

# MILEPOST

GEORGIA

Summer/Fall 2016

*Happy Centennial Birthday*

Georgia DOT



**A Century  
of Simply the Best in  
Safety, Service and Innovation**

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Centennial Student Art Showcase

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Work Zone Safety Always in Season

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Next 10 Years for Major Mobility



## Commissioner's Column

Partnerships. Past. Present. Future.



The work that the Georgia Department of Transportation has accomplished over the last century is amazing! From dirt roads to express lanes and everything in between! In this edition of Milepost we take a look at our history and a glimpse at the future with a focus on the partnerships that are always critical to success!

Partnerships were key back in the early 1900s when the "Good Roads Movement," led by bicyclists and the postal service, demanded paved and improved rural roads.

The Georgia Legislature acted to create the State Highway Department in part because many local governments could not match the new funds from the Federal Aid Highway Act (1916). Partnerships played a significant role in the creation of the Dixie Highway, funded by individuals, businesses, local governments and the state of Georgia to promote tourism in the 1920s through 1950s.

In this Centennial issue of Milepost, you will learn how partnerships continue to play an ever-increasing and vital role in Georgia transportation:

- The I-20 bridges over the Savannah River and the Augusta Canal will be replaced through an interstate partnership between Georgia and South Carolina.
- The I-285/SR 400 Improvement Project utilizes a design-build-finance method where a private sector team designs, builds and finances construction, resulting in a substantial cost savings. Our partners at the Perimeter Community Improvement District also contributed \$10 million to the project.
- A partnership between Georgia DOT and Bleckley County resulted in additional funding to replace a bridge when a Transportation Investment Act bridge repair project was no longer an option.
- The Transportation Funding Act of 2015 is the result of a massive partnership and shared vision between the Governor's office and the General Assembly as they sought to improve transportation for all of Georgia.
- You will also read about partnerships between Georgia DOT, PEDS and Georgia Bikes to make it safer to walk and bike in Georgia. And the NaviGator partnership with Waze to provide enhanced traffic data in real-time.

Check out the story on work zone safety that provides a personal glimpse of what it's like to work in the middle of the road as cars whizz by. Take a moment to reflect on just how dangerous the work of GDOT employees and contractors is. Be sure to also take a look at our Centennial fold-out featuring the winning entries from our Centennial Student Art Challenge. Pretty amazing artwork!

As we celebrate 100 years of simply the best in safety, service and innovation, I am grateful for the dedication and strong work ethic of our employees past and present, as well as for the partnerships we form to benefit transportation in our state. Each and every day I am reminded of how very proud I am to be able to serve the people of Georgia.

The next 100 years are going to be fascinating - so let's get on with it!

Russell R. McMurry, P.E.

# GEORGIA MILEPOST

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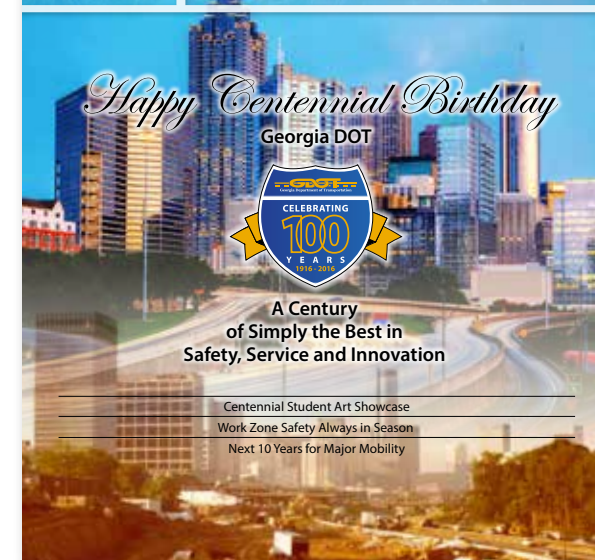
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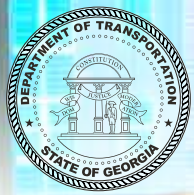


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**On the cover:** The Downtown Connector, Atlanta.  
Top: today. Bottom: during reconstruction, circa 1982.  
Photo Collage: Cedric Mohr, GDOT





# ACROSS THE BOARD

## Board Elects New Leadership



The State Transportation Board elected new executive leadership at the August meeting. Robert L. Brown, Jr. is chairman; Jamie Boswell is vice chairman; and Ann R. Purcell is secretary.

Chairman Robert Brown of Decatur represents Georgia's 4th Congressional District and was previously vice chairman. He has served on the board for 11 years. Brown is president and CEO of an architectural and construction management firm. (See profile next page)

Brown replaced Emily Dunn of Blue Ridge (CD 9), the Board's first female chair. During her tenure, Georgia DOT significantly increased its focus on routine maintenance due to funding resulting from the Transportation Funding Act of 2015. Dunn was also the catalyst for Georgia DOT's GED Scholarship Program to provide free resources for employees preparing for the GED exam.

Vice Chairman Jamie Boswell of Athens represents the 10th Congressional District. He was elected to the board in 2013 and was most recently board secretary. The business and civic leader is president and owner of the Boswell Group, which includes insurance, real estate and appraisal companies.

Board Secretary Ann Purcell of Rincon represents the 1st Congressional District and was elected to the board in 2013. The community and civic leader previously served 18 years in the Georgia House of Representatives.

The new positions are effective immediately. Board elections are held annually to ensure that all regions of the state are represented at the executive leadership level.



Photo: Cedric Mohr, GDOT

## Centennial Kick-Off

Georgia DOT officially launched the Department's Centennial salute at the April Board meeting with exhibits, videos, maps and artifacts that showcased the history of the Department. Earlier in the day Gov. Nathan Deal signed a proclamation declaring 2016 as Georgia DOT's Centennial Year and recognizing the Department for constructing, maintaining and operating a transportation

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.

system that has "increased mobility, enhanced quality of life, and provided a foundation for economic growth that makes Georgia the No. 1 state in which to do business..."

Then-Chairman Emily Dunn congratulated the Board, department leadership and employees past and present.

"To reach this milestone took the tireless efforts of many people ... those with vision, those with passion, those who took a stand," Dunn said. "Georgia DOT thrives today and is set to do great things in the future."

## Mark Burkhalter Highway dedicated



The city of Johns Creek paid tribute to STB Member Mark Burkhalter by naming Medlock Road Bridge/SR141 at the city limit in his honor. Burkhalter served 18 years in the Georgia House of Representatives and has served on the STB since 2015. He represents CD 6.

## Centennial Artists Celebrated

Student artists Alexander Chanoh Lee, Highland Roberts and Ca'Liyah Jackson were on hand at the June STB meeting to receive awards from Commissioner McMurry for the Centennial Student Art Challenge. See the winning entries in this Milepost.

## Sustainability on The Ray

The Board passed a resolution to support a pilot program to make the Ray C. Anderson Memorial Highway "the safest, most sustainable and most innovative highway in the United States." The Ray is dedicated to becoming a proving ground for evolving ideas and technologies that could reduce fatalities, improve energy efficiency and prepare logistics corridors as highways of the future.

STB Gateways Committee Chairman Sam M. Wellborn presented the resolution.

The 18-mile corridor, on I-85 from West Point to LaGrange in Troup County, is named for Ray Anderson, a champion for business and sustainability. Visit [www.raycandersonfoundation.org](http://www.raycandersonfoundation.org).

## Purcell honored



The Effingham YMCA dedicated a road on their property to STB Member Ann Purcell. The Ann Purcell Connector was named in gratitude for her commitment to improve the YMCA organization and the community. Purcell, the newly-elected board secretary, represents CD 1.

## State Transportation Board Chairman

### Loving What He Does

# Robert L. Brown, Jr.

By Aleta Edwards

With a quiet demeanor and a calling for architecture, Robert L. Brown, Jr. uses his life's passion as a means to educate, inspire and give back to his community. Reserved and laid back, he uses a blend of humor and wisdom to explain his childhood, his life and his desire to serve.



Photo: Cedric Mohr, GDOT

**It all began ...** in the small town of Dublin, Ga. where Brown's father introduced him to architecture. *My father inspired my love for architecture. He was a builder and I worked with him for many years. There was no greater feeling than working side by side with my dad. He taught me so much!*

**A growing congressional district.** Board Chairman Brown serves the fourth congressional district which includes DeKalb, Rockdale, Gwinnett and Newton counties. *The 4th district is one of growth and progress. In addition to the district's physical growth—it was once just DeKalb County, but has expanded to include more counties—we are seeing new opportunities for growth and development as a result of funding from Georgia's Transportation Funding Act.*

**Learning from peers.** Brown is honored to serve with members as passionate as he is about addressing the public's concerns and solving transportation challenges. In his 11 years on the Board, Brown has worked alongside many board members – past and present – and credits them for sharing knowledge that has allowed him to better serve his constituents and the state. *I can honestly say, there is not a Board member that I have served with that I don't respect or one that I do not work with to solve issues. I've served with many great people and this current board is fantastic! We look for solutions and work together.*

**True public servant.** Having served on several boards, Brown says his biggest accomplishments have been through service to his community. *Architecture – although important – is just one part of what makes me who I am. What I am most proud of are the opportunities I've had to give back through organizations like Georgia Power, Grady Hospital, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education and Smart Start Georgia. Getting involved in my community is what really counts.*

**Leader versus follower.** Recognizing the essential role of leaders and followers in an organization is something Brown understands well. From being the president and CEO of R.L. Brown and Associates and the newly elected chairman of the State Transportation Board to his time as an entry level architect, Brown knows the significance of both. *Throughout my life, I have been a leader and in other times I was a follower. Certain characteristics of a great leader can only be learned by following. And when you've worked as long as I have, you want to give others the opportunity to lead and develop their leadership abilities.*

Brown says the best lesson he learned about leading and following came from his wife. *In my home, I am no leader. I may think that I am but I'm not. My wife taught me a lot about leadership. It is less about who is leading and more about ensuring the goals are accomplished together.*

**Stay motivated.** Brown's extensive background in architecture and community service does not stop him from finding new ways to build on his passions. *I have a mission when I wake up. Every morning, my mindset is to do something great. I tell myself that I'm going to make a difference and help someone today. There are so many things in society that need to be achieved. I am just one of many striving to achieve them.*

**Sing like no one is watching.** Despite all Brown has accomplished in his professional and personal life, there is one skill he has not mastered. *I can't sing at all. I always wanted to, but was never able to get it, he jokes. By myself, I'll sing aloud but it doesn't sound right. If I could sound like anyone, it would be James Brown.*

**Family man.** Brown and his wife Barbara celebrate their 40th anniversary this year. They have two children – Robert, who works on the business side of his father's architecture firm and Robyn, who attends law school. *As much as I tried to get my children to go into the architecture field, they had other plans and that was ok. I told them, when you pick a profession, choose something you love. It's no fun waking up every morning hating to go to your job.*

Brown says if his family were to describe him, they would all say the same thing. *My wife and children would say I am a man that absolutely loves what he does!*





**Eric Duff** was selected as transportation administrator for the Office of Environmental Services (OES). The 21-year GDOT veteran previously served three years as the OES assistant office head where he managed the NEPA and Air/Noise sections. His earlier roles ranged from manager

of the Archaeology Unit to section chief of the Cultural Resource Section. Duff has a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in anthropology from the University of West Florida and University of Mississippi, respectively. He is a registered professional archaeologist.

**Brad Saxon** was appointed district engineer for District 5 in Jesup. He has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology and is a licensed professional engineer. Saxon, a 22-year GDOT veteran, most recently served as assistant office head in the Office of Program Delivery. He has an extensive background in district operations and has served in a variety of leadership roles ranging from district construction engineer to district preconstruction engineer.



**Marc Mastronardi** was appointed division director of construction. In 22 plus years at GDOT, his roles have included area engineer; construction liaison engineer; assistant state construction engineer; and his most recent position - state construction engineer. Mastronardi is credentialed

in the areas of erosion control and storm water management. He serves on the Board of Directors for North American Certified Inspector of Sediment and Erosion Control certification. Last year he was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal to the Erosion and Sediment Control Overview Council. He is also currently serving his third of four allowable years as section chair for AASHTO's Roadway and Structures section under their Subcommittee on Construction. Mastronardi is a registered professional engineer.



**John Hancock** was selected as state construction engineer for the Office of Construction. During his more than 18 years at GDOT, Hancock has served in various roles. Most recently he was the project manager for the Northwest Corridor, the Department's largest construction project. He was previously assistant

state Innovative Program Delivery administrator. Hancock has a bachelor's in civil engineering from Florida State University and is a licensed professional engineer.



Photo: Matthew Druin + Co. Photography

Not only is it an active construction season for Georgia DOT, it's also been an active media season for Commissioner **Russell McMurry**. Among the highlights, first he was featured in the July/August issue of Engineering Georgia with a cover story on Georgia's 10-year Major Mobility Improvement Program. Read the article at <http://bit.ly/2bltzKN>.

Also, coming in the October issue of Georgia Trend, look for an interview with the Commissioner about how transportation improvements will advance freight and mobility statewide.



**Robbie Hunter**, administrative coordinator in the Office of Communications, received the Catalyst Award from the Community Empowerment Development Corporation (CEDC). Hunter is serving her second term as chair of NPU-S, a neighborhood planning unit in South Atlanta. NPUs enable residents to speak with city officials about issues affecting their community - like zoning and code enforcement.

"We are a group of neighbors working together to promote positive change for our neighborhoods," Hunter said. "It's very rewarding."

Hunter was subsequently appointed by the Atlanta City Council to serve on the Atlanta Commission on Women, a board that studies, addresses and advocates on issues affecting the quality of life, status and well-being of women and girls in Atlanta.



Project Engineer's Academy Class of 2016

### Project Engineer's Academy Class of 2016

Georgia DOT's Project Engineers Academy focuses on the project construction contract phase with the goal of presenting practical information so that participants learn to successfully administer

construction contracts. The annual one week program is offered during the winter off-peak construction season.

Congratulations to the Project Engineer's Class of 2016: Richard Baird, Charles Bradley, Chris Brannen, Jeffery D. Brown, Tynise N. Cameron, Joe Champion, Jordan Clement, William R. Cole, CJ Cumbee, Kumar Doddaiyah, Joseph Gerrald, Shea P. Glassman, Nathan Gum, Emory Harris, Ryan W. Higgins, Danielle Hollinshead, Benjamin Holt, Tunisa Jackson, Darnel Lawrence, Richard Lee, Brandon McDaniel, Dusty Mercer, Patrick E. Miles, Nicholas Ryan Mullins, Barry Murray, Brandon Nash, Kris Phillips, Laura Phillips, Marc A. Phillips, Mark D. Pressley, Lenicia Rogers-Lattimore, Pamela Saulsbury, Jackie L. Smith, Justin Willingham, Brian Woods and Teshome Yitateku.



Op.1 Chris Lowery (556)/ALPHA Class graduate.

Photo: Katina Lear, GDOT

### HERO Training. Not So Basic.

The primary mission of Georgia DOT's Highway Emergency Response Operators (HERO) program is incident management - clearing disabled or wrecked vehicles from the roadway and responding to emergency incidents on the Metro Atlanta interstate system to restore normal traffic flow. In addition HEROs assist stranded motorists and use traffic control techniques to create safe work zones to protect Police, Fire and EMS upon their arrival.

Before rookies put on the HERO uniform and hit the Interstates, they undergo six to eight months of rigorous training that includes lane clearance; push, pull and drag vehicle relocation; communications; vehicle extrication; traffic control; self-defense;

basic auto mechanics; emergency medical response; first aid; CPR/AED certification and hazardous materials awareness (hazmat).

In 2016, 23 recruits graduated from training and became Highway Emergency Response Operators.

March Alpha Class graduates are: Patrick Barbee, Ronnie Evans, Danny Harrell, Dontayue Hudson, John Jones, Christopher Lowery, Tim Szanyi, Keith Brian Williams, Norris Wingo and Jason Woody.

July Bravo Class graduates are: Jeff Dixon, Alan Evans, Rod Golden, John Guiles, Reggie Hall, Joshua Harris, William Harris, Elijah Jones-Simpson, James (Jim) Keil, Branden Newton, Andre Williams, Michael (Josh) Wilson and Purchase (Jay) Wood Jr.

Most recently, 18 Master Operator candidates were selected to undergo specialized training to meet the challenges unique to traffic management on the I-75 Express Lanes. Master Operator candidates are: Delysha Evans, Kem Patillo, Jimmie Holmes, Maurice Armster, John Washington, John Sibley, John Johnson, Sam Khamphavanh, Benn Westcott, Julian Varner, Cole Watson, Bert Hutchinson, Miguel Jaime, Anthony Anderson, Griffith Singleton, Tyrone McCord and Joe Amnath.

"The HERO program reaches far beyond the typical 'safety service patrol' deployed by other states," said HERO Manager Jason Josey. "We are extremely excited about the future of the GDOT HERO unit. The challenges we are undertaking will not only improve what is already an elite group of men and women, but will also ensure that the vision for HERO as the undisputed template in public safety continues to come to fruition."

### CORRECTION

In the winter issue of Milepost, we mistakenly excluded three members of the 285/400 Environmental Permitting Team, recipients of the Commissioner's Merit Award for Division of P3/Program Delivery. They are Soli Shakshuki, Madeline White and Siska Williams. We regret the error.



## Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality (GPTQ) 2015 Awards

*Preconstruction Design*

**GDOT Office of Environmental Services (OES) Archaeology Team** – The Archaeological Assessment of the Atlanta MultiModal Passenger Terminal. *Category: NEPA, Environmental Protection, Preservation, Restoration and/or Enhancement*

**GDOT District 5 Design** – Airways Avenue at I-95 North Off and On Ramp. *Category: Traffic Safety and/or Intersection Design*

**GDOT District 1** – Cleveland Bypass – Phase 2. *Category: Highway Design – Rural*

*Smoothest Roadway Statewide*

State Route 138/Charlotte Rowell Blvd from SR 10/US 78 to SR 11 at Double Springs Church Road in Monroe. Roadway smoothness is measured by a laser mounted on the front of a vehicle. Smoothness not only means a smooth ride; it also denotes a level and compact substructure. A high smoothness rating means the road will last longer with less maintenance, providing motorists with a better ride without the cost and inconvenience of excessive maintenance.

## NaviGator wins ITS America Show Me the Money Award

Georgia DOT, in collaboration with Serco, won a 2016 Best of ITS Award in the *Show Me the Money* category for Georgia NaviGator's Comprehensive ITS Maintenance System, which maintains the highest levels of ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) operational availability. The award focuses on innovation and what the future of back-end ITS will look like. For the first time, awards were judged live by attendees at the national conference.

"It is gratifying that our system was selected the top innovation by our peers," said Assistant State Traffic Engineer Mark Demidovich. "Through constant monitoring and preventative and responsive maintenance, we have reduced costs and maintained over 99 percent device availability for the 3,000 ITS devices on the system."

## Transportation Management Center and Georgia NaviGator 511 Celebrate Milestone

Congratulations on the 20th anniversary of continuous 24/7 service to the people of Georgia.



Pioneers of Georgia DOT's NaviGator ITS. From left, Mark Demidovich, assistant state traffic engineer; Bayne Smith, former signal engineer; Joe Stapleton, former assistant state traffic engineer; Marion Waters, former state traffic engineer; Carla Holmes, former TMC operations manager; Burt Riddle, former assistant state traffic engineer

## Asphalt Emulsion Manufacturers Association (AEMA) Award

The I-475 Rejuvenating Fog Seal pavement preservation project in Bibb County received the **2016 Past Presidents' Award for Emulsion Excellence**. It was recognized as a project that utilizes asphalt emulsion technology, which is environmentally sound, energy efficient and cost effective. The Office of Maintenance, GDOT District 3 Maintenance and Ergon Asphalt and Emulsions, Inc. received the award.

## GDOT Recipient of SHRP2 Round 7 Implementation Assistance

Georgia DOT was selected to receive implementation and technical assistance in Round 7 of the FHWA/AASHTO Strategic Highway Research Program 2 (SHRP2) in the RENEWAL category. Georgia DOT's research—Nondestructive Testing for Concrete Bridge Decks—involves technologies to detect deterioration of concrete bridge decks.

SHRP2 aims to create one resource for the most innovative, practical and proven tools to help transportation professionals quickly rehabilitate America's aging highway system, reduce congestion and save lives by making roads safer both from a driver-behavior and infrastructure perspective.



## A CENTENNIAL SNIPPET

**INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION.** Just prior to the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia DOT unveiled its Transportation Management Center and the NaviGator intelligent transportation system. By combining technology, information processing and communication, Georgia DOT went from building roads, to also managing traffic and incidents. This was a significant milestone. [www.dot.ga.gov/Centennial](http://www.dot.ga.gov/Centennial)

# Welcome New Employees

Georgia DOT's greatest asset is its employees. We are glad you've joined the team.

Doris A. Abernathy, District 1  
Michelle V. Adejumo, Traffic Operations  
Maleek A. Allen, District 7  
Jody Don Archer Jr., District 1  
Charles R. Arnhart, District 1  
Teresa A. Arnold, District 4  
Brandon L. Askew, District 2  
Rameeka N. Askew, District 2  
Austin Avant, District 4  
Joseph M Axson, District 2  
Stephen J. Bailey, District 4  
Terrance J. Bailey, District 5  
Mark A. Barrett, District 1  
Aaron B. Beaver Jr., District 6  
Jeffrey M. Beavers, District 6  
Jacob W. Bell, District 4  
Phillips J. Benguche Jr., District 6  
Wiley J Bennett, District 6  
Samuel T. Boring, Environmental Services  
Justin G. Bowen, District 6  
Adam J. Boyett, District 5  
Michael S. Bradley, Planning Urban  
Dustin L. Branum, District 5  
Joshua C. Brewer, District 4  
Dylan C. Brinkley, District 5  
Kyle G. Brooks, District 2  
Richard Brooks, District 2  
Laquaveus L. Brown, District 5  
Tori A. Brown, Communications  
Grady T. Bryan III, District 4  
Malik S. Bryant, District 2  
Robert L. Burns Jr., District 5  
Rodney Burns, District 5  
Stephen B. Burrell, Infrastructure  
Antonio L. Butler, District 2  
Michael A Butts, District 2  
Justin H. Caheely, District 6  
Jeanne M. Cail, District 6  
Ramon Cantres, District 7  
Leonard G. Cardoza, District 7  
James A. Carpenter, District 6  
Matthew H. Carroll, Environmental Services  
Susan P. Carter, Financial & Policy  
Eli M. Cash, District 1  
Justin W. Cato, District 3  
Matthew E. Chalker, District 2  
Wendy B. Chambley, District 3  
Cayley J. Champeau, Environmental Services  
Justin C. Churchwell, District 2

Camaron S. Clanton, District 4  
Raymond B. Clark, District 2  
Robert J. Cleveland, District 4  
Johnny J. Coates, District 4  
Jedidiah L. Cochran, EEO  
Christopher R. Coleman, District 3  
Vincient T. Coleman, District 4  
Kaylen B. Collins, District 6  
Charles D. Cone, District 4  
Claude M. Cook III, District 4  
Howard P. Copeland, Right of Way  
Dyenikqua V. Cordy, General Accounting  
Stephen Cotton, District 3  
Christopher L. Cox, District 5  
Jason E. Cox, District 4  
Casey W. Craven, District 6  
Gerriod Crawford, District 2  
Xavier R. Crumpler, District 5  
Sherita Q. Cummings, District 7  
Thomas W. Curtis, District 6  
James W. Dailey, Urban & Multimodal Design  
De'Marius M. Daniel, District 2  
Robert F. Daniel, District 2  
Javier K. Daniels, District 6  
William Daniels Jr., District 4  
George Davis, District 2  
Marietta S. Davis, District 2  
Willie L. Davis, District 2  
Timothy W. Day, District 1  
Earl I. Deas, District 2  
Marcus L. Dennis, General Accounting  
Jeffrey B. Dixon, District 6  
Tabatha E. Doby, App Support & Development  
Andrew Z. Dodgen, District 3  
Daniel L. Dolder, Planning Administration  
Connie D. Donley, District 7  
Nikki L. Douglas, Materials & Research  
Eric D. Drury, District 5  
Kyle R. Dunagan, District 1  
Joshua L. Dupree, District 7  
Mark R. Eatmon, Urban & Multimodal Design  
Victoria L. Edge, District 2  
Chaz I. Edmondson, District 6  
Joshua E. Edwards, District 6  
Alan T. Evans, District 6  
Trey D. Ezell, District 4  
Brandon A. Farrow, District 2  
SirAnthony M. Ferrell, District 2  
Adam G. Fessell, District 4

Fulltime non-temporary hires from 12/16/15 to 6/1/16



# Welcome New Employees

Dan E. Fitch, District 6  
Caleb L. Fitzpatrick, District 1  
Ruben Fleurmont, District 7  
Gerald D. Floyd, District 5  
Dennis H. Fowler, District 3  
Nictavious L. Freeman, District 2  
Matthew D. Frost, District 2  
Paul B. Gamblin, Right of Way Property  
Pamela W. Garner, District 2  
Roderick Q. Golden, Traffic Operations  
Troy A. Goyco, District 4  
Henry L. Greene Jr., District 2  
Wilbur J. Green Jr., District 5  
Steven S. Greenway, District 1  
Sandy R. Griner, District 2  
John T. Guiles Jr., Traffic Operations  
Michael L. Gulsby, Environmental Services  
Kevin C. Hageman, District 1  
Reggie T. Hall, Traffic Operations  
William B. Hancock, District 3  
Tabitha R. Hannor, District 3  
Benjamin R. Hardy, District 5  
Joshua D. Harris, Traffic Operations  
William T. Harris, Traffic Operations  
Justin L. Hartzog, District 5  
Michael J. Harvey, District 3  
Nicholas S. Harvey, District 5  
Xavier Harvey, District 3  
Dennis D. Head, District 1  
Corien C. Heard, District 6  
Hannah L. Held, Environmental Services  
Kalin A. Henderson, District 4  
Ronnie Henderson, District 4  
Clark H. Herbert, District 2  
Dustin L. Herring, District 3  
Pierre A. Hillman, District 5  
Anthony J. Hilson, District 2

William K. Hines, District 2  
Jabari M. Holloway, District 4  
Sonya G. Holmes, District 2  
Eddie D. Hood Sr., District 2  
Elijah J. Hopkins, District 1  
Derek A. Hoyer, District 7  
Joshua P. Hufstetler, District 7  
Robert Lee Humphries III, District 2  
Cartier L. Hunt, District 4  
Nicholas Hunt, District 2  
James R. Hunter, Urban & Multimodal Design  
Ryan M. Jackson, Environmental Services  
James Jess III, District 4  
Anthony Johnson, District 2  
Jadan M. Johnson, District 5  
Keith D. Johnson, Traffic Operations  
Aaron A. Jones, District 3  
Jerome A. Jones Jr., District 5  
Marvin L. Jones, District 3  
Spencer W. Jones, District 4  
Braxton X. Jordan, District 2  
Irene C. Kalafut, Bridge & Structural Design  
James R. Keil, Traffic Operations  
Demetrius L. Kelly, Accounting  
Ricky W. Kelly, District 2  
Matthew L. Kent, District 2  
William R. Kimbrell, District 1  
Jacquelyn Kimbrough, District 2  
Jarrett T. King, District 7  
Paul J. Law, District 2  
Lois L. Lee, Construction Bidding Administration  
Shelly R. Lee, District 5  
Kalef S. Lewis, General Support  
Charles Lupo, District 5  
Arcoliua C. Madison III, District 4  
Michael K. Manning, District 5  
Martin M. Martinez, District 1

Michael B. Matthews, District 1  
Timothy W. Matthews, Innovative  
Program Delivery  
Connor B. McCloud, District 1  
Walter J. McCracken, District 7  
Terrell M. McEntyre, District 4  
Camden T. McGill, District 6  
Timothy R. McKim, District 1  
Andrew McMillian Jr., District 1  
Morgan F. McMinn, District 2  
James E. Miller, District 5  
Jonathan T. Miller, District 1  
Zachary C. Millsap, District 6  
Austin B. Milton, Traffic Operations  
Joseph L. Monti, Programming  
Montgomery A. Moon, District 4  
Pamela H. Moore, District 1  
Isaac Morris Jr., District 2  
Jordan R. Morris, District 6  
Michael D. Moses, District 2  
Kenneth E. Mosley, District 1  
Faheem I. Muhammad, District 5  
Lisa A. Murphy, District 7  
Damion A. Nash, District 1  
Nebyou E. Negash, Program Delivery  
William A. Nelson, District 6  
David A. Nesmith, District 4  
Trevious J. Newton, District 3  
Branden D. Nexton, Traffic Operations  
John K. Nieves, District 1  
Brandon L. Nobles, District 2  
Lois J. Nortey, Operational Purchasing  
Keith B. North, Geologist  
David W. Norton, District 1  
James J. Olden, District 7  
Winae A. Oliver, District 1  
Robert R. Pearson, District 1  
Bronquavius D. Pennyman, District 3  
Michael A. Phillips, District 6  
Karon L. Pierce, District 2  
June S. Ponder, District 4  
Dylan M. Pope, District 6  
Tyler R. Presley, District 4  
Dennis G. Pugh Jr., District 5  
James C. Purvis, District 4  
Robert C. Raley, District 2  
Bryan S. Ray, District 6  
Cole Michael Reddish, District 5  
Cornelius B. Reese, District 4  
Darryl L. Reaves, District 2

# Welcome New Employees

Jordan C. Reeves, District 3  
Tyler W. Reid, District 4  
Holly E. Reitz, District 7  
Drake S. Reynolds, District 1  
Travis B. Rice, District 1  
LaSonja T. Richardson, District 7  
Jennifer R. Ridley, District 1  
Carlos L. Roberson, District 5  
Duan A. Roberts, District 5  
Richard A. Robinson, District 6  
Mark A. Rogers, District 2  
Dontaiz J. Rouse, District 4  
Brad E. Rudeseal, District 4  
Brandan D. Rudeseal, District 4  
Rick L. Russum, District 1  
Kejuan R. Sadler, District 1  
James W. Sanders Jr, District 1  
Michael C. Sanders, District 1  
Clifford L. Sapp IV, District 5  
Amala Sarvepalli, Communications  
Casey R. Sasser, District 2  
Matthew D. Savage, District 1  
Robert M. Schofield, District 1  
David A. Sellers, District 1  
Jalen J. Simmons, District 5  
Elijah L. Simpson, Traffic Operations  
Tomothy D. Sloan, District 5  
Charles J. Smith, District 5  
D'Angelo S. Smith, General Accounting  
Kevin M. Smith, District 6  
Raymond B. Smith, District 3  
John S. Solomon, Construction  
Bidding Administration  
Jose O. Sorto, District 1  
Kyle J. Spurlock, District 4  
Bradley A. Stephens, Transportation Data  
Garrett K. Stinson, Urban &  
Multimodal Design  
Halil Suljicic, District 7  
Jeffery S. Sutton, District 6  
Tyler J. Sutton, District 4  
Melvin D. Talley Jr., District 1  
Paul M. Tate III, District 1  
Courtney D. Taylor, District 2  
Kimberly N. Taylor, District 2  
Andy C. Thomas, District 6  
Casey Thompkins, District 3  
Joshua M. Thompson, District 1  
Sidney W. Thurman, District 2  
Stephen A. Todd, District 4

Blanche R. Treece, Accounting  
Kathryn E. Tucker, Transportation Data  
Gary Q. Turner, Maintenance  
Analie R. Valley, District 5  
Alonzo Virgil Jr., District 4  
Travis V. Wallace, District 7  
Travis E. Walling, District 5  
Davis Z. Ward, District 3  
Thomas J. Ward, District 1  
Joshua D. Washington, District 5  
Damon C. Webb, District 5  
Mark D. Weinreber, District 1  
Terrell C. White, District 2  
Elvin Whiten, District 7  
Shirley A. Wiggins, District 2  
Anna G. Wiliford, District 5  
Sade R. Wilkins, Communications  
Andre H. Williams, Traffic Operations  
Herbert J. Williams, District 2  
Richard C. Willingham, District 1  
Jacooob G. Willis, District 4  
Austin S. Wilson, District 6  
Kimberly J. Wilson, Program Delivery  
Michael Wilson, Traffic Operations  
Hermon Y. Woldemichael, Urban &  
Multimodal Design  
Rodnicca N. Womble, District 2  
Joseph Y. Wood, District 1  
Purchase Glenn Wood Jr., Traffic Operations  
Timothy A. Wright, District 1  
Logan G. Young, District 6  
Octavius D. Young, District 7  
Nicholas L. Zimmerman, District 1

## A CENTENNIAL SNIPPET

**GO BOLD.** The mission of the Starship Enterprise—To boldly go where no one has gone before—also applies to the historic journey of Georgia DOT. (The original 1966 “no man” version was updated for gender neutrality in 1987 for Star Trek: the Next Generation)





# Work Zone Safety Always in Season

By Liz Rothman

**This construction season is one of the most active in years. And more construction means more work zones. Following the rules for driving in work zones can be the difference between life and death - for workers and for drivers.**

## Transportation work zones are dangerous - for workers and the public.

While Georgia DOT observed National Work Zone Awareness Week in April to call attention to the perils of work zones, it has significance all year long. The primary message focused on the rules for driving in work zones: Pay Attention – Slow Down – Watch for Workers. Officials also honored the 58 Georgia DOT employees who died in work zone incidents since record-keeping began 43 years ago.

The observance, held at HERO headquarters in Atlanta, was especially solemn. The month prior, Highway Emergency Response Operator (HERO) Moses King died from injuries he sustained in August 2015 while he set out road flares on Atlanta's Downtown Connector. In 2011, Spencer Pass became Georgia DOT's first HERO fatality when he too was struck on the roadway. King and Pass lost their lives while working to protect the lives of others.

"It is not just HEROs who are in jeopardy. It's also maintenance and road construction crews, emergency medical personnel, law enforcement, firefighters and tow truck drivers," Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell R. McMurry said. "Every driver needs to be aware that when you approach a work zone you should slow down or move over one lane."

## Two work zone crashes in one week in May kill a driver, seriously injure a Georgia DOT worker and are near misses for others.

In one incident, Assistant Highway Maintenance Foreman Curtis Lewis, Jr. was critically injured on SR 113 in Polk County when he and co-worker Michael Allan Hatch were working outside their GDOT truck as they patched the road. A vehicle rear-ended the truck, which then struck Lewis, who faces a lengthy recovery.

Three days earlier, a motorist was killed and HERO Miguel Jaime was uninjured on I-285 at Old National Road in south Fulton County. While the HERO assisted a motorist on the road's shoulder, another vehicle entered the work zone and struck the HERO truck. Fortunately Jaime was not in the truck and was unharmed. Regrettably, the driver of the vehicle that struck the HERO truck died.

In early July a motorist was killed when his pickup crashed into the rear of a Georgia DOT vehicle on U.S. 341 near Baxley. According to law enforcement, the motorist was not wearing a seatbelt. The GDOT truck, with its warning lights on, was spraying chemicals onto the median. The two workers inside did not suffer major injury.

"We are committed to keeping our employees safe, and we need that same commitment from the public," McMurry said. "We cannot stress enough the need for motorists to pay strict attention while driving. Always buckle up, stay off the phone – no texting – and drive alert. And in work zones - slow down, watch for workers, and expect the unexpected."

While work zones are hazardous for workers, most victims in work zone crashes are drivers or their passengers. In 2015, there were 27 work zone fatalities in Georgia – all members of the public. Based on the latest national data, 82 percent of work zone fatalities in 2014 were drivers or their passengers.

## "Everybody has close calls out there. Mine just happened to be caught on camera."



Photo: Nita Birmingham, GDOT

In January, GDOT Assistant Area Maintenance Engineer **Roger Minshew** narrowly missed being hit by a semi on I-75 in southwest Georgia. It was 3:00 in the morning and Minshew was detouring traffic in Cordele due to a double fatality crash.

He parked his state truck - with strobe lights activated

- in the outside lane near the shoulder while a sheriff's deputy angled his car, blue lights running, in the middle lane.

"You could see the headlights coming from two miles down the road," Minshew recalled. "A truck switched from the middle to the fast lane and didn't change his speed much. We hit him with the flashlights trying to slow him down or stop him."

As the semi closed in, Minshew and the deputy took off running. The semi hit the patrol car. The car's video recorded Minshew dashing past his own truck to the shoulder of the interstate.

"Everybody has close calls out there," he said. "Mine just happened to be caught on camera."

Minshew, who has worked in GDOT maintenance for 27 years, said the public's distraction while driving is getting worse.

"They're more interested in getting where they're going, I guess. They don't slow down. If there are lights or emergency vehicles, something is going on. Slow down," he urges.

Minshew celebrated his 48th birthday the day before the crash and he realizes just how close he came to not seeing his 49th.

"It could have been my last."

See the dashboard camera video at

<https://youtu.be/go7EEqItgnA>.

*Nita Birmingham contributed to this article.*



## A CENTENNIAL SNIPPET



**ROAD TRIP.** Take a tour of Georgia's rich transportation history right from your computer. Download our free "Google Earth Road Trip" and discover the history, engineering, scenic byways, and historic corridors that shaped Georgia's roads over the past century. [www.dot.ga.gov/RegionalHistory](http://www.dot.ga.gov/RegionalHistory)



## Hitting the road? Know before you go.

There are over 470 major maintenance and construction projects on interstates and state routes across Georgia this construction season. And while Georgia Department of Transportation looks to limit inconvenience to motorists, there are longer than normal delays.

"Our seasonal construction and maintenance activities will ultimately save taxpayers millions of dollars. Performing maintenance now prevents major repairs later. It also results in less wear and tear on vehicles," said Commissioner McMurry. "We ask you to plan ahead and know before you go. Knowing what work we are doing and where we are doing it can minimize your travel time and your frustration."

### Work Zone Reminders

- Work zones are not always stationary. Moving work zones that conduct maintenance activities like litter pickup, mowing and pavement marking may move slowly and stop intermittently.
- Georgia's **Move-Over Law**—also known as the **Spencer Pass Law**—says 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. See the updated law at <http://bit.ly/2bEdukD>.
- Visit [www.dot.ga.gov/WZS](http://www.dot.ga.gov/WZS).

### Construction Survival Tips

- **Know before you go.** Before getting into your car – Call 511 or visit [511ga.org](http://511ga.org) for real-time information about statewide road conditions and an interactive construction map. For the statewide list of major seasonal construction projects, visit [www.dot.ga.gov/Documents/2016SummerConstructionProjectList.pdf](http://www.dot.ga.gov/Documents/2016SummerConstructionProjectList.pdf).
- **Seek commute options.** Carpooling, GRITA, MARTA or county transit are great ways to ease your commuting stress. And be flexible - if your employer agrees, consider telework, compressed work week or flextime. Visit [www.gacommuteoptions.com](http://www.gacommuteoptions.com).
- **DriveAlert ArriveAlive.** Always buckle up, stay off the phone and no texting, and drive alert with no distractions.
- **Obey the rules in work zones.** Pay attention – slow down - watch for workers. And expect the unexpected.

"As we move through the summer and fall construction season, we ask that you 'pardon our progress,'" McMurry said. "Your dollars are working to build a better Georgia; our workers are working to build a better Georgia, too. Please watch out for them in your travels."



Photo: Cedric Mohr, GDOT



Photo: Cedric Mohr, GDOT

Last Mile Connection

## Jimmy DeLoach Connector Opens In Savannah

The final link between I-95—one of the country's busiest interstates—and the Port of Savannah—the nation's fourth-largest and fastest growing container port—was completed in May with the opening of the Jimmy DeLoach Connector. Gov. Nathan Deal, Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell McMurry, State Transportation Board Member Ann Purcell, Georgia Ports Authority Board Chairman James L. Allgood, and other officials were on hand.

"The completion of the Jimmy DeLoach Connector will be beneficial for both freight movement and driver safety around the Port of Savannah, while positively impacting Georgia's economy," Gov. Deal said. "A direct east-west link from the port to Georgia's highway system will expedite the delivery of cargo to and from every corner of the state, while relieving traffic and enhancing safety on State Route 21. The Jimmy DeLoach Connector is the final segment of that link, and I am proud to see this investment come to fruition."

The new Connector is a 3.1-mile, four-lane highway between SR 307 and the terminus of the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway. The route largely runs parallel to SR 21 and allows direct access to

I-95 and I-16 for the 8,000 trucks that enter and leave the Port of Savannah main gates each day.

"The new Jimmy DeLoach Connector is a strategic mobility investment that will yield enormous benefits for the state," Commissioner McMurry said. "It will dramatically reduce truck traffic and improve safety on Augusta Highway. Further, it is projected to yield a benefit-cost ratio of 8:1 for Georgia taxpayers. Finally, the innovative design-build utilized during construction has resulted in savings of over \$8 million from cost estimates."

The Connector offers numerous benefits for freight movement and driver safety, as well as economic advantages. Moving freight between port facilities in the Savannah area is critical to the local, state and regional economy. The Connector will improve travel time from the port to I-95 and accommodate the increasing truck traffic entering and exiting the port.

For information about other statewide infrastructure investment and transportation projects, visit [www.GAroads.org](http://www.GAroads.org).

## Interstate Partnership To Replace Major Bridges

Georgia and South Carolina have signed a joint resolution to fund an estimated \$75 million project to replace the Interstate 20 bridges over the Savannah River and the Augusta Canal. There are four I-20 bridges - two eastbound and two westbound. The twin 28-foot-wide, two-lane structures are over 50 years old and narrow by modern design standards; they require additional lanes and a refuge area for vehicles. The project will also add lanes on I-20 to Exit 1 in South Carolina.

"The replacement of these bridges is critical to the safe movement of goods and people to and from both states," Georgia

DOT Commissioner Russell R. McMurry said. "Due to economic growth on both sides of the river, it is imperative that the bridge infrastructure meet modern demands, and so we are eager to work with South Carolina to move this project forward."

Each day over 60,000 vehicles traverse this area.

Georgia DOT will procure the project through a design-build contract to expedite delivery, and the two states will pay a proportional share of the design and construction costs. The project is slated to be put out to bid in fall 2018.



# Transportation in Georgia is on the Move By Liz Rothman

## Georgia **Your Dollar\$ Building A Better Georgia**

Not so long ago, Georgia's transportation system faced a grave challenge – insufficient funding to adequately maintain the state's roads and bridges. As the 10th largest state transportation network in the nation and one of the fastest-growing states, Georgia also consistently ranked near the bottom in per capita highway spending.

In their 2015 legislative session, Georgia lawmakers addressed the state's transportation infrastructure needs with passage of House Bill 170. Georgia's transportation funding bill—the Transportation Funding Act (TFA) of 2015—changed how Georgia pays for transportation projects. It generates sustained annual revenue to specifically fund routine transportation infrastructure maintenance and capital improvements. While Georgia DOT began receiving funds as a result of TFA in spring 2016, funds were allocated and plans were previously set in motion to advance projects quickly when funding began.

Prior to passage of TFA, a year-long legislative joint study committee recommended that \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion was needed annually to address the state's transportation infrastructure. The committee said that it would take 20 years of significant investment to get Georgia's roads and bridges back to a normal maintenance schedule.

### Georgia's transportation outlook is bright.

Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell R. McMurry is enthusiastic about the progress so far; even in this first year.

"As roadway conditions improve, motorists will experience first-hand the long-term benefits that result from suitable funding and the proper maintenance of our statewide transportation system. The funds initially enable us to focus our efforts on maintaining critical infrastructure - including our pavements and bridges. By addressing pavement maintenance that was previously deferred, we expect to restore a 15-year resurfacing cycle instead of the 50-year cycle we faced in 2014."

The Department is also focused on restoring the state's aging bridges, as well as those in local communities - especially those that are weight restricted or too narrow by today's standards.

"Bridges serve a critical role in Georgia, from our Interstates to rural roads. If a farmer can't get his crops out of the field and across a bridge because it's not strong enough, that has a negative impact not only to the farmer, but also to the economy," McMurry said.

### Routine maintenance: Preserving our infrastructure, protecting our assets.

Funding from the TFA is primarily used to take care of current transportation infrastructure, with a focus on key routine maintenance in 12 categories. Activities include crack filling; pothole repair; concrete slab repair; drainage work; roadway striping; guardrail repair; right-of-way clearing; vegetation maintenance; tree trimming; mowing; litter pick-up and more.

These routine maintenance activities offer Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) and small and medium-sized businesses—who may have not previously worked with Georgia DOT—the opportunity to establish themselves as a qualified contractor to bid on projects.

Georgia Department of Transportation provides equal employment and business opportunities that support economic development and promote people and communities across the state. The DBE program promotes the participation of small businesses, disadvantaged business enterprises (including minority and women-owned businesses) and veteran-owned businesses. Visit [www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Business/DBE](http://www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Business/DBE).



#### Small Business Resource Center Opens

Georgia DOT's State Supported Funding Program (SSFP) assists eligible DBEs, GDOT registered small businesses and veteran-owned businesses in identifying and responding to business opportunities funded by the Transportation Funding Act of 2015. The SSFP Business Help Center was established to provide these firms with access to training, targeted matchmaking and one-on-one assistance. The Center features furnished meeting space and computers, and is staffed with SSFP specialists to assist eligible firms. It is located in Decatur and open Monday through Friday. Phone 678-420-5500. Visit [www.gdotstateprojects.com](http://www.gdotstateprojects.com)

### Planned Progress: 11 Major Mobility Investments

Key freight and mobility corridors are crucial to the economic health of the state and to the quality of life of its residents.

TFA 2015 gives the Department the ability to invest in long-term strategic projects that will yield significant improvements in congestion along specific corridors. Design, Build, Finance (DBF) and other public private partnership models will provide innovative financing solutions to address mobility. For example, DBF was the method used to reduce the cost of the I-285/I-20 interchange project in Fulton County that breaks ground this fall.

**11 in 10.** Eleven transportation projects that target key, critical freight and mobility corridors statewide will be built or begin the building process during the 10 years. They run the gamut from additional lanes, auxiliary lanes and collector-distributor (CD) lanes on the I-285/I-20 east and west interchanges in Metro Atlanta, to the addition of truck lanes on I-75 from Macon to McDonough. Plus nine other projects with new lanes, new capacity and new choices for motorists.

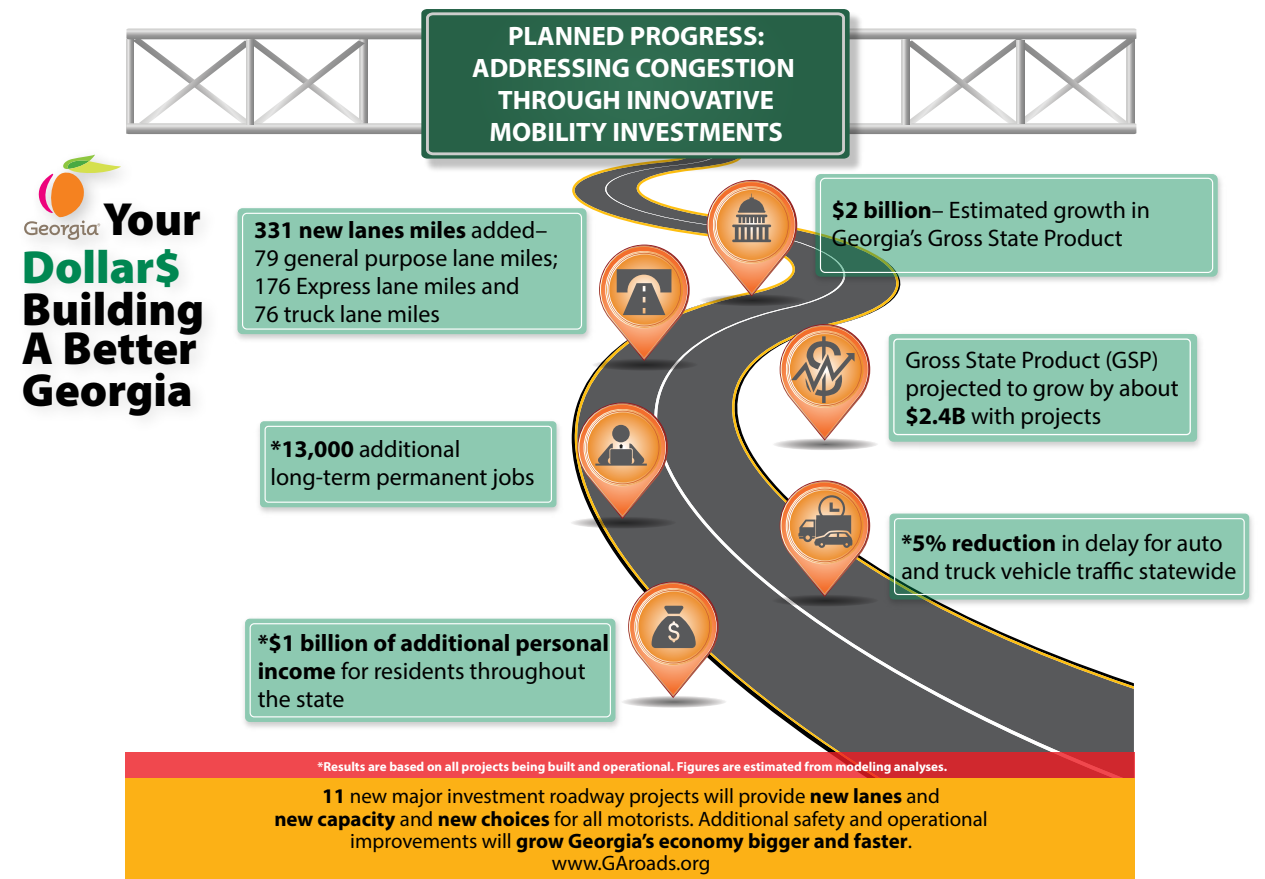
The 11 projects will provide an additional 331 new lane miles that include 79 general purpose lane miles, 176 express lane miles and 76 truck only lane miles.

An independent analysis by nationally recognized transportation firm Cambridge Systematics forecasts that these Major Mobility Investments will improve safety, reduce congestion and have a positive economic impact on Georgia. In fact, they calculate a five percent overall decrease in delay statewide.

"These major projects will be transformational and will not only help to move the needle significantly on congestion, but also enable us to improve mobility for freight and goods throughout the state," McMurry said. "We appreciate the support of the governor and legislators whose efforts in making the Transportation Funding Act of 2015 a reality that will help to ensure that Georgia remains competitive and meets the transportation needs of its residents now and in the years to come."

For information about the Transportation Funding Act; to learn how to become a qualified routine maintenance contractor; and for details on Major Mobility Investments, visit [www.GAroads.org](http://www.GAroads.org).

"As a result of the Transportation Funding Act of 2015, there was a 75 percent increase in the State's FY 2016 base budget to \$1.76 billion. Coupled with federal funding, Georgia now has a sustainable funding mechanism that can address its critical transportation infrastructure needs." Commissioner Russell R. McMurry, P.E.





# Centennial Student Art Challenge

## What Moves You?

Imagining Tomorrow's Transportation.

**Magnetic hanging freeway.**

**Vacuum that sucks you up.**

**Flying bus that runs on kudzu.**

These visions of the future were created by winning student artists for Georgia DOT's Centennial Student Art Challenge – What Moves You? Imagining Tomorrow's Transportation. Georgia DOT challenged students in grades K-12 to

write a statement and visually answer the question:

*What does the future of transportation in Georgia look like to you?*

From almost 300 imaginative submissions, Georgia DOT judges selected a first and second place winner in each of four grade categories.

Thank you to judges—Venita Epps, David L. Jones, Cory Knox, Alma Mujkanovic and Stardina Wyche—for a job well done.

**We think you will appreciate the talents of these student artists and their creative options for getting us and our stuff from here to there.**



Alexander Chanoh Lee accepts his award from Commissioner McMurry. Photo: Katina Lear, GDOT



### GEORGIA DOT. A CENTURY OLD. YOUNGER THAN EVER.



#### A CENTENNIAL SNIPPET

**CENTENNIAL JOURNEY.** At Georgia DOT's Centennial webpage, you'll scroll through snapshots of Georgia's transportation history with old photos, maps, historical docs, videos and more. There's a decade-by-decade timeline. You can even take a Centennial Road Trip through Georgia. And don't miss the creative Centennial Student Art. [www.dot.ga.gov/Centennial](http://www.dot.ga.gov/Centennial)

Photo Collage: Cedric Mohr, GDOT



# Happy 100th Birthday Georgia DOT



By Liz Rothman

**A**ugust 16, 1916. While Georgia Department of Transportation was born 100 years ago, the history of transportation in Georgia began long before.

**Primitive roads.** Over 150 years prior to the official creation of a highway department in 1916, the first road building law passed in 1755. The statutory method divided Georgia into nine districts with surveyors to lay out and maintain roads and trails, and assess highway taxes on males who were required to perform up to 12 days of labor a year.

After the American Revolution, passage of highway improvement laws continued. Men brought their own picks, shovels, axes and farm plows to perform obligatory annual labor. In 1829, road building methods included intermittent use of slave labor, corporate-chartered toll roads and convict labor. After the Civil War, road building returned to the statutory method.

*"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson, circa 1841

**Changing times.** A milestone act passed in 1891 authorized county commissioners to levy a special tax to buy mules and machinery and to employ paid labor. Citizens could pay the tax by performing road work at a rate of 50 cents a day. Maintenance improved, but roads were poorly laid out and expensive to maintain.

**An act of Congress.** The impetus for change was the Federal Aid Road Act of 1916 that mandated the formation of a state highway department in order to receive federal funds. The State Highway Department of Georgia was created. A Highway Commission—made up of three members from the prison commission, the state geologist, the dean of the College of Civil Engineering at University of Georgia, and the professor of highway engineering at Georgia School of Technology—was appointed. In three years the Department was reorganized, a State Highway Board was appointed, a state highway engineer was hired at an annual salary of \$6,000, a division engineer was appointed for each congressional district and the state maintenance office was formed. In 1972 the State Highway Department of Georgia became the Georgia Department of Transportation.

*"It is apparent that the motor vehicle will become the principle means of transportation over the highways of the State owing to its increased velocity over that of horse drawn vehicles and its range of travel is greater in the same proportion."*

State Highway Engineer Warren Neel  
First Report to Georgia General Assembly, 1919

**Century of progress.** Through vision and tenacity, Georgia transportation has come a long way in a hundred years. From the dirt roads of 1916 to the paved roads crisscrossing the state in 1939 to today's modern transportation system, Georgia DOT's endeavors have improved mobility,

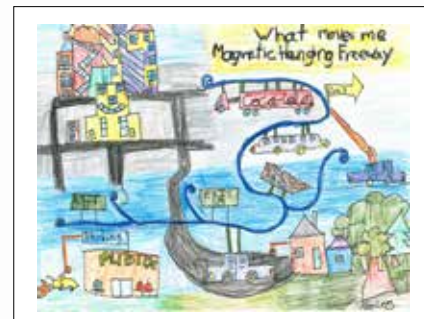
enhanced quality of life and contributed to the economic development of Georgia. Innovations like intelligent transportation systems, the HERO program, express lanes, diverging diamond interchanges, fiber optics for incident management and a host of other achievements have contributed to Georgia's recognition as a leader in transportation innovation.

**Around the bend.** Due to passage of Georgia's Transportation Funding Act (TFA) of 2015, the Department now has a sustainable funding mechanism to address critical infrastructure, as well as the ability to shift reliance from total dependency on federal funding, which has been limited for years. Georgia DOT is well positioned for the future.

"While a centennial is a time to reflect on the past, it is also a time to look ahead to new challenges and opportunities," said Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell McMurtry. "Drones, connected vehicles, self-driving cars - these are just a few of the evolving technologies that will have a tremendous impact on transportation in the not-too-distant future. In the next century, Georgia DOT will continue to embrace change and rise to meet new challenges, break new barriers and positively impact more lives."

Georgia DOT celebrates the centennial throughout 2016. For all things centennial, visit [www.dot.ga.gov/centennial](http://www.dot.ga.gov/centennial). There you'll find a statewide event calendar, decade-by-decade timeline, historical items, videos, and award-winning student art. You can even take a Centennial Road Trip. **#GDOT100**

# Centennial Art Challenge Winners



## MAGNETIC HANGING FREEWAY

A lot of times when I go downtown, I see cars bumper to bumper heading south on I-85. I was thinking we can build poles along

I-85 and the Downtown Connector and put cables like the Stone Mountain cable car ... but with big magnets. You can drive from home to the nearest freeway and a cable with a large magnet will stick your car to the cable. All you have to do is enter the exit number and relax in your car. Then this Magnetic Hanging Freeway will take you to the exit and you can drive from the exit to your office. Or even to Publix. Everybody around the United States of America and the world will come to Atlanta to see this cool freeway.

**Alexander Chanoh Lee, 1st Place, Grades K-3**

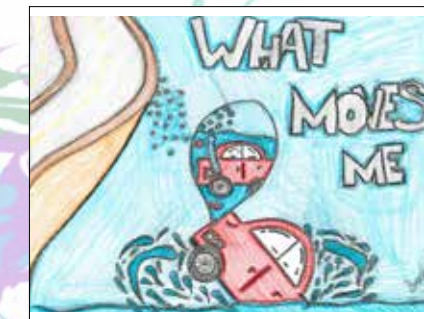


## THE CITY TRANSPORTER

My creation is basically a vacuum that sukes you up and moves you city to city or place to place. It is very easy and quick. It has a low cost of \$10. It

represents the theme because it's an actual futuristic form of transportation.

**Highland Roberts, 1st Place, Grades 4-6**



## DRIVING OFF THE EDGE

My picture represents future transportation. In this, the car is going off the cliff with no control. People get hurt every

day from doing something behind the wheel. If you ever get submerged in water, you have a way to be safe. With this future piece of transportation, you press a button on the dashboard and the car floats. It is located next to the gas pump. When you press this button, the flap opens up and starts to float. You will float to the top and you are safe and sound. Those scary moments are over with this transportation.

**Zoe Beard, 1st Place, Grades 7-9**



## ART AND CREATIVITY

My piece shows a creative life of the future and how art and creativity can move you. I used a swirly slide for pedestrians

so they wouldn't have to walk, but could slide all the way into an underwater slide leading to an amazing area of different locations. Then I added birdcopters; instead of driving, people can fly these little birdies wherever they please. Cars that cannot cross to certain areas surrounded by water can use a sub-capsule that will transport them to places that cars do not go. Then lastly is the bridge. The bridge can teleport them to anywhere. This expresses fun and creative ways of my idea of transportation.

**Chris Ali, 1st Place, Grades 10-12**

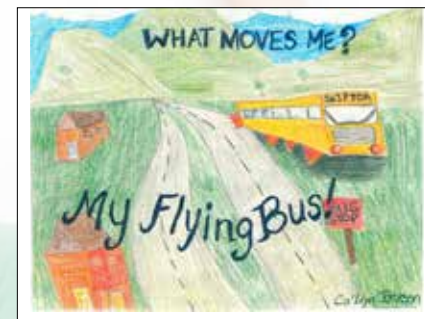


## THE FLYING MOBILE

In my picture, I drew a car in the future. It can fly with its wings. The flames make it faster. The Flying Mobile is faster than a regular car

and it will go places faster. It will get people to places faster in the future.

**Sarah Turner, 2nd Place, Grades K-3**

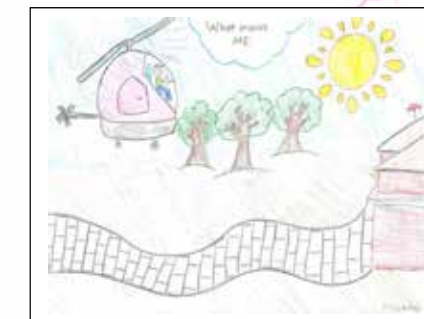


## MY FLYING BUS

In the future, Georgia vehicles will no longer be able to run on gas and students will need a better way to get to school. That is why our

engineering team designed "Shiptor," the flying school bus. Instead of driving on roads with slow traffic and dangerous conditions in rain and snow, our school bus will fly straight across mountains, lakes and highways to each neighborhood. I could get to school in ten minutes instead of an hour! Our school bus will run on Georgia kudzu. It grows everywhere, so whenever our bus needs fuel, it can stop anywhere to get it for free!

**Ca'Liyah Jackson, 2nd Place, Grades 4-6**

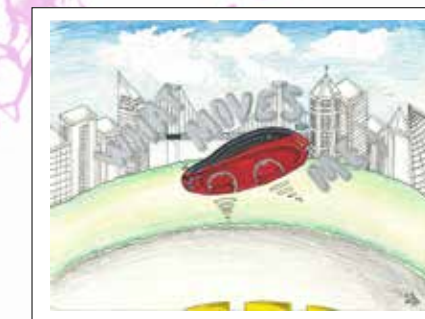


## THE MINI-COPTER

The mini-copter is your own personal helicopter, and when you buy it you get to choose how many people it sits. The technology is

simple, and anyone would be able to pilot it. The Mini-Copter is voice activated, so when you tell it to turn, it turns. You can also set it to where you get to drive it yourself. It would take you where you need to be faster. It is much safer than taking an airplane. I believe that with the resources and the continuously growing tech market, anything is possible. You have heard of people having their own helicopter, but having a mini-copter as a transportation choice would be totally different. People these days only use helicopters for when they are on a mission to save someone or something like that, but with them instead of cars who knows what other things we could accomplish?

**Molly Sims, 2nd Place, Grades 7-9**



## SLEEK CAR AND ANTI-GRAVITY

My drawing of tomorrow's transportation was done to mimic a sleek car. I like the futuristic style

while still keeping the sleek comforting car look. I chose red because it is a bold color and it's not too much for a person to take a liking to. It shows some of my personality on how I like to stay efficient and bold and still have a classic vibe. It is a small extension of myself. In the future of transportation, I believe we would have unlocked the key to anti-gravity and it will do wonders. My artwork represents the theme of tomorrow; it shows what we have to look forward to and that it isn't impossible. It shows that someday this will be reality and that this type of transportation would speed up evolution by a mile.

**Aaron St. Charles, 2nd Place, Grades 10-12**

See these and other entries at [www.dot.ga.gov/ArtChallenge](http://www.dot.ga.gov/ArtChallenge).



# Partnering For Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety

Georgia DOT has partnered with Pedestrians Educating Drivers on Safety (PEDS) and Georgia Bikes to make it safer to walk and ride bikes in Georgia. The collaboration educates motorists and bicyclists on safe usage of public roadways and fosters road designs that safely accommodate all modes of transportation.

In June, GDOT was the presenting sponsor of the PEDS Georgia Walks Summit in Macon, the first statewide gathering of people committed to creating walkable communities. Visit [www.peds.org](http://www.peds.org).

Georgia Bikes will host its 6th annual Georgia Bike Summit on October 21-23 in Jekyll Island. Visit [www.georgiabikes.org](http://www.georgiabikes.org).

GDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program incorporates numerous programs and initiatives for bicyclists and walkers, including technical assistance; engineering and planning guidance; public information; and educational materials.

"Through these partnerships GDOT is able to deliver several of the strategies developed in the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan," said State Bicycle and Pedestrian Engineer Katelyn DiGioia. "We're thrilled to work with PEDS and Georgia Bikes."

Visit [www.dot.ga.gov/DS/Travel/BikePed](http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/Travel/BikePed).



# I-285/SR 400 Improvement Project Breaks Ground This Fall

By Jill Goldberg

When Georgia DOT issued the official Notice to Proceed (NTP) in April to North Perimeter Contractors for the I-285/SR 400 Improvement project, it paved the way for final design, final right of way, scheduling and community outreach to begin. Now groundbreaking for construction activities is anticipated in November. To minimize traffic disruptions, most of the work will take place at night.

The major mobility project is expected to improve safety and reduce congestion at the top end of the Perimeter, one of the region's largest employment areas and a major connection for the freight distribution of goods throughout Georgia - a corridor where over 420,000 vehicles travel each day. It is estimated that each vehicle using the corridor will save eight hours in travel time annually.

Total project cost including right of way acquisition, preliminary engineering, conceptual designs, and environmental studies is about \$800 million.

"This interchange is one of the busiest and most critical in the metro area. The improvements we make will advance mobility for motorists and goods throughout the region," Commissioner Russell McMurry said. "I'm very excited for its innovative Design-Build-Finance approach where the private sector designs, builds, and finances the construction. This innovation has already yielded a significant reduction in cost to the taxpayers."

In addition to interchange reconstruction, the project provides four miles of improvements along I-285 and five miles of improvements along GA 400, including construction of barrier-separated collector-distributor (CD) lanes on both routes to help reduce weaving, merging and accelerating/decelerating conflict.

The project is planned for a phased opening where ramps and lanes open as they are finished instead of shutting the whole interchange down and reopening it all at once. Final open to traffic is expected in mid-2020.

Visit [www.dot.ga.gov/BS/Projects/I285SR400](http://www.dot.ga.gov/BS/Projects/I285SR400).



The new Jones Road Bridge



Cutting the ribbon (L-R) Representative Bubber Epps (District 144); Kelvin Mullins, State TIA administrator (GDOT); and Lindsey Dykes, vice chair, Cochran-Bleckley Chamber of Commerce

TIA, GDOT's LMIG Program and Bleckley County Partnership

# Aging Bridge Replaced, Not Repaired

By Karen Judd



When we speak about the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) program, we say "Your Penny, Your Progress." In the case of the Jones Road Bridge in Bleckley County, we

can add the word "partnership."

The bridge over Gum Swamp Creek in Cochran, was originally planned as a repair of just one out of 11 bridge bents. Funding would come in the amount of \$139,000 resulting from the Transportation Investment Act (TIA).

It then became apparent that the condition of the bridge had substantially declined - that repair was no longer an option. And it would require more funds.

Bleckley County saw a lot of potential in a small project.

With a little extra funding, the Jones Road Bridge project switched from a bridge repair to full bridge replacement.

"The bridge had deteriorated to a point that it was not feasible to repair it," Bleckley County Commissioner Bob Brockton said. "Therefore, we decided to replace the bridge and we now have a new, safe structure for the citizens of Bleckley County."

In addition to the \$139,000 in funds originally set aside from TIA for repair, Bleckley County used \$111,500 in their TIA discretionary funds and secured \$200,000 through a Georgia DOT Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) to fully replace the bridge. The county also provided significant in-kind labor to make the bridge replacement feasible, including demolition, traffic control and erosion control.

The bridge, located on an identified school bus route, is now in full compliance with required increased capacity standards. It also allows for better access to and from the corridor; and is conducive to pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

The Bleckley County Commissioner's Office and Construction Materials Services, Inc. hosted a ribbon-cutting in May. Bleckley is located in the Heart of Georgia Altamaha (HOGA) TIA region.

About TIA: Forty-six counties and their respective cities comprise the three regional districts that approved the 2012 TIA Referendum. Cumulatively, they are expected to self-generate \$1.6 Billion in new revenue over 10 years dedicated to local transportation improvements. Projects were selected by regional commission roundtables of local elected officials after public input. Seventy-five percent of the revenue is utilized for the construction of these projects while the remaining 25 percent is disbursed to local governments for discretionary transportation related uses. The TIA Program is administered by the Georgia Department of Transportation. Visit [www.ga-tia.com](http://www.ga-tia.com). Follow TIA on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/transportationinvestmentact](https://www.facebook.com/transportationinvestmentact)) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/TIAatGDOT>).

About LMIG: Georgia DOT's LMIG program helps local governments achieve improvements to the state's roadway network. Visit [www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Local/LMIG](http://www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Local/LMIG).



# NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS

Georgia Department of Transportation has seven district offices that operate and maintain the state transportation system at the local level. Each district has a district engineer who plans, organizes and directs district activities. Districts are subdivided into area offices which are overseen by an area engineer. The district communications officer (DCO) is the district spokesperson, who provides information to the community, the media and local officials.

## A CENTENNIAL SNIPPET



**OUT OF THE MUD.** The Rural Roads Authority, created in 1955 to “lift rural Georgians out of the mud,” was funded by \$100 million in bonds - a departure from Georgia’s traditional “pay as you go” policy. Thousands of miles of rural roads were paved across Georgia.

**G**eorgia DOT’s **2016 Equipment Operators’ Safety Conference** was held in May to provide safety training and skill advancement for heavy equipment operators. A ROADEO driving skills competition was also held in six categories: Single Axle Dump Truck, Tandem Axle Dump Truck, Lowboy, Motor Grader, Tractor Mower and Backhoe. Districts 1 and 5 were the top winners.

**Georgia Welcome Centers** have reopened or will soon open after months of much-needed upgrades. Improvements to statewide welcome centers and rest areas are funded by advertising revenue collected from the State Transportation Board’s interstate exit sign Logo Program. No taxpayer money is involved.

**Georgia DOT has programs especially beneficial for safety and quality of life in local communities.**

The **Off-System Safety (OSS) Program**, part of Local Maintenance and Improvement Grants (LMIG), focuses on low-cost

safety improvements likely to reduce the frequency and severity of crashes on city streets and county roads. In May, the OSS Program awarded \$12.7 million for 126 local safety projects throughout Georgia.

**Roadside Enhancement and Beautification Council (REBC) Grants** are awarded for enhancement projects in communities along Georgia’s state routes. A local commitment to long-term maintenance is required. In June, the Department awarded 17 grants valued at over \$600,000.

**Bridge Bundles**, an innovative method to replace some aging local bridges, mostly in rural areas, was introduced this summer. Bridge bundles use design-build (DB) contracts to group bridge replacements geographically and allow the contractor to efficiently streamline delivery by combining design and construction. Five design-build contracts - valued at over \$39.6 million - to replace twenty-five local bridges were awarded on July 1.



**DISTRICT 1**  
Gainesville/Northeast Georgia  
**KATIE STRICKLAND**  
District Communications Officer  
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# ONE



In honor of Georgia DOT’s Centennial, these District 1 staffers celebrated their individual years of service totaling 100 years. From left: Alicia Buice, Johnny Emmett, Kevin York, Kim Byers, Matthew Temples, Viveca Cooper, Justin Lott, Kay Reece, Rob Mabry and Judy Barrett. Photo: Katie Strickland, GDOT



Cutting tree limbs for safety. Photo: Katie Strickland, GDOT

### Milestone project breaks ground

Construction of the new I-85 Express Lanes Extension is underway. A ground breaking, held Aug. 3, was attended by Georgia DOT Deputy Commissioner Mike Dover; State Transportation Board members Rudy Bowen, Jamie Boswell, Sam Wellborn and Emily Dunn; and State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) Executive Director Chris Tomlinson.

The highly-anticipated project will add 10 miles of newly constructed express lanes extending north of the existing I-85 Express Lanes. District One was formally commended by State Innovative Delivery Administrator Darryl VanMeter, P.E., for being proactive and solution-driven on the project’s future tie-in with the I-985 interchange. The Georgia DOT team worked closely with the I-85 design-build team to save the traveling public years of inconvenience and over \$10 million in reconstruction and demo costs.

### Maintenance reorganization like a well-oiled machine

District One has changed the performance structure for maintenance operations and the new system works like a well-oiled machine.

This past spring, a new organizational structure was implemented for maintenance crews who are responsible for routine maintenance, as well as responding to emergency traffic control and assisting with state route crashes. Previously each county had a crew of maintenance workers and each area also had a crew. It was determined that the effectiveness of these two separate teams could be improved.

District Engineer Brent Cook and Maintenance Engineer Dana Garrison coordinated with Commissioner McMurry and Human Resources to make a budget neutral change to the maintenance infrastructure to increase its effectiveness and efficiency.

This resulted in smaller county maintenance crews and two area wide crews of 10 team members. The new structure allows for emergencies on state routes and interstates to be addressed in a more timely manner, while not interfering with routine operations.

### Maintenance momentum

Several local projects were successfully completed this summer under the new structure. One such project - on Suggs Road and SR 323 - addressed an annual concern by residents about a sight distance issue resulting from overgrown trees. The issue will be no more after the Super Crew from District 1 cut down large tree limbs and removed the visual impediments. Eventually the section will be grassed and graded, creating an area that can be maintained with mowers.

Many thanks were given to the GDOT workers by the residents of Suggs Road. The crew was out there for only two days to accomplish the work.

“The team is efficient and more effective and work is done strategically,” Garrison said. “We are really proud of the new way the team conquers these projects.”

### GA 400: wider is better

The SR 400 widening project is in full swing on the northbound side.

Working overnight is ideal for this project and the work is getting done efficiently and cost effectively – with as little interruption to motorists as possible.

“Because the northbound traffic doesn’t have a morning rush we can allow the contractor to work additional time the following morning, until noon each day,” said District Engineer Brent Cook. “These additional six hours each morning are expediting the project because they have longer windows of work time and less traffic control to set up.”





## DISTRICT 2

Tennille/East Central Ga.  
**KYLE COLLINS**  
District Communications Officer  
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# TWO



The new Little River Bridge. Photo: www.aerialphotoselite.com

### Little River Bridge improves lake recreation

In early July, the newly constructed State Route 47 Bridge over the Little River at Clarks Hill Lake opened to traffic. This \$24 million project enhances transportation safety and operations, while also improving a vital natural resource for recreational use. It is located near the boundary of Columbia and Lincoln counties.

The new bridge structure is 1,900 feet long and approximately 30 feet above the normal water level elevation of Clarks Hill Lake. This improvement opens up the waterway to previously untapped boat clientele, considering that the nearly 65-year-old steel truss bridge only allowed 12 feet of normal pool clearance.

### Augusta area students imagine future of transportation

The Augusta area claimed five awards in the Georgia Department of Transportation's Centennial Student Art Challenge – What Moves You? Imagining Tomorrow's Transportation. See the winning entries in the Centennial section of this Milepost.

### Georgia DOT grant keeps war veterans safe

The Department's Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant program delivered \$70,000 to Baldwin County to construct sidewalk beside segments of State Route 112 (Vinson Highway) from Scott Hill Street south to the Georgia War Veterans Home. Improvements completed in May also include Americans with Disabilities Act compliant curbs and driveways.

Veterans living at the Milledgeville facility can now safely travel to the local grocery store and enjoy the outdoors.

### Roadway dedications honor Vietnam vets and dedicated public servants

Several highways, intersections and bridges within the 27-county east central Georgia district were dedicated in the 2016 Georgia General Assembly. Celebratory events honored the dedications for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Parkway outside Augusta and the Jimmy B. Lord Highway in Washington County.



Ca'Liyah Jackson, from Augusta, earned second place in Grades 4-6 for "My Flying Bus." Photo: Katina Lear, GDOT



State Transportation Board member Don Grantham and former state Rep. Barbara Sims (R-Augusta) joined state Rep. Gloria Frazier (D-Hephzibah) and numerous veterans and support groups to name a section of Gordon Highway in Richmond County as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Parkway. Photo: Kyle Collins, GDOT



## DISTRICT 3

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



Student artist Highland Roberts and family with Commissioner Russell McMurry. Photo: Katina Lear, GDOT

### We have a winner

Highland Roberts from Thomaston won first place, Grades 4-6, in Georgia DOT's Centennial Student Art Challenge. His very proud father is D3 Right-of-Way Specialist Scott Roberts. See Highland's entry "The City Transporter" and the other winning selections in the Centennial section of this Milepost.



HERO truck decked out for the 2016 GOHS Youth and Young Adult Leadership Conference. Photo: Annalysce Baker, GDOT

### Innovative intersection comes to Henry and Spalding counties

District 3 Traffic Operations and Maintenance forces have been involved with several local communities to install Restricted Crossing U-Turns or RCUTs.

The Restricted Crossing U-turn is an innovative intersection design that involves construction of a concrete island in the middle of the median opening. It improves safety and operations by changing how minor road traffic crosses or turns left at a major road.

Prior to installing the RCUT at the SR 20 at Simpson Mill intersection in McDonough, there were 11 angle collisions within a 12-month period from 2014 to 2015. After RCUT installation, a 6-month crash history for the intersection and the two adjacent intersections where U-turn movements are made showed one single angle collision. We will continue to pull crash data for further comparisons. RCUTs were also installed in the cities of Griffin and Barnesville.

### Student highway safety advocates lead by example

More than 150 high school and college students, recognized as champions of teen highway safety in their communities, attended the 2016 Youth and Young Adult Leadership Conference in Peachtree City. The biennial conference, sponsored by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS), brings student advocates of highway safety together to focus on new ways to communicate life-saving ideas to their peers.

The two-day event included motivational speakers and workshops targeted for high school and college students. The conference focused on the GOHS message of buckling up, slowing down your vehicle, not drinking and driving, and eliminating distractions behind the wheel.

### TIA funds green buses and expanded transit in Columbus

Four new, state-of-the-art METRA buses purchased with funding from the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) are part of a \$22.4 million TIA project that will allow METRA to expand routes, add park and ride facilities, extend operating hours and better serve disabled riders in a city with a commitment to creating a multimodal transit system for all residents.

Riders will notice the quiet, comfortable ride as a result of the METRA fleet becoming greener. All four buses are hybrid electric vehicles that are expected to generate a 30% savings in fuel costs over their 12-15 year anticipated life-span. In the coming decades, the METRA fleet will transition to using only fully electric vehicles.

METRA is using the buses and additional TIA funds to extend daily operations, increase the number of fixed and paratransit routes, and to add approximately 26 driver and maintenance positions.





## DISTRICT 4

Tifton/Southwest Ga.  
**NITA BIRMINGHAM**  
District Communications Officer  
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# FOUR



Albany's Broad Avenue Memorial Bridge features unique construction, long archways, decorative lighting and masonry inlaid piers. Photo: Nita Birmingham, GDOT

### Broad Avenue Memorial Bridge is state project of the year

The Broad Avenue Memorial Bridge in Albany won the 2016 American Public Works Association – Georgia Chapter Transportation Project of the Year Award (\$5 million to \$25 million).

In his nomination for the project, Albany City Engineer Bruce Maples highlighted the unusual construction of the bridge and its contribution to the city's quality of life. The main 320-foot span is the longest concrete girder bridge span in Georgia and it was the first built using the segmental balanced cantilever construction method.

"A structure fitting to be iconic of downtown Albany and honoring the sacrifices of Albany and Dougherty County veterans was provided through the overall bridge form with long, slender, arching spans; masonry inlaid piers; decorative railings; and attractive lights," Maples said. "These features contribute to the ongoing revitalization of downtown Albany."

### Reconstructed I-75 Brighton Road interchange opens to rave reviews

Drivers were excited when the reconstructed Interstate 75 Exit 66/ Brighton Road interchange in Tift County opened in July. Some comments on social media were:

*"This just made our lives so much easier!"*

*"Not only is it safer, it's beautifully done. Thanks so much to all who worked so hard to get it done."*

*"WOOO HOOO!!!"*

*"Thank you Lord! Oh, and DOT too."*

The reconstruction provides safer exit and entry to I-75 with relocated, longer ramps and a wider overpass for an unobstructed view of oncoming traffic.

The narrow width of the old overpass - built in 1959 - and the proximity of the ramps made it difficult for drivers at the top of the ramp to see traffic coming over the bridge. The ramps were moved farther from the bridge and were lengthened, which gives drivers more time to slow down to exit I-75 or speed up to merge with traffic. The new bridge is longer and is almost twice the width of the old structure, providing drivers with a nice, clear view of approaching traffic.

Georgia DOT continued to tweