasionally holds its monthly meeting outside the city of Atlanta to provide Georgia cities and counties with the opportunity to highlight their transportation needs and to underscore the value of their transportation investments.

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.

Highway dedication for Jay Shaw

A portion of US Highway 22/SR 31 is officially the James Slaton "Jay" Shaw Memorial Highway. The roadway - from the intersection of SR 11 and SR 31 in the City of Lakeland to the intersection of SR 7 and SR 31 in the City of Valdosta - was named in honor of former board member Jay Shaw, who served on the STB from 2010 to 2015 and was chairman in 2013. Shaw served 17 years as a state representative and 10 years as the mayor of Lakeland. He passed away in April 2015.

State Transportation Board Member Tim Golden called Shaw a "bulldog" who fought for his constituents.

"He was a true public servant, one who truly, truly cared," Golden said.

Welcome center upgrades



Visitor information welcome centers, located at interstate entry points into Georgia, are the first impression of many visitors to the Peach State. In recent years, the impression was lackluster. That's why eight of Georgia's welcome

centers have been revamped. Upgrades were made inside and outside, including plumbing, parking lots, roofs, lighting, painting, landscaping, signage and more. No taxpayer dollars were used for the work. The money came from revenues generated by the Georgia LOGO program, which provides businesses with advertising opportunities to include their name and logo on small signs at highway interchange exits. The program generates about \$5 million annually.

Upgrades for the state's 17 rest areas are next. They will be done in three phases, also with LOGO Program funds.

Grantham receives hometown honors



In recognition of his contributions to regional economic development, the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce honored STB Member Don Grantham (CD 12) with the Lester S. Moody Award of Excellence, their highest distinction. The Augusta native, president and CEO of Forest Sales

Corporation, served on the Georgia Ports Authority and is a former Augusta/Richmond County Commissioner. He has served on the State Transportation Board since 2011.

State Transportation Board, Congressional District 3

Catching up with Sam Wellborn

By Liz Rothman

You can't help but notice him. Physically imposing with a shock of gray hair, his voice resonates. He's assertive yet friendly, with a wry humor. Sam Wellborn is the longest-serving member of the State Transportation Board, a position he's held for 25 years. He was recently re-elected to a sixth term serving Congressional District 3 in west central Georgia.



Photo: Cedric Mohr, GDOT

Columbus is home. It's where he was born, where he and wife Dusty—going on 52 years of marriage—raised their family. It's where their three children and five grandchildren live. *I never lived anywhere but Columbus, never worked anywhere but the bank and never married anyone but Dusty. I think that says I'm pretty stable!*

Columbus, in Muscogee County, is Georgia's second largest city. *I love my hometown. I guess I could live anywhere, but choose to stay in Columbus, to be a part of its progress.*

Making headway. From trainee to bank president and CEO to State Transportation Board member, Wellborn has steadily forged ahead. When a long-serving board member died, Columbus city leaders looked for a replacement. *They finally got to me. Even though I had a full time job, I said yes – I would run. I didn't know what I was getting into.*

Plain spoken. Outspoken. *I think maybe I am a little too blunt at times. That's to make sure you understand what I say. I have a lot of questions and I don't mind asking them.*

From Shackelford to McMurry. Wellborn has worked with seven commissioners. *Wayne Shackelford and Harold Linnenkohl were excellent. Keith Golden was fantastic. In my opinion, Russell McMurry is the best and most effective. I also think the current board is the finest we've had. There's great diversity on the board and at GDOT. I was proud when we elected Emily Dunn as the first lady chairman of the board. I am also proud of another lady, Meg Pirkle, our chief engineer, who holds the second highest position in the Department.*

Small towns (and large ones too). Wellborn's district includes 13 counties. He cherishes representing his district in securing their transportation needs, as well as looking out for small communities. *I have no pie in the sky road ideas – that's for the professionals. What I'm good with is the little stuff – getting fresh signs, striping, helping with streetscapes and landscapes and sidewalks. Those things make a big difference. I love to help small towns.*

Beautification on the agenda. Wellborn chairs the Gateways Committee, which recently upgraded the state's welcome centers without using taxpayer dollars. *The centers were in terrible condition and not at all welcoming. Next are the rest areas. Our goal is to create a positive experience for visitors to Georgia.*

He was gratified to work with Columbus leaders to create the I-185 Scenic Byway. *I am not totally opposed to billboards, but there will never be a billboard to mar the beauty of that drive. It's fantastic.*

He also considers the gateway at Fort Benning a special accomplishment that honors our troops.

If I were to kick the bucket today, these are some results of my GDOT service that I am proud of.

He smells the flowers. Wellborn advocates for Georgia DOT's Wildflower Program that enhances Georgia's roadsides. He raises camellias and the Columbus Botanical Garden named their camellia garden for him. He expects that the Sam M. Wellborn Camellia Garden, recently designated as part of the American Camellia Trail, will increase tourism in Columbus. *I spend a lot of time there looking for new varieties. It's like a treasure hunt.*

The Ray. Wellborn is excited about an 18-mile stretch of I-85 in his district. The Ray C. Anderson Memorial Highway, a proving ground for evolving ideas and technologies, is expected to transform future transportation infrastructure. Drive-over solar panels and a drive-over tire safety check system are the latest installations at the Welcome Center. *I had nothing to do with creating The Ray, but the minute I heard about it, I knew it was significant and that I had to give it leadership from a board standpoint. I am fortunate that it is in my district. There's no telling what will be accomplished on The Ray.*

Passages. Wellborn was surprised by a surge of feelings he had when he drove to the University of Georgia to attend the Biennial. *I suddenly became very emotional—almost teary—as I rode by my daughter's first dorm and her sorority. And places I went to with Dusty when we were students - like the dining hall. My wife thinks it has to do with passages – those significant times in our lives that we connect with. I think she's right.*

Who's counting? Wellborn will be 80 when his new term is over. *Being a member of the STB is a marvelous experience. I feel I've contributed to the success of my community, and to the state of Georgia. I am energetic and enthusiastic and still want to serve. I hope I can serve the full term, but when the time comes, I will step aside. You won't find me nodding through meetings!*



Scott Higley was appointed director of strategic communications. He leads strategic planning, development and implementation of the Department's internal and external marketing strategies, branding, vision, policies, goals and objectives, and public relations activities. Higley's career

in marketing and communications spans more than two decades. Most recently he was a senior-level advisor to the Metro Atlanta Chamber (MAC). Prior to that, he directed marketing, communications, community affairs and government relations for six years at the Georgia Aquarium. Higley has also developed and managed communications and marketing programs for destination real estate developments including Lenox Square, Atlantic Station, the Mall of Georgia and the development now known as Buckhead Atlanta. Higley has a bachelor's in journalism, mass communications and marketing from Kansas State University.



Patrick Allen was selected as State Utilities Office administrator. He was most recently assistant district engineer/district traffic engineer for District 7. Allen began his 11-year Georgia DOT career in District 7 Traffic Operations and advanced through positions in traffic and utilities at

both the district and state levels. He completed the Succession Planning and Management Development programs. Allen has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Auburn University and is a registered professional engineer in Georgia.



Sheila Smith was appointed manager of the new Customer Service and Relations Center (CSRC) at the general office. Smith, an 18-year veteran of state government, was most recently executive administrative assistant to the Commissioner, Chief Engineer and the Treasurer. She began her

GDOT career as an account specialist in General Accounting and went on to serve as operations assistant in the Office of Financial Management, operations assistant in General Support, special assistant to the chief acquisition officer, and as a legal assistant in Legal Services. She has also assisted with administrative functions for the State Transportation Board. Smith has a wealth of experience performing advanced level administrative functions, working with senior management and providing excellent customer service internally and externally. Smith has an associate degree in accounting from Griffin Technical College.

The Office of Human Resources appointed two GDOT HR veterans to deputy positions.



Dana Kilpatrick, a 15-year GDOT veteran, is deputy HR director for Customer Service, Recruitment and Operations (WFTK, Transactions and Benefits). She also directs operations of the new Customer Service and Relations Center. Most recently, she was HR operations manager. Previous positions include personnel analyst, personnel operations specialist, personnel analysis section manager and HR section manager. She has managed recruitment programs for civil engineers and specialized positions, internships, scholarships, benefits administration and applicant services. She was co-program manager for Succession Planning and was elected as 2017 chair for the Council for State Personnel Administration (CSPA). Kilpatrick has a bachelor of science in marketing from Southern University A&M College.



Brian Robinson is deputy HR director for Safety, Employee Relations, and Classification and Compensation. He has 10+ years of HR experience at Georgia DOT, most recently as administrative officer for District 7. He began his GDOT career in the Intermodal Division before moving

into HR in 2006, where he has served as a recruiter, HR analyst, and employee management relations specialist. Robinson participated in the Succession Planning and Management Development programs. He has a bachelor of science in business administration from Berry College and a master's in public administration from the University of Georgia.



David Norwood was appointed to the position of executive assistant to the chief engineer. Norwood, a 21-year GDOT veteran, was most recently assistant administrator in the Office of Program Control. He has held positions in Program Delivery, Consultant Design and Roadway

Design. Norwood has a bachelor's in civil engineering technology from Southern Polytechnic University.



State Innovative Delivery Administrator **Darryl VanMeter** received the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) 2016 Distinguished Leadership Award in the Owner Category. The award recognizes his leadership in the advancement of design-build and design-build best practices. Since VanMeter volunteered

to lead GDOT's first design-build project more than 10 years ago, nearly \$2 billion in design-build contracts have been awarded.

Georgia DOT bridge projects were regional winners in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' (AASHTO) 2016 America's Transportation Awards. The awards were presented by the Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO).

Broad Avenue Memorial Bridge reconstruction in Albany won in the Best Use of Innovation in the small project category. The \$14 million project replaced an aging bridge over the Flint River to increase access, safety and mobility while preserving its historic character.

The \$8.5 million **Brown Avenue Bridge Project** in Columbus won in the small project Under Budget category. The project, completed \$400,000 under budget, rebuilt two bridges to improve safety and mobility while increasing intermodal access.

America's Transportation Awards recognizes excellence in transportation projects that improve safety, reduce roadway congestion and provide more travel options.

Broad Avenue Memorial Bridge was also named 2016 Transportation Project of the Year in the \$5 million to \$25 million category by the American Public Works Association (APWA) Georgia Chapter.

Implementable research key to AASHTO High-Value Research Award

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Research Advisory Committee recognizes state DOT research projects that demonstrate exceptionally high-value and potential for implementation. GDOT received an AASHTO **High-Value Research** award for **precast pre-stressed concrete piles made with stainless steel reinforcement**, an innovative alternative to traditional steel reinforcement. The concrete piles were used to mitigate bridge pile corrosion on the SR 25/US 17 bridge over Riceboro Creek in Liberty County and on the SR 252 bridges over the Satilla River in Charlton County. Assistant State Research Engineer **David Jared** heads Georgia DOT's Strategic Research Program.

Approach to technology gets high marks for state

Georgia DOT's use of communications technologies to monitor and manage traffic conditions statewide is a major reason for Georgia's grade of A- in use of information technology from the Center for Digital Government in the 2016 Digital States Survey. Georgia also placed first in the category of Enterprise Information Communications and Technology.

"The innovative approach to technology that we see at the Department of Transportation is an outstanding example of the work throughout state government that led to our high grade in the survey," said State Chief Information Officer Calvin Rhodes.

GDOT nationally recognized for IT achievement

Chief Information Officer & Director of Information Technology **Jeff Hill** and the IT team won top honors in the National Association of State Chief Information Officers' (NASCIO) 2016 Recognition Awards, which honor innovation and excellence in the use of information technology in state government.

GDOT's Accessible Platform Initiative won in the category *Digital Government: Government to Citizen*. The honor recognizes the Department taking the technology lead in emergency operations for Georgia.

GDOT wins 2016 Best of ITS Georgia Awards

The Intelligent Transportation Society of Georgia recognizes people and projects that make Georgia a leader in the deployment and operation of intelligent transportation systems.

■ **Statewide Traffic Signal Software Upgrade was named Project of Significance.** The project is converting all 9,500 traffic signals to new signal software, enabling GDOT to understand the performance of each signal by monitoring data that comes in every tenth of a second. New central system software enables real-time monitoring and management of the upgraded signals, which each have a wireless broadband connection. The award was presented to Assistant State Traffic Engineer **Alan Davis**.

■ Georgia DOT won the **Outstanding Public Member Agency Award** as a result of innovations by the Office of Traffic Operations in expanding coverage of the NaviGator network outside of Metro Atlanta with new, additional or updated installations, including Road Weather Information System (RWIS) sensors, CCTV cameras, CMS (changeable message signs) and more. These enable better response to incidents and inclement weather throughout Georgia. **Alan Davis** and Assistant State ITS Engineer **Matt Glasser** accepted the award.

■ Assistant State Traffic Operations Engineer **Mark Demidovich** won the **Larry R. Dreihaupt Award** for his professionalism and dedication in promoting and leading ITS GA, and managing the TMC including its renovation and expansion, and organizing the TMC's 20th anniversary celebration.

Best of Georgia transportation

Commissioner Russell McMurry presented the annual Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality (GPTQ) Preconstruction Design awards at the 2016 Georgia Transportation Summit. The Awards recognize exemplary work, innovation and ingenuity in transportation and infrastructure projects across Georgia.

Georgia DOT's **Office of Bridge Design** won in the *Innovative Solutions to a Design Problem/Best Use of New Products* category for the SR 211 Bridge over Beech Creek in Barrow County.

Top honors went to Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, PLLC for work on the widening of SR 400 in Forsyth County. Other winners were Arcadis U.S., Inc. (2 awards); Qk4, Inc. and Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.; Pond; Gresham, Smith and Partners; R. K. Shah & Associates, Inc.; and Wolverton & Associates, Inc.

GPTQ is a partnership between American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia (ACEC Georgia), Georgia DOT and the Georgia Highway Contractors Association (GHCA).

Georgia DOT recognized by National Guard

Georgia DOT is a strong advocate for employees who serve in all branches of the United States military. In recognition of GDOT's support for employee participation in the National Guard and Reserve, the Department received the **Seven Seals Award**, presented by the EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE – also known as ESRG. National Guard Chief Warrant Officer **Doug Kirkland**, a purchasing manager (negotiator) in GDOT's Transportation Services Procurement Office, nominated Georgia DOT for the award. Kirkland has been with GDOT for 17 years. From 2005 to 2014 he was deployed three times - for stints lasting nine to 14 months - to Iraq, Kosovo and Eastern Europe.

The Department applauds Kirkland and all who serve our nation.



Georgia DOT wins national pollinator management award

The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) awarded GDOT the 2016 **Pollinator Roadside Management Award**, which recognizes transportation agencies who lead in pollinator-friendly roadside practices that boost pollinator habitat for imperiled species. GDOT plants roadside wildflowers statewide with proceeds from the sales of wildflower-themed license plates and hosts a pollinator garden at the welcome center on I-85's The Ray. **Chris DeGrace**, GDOT landscape architect, accepted the award.

- **Bryan Haines**, D2 administrative officer and former state maintenance liaison, was recognized by Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) for his work on the 2016 state winter weather and hurricane response plans and for his role in the activation of the State Operations Center.
- **Office of Traffic Ops** received the 2016 **PEDS Golden Shoe Award** in the Walk-friendly Leadership category for building partnerships and implementing strategies aimed at reversing the upward trend in pedestrian fatalities. Safety Program Manager **David Adams** and State Bicycle and Pedestrian Engineer **Katelyn DiGioia** accepted the award.
- Planning Director **Jay Roberts** was named 2016 **Leader of the Year** by the Georgia Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). Roberts is a former state representative.
- Georgia DOT was recognized for technology achievements at the Georgia Digital Government Summit 2016 **Technology Innovation Showcase**, which provides opportunities to learn and share information about new technologies, trends and their implications for government. State Transportation Data Administrator **Paul Tanner** was a panelist and participated in a session on **Spatially Enabling Government** to leverage geospatial tools for better planning, decision-making, economic development, citizen services and public safety.
- The U.S. Navy recognized Georgia DOT for recovery efforts for the **CSS Georgia**, a confederate civil war iron-clad sunk off the coast of Fort Jackson in South Carolina in 1864. The recovery is part of the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project. Georgia DOT worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Navy and Georgia Ports Authority to recover the battleship.
- **Lisa Mehalko**, assistant contracts manager for the Operational Purchasing Office, was named 2016 **Manager of the Year** by the Georgia Chapter of the Institute for Public Procurement (NIGP).
- Georgia DOT's **Office of Procurement** received a **Governor's Commendation Award** for developing a time-efficient process to handle the addition of HB 170 funds.
- Georgia DOT's **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification program** received the Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance Agency Service Excellence Award. Alliance President Joe Jackson said "Under (EEO Administrator) **Kimberly King's** leadership, the Office of Equal Employment Opportunities has gone beyond certification. It also offers regular support and assistance and ensures DBEs and small businesses are aware of these opportunities."

Learn more about these and other Georgia DOT recognitions at <http://www.dot.ga.gov/AboutGDOT/Awards>



New welcome center showcases Coastal Georgia

Georgia's first brand new Georgia Welcome Center in over a decade opened in March on I-95 southbound near the SR 21 interchange in Chatham County, just across the South Carolina/Georgia state line. The new high-tech facility features efficient computerized HVAC systems and LED lighting. Unique displays like life-size live trees with Spanish moss, and large video screens—created through a public-private partnership between Georgia

DOT, the Golden Isles Convention & Visitors Bureau and Visit Savannah, a division of the Savannah Chamber of Commerce—are designed to enhance the visitor experience. The \$10.2 million facility includes parking for passenger and commercial vehicles, vending machines, picnic areas, pet trails and restrooms. It replaces the previous structure, built more than 40 years ago.

It was a grand opening. Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell R. McMurry and State Transportation Board Member and Secretary Ann R. Purcell (CD 1) showcase the new Welcome Center. The building features dramatic cathedral ceilings, an abundance of natural light and a user-friendly interactive design.



Like a box of chocolates. Georgia DOT Treasurer Angela Whitworth and STB Member Don Grantham (CD 12) share a bench with a life-like Forrest Gump.

Welcome New Employees

*This is an especially exciting time to be a part of the team at Georgia Department of Transportation.
We are pleased to work with you!*

Jordan Jermaine Allen,
Environmental Services
David M. Amburgey, Traffic Operations
Steven Royce Arnold, District 4
Nathaddaeus Demarcus Ashmon, District 3
Justin Price Bailes, District 1
Tywon Bailey, District 7
Claretha Davis Baker, District 5
Shatiana Larae Banks, General Accounting
Amber R. Barlow, Environmental Services
Phillip Scott Bartram, District 5
Gary Battie Jr., District 2
Jarvis M. Battle, General Accounting
Aaron Bradley Beaver Jr., District 6
Paul R. Beaver, District 3
Suncica Beba, Environmental Services
Stuart Eugene Beck Jr., District 1
Tennyson Reed Arnett Bennett, District 4
John David Bergeron, District 5
Kenneth Darrell Bolden, District 1
Justin Garrett Bowen, District 6
Jacquelyn Lee Boyd, District 7
Kenneth Justin Broome, District 6
Michael Alan Brown, District 4
Sidney B. Bryan, District 7
Genine Iesha Bryant, Program Delivery
Omar A. Bryant, District 6
Catherine Goble Buckner, District 6
Haley Faith Budrys, District 2
Raines Jakobbi Bunkley, District 3
Rodney Burns, District 5
Richard Faye Burr Jr., District 4
Norma Sue Burr, District 4
Steven Patrick Bush, District 3
Justin Howard Caheely, District 6
Matthew Kyle Caraway, Maintenance
James Anthony Carpenter, District 6
Eric Renard Carswell II, District 6
Terrica Marshay Causey, Programming
Pennie Antonia Chapple,
General Accounting
Michelle R. Clark, District 2
Jamie Ann Cochran, Intermodal
Sarah M. Cole, Program Delivery
Amanda Collins, District 2
Clayton Douglas Collins,
Environmental Services
Jennifer Tyson Compton, District 3
Roy Leonard Conger, District 4
Clayton R. Cooke Jr., District 7

Terrence Tysean Cooper, District 7
Roy Dwayne Cornwell, District 6
Bobby L. Costley, District 6
Bradley Wayne Coulston, District 2
Troy Latron Culpepper, District 7
Jocelyn Lee Dale, Programming
Curtis Danford Jr., District 2
William Daniels Jr., District 4
Bradley Michael K. Daugherty,
Environmental Services
Kevin Reed Davidson, District 1
Matthew Richard Davis Jr., District 6
Yverose De Saint-Pierre, District 7
Erica L. De Shazor,
Equal Employment Opportunity
Jeffery Louis Decker, District 1
Duane Dennis, Information Technology
Monica Levett Denson,
Equal Employment Opportunity
Verntavies Marqueze Dixon, District 2
Jacob Matthew Drawdy, District 4
Tramika J. Dumas, District 2
Timmy E. Edwards, District 6
Markel L. Elder, Information Technology
Tonya Renae Fair, Intermodal
Brent Alvin Farley Jr., District 2
Reshance Marie Farmer, District 7
Taylor Brian Ferrell, District 4
Ashley Maria Finch, Environmental Services
Angela Lutricia Floyd, District 2
Byron Keith Ford, District 3
Clinton W. Fort, District 5
Dennis Harold Fowler, District 3
Victoria Lynn Fowler, District 6
Jermaine Maurice Fuller,
Information Technology
Jessica Louise Garcia, District 1
Abraham Ghebremeskel, District 3
Danny Wayne Gibson, District 6
Nicole Deluca Glenn, Human Resources
Jameson Jesse Glover, District 3
Sindhuja Gona, Applications
Support & Development
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Troy Anthonio Goyco, District 4
Daniel Alejandro Grajales, District 1
Austin Wayne Gray, District 1
Austin Shang Green, District 6
Michael Brian Green, District 3

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Environmental Compliance
Claude Joseph Grindle, District 1
Tanya Bates Hagwood, District 1
Derrick Stuart Hall, Traffic Operations
William D. Harden II, District 7
Charles Michael Harper II, District 4
Tyler Alexander Harper, District 3
William Brady Hart,
Environmental Compliance
Phillip Demarcus Harvey, District 3
Devondre Hawkins, Traffic Operations
Findley James Henderson III, District 2
Billy R. Henson Jr., District 1
Andrew Martin Fordham Hicks, District 7
Scott Douglas Higley, Communications
Clifton Hill, Traffic Operations
LaTasha Joy Holloman,
Environmental Services
Jabari M. Holloway, District 4
Anthony Charles Holscher, District 1
Daniel W. Horne Jr., Traffic Operations
Shawneithia D. Howard,
General Accounting
Cordell Huckaby, District 2
Michael Antonio Hughley,
Traffic Operations
Antwain J. Jackson, District 3
Fredricka Rene Jackson, District 6
Deborah Lynette Jacobellis, District 1
Bhramaramba Jagatha, District 7
Thomas Fred Jenkins, District 3
Deandra Johnson, District 3
Robert Lester Johnson, Program Delivery
Christopher Dallas Jones, Traffic Operations
Christopher Franklin Jones, District 3
Jason Patrick Jones, Traffic Operations
Keliesha Ayannah Jones, District 2
Michael Hubert Jones, District 4
Spencer William Jones, District 4
Willie James Jones, Traffic Operations
Kiki Kathrine Kawesa, Urban and
Multimodal Design
Jessica Lynn Kennedy, General Accounting
Colson Earl Kennedy, District 3
Ebony Marie Lamar, District 3
Sarah Lamothe, Materials & Research
Grace Iyee Lampton, Urban and
Multimodal Design
Raymond Lane Jr., District 4

Roshni Roseanne Lawrence,
Urban Planning
Nicholas J. Leclair, District 6
William Calvin Leggett IV, District 2
Jana Lynne Griffis Leggett, District 5
Roderick Sanquez Lester, District 2
Keith Lewis, Legal Services
Hong Liang, Applications
Support & Development
Clyde R. Lobaugh, District 6
Charles Lupo, District 5
Nicholas James Lybrand, District 6
Lewis Mack Jr., District 4
Gregory Gene Maddox, District 6
Audrey M. Marable, District 2
Charles Blake Marshall, District 4
James Willard Matuse, District 5
Laverne Sharlana Maxwell, District 3
James Ross McCay, District 1
Marquita A. McClain,
Planning Administration
Britni Rose McCullough, District 3
William Anthony McGaha, District 1
Ian Christian McGhee, Traffic Operations
Camden Tyler McGill, District 6
Kelly Frances McIlraith, District 5
Dontavious Demetrius McKibben, District 7
Sarah A. McKinney, Right-of-Way
Valery Shantel McKinney, District 5
William Jason McLean, District 4
Martin Martinez Medina, District 1
Elizabeth Messick, Environmental Services
Thomas Joseph Michalic Jr., District 2
Melissa Anna Miller, District 5
Joey Alexander Moon,
Information Technology
Abdul Moyeed, Applications
Support & Development
Dennis O. Murray, Program Delivery
Morgan Brittany Nettles,
General Accounting
Morgan Duke Niccoli,
Environmental Services
Owen Thomas Norris Jr., District 2
Nicholas Ajami Paige, District 4
Vilius Pakrošnis, District 2
Eugene Lynne Parrish, District 4
Ryan Thomas Pawlikowski,
Environmental Services

Wesley Allyn Perrine,
Environmental Services
Louis Jay Peterson, District 7
Ronald A. Pilkinton, District 3
Robin T. Pitts, District 3
Borden Stevenson Polk II, District 2
Dylan Ray Poole, District 2
Dylan Mark Pope, District 6
Joshua Lee Powell, District 3
Wayne Alton Powell, District 4
William Pratt, Office of the Commissioner
Tyler Russell Presley, District 4
Terry Allen Price Jr., District 1
Douglas Alexander Pye, District 5
Jonathan C. Quarterman, District 2
Robert Cole Raley, District 2
Marvin M. Rasheed II, District 7
Brandon Dennis Ray, District 5
Kristopher Cole Raybon, Urban Planning
Billy Harris Reeves Jr., District 2
Daniel R. Reeves, District 3
Rodney D. Reeves, District 2
Tyler Wray Reid, District 4
Amy Sarah Riddling, District 1
Andrew Kyle Ritter, Traffic Operations
Britany Shardai Roberson, District 5
Richard Austyn Robinson, District 6
Robert Rogero,
Materials & Research
Michael Dean Saddler, District 2
Daniel Lee Sanford Jr., District 3
Dallas Ryan Sanford, District 6
Matthew D. Savage, District 1
Timothy J. Senter, District 1
Kevin D. Shadix, District 6
Dennis Shelton, District 6
Alva Theodore Sills IV, District 2
Kenneth Singleton, Traffic Operations
Jason R. Smith, District 6
Kelli Rebeca Smith, District 4
Ricky Gene Smith, District 1
Andrea Liane Smith-Calloway,
Program Delivery
Jamie D. Spires, District 4
Tyler Ray Sprayberry,
Environmental Services
Desmond Kenyon Springer,
Information Technology
Justin Allen Squires, District 1
Kelvin Lenoris Stokeling, District 3

Chassade'Ann Stokes, District 7
Katie Evelyn Strickland, District 1
John B. Suko, Traffic Operations
Tyler Julian Sutton, District 4
Karima A. Sweeney, Human Resources
Chad E. Taylor, District 3
Kayla Asiaina Thomas, Rail Program
Casey Adam Patrick Thompkins, District 3
Claudia Shaneka Thompson,
Urban Planning
Preston Roy Thurman, Traffic Operations
Trevor Austin Turk, Traffic Operations
Tabitha Renee Turner, Traffic Operations
Lucas D. Vandermark, District 6
James Nicholas Vaughan, District 4
Jose Carlos Velarde, District 7
Charles Gray Vickery,
Environmental Services
Katherine Elizabeth Vilardo, Urban and
Multimodal Design
Carol Lunette Wade, Traffic Operations
Latasha Denice Walker, District 2
Myron Jorell Walker, District 3
David Zachary Ward, District 3
Rhonda L. Warren-Gardner, District 7
Matthew Derek Webb, District 5
Jesse Rose Wesner, District 5
Michael Tyler Whaley, Urban and
Multimodal Design
James Andrew White, District 6
Rebecca A. Whittle, District 6
Brandon Kenneth Wiggins, District 2
Batrina LaDonna Williams,
General Accounting
David Nathaniel Williams, District 4
Nadine Sherree Williams, Human Resources
E'dras Jerome Willis, District 2
Jacob Glenn Willis, District 4
Rodnicca Niccole Womble, District 2
David Woodcox Jr., District 4
Aaron Quantez Wright,
Traffic Operations
William K. Wyant, Traffic Operations
Elizabeth Wygand, Environmental Services
Eric Bernard Young, District 3

Fulltime non-temporary hires 6/16/16-1/1/17

GDOT mobilizes to combat Mother Nature

Active Year for Stormy Weather

By Liz Rothman

From deadly tornadoes to tropical storms to hurricanes to snow and ice, the state of Georgia sees all kinds of weather extremes. Planning and teamwork— among Georgia DOT districts and employees, and with our partners at the Governor’s Office, Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS), National Weather Service, Georgia State Patrol (GSP) and state and local officials—result in an efficient and proactive response before, during and after extreme weather batters our state and puts our citizens in harm’s way.



Hurricane aftermath. South Georgia.

Tornadoes – Nature’s Most Violent Storms

While tornado “season” in Georgia is March through June, tornadoes can hit at any time of year - including winter. That was evidenced in January when Georgians experienced the fury of multiple tornado outbreaks that resulted in at least 16 deaths and devastated regions of South Georgia.

In the first week of the year, storms and tornadoes slammed the area. Then in late January, at least 41 tornadoes were confirmed to have touched ground, the state’s largest two-day outbreak on record since the mid-20th century. On January 22 an EF3 tornado, with 136-165 mph winds, was on the ground for an hour and 12 minutes, tearing a 70-mile path through parts of five Georgia counties and uprooting or snapping trees along the way - one of the longest tornado tracks on record.

Because tornadoes can develop without warning, Georgia DOT prepares for their impact by mobilizing crews and having equipment on hand to remove debris in order to clear roads and bridges, and open them to traffic as quickly as possible.

“...we always prepare for the worst”

Mother Nature can surprise us, so Georgia DOT and our partners prepare year round to be ready for what she throws at us. Georgia DOT employees are dedicated to doing what it takes to ensure the safety of our citizens and visitors. While we always hope for the best, we always prepare for the worst.

Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell McMurry



All lanes go west. Before Hurricane Matthew struck, eastbound lanes on I-16 became contraflow (reverse lanes) for westbound only travel for the 125 miles from Savannah to Dublin. Georgia DOT can contraflow some other interstates as well for emergencies.

Hurricane Matthew

When Southeast Georgia faced the forces of Hurricane Matthew in early October, Gov. Nathan Deal declared a State of Emergency in 30 counties, including a mandatory evacuation of six coastal counties and low lying areas east of I-95, and a voluntary evacuation of 24 counties. Preparations began days in advance as the State Maintenance Office implemented Georgia DOT’s Hurricane Plan.

Before the storm GEMA/HS activated the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan and opened its operations center in Atlanta. Georgia DOT worked with GEMA/HS and GSP to contraflow I-16 from Savannah to Dublin to allow evacuation traffic to use all lanes for westbound travel. GDOT Highway Emergency Response Operators (HEROs) and GSP strike teams coordinated the process on the ground.

For public safety, due to anticipated gale-force winds, Georgia DOT closed the Sidney Lanier Bridge in Brunswick-Glynn County and the Talmadge Memorial Bridge in Savannah-Chatham County. After the storm, the bridges were inspected and re-opened.



Cleaning up. Once water receded, power companies addressed downed lines, and it was determined safe to enter damaged areas, Georgia DOT crews removed trees and cleared roadways. 795 Georgia DOT personnel deployed to address damage from the hurricane. Photo: Kyle Collins, GDOT

Winter Storm Helena

In early January, Georgia saw **Winter Storm Helena**, the season’s first significant winter weather event. In advance of the storm, Georgia DOT pretreated interstates and state routes in Metro Atlanta (District 7) and North Georgia (District 6) to prevent ice buildup. While snow fell in the northern areas, accumulation was below the prediction for up to six inches of snow and heavy icing. Rain in Metro Atlanta turned to ice and—in spite of sunshine—the cycle of freezing, melting and refreezing resulted in black ice trouble spots. GDOT crews from districts 4 and 5 in South Georgia, and districts 2 and 3 in Central Georgia supported the efforts to keep the roads clear and to keep Georgians safe in the northern regions. Drivers did their part by heeding the warnings to stay home.

“Our obligation – and our commitment – is to provide a safe and connected transportation system to the best of our ability at all times of the year,” Commissioner McMurry said. “The last few winter seasons gave us the opportunity to improve our winter weather response, even under the most unexpected conditions. As a result, Georgia DOT made a significant investment in technology, additional resources and equipment to bring us to the level of preparedness we are at today.”



Storing salt. GDOT stores salt in salt barns centrally located across Georgia. Photo: Kyle Collins, GDOT



Making brine. Brine, a mixture of salt and water, is a preventative treatment that limits the bonding of ice to the pavement. Georgia DOT spread about 600,000 gallons of brine on the interstates for Helena. Photo: Kyle Collins, GDOT



Monitoring roadway conditions Roadway Weather and Information System (RWIS) roadway sensors in 55 locations across Georgia monitor highway road conditions like temperature, precipitation, ice and wind. This technology enables GDOT to determine where to send resources and how to treat roadways based on current circumstances.



Be careful of what you can’t see. When wet roads freeze, the threat of black ice is possible. Black ice is a thin, often invisible sheet of ice that forms on the roadway, especially on bridges and overpasses and low lying areas. It can form when there is moisture on the road and temperatures drop below freezing.

You’ve seen the signs. So why do bridges freeze before roads? The simple answer is that a bridge is exposed to air on all surfaces – top, bottom and sides - while a normal road surface on solid ground is exposed to air only on one side – the top. So when temps drop to freezing, bridges cool (lose heat) faster and accumulate snow and ice faster than roadways. The heat trapped within a road tends to stay there longer, lengthening the time it takes the surface to freeze. So the bridge may freeze even when the road surface does not.



Safety is Georgia DOT's number one priority. Whether it's public safety on the roads OR the safety of our workers in work zones or at their desks, safety is an essential component of all that we do. Yet, in spite of this focus on safety, the last two years have seen pedestrian fatalities up **40%**, motor vehicle fatalities up **33%** and GDOT worker injuries up **13%**.



Walker safety is a shared responsibility

Pedestrians - people on foot or in wheelchairs - are among the most vulnerable users of the road. Georgia DOT's See & Be Seen campaign speaks to both drivers and pedestrians. It tells drivers to watch for - SEE - people walking and it tells walkers to make sure they are SEEN by drivers. About a third of walker fatalities are attributed to a motorist not yielding to a pedestrian and another third are attributed to a pedestrian.



The stats are staggering. 2016 ended with 236 pedestrian fatalities in Georgia. That's 14% more than 2015, a total of 40% more deaths since 2014!

SEE & BE SEEN! Drivers and walkers have a shared responsibility to look out for each other to keep pedestrians safe.

- Everyone: Pay attention
 - Do not walk or drive distracted
 - Avoid using electronic devices and cell phones; no headphones
- Walkers: See & Be Seen
 - Be visible and act predictably - cross where you can be seen
 - At night, carry a light or wear reflective clothing
- Drivers: Slow down and watch for people walking
 - The faster the speed of a vehicle, the less likely you can stop before hitting a pedestrian AND the more likely they will die if struck
 - 9 out of 10 pedestrians die when struck at 40 mph

See & Be Seen is the pedestrian safety component of Georgia DOT's Drive Alert Arrive Alive campaign to reduce crashes and fatalities on Georgia's roadways. See & Be Seen was developed in partnership with PEDS. We aim to make it safer to walk in Georgia. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/SBS or www.peds.org.

The Problem: Traffic fatalities rising; seatbelt use declining. After a decade of consistent decreases in fatalities on Georgia's roads, the trend reversed in 2015 and continued to increase in 2016 with 1,559 people dead on Georgia's roads. That's a 33% increase in two years. Many of these deaths are due to preventable single vehicle crashes - the result of distraction. Another issue - seatbelt use among victims dropped by 8% during the two years.

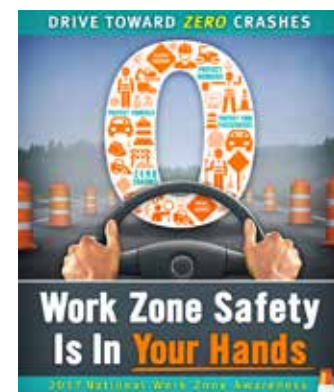


The Solution: Drive responsibly. It is a matter of life and death.

1. Buckle up - a seat belt could save your life in the event of a crash
2. Stay off the phone and mobile devices (even hands-free is a distraction). No texting (it's against the law). Just drive.
3. Drive alert. Do not drive drowsy or impaired.
4. Drive a safe and appropriate speed for conditions.

If saving lives isn't enough to change your driving behavior, consider this. Georgia's traffic fatalities last year resulted in a financial loss of \$13.6 billion to society. Injuries to 79,247 people resulted in a loss of over \$75 billion to Georgians (includes loss of wages and medical expenses; does not include property damage).

Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DAAA.



Remember Georgia's Move-Over Law - drivers must move-over one lane or slow down and be prepared to stop when approaching a stationary law enforcement, emergency vehicle, construction crew or utility service vehicle utilizing traffic cones or displaying flashing emergency lights. This includes our HEROs and CHAMPS.

Inspiring safety-first culture at GDOT

Many injuries are preventable
To address an increase in the number of preventable workplace accidents, Georgia DOT launched the Safety On My Mind employee campaign in fall 2016. The goal is to heighten employee safety awareness, reduce workplace injuries and prevent tragic fatalities.



The top causes for preventable on-the-job vehicle accidents during the last few years are misjudged clearance and backing up. The top causes for preventable non-vehicle injuries are slips and falls, shoveling, digging, lifting and being struck against or by an object.

In 2016, 213 (63%) of the 337 work-related injuries were deemed preventable. 307 injuries required medical care and **95** cases involved lost work days. There were **82** injuries as a result of slips, trips and falls from walking, climbing, entering or exiting equipment. There were **32** injuries from tasks that require shoveling, digging or lifting, and **27** as a result of striking or being struck by a stationary or moving object. There were **27** injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents, but only **3** were preventable. Due to workplace injuries, employees lost 3,100 days of work during a three-year period.

While there were no workplace employee deaths in 2014 or 2015, in 2016 HERO Moses King died from injuries he sustained in a 2015 work zone crash while he assisted a motorist on the highway.

"Many of these accidents and injuries can be prevented by simply being cautiously aware of your surroundings and always putting safety first," said Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell McMurry. "I ask all managers, supervisors and employees to commit to making safety an essential part of all that we do whether it's walking into our offices; working at our desks; lifting equipment; or using a work vehicle and major equipment."

Safety On My Mind

THINK. LOOK. DO.

■ **THINK safety first and foremost.** Personal safety and the safety of co-workers is the first thing we must **THINK** about when preparing to do our jobs.

■ **LOOK at our surroundings and be aware of safety hazards.** Take time to analyze the situation; pay attention to vehicles, equipment and objects.

■ **DO only what is safe.** DO NOT take shortcuts.



Employees - visit MyGDOT.

Safety training.

Training is a focus of Safety On My Mind. And the top priority is to train maintenance teams about the importance of performing a job hazard analysis (JHA) before starting a job, as well as following standard operating procedures (SOP) while performing the work.

"The plan is to have field maintenance employees complete SOP and JHA training by the end of June," State Safety Manager Bob Maguire said. "In July we plan to offer construction inspectors the OSHA 10-hour construction course. We will also update or implement a number of safety programs - from blood-borne pathogens to office safety."

Hazardous materials training mandatory (even if you work at a desk)

As an employee of the State of Georgia, you have the right to know about hazardous chemicals in the workplace. This right is guaranteed under Georgia's "Public Employee Hazardous Chemical Protection and Right to Know Act of 1988" (O.C.G.A. 45-22-2). Register for the MANDATORY annual Right-To-Know online training about working with hazardous materials. After you click the ELMS icon on mygdot, search for "Right-To-Know Mandatory Training" and click enroll to take the 15 minute web-based course.

"Our end goal is to ensure the safety of Georgia DOT employees by embracing Safety On My Mind," the Commissioner said. "Please join me in putting safety first."

Top Statewide Honors



The Wayne Shackelford Leadership Award, Georgia DOT's highest tribute, is presented to an employee who demonstrates exceptional leadership, commitment to the Department, and service to the public. The 2016 recipient is **Timothy Toomey** of District 3, project manager for the I-75 Managed Lanes project. When Toomey's supervisor separated from GDOT, Toomey remained as the only supervisor in the Area 1 Construction Office. He confronted challenges directly, and not only performed all tasks assigned to him, but also those that weren't assigned to him. He has a wealth of knowledge, takes pride in his work and has vigilantly led the Area 1 Office and the I-75 Managed Lanes project. Toomey is an extraordinary leader and an invaluable asset.



The **Team Award** recognizes a team that makes exceptional contributions—with measurable results—toward the achievement of Georgia DOT goals. The 2016 team winner is the **District 1/ Jackson County Area Wide Crew: (from L-R) Henry Nicely, Aaron Reaves, Jeremiah Owensby, Wilford Hall, Ray Harris, Joe Swinney, Tim Brown, Ricky Smith, Randy McDaniel. Commissioner Russell McMurry is far right.** They perform deep base patching for the roads within the District 1 Area 2 region. Previously, a labor intensive process was used to remove and replace areas to be patched. The team began looking at how they could improve their patching construction methods. The improved process they developed enabled them to increase production by more than 50 percent. Their self-evaluation coupled with determination to implement a more efficient plan resulted in a tremendous success.

Safety Awards

- District 2 - Most Improved Medical Treatment Record
- District 3 - Most Improved Lost Time Injury Record
- District 4 - Best Preventable Vehicle Accident Record and Most Improved Preventable Vehicle Accident Record
- District 5 - Most Improved Overall Safety Record
- District 6 - Best Overall Safety Record and Best Medical Treatment Record
- District 6 - Best Lost Time Injury Record



Dexter Whaley of the Office of Bridges and Structures is the recipient of the **Innovator Award**, which honors an employee who has made a difference in the way GDOT conducts business. Using emerging technologies and innovative materials to accelerate bridge construction and to provide a durable structure that will last 100 years, Whaley completed the replacement of the SR 211 Bridge over Beech Creek in Barrow County. This first use in Georgia of full-depth precast deck panels for new bridge construction enabled the contractor to remove the old bridge and construct the replacement within the limited 60-day road closure deadline. Whaley is forward thinking, innovative and determined.



The **Community Service Award** is for volunteerism that improves the lives of others. This year's recipient - **Robbie Hunter** of the Office of Communications - dedicates herself to others in GDOT and in her community. Whether she's managing the Warm Coats collection for homeless families, helping employees request assistance from the Employee Sharing fund, garnering grants for kids in her community, chairing her neighborhood planning unit, or serving on the Atlanta Commission on Women, Hunter clearly has a passion for helping others. She received the Catalyst Award from the Community Empowerment Development Corporation for her community service.

Commissioner's Merit & Achievement Awards

The Commissioner's Merit Award is presented for exceptional service, achievement and high quality work that positively impacts citizens, the workforce, business partners or operations.

D1 - Jeremy Barnes, area wide foreman. Under his leadership, Franklin County was the first county on I-85 to have a cable barrier system installed. This has saved lives.

D2 - Jessie Mountain, highway maintenance foreman. Worked his way through the ranks and earned the respect of peers. He emphasizes safety and his crew achieves timely and quality results.

D3 - TFA 2015 Team: Michelle Jordan, Wesley Kennedy, Brian Johnston, Ashley Greene, Mike Smith, Jeffery Butler, Kimberly Larson, James Fisher, Ryan Kellett, Sharon Young. Displayed exceptional teamwork in implementing processes for Invitations to Bid and Rapid Response projects.

D4 - Cecil Brown, highway maintenance foreman. Proactively resolves issues before they escalate. His peers, external customers and community leaders benefit from his superb work and gregarious spirit.

D5 - Jeanne Fenn, procurement manager. When Procurement went through an alignment, Fenn handled an increased workload with high quality work and excellent customer service.

D6 - Contracts Administration Team: Kathy Hall, contracts manager and **Bridget Hardin**, district contracts associate. Despite an unprecedented increase in construction work, their innovative methods enabled a record number of contract amendments to be accomplished.

D7 - Danah Bonny, utilities specialist. Her efforts in overseeing review and approval/denial of utility permits contributed to her team's reduction in permit turnaround time from 10 to 7 days.

Division of Administration/General Counsel - Barbara Pratt, Workers' Compensation and Return to Work manager. Reviews GDOT accident reports including vehicle, Workers' Compensation, and liability claims. Goes above and beyond to resolve issues.

Division of Construction - Aziza Branson, Construction Bidding prequalification technician. Contractors and subcontractors are often surprised by her efforts to expedite their certificates and resolve issues.

Division of Engineering - Carol Kalafut, civil engineer, Office of Bridges and Structures. Her participation in gathering data, screening and tracking Low Impact Bridge Projects was a catalyst for her to rewrite the LIBP Manual.

Division of Finance/Cash Disbursement Unit: Josh Pearson, cash disbursement supervisor and **Anna Sagle**, PS accountant. While the unit size decreased by half, the team maintained high standards in processing vendor payments, reviewing voucher accuracy and more.

Division of Intermodal - Ariel Heckler, rail planner. Took a leadership role in the Atlanta to Charlotte and Atlanta to Chattanooga passenger rail planning projects.

Division of Permits and Operations - Eric Conklin, Transportation Data group leader. His model of leadership fosters a productive, open and collaborative working environment.

Division of P3/Program Delivery - 285-400 Interchange Reconstruction P3 Procurement Leadership Team: Chip Meeks, Albert Welch, Marlo Clowers, Selena Helms, Matt Cline. The project reached the milestone of Financial Close. Their teamwork and expertise serves as a foundation for the future of P3 in Georgia.

Division of Planning - Henry Green, transportation planner. Manages the Atlanta MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and ensures accurate reflection of GDOT funded projects in the TIP.

Deputy Commissioner's Staff - Centennial Team: Office of Communications and other work units. **Mohamed Arafa, Annalysce Baker, Karlene Barron, Ron Battle, Pamela Baughman, Cindy Bennett, Nita Birmingham, Teresa Booker, Binh Bui, Kim Coley, Ginger Collins, Kyle Collins, Dee Corson, Aleta Edwards, John Greenwood, Stephanie Griner, Kimberly Larson, Katina Lear, Sylvia McDaniel, Mary Mitchell, Cedric Mohr, Jill Nagel, Ekaette Okonmkaeto, Liz Rothman, Amala Sarvepalli, Margie Sloan, Zina Stephens, Katie Strickland, Tabari Sturdivant, Teresa Tootle, Kiisa Wiegand, Stardina Wyche.** Met monthly for two years to plan GDOT's centennial activities. Their teamwork and commitment led to year-long recognition of Georgia DOT's positive impact on the state.

Chief Engineer's Staff - Office of Engineering Services: Matthew Sanders, value engineering specialist. Provides outstanding leadership and management of Georgia DOT's Value Engineering program; was key to success of the Cost Estimating Purpose policy.



Commissioner's Achievement Award is presented for outstanding service or achievement, a creative idea or innovation that has a positive impact.

D1 Dale Sutton, district signal engineer. Responsible for maintenance and operation of over 400 traffic signals. Respected for his extensive knowledge and his leadership skills.

D2 Shirley Sumner, district procurement manager. When her promotion left a void in the maintenance office, Sumner ensured that district maintenance responsibilities were met.

D3 SR 16 @ SR 54 Roundabout Team, composed of 68 members from multiple work units. Converted an all-way stop with a history of backups to a mini-roundabout in six hours on-site, resulting in a significant reduction in project delay.

D4 Shannon Bradford, district construction estimator. Spearheaded efforts to administer district Quick Response projects. Recently promoted to district state aid coordinator.

D5 District 5 Design Office: Maggie Yoder, Keith Stewart, Travis Dent, Teresa Tootle, Emily Wingate, James Sapp, Billy Dampier, Jonathan Martinez, Joel Anderson. Their exceptional work ethic and accomplishments are a testament to their unique talents, organizational commitment and character.

D6 Robert Grimes, road surface profiler, Materials Office. Grimes embraced the challenges caused by a staff reduction, a work load increase and an unpredictable schedule, with quality work and exceptional service.

D7 District 7 Survey Team. Under the direction of **Carlos Dizon** and **Clyde Reece**, team members **Peter Babb, Mike Fowler, Ramon Daniel Espinol, James Henry Gable, Ernesto Generao, Jason R. Jones, James T. Pattman, Mohammed Rafik Shaikh** and **Doy Tucker** offer innovation, a "can do" attitude and flexibility in responding to changing priorities.

Division of Administration/General Counsel – Human Resources Analyst Team: Deana Brown, Walt Casteel, Dana Kilpatrick, Charles Lawrence, Thuy McLendon, Pauline Moon, Kelli Rogers, Walter Rhett. Demonstrates exemplary service in delivery of GDOT's statewide job classification and career path project.

Division of Construction - WECS Manual Revision Team: Bryan Gibbs, Noelia Jaramillo, Kelly Hairston. Seamlessly and quickly updated the Worksite Erosion Control Supervisor manual for compliance with new national and state guidelines.

Division of Engineering – Madeline White, senior transportation historian. White initiated the Dixie Highway Historic Context Study, and originated/managed production of the public outreach documentary "Down the Dixie Highway," aired by Georgia Public Broadcasting. Visit <https://vimeo.com/108224665>.

Division of Finance - GDOT's 500 Series Federal Reporting Team: Tiona Staples, Leslie Peterson, Hema Chaudhari. The team took the daunting task of compiling GDOT's financial data for the 500 Series Federal Reports by automating many calculations and labor intensive processes. Their work reaps significant benefits in saving time and in providing accurate data to FHWA.

Division of Intermodal – Michael Somersall, state safety oversight manager. In just a few years, Somersall became the Department's subject matter expert on SSO. To ensure compliance with federal safety and security requirements, he also provides technical assistance and guidance oversight for MARTA and the Atlanta Streetcar.

Division of Permits and Operations - Traffic Signal Maintenance Group: Mike Govus, Emily Horne, Odane Samuels, BK Patel, Ken Glore, Carl Brown, Hayward Wood, Kelly Garrett. The group has accelerated the performance and outcomes of signal maintenance across Georgia.

Division of P3/Program Delivery - Derrick Brown, D1 program manager. Seeking an automated way to track his group's metric by using information available in TPRO web, Primavera and TRAQS, Brown developed a system that notifies a project manager through email of actions needed based on the project's baseline schedule. This improved operations statewide, as his notification report has been adopted in the other districts.

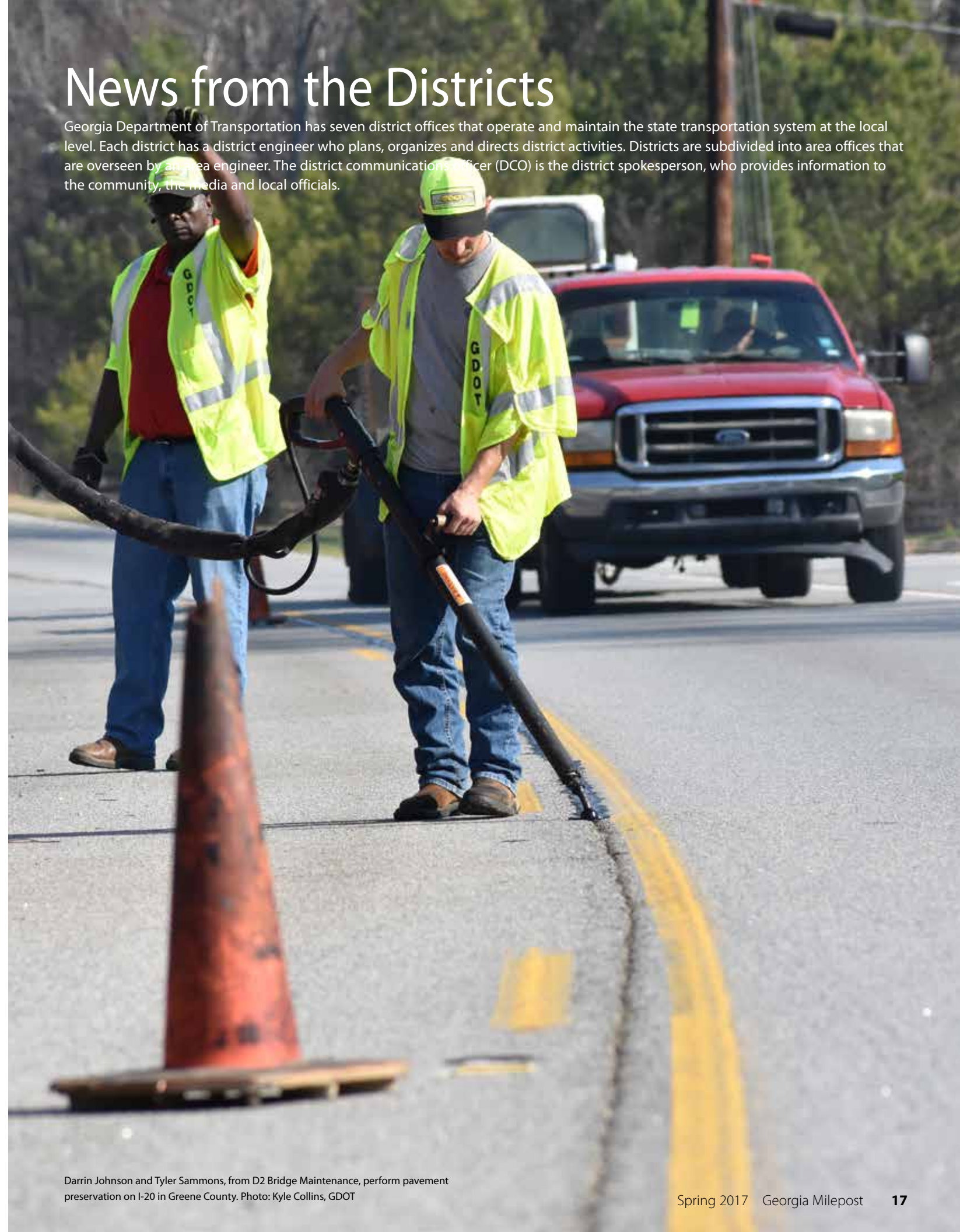
Division of Planning - Ryan Walker, scenic byways coordinator. As GDOT's contact for the local sponsors during multiple stages of the scenic byways approval process, Walker's diligent management resulted in the successful designation of the Historic Dixie Highway as Georgia's 15th scenic byway.

Deputy Commissioner's Staff - Organizational Performance Management/Review – Agency Performance Management Team: Rachel Brown, Tony Giasi, Arguetta Ruffin. The team developed performance metrics that gauge success in achieving office and district goals and objectives. This a big step towards a culture of performance management.

Chief Engineer's Staff - Environmental Compliance Bureau: Daryl L. Williams, Olufemi Olowe, Samantha Henry, Sherry Kowtko, Franklin Lamb. To ensure that the Department is compliant with environmental regulations, ECB conducts inspections of statewide construction and maintenance activities and has reduced the number of citations issued from regulatory agencies.

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 that 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.



Darrin Johnson and Tyler Sammons, from D2 Bridge Maintenance, perform pavement preservation on I-20 in Greene County. Photo: Kyle Collins, GDOT



District 1

Gainesville/Northeast Georgia
KATIE STRICKLAND
District Communications Officer
kstrickland@dot.ga.gov

ONE

Ready. Set. Snow.

District One sees its share of snow and ice, and because of that, winter weather preparations start in early fall. Brine production and testing equipment—like snow plows—happen way before snow or ice is ever mentioned on the news.

READY SET SNOW was hosted by the Gainesville District Office on a blue-sky day in January. The media were invited to put on a yellow reflective vest, to see who we are, the equipment we use, and to discuss the prep work we do months ahead of the threat of winter weather. Among other things, we emphasized that during a winter weather event, it is essential for the media to give us room to move our dump trucks and snow plows in order to pretreat roads or clear them of snow and ice.

This was our first READY SET SNOW event and D1 District Engineer Brent Cook, P.E. plans to host it again for next winter.

"I would also like to have more events that focus on other offices, construction, preconstruction, design, all the elements that make the GDOT puzzle come together and create the bigger picture," Cook said. "Educating the press in a setting geared to inform was successful."



The new bridge is being built next to the aging "big green bridge," which will be demolished after the replacement is completed. Photo: Katie Strickland, GDOT

Replacing structurally deficient and distinctive 60-year-old green steel truss bridge

Bolling Bridge, built in 1956, carries SR 53 over the Chestatee River at Lake Lanier. Due to the low clearance (15 feet) of the overhead trusses above the bridge deck, the bridge has been struck numerous times by vehicles. The bridge is fracture critical—it lacks redundancy in the main structural elements—and cannot be repaired. It also exhibits some cracking and lacks structural integrity. It is being replaced by a new bridge that will not have a truss system.

There are no reasonable detour routes, so to maintain traffic during construction, the replacement bridge is being built beside the old bridge. The new bridge, valued at \$20 million, is expected to open to traffic in March 2019. Once it opens, the old bridge will be demolished.



The CHAMP launch. Photo: Cedric Mohr, GDOT

CHAMP hits the road in D1

The CHAMP trucks landed and started operations in District One in February. We are proud to be the first district to roll-out the service. CHAMP operators are the eyes on the road for incident management, roadway maintenance issues and motorist assistance. In D1, this begins on I-85 at SR 20 and goes all the way to the South Carolina state line. CHAMP trucks are outfitted to conquer almost anything from an emergency related lane closure to a flat tire. CHAMP trucks carry extra fuel, air compressors, special push bumpers to move vehicles out of travel lanes, and can activate the overhead message board with the touch of a button.



Leadership Development graduates J. Lynn Palmer, Roger Mealor, Kevin Dewitt, Troy Tucker, Jonathan Dills, Natasha Davis, and L. Deneen Walters are flanked by previous graduates and program champions Nolan Knight and Kevin York. Brent Cook is center front and Brian Robinson in second from right in back. Photo: Katie Strickland, GDOT

District One Leadership Development 2nd phase graduation

District One's 18-month training program, created by District Engineer Brent Cook and Deputy HR Director Brian Robinson, helps identify leaders and build relationships. The training demands classroom time, field experience, and a challenging six-week public speaking class.

"These folks had to stick with it, and really put a value on finishing the training program," Cook said. "Participation is vital to make the most of this training."



District 2

Tennille/East Central Ga.
KYLE COLLINS
District Communications Officer
kcollins@dot.ga.gov

TWO

Madison salt barn supports winter storm response

Georgia DOT recently established a salt barn and brine production facility off I-20 westbound at the Morgan County rest area. This barn serviced major District Two routes before and during Winter Storm Helena and also supported Metro Atlanta treatment operations. Overall, District Two spread 35,500 gallons of brine and 203 tons of salt during the event.



Brine operation. Photo: Larry Morris, GDOT

Fall Line Freeway section opens

The 9.1 mile Fall Line Freeway (FLF) project, encompassing Baldwin and Wilkinson counties, opened to traffic in October. The \$76.2 million construction project includes a newly relocated roadway with four lanes and median from US 441 northeast in Wilkinson County to SR 24 in Baldwin County, as well as eight bridges with the largest a double-bridge spanning 1,500 feet over the Oconee River.

"It was a great day in Baldwin County," said Baldwin County Commission Chair Sammy Hall. "It's a beautiful asset to our community to have those new bridges and the Fall Line Freeway."



A view from above. Photo: Larry Morris, GDOT



Keg Creek Bridge. Photo: Larry Morris, GDOT

Keg Creek Bridge and roadway improvement enhances safety and recreation

Early December saw the early completion of the \$10.6 million Keg Creek roadway improvement and bridge project.

A required a detour was placed in May 2015 to ensure public safety, decrease project cost and mitigate wetland impact. State Transportation Board Vice-Chair and 10th Congressional District representative Jamie Boswell thanked E.R. Snell Contractor Inc. for a tremendous job on a "much needed project" that improves highway safety and travel.

"I also appreciate the citizens of Columbia County and surrounding counties for their patience during this 18-month construction period," Boswell said. "A special thank you to our Georgia DOT District Office personnel and all who were a part of seeing this task to completion."

In addition to a new bridge, the Keg Creek location on SR 47 features a southbound passing lane for drivers coming from Lincolnton to Appling. The realignment of Eubank Drive, straightening and flattening of the grade on SR 47 and installation of passing lanes create optimal, safe travel conditions.

Recreational access was also enhanced with a parking area and walkway continuing under the Keg Creek Bridge and stopping at the mouth of Bartram Trail.



District 3

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

The **2017 Youth Leadership Upson** visited and toured the District 3 Office. Through education, networks, involvement and personal enrichment, the comprehensive and results-oriented leadership development program is designed to inspire and prepare graduates to be active and effective leaders in the Upson County community. Youth Leadership Upson is administered by the Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce.



Photo: Kimberly Larson, GDOT

Opening of two phases of SR 96

Phases I and II of the State Route 96 widening project opened to traffic in December. The \$41 million construction project phases include widening the existing 2-lane rural road to a 4-lane highway with grassed median and bike lanes. The projects began at I-75 and continued to just east of Moody Road.

These two completed phases are part of a six-phase project that continues into Twiggs County and improves truck access and provides a multi-lane facility connector between I-75 and I-16.



Past and present Georgia DOT officials and other dignitaries cut the ribbon on the SR 96 project. Front row: (far left) Tim Golden, State Transportation Board member, CD 8; (3rd from left) Larry Walker, former State Transportation Board member; (2nd from right) Harold Linnenkohl, former GDOT commissioner; (far right) Russell McMurry, GDOT commissioner. Photo Kimberly Larson, GDOT

Phase 3 is currently under construction and continues to Thompson Mill Road. Phases 4 and 5 will continue the connection of SR 96 from Old Hawkinsville Road to I-16. Phase 6, was completed in June 2016.

Employee Appreciation

Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell McMurry, District Engineer Michael Presley and district staff enjoyed D3's 2016 Annual Employee Appreciation Day event, which included award presentations.



We are proud of our own Tim Toomey, project manager for the I-75 Managed Lanes Project, who won Georgia DOT's top statewide honor - the Wayne Shackelford Leadership Award. See page 14.



Teresa Booker, retired district safety officer, accepted D3's statewide Most Improved Lost Time Injury Award.



D3's TFA Team received the Commissioner's Merit Award. The team consists of Michelle Jordan, Wesley Kennedy, Brian Johnston, Ashley Greene, Mike Smith, Jeffery Butler, Kimberly Larson, James Fisher, Ryan Kellett, Sharon Young. Their exceptional teamwork was crucial in implementing processes for Invitations to Bid and Rapid Response projects. To date, this team is responsible for prioritizing, approving and awarding over 38 contracts at almost \$16 million dollars. These contracts relieved a backlog of maintenance needs by allowing us to perform more routine maintenance (pothole repair, grass mowing, striping and guardrail repair), safety and operational projects and rapid response projects.



The D3 Roundabout Team received the Commissioner's Achievement Award. The intersection of SR 16 and SR 54, one Coweta County's few all-way stops, had a long history of intersection delay. District Three recognized the need to act. Rather than wait 2-3 years before construction of a large project, members of the District's many work units met on site and began the process of converting the all-way stop to a mini roundabout. Work began at 6 p.m. and was completed in six hours. Results have been positive, with a significant reduction in delay during peak hours. This incredible example of teamwork among 68 team members from multiple work units speaks volumes to the abilities of our staff to work together and accomplish a goal.



District 4

Tifton/Southwest Ga.
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District Communications Officer
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FOUR

The BIG clean-up

Cleanup was the focus of District 4 employees for the first few months of 2017 as Southwest Georgia recovered from a series of severe storms and deadly tornadoes that slammed the area.

"This was truly a tragic and challenging time for residents in this region, and our hearts go out to the victims' families," District Engineer Chad Hartley said. "Georgia DOT's resources were utilized to ensure the routes in our communities remained safe and open to the traveling public. We were very happy to contribute to the recovery efforts of our local municipalities and counties."

Severe storms that produced straight-line winds and tornadoes hit the area Jan. 2. Clean up was still under way when tornadoes struck again Jan. 22. Roads and bridges were undamaged, but plenty of downed trees impacted travel and created an urgency to clear roads to open them to traffic. District crews provided manpower and dump trucks, loaders and chain saws to help clear debris on state routes and local road rights-of-way in areas included in the governor's state of emergency declarations. In January and February, Georgia DOT removed more than 1,800 dump truck loads of storm debris from state routes in Baker, Brooks, Cook, Crisp, Dougherty, Mitchell, Thomas, Turner, Wilcox and Worth counties. There are seven yards per load, on average, for a total of 12,600 cubic yards of debris. Dougherty represented the bulk of the total. Some maintenance employees worked seven days straight for a time.

The Jan. 22 storms resulted in massive downed oak trees, as well as an estimated \$500,000 in damage to signs and traffic signals. For driver safety it was critical to get traffic signals up and running and to quickly repair one-way, do not enter, stop and yield signs. District sign shop and signal maintenance employees worked tirelessly to get the job done. Some signals operated on generators rented by Georgia DOT because of delays in restoring power to the area.

Trees were also ripped down at the I-75 north and south rest areas in Turner County. The rest areas, which were being renovated when the damage occurred, were not open. They reopened in late March.

Several D4 employees lost their homes due to the destructive tornadoes. They are in our thoughts and prayers.

Annual Meeting

Fun, food, music, comradery and speeches were on the agenda when District 4 held its annual meeting in November at the E.B. Hamilton Complex in Tifton. There were also awards. Congratulations to Cecil Brown and Shannon Bradford who each received a Commissioner's Award. District 4 was also recognized with Safety Awards for the Best Preventable Vehicle Accident Record and Most Improved Preventable Vehicle Accident Record.



Cutting large tree limbs for removal from a state route right of way in Dougherty County. Photo: Kyle Collins, GDOT



Georgia DOT Signal Technician Kyle Griffin repairs signals in Albany. Photo: Lisa Rodriguez-Presley, GEMA/HS



District 5

Jesup/Southeast Ga.
JILL NAGEL
District Communications Officer
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FIVE



New DDI expected to enhance safety, reduce congestion

The I-95 and SR 21 diverging diamond interchange (DDI) in the City of Port Wentworth in Chatham County opened to traffic in January.

The unique DDI design crosses traffic to the opposite side of the road across an interchange, so vehicles have unimpeded movement onto freeway ramps. DDIs eliminate left-turn movements onto the interstate that are typical with standard four-way interchanges. DDIs are shown to improve safety, reduce delay and increase traffic flow.

In addition to the revamped interchange design, construction added an auxiliary lane on northbound and southbound I-95 and reconfigured SR 21 from Hendley Road to SR 30.



The new \$6.3 million DDI in Chatham County is Georgia's first diverging diamond interchange outside Metro Atlanta. It is also the state's first DDI featuring an interstate off-ramp with triple-left turn capability. Photo: Jill Nagel, GDOT

Southeast Regional Equipment Operators' Safety Conference held in Savannah

In September, GDOT hosted 450 people from 10 states for the 14th annual Southeastern Regional Equipment Operators' Safety Conference, which provides safety training and promotes skill advancement for heavy equipment operators. Classes include judging clearances while operating equipment and pre-tip inspections. District 5 employees Grady Bennett in Backhoe Operations and Tony Clarke in Motor Grader Operations placed third in the ROADEO competition. Tennessee was the overall winner.

District Five Annual Meeting

District Five employees gathered in December at Coastal Pines Technical College in Jesup for their 2016 Annual Meeting for fellowship and to acknowledge the accomplishments of co-workers. The staff enjoyed a traditional Christmas meal along with team building activities, guessing booths, games and giveaways.

District Engineer Brad Saxon led a program with Executive Staff and State Transportation Board Member Ann R. Purcell with thanks and appreciation to employees for their service and dedication, especially those who worked tirelessly during inclement weather events.

Deputy Commissioner Mike Dover announced employee awards as Commissioner Russell McMurry and DE Saxon presented them.



Jeanne Fenn, Commissioner's Merit Award.



Commissioner's Achievement Award, Design Office – Joel Anderson, Jonathan Martinez, Teresa Tootle, Emily Wingate, Maggie Yoder (not pictured Keith Stewart, Travis Dent, Billy Dampier, James Sapp).



Vicki Thornton, Safety Award.



Construction Award recipient is Area 1 – Area Engineer Anthony Cook (2nd from right) and District Construction Engineer Cory Knox (far right). Marc Mastronardi, GDOT Director of Construction is in center.



District Staff Ginger Collins, Margie Sloan and Jill Nagel were acknowledged for their role as part of Georgia DOT's Centennial Committee that received a Merit Award.



District 6

Cartersville/Northwest Ga.
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SIX

Paving the way to prosperity and better quality of life

It is no secret that a high quality regional transportation network is vital to a top performing economy anywhere and Georgia DOT District 6 in northwest Georgia is no exception. In addition to being part of the Metro Atlanta area, which has witnessed one of the fastest growth rates in the nation, D6 includes a mountain region blessed with natural resources and scenic vistas that are attracting growth and development on an unprecedented scale.

In District 6, Georgia DOT has built and maintains over 366 interstate lane miles and has also built and helps maintain some county roads and city streets. The need for smart investment in the transportation infrastructure of the region is exponentially growing.

Thanks to the Transportation Funding Act of 2015, Georgia DOT can now address the region's transportation challenges in a timely manner. In 2015, District 6 had 19 construction projects with total investment of just over \$230 million. These numbers more than doubled in 2016. Early 2017 saw 69 projects under construction with a total investment of over \$480 million.

In addition to these major investments in the region's transportation infrastructure, preventive and routine maintenance has kicked into high gear. This includes pavement preservation, patching potholes, bridge joint repairs, pipe repairs, litter pick-up and mowing. This work offers significant opportunities for small businesses. In 2016, D6 awarded 43 contracts valued at \$18.5 million for pavement preservation, short line striping, concrete rehabilitation, vegetation removal and landscaping. It also awarded 21 Rapid Maintenance Response contracts worth \$2.3 million.

"All this maintenance work is vital for protecting the investments made in our highways and maintaining the integrity and safety of the state route system in our 17-county area," said Glenn Warlick, assistant district maintenance manager. "It is a huge work load, one we gladly accept in order to help make a difference in the lives of all northwest Georgia residents."



Newly resurfaced I-95 in Catoosa and Whitfield counties. Photo: David Sullivan, GDOT

Exceptional service and innovation recognized

D6 employees were recognized for their innovation, achievement, quality work and outstanding service that have had positive impact on the citizens of northwest Georgia. Commissioner Russell McMurry and District Engineer DeWayne Comer were on hand for the 2016 annual awards.



Road surface profiler and 18-year GDOT veteran Robert Grimes received the Commissioner's Achievement Award for his outstanding service to Georgia DOT construction employees and contractors for projects in D6 and D1.



The Contract Administration team of Bridget Hardin and Kathy Hall received the Commissioner's Merit Award for their innovative transfer of the increasing contract amendment work from a paper process to a more efficient electronic system.



As District Communications Officer, I was proud to receive a Commissioner's Merit Award as part of Georgia DOT's Centennial Team.



District 7

Chamblee/Metro Atlanta Ga.

TORI A. BROWN

District Communications Officer

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SEVEN



I-285/SR 400 Interchange Project

Transform 285/400 is designed to help reduce traffic congestion and enhance safety in the vicinity of the I-285/SR 400 interchange in Metro Atlanta, one of the state's most traveled interchanges. The project will improve 4.3 miles of I-285 from west of Roswell Road to east of Ashford Dunwoody Road and 6.2 miles along SR 400 from the Glenridge Connector to Spalding Drive.

The priority project adds new flyover ramps and new collector-distributor lanes to aid east-west travel along I-285 and north-south travel along SR 400. It also includes a diverging diamond interchange on Abernathy Road at SR 400, building or rehabbing 33 bridges, and an extension of the PATH 400 trail system to inside the perimeter.

The project broke ground in November, while early February saw the start of site prep and landscape clearing. Construction activities including geotechnical work, surveying, inspections and site clearing will continue to expand throughout 2017. Completion is expected in 2020.

Most construction will be done at night through a phased process that allows roadways to remain partly open during construction. However, these activities may occur at any time. Motorists are asked to reduce their speed while traveling through work zones, pay attention and watch for workers.

To subscribe to Transform 285/400 weekly traffic alerts and project updates, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/I285400Alerts>.

To subscribe to Transform 285/400 weekly traffic alerts and project updates, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/I285400Alerts>.



Georgia Archives Building, built in 1965, was District 7's temporary home from 2004 to 2007 when the Chamblee location was undergoing renovation. The building, which had structural issues, was demolished in March. Postcard image: Atlanta Time Machine

Peachtree Road restriping & modified lane configuration

The Peachtree Road (SR 9/US 19) corridor is a crucial connection between Midtown Atlanta and Buckhead. As a result of public input and updated traffic volumes, the scope of the project has been modified. As previously announced, bike lanes are not included.

The project has been lengthened to the south by one intersection to Buford Spring Connector and the lane configuration has been revised to provide three travel lanes in the southbound direction throughout the length of the project. The project will convert one northbound travel lane into a continuous two-way left turn lane (TWLTL) between the intersection of Pharr Road and the southern on-ramp to Buford Spring Connector, a distance of 3 miles. The resulting configuration includes three 10-foot southbound lanes, left turn bays at signalized intersections, a 10-foot continuous two-way left turn lane, and two 10-foot northbound lanes.

Getting left-turning vehicles out of travel lanes offers significant safety and congestion reduction benefits. The two-way left turn lane is a low-cost safety strategy that is effective in reducing the frequency of rear-end crashes involving a turning vehicle. The TWLTL is also expected to result in about a 5% decrease in average travel time during the morning and evening driving peaks along Peachtree Road.

The proposed project will be completed in conjunction with street resurfacing and would comprise only pavement resurfacing and restriping the roadway. Work is expected to begin this summer and to be completed in about 12 months.



TYPICAL LANE LAYOUT FOR PEACHTREE ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT



INNOVATION

in-no-va-tion, *noun*: a process - a series of steps that begin with imagination, which brings about new ideas and results in the creation of something of value.

From variable speed limits to diverging diamond interchanges, Georgia DOT continually seeks innovative solutions to transportation challenges. Here are a few of the Department's most recent innovative programs and technologies.

Reversing direction: Georgia's first reversible express lanes open

Georgia's first reversible express toll lanes opened in January south of Metro Atlanta along I-75 in Henry and Clayton counties. Traffic on the 12 miles of barrier-separated lanes runs north toward Atlanta for the morning commute and south in the afternoon. In addition to improving traffic flow for those using the express lanes, it is expected that that congestion will also improve in the general purpose lanes.

Georgia DOT's Transportation Management Center (TMC) monitors and controls the reversible lanes. On weekdays around noon, overhead signs alert motorists that the lanes are closed. Then—depending on location—a series of three to seven gates close behind vehicles already in the lanes. Sensors alert the TMC when cars are still present. GDOT Highway Emergency Response Operators (HEROs) are on the scene to ensure there are no issues. When clear, TMC operators open the gates for the reverse traffic. The twice-a-day process takes up to two hours and is repeated around midnight for the morning rush.

A Peach Pass is required to use the lanes.

Visit www.peachpass.com.

I-85 and I-75 named national electric vehicle charging corridors

To accelerate the use of electric vehicles and the charging infrastructure to support them, FHWA has established a national network of alternative fueling and electric vehicle charging corridors on Interstate Highways covering nearly 25,000 miles in

35 states. These Alternative Fuel Corridors are important in improving public access to alternative fuels and to improving air quality. They offer an innovative long-term solution for environmental sustainability.

I-85 (nominated by Georgia DOT) and I-75 (nominated by the Atlanta Regional Commission [ARC]), were named Alternative Fuel Corridors.

There are two types of designations: Signage-ready means the corridor currently has sufficient alternative fuel facilities to warrant signage. Signage-pending means the corridor does not meet the conditions for signage and requires deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure to become signage-ready.

I-85 was designated signage-ready for electric vehicles (EV) from Commerce, Ga. to the Alabama border and for compressed natural gas (CNG) from the South Carolina border to College Park (Metro Atlanta). The corridor is signage-pending for EV from Commerce to the SC border and for CNG from College Park to the Alabama border.

I-75 is designated signage-ready for EV from the Tennessee border to Warner Robins and from Tifton to Valdosta; and for CNG along the entire corridor. It is designated signage-pending for EV from Warner Robins to Tifton and Valdosta to the Florida border.

Making traffic signals smart

Georgia Department of Transportation has deployed state-of-the-art "smart" signals at 3,000 intersections in Georgia as part of a statewide upgrade to convert traffic lights at 9,000 intersections with up-to-the-second traffic signal controller technology.

The new software allows signals to automatically provide feedback to a central system in the Traffic Operations Center in real time and provides significant improvements to how Georgia DOT and local agencies can operate their signal systems. The proactive response no longer requires engineers to rely on citizen complaints or on-site checking of signals.

"The software allows us to understand the performance of each signal by monitoring data that comes in every tenth of a second," GDOT State Traffic Engineer Andrew Heath said. "Our engineers are able to make real time adjustments to the signals to optimize performance based on actual roadway conditions."

The software is scheduled to be fully deployed on Georgia DOT-maintained signals by fall 2017. The Department is also providing the system to local agencies at no cost, with statewide deployment expected to be complete by 2018. The project is in partnership with Intelight, Inc.

Letters, Emails, Notes & Tweets

Normally, I am complaining about some road conditions BUT, I have to give GDOT great praise. Saturday morning at 5:30 am, 400 in North Fulton to 285 to 75 North was nicely clear. I was really shocked how nice the roads were. THANK YOU GDOT. (January 9 at 5:20pm)
V. Vattaglia

Editor's note: Facebook post about Winter Storm Helena

Thank you GDOT for coming to my rescue tonight. My car shut down on 75 of all places and I couldn't get it started. Called 511 and there you were to help me out. Special thanks to KB Williams #502 for assisting me. Much appreciated!
W. Alicea

Editor's note: Facebook post about our HERO service

Good Morning,
I'm writing to thank you for partnering w/ The Ray project and investing in the future of our transportation system and our planet. I hope other states can look to you and learn.
Thank you!
B. Squeri

I would like to thank the employees who work at your welcome centers. Hotels would not give us rooms without reservations. Many people did not know where to go. We just drove west. We had to sleep in a welcome center and it was crowded with people trying to flee Matthew. I want to thank the employees - they had extra trash, they picked up dog poop, and the bathrooms were clean. THANK YOU!!!!!! Job Well Done.
The Burtons

... Today I experienced one of the scariest things of my entire life. I was on the phone with my daughter as she was driving home from college alone for the first time. We weren't talking. She was using hands free. She had gotten lost, and I was waiting quietly for her to make a turn so that I could give her her next turn.

All of the sudden I heard her scream, and she cried into the phone, "Daddy, I had a wreck!" I am very thankful that neither my daughter or the man she hit were injured. Of course, I flew to the scene as quickly as I could (glad the State Troopers weren't around).

One of the first things I noticed when I arrived was a man wearing a reflective vest directing traffic around the accident. Later, I noticed a Ga DOT car in the travel lane with strobe lights flashing ... He said that he noticed the accident as he was driving through the area and stopped to offer his help.

I wish I had gotten his name, but he was too busy doing a great job of helping make the scene more safe and helping other folks get where they needed to go. I'm sure it would be difficult to find the gentleman who was there to help when my daughter had her accident, but please pass along my thanks to your commissioner and to the folks at DOT who put on those vests and work in dangerous places to give us some of the best roads in the nation and who work to keep people like my daughter safe.
Most Sincerely,
D. Ozment

Thank you for the repaving of I-20 from Atlanta to Douglas County. I use the interchange of I-20 and 285 often and it has made my trip much more comfortable. Keep up the good work!
P. Sendelbach

Just wanted to thank the HERO driver who helped my husband and me this evening. On her way back from our DeKalb County home to her dorm at Tech, our daughter had car trouble and pulled over to the shoulder of 85 South, between 400 and 75. We picked her up and delivered her to campus, then we went back to get her car. My husband was able to do the quick repair needed, but by this time, it was dark, and getting from the shoulder back into oncoming traffic on that curve at night was not at all safe. We called the HERO folks, and they had someone there within 15 minutes. I'm sorry we didn't get his name. He was quick and efficient. Parked behind our two cars, he inched back out, creating an opening so we could safely enter the lane of traffic. Even in his truck with lights on, cars were still edging by, trying to avoid changing lanes. He ended up turning on his siren, which did the trick. From the time he arrived, it took less than five minutes to get us on safely on our way home. Sitting there on the shoulder of the interstate was unsettling, to say the least. We have a new appreciation for all the responders who put themselves in danger every day to help keep people like us safe. Thanks, thanks, thanks!
j. Sinner

Editor's note: Drivers when you see a stopped HERO truck, please obey Georgia's Move-Over Law, which says you must move-over one lane or slow down and be prepared to stop when approaching a stationary law enforcement, emergency vehicle or construction crew displaying flashing emergency lights. Learn more at www.gahighwaysafety.org and click on LAWS.

A shout out to David Neighbors and his team at the LaGrange Area Office. My elderly mom who is on a fixed income had a pine tree on her property near the highway she lives on in Sharpsburg that died and was in danger of falling on the road. I contacted David and within a few weeks, crews came in and cut the tree down and did a great job cleaning up the debris.
Thanks,
M. Rogers

Hi... Want to say a big Thank you to the HERO unit today. My daughter was on 285 when her tailpipe fell and started dragging. She pulled over but didn't know what to do. My ... roadside assistance was of no help and it was gonna be a while until her father could get there. The HERO unit came, helped her out and she was on her way. Thank you so much. You made two very worried parents feel so much better. What a great service.
E. Henrichs

Thank you for the restriping, new signage and designating exit only lanes for the I-20 east to I-285 and I-285 south to I-20 west interchange. It has made a tremendous difference in reducing congestion in that area. Thank you very much.
D. Arredondo

Attention Hero Supervisor Andre Todd: I met veteran HERO driver Harold Tucker this morning when I had a blow-out near the Northlake Parkway exit on 285. And thanks to the fast work and the right equipment Harold and his partner brought to the scene, our meeting was not by accident. Our DOT HEROs had my tire replaced and me out of harm's way in less time than it took me to dig out my spare tire from under all the junk in my trunk. For five years I have traveled this route while commuting every day to work and this is the second time a HERO unit has come to my rescue for a flat tire. I want to thank Harold and his partner for being so professional and thank DOT for helping stranded motorists stay safe in Atlanta!
J. Shuler

Dear Commissioner McMurry:
I am sure it isn't often that someone writes you to tell you the GDOT Roads Division has done an outstanding job.

I live off Crossville Road in Roswell. I don't think I have ever seen a repaving job done so well in all my years of driving or having been involved in the transport business ... That was in the mid to late 1980s. We paved a lot of roads!

Whoever the contractor was did a great job. Seamless overlaps and great markings. It is a pleasure to look at and drive on.

Please thank those responsible for their good work.
Sincerely,
J. Lehman

Now available



2016-17 Airport Directory & Aeronautical Chart

Georgia's 104 public-use airports range from small general aviation and commercial airports to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the busiest commercial airport in the world.

Airport Directory: www.dot.ga.gov/InvestSmart/Aviation/Documents/AirportDirectory.pdf

Aeronautical Chart: www.dot.ga.gov/InvestSmart/Aviation/Documents/AeronauticalChart.pdf

2017 GDOT Reference Guide Helpful pocket guide filled with facts and figures about Georgia DOT. Download at <http://www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Public/GDOTPubs>

2016 Investment and Performance Report

Reviews the progress made in past year and offers a vision for the road ahead. Download at www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Public/GDOTPubs

2017/18 State Highway & Transportation Map

Pick up a free map at Georgia Welcome Centers, GDOT Main and District offices or order at www.dot.ga.gov/DS/Maps

Watch for results of GDOT Employee Survey

The results of Georgia DOT's 2016 Employee Survey, administered this past fall, will soon be on the OPM Webpage. Thank you for your participation. It is valued and appreciated. Questions? Please contact **Alma Mujkanovic**.

Translating engineer-speak

ENGINEER: *We just turned on the very first 100% 48V DC traffic signal run off an ATC spec cabinet.*

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE:

Woo hoo! Now can someone tell us what it means!

WHAT IT MEANS: Innovative GDOT traffic light a first. Georgia DOT recently turned on the first completely DC (direct current) powered traffic signal in the world. Traffic signals historically used AC (alternating current) power. Increasingly, more of the parts that make up a signal now use more efficient DC electricity. Georgia DOT's signal "takes the leap" to complete DC power, which offers a tremendous energy savings potential and opens the door to future opportunities. The light is at the intersection of Almon Road @ I-20 EB in Newton County Congratulations to Transportation Engineer **Justin Hatch** and Assistant State Signal Engineer **Mike Govus** for this innovative achievement.

New roadway mapping tool has countless uses

Georgia DOT now offers a mapping tool for viewing of the functional classification of public roads in Georgia. The State Functional Classification Mapping Tool uses layers to map interstates, state routes, local roads, their functional classifications, the National Highway System, US Routes, and Federal Aid Routes as well as urban, county, and GDOT district boundaries. It includes a search function that zooms to locations, bookmarking, various file formats for exporting maps for printing or electronic sharing, and help for all features. Office of Transportation Data Group Leader **Sean Diehl** and Program Manager **Robert Binns**, developed and deployed the tool. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DriveSmart/Data.

Drive Smart Maps & GeoPi

Georgia DOT's new online mapping application - GeoPi - offers map and document searching for projects, design plans, bridges, permits, and other transportation information. With GeoPi you can search, view, and open/download your search results. GeoPi improves on the previous GeoTRAQS and TransPi applications by updating the look and feel, enhancing search capabilities, and consolidating more transportation information into one place.

To access the GeoPi Training Video, visit www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Training/GeoPi. Access GeoPi at www.dot.ga.gov/DS/Maps/GeoPi.

Georgia first with statewide freeway patrol service

Georgia DOT's Coordinated Highway Assistance & Maintenance Program (CHAMP) is designed to enhance safety on interstates and state routes outside Metro Atlanta. While CHAMP is distinct and separate from the Department's long-standing Highway Emergency Response Operators (HERO) program in the Atlanta region, its addition to Georgia DOT's safety program makes Georgia the first state to provide statewide interstate highway assistance.

CHAMPs provide emergency services (like assisting with traffic flow after incidents); address immediate road maintenance issues (like roadway debris removal); and provide complimentary motorist assistance (like changing a flat). CHAMP service is assigned on a triage basis. CHAMPs are available 24/7 - they patrol 16 hours a day and are on-call the other 8 hours. Call 511 for assistance or to report an issue. CHAMP is being implemented regionally in phases through May. For a CHAMP Route Map and more information, visit www.dot.ga.gov/CHAMP.

CHAMP

Coordinated Highway Assistance & Maintenance Program

A SERVICE PROVIDED BY



**Georgia Department
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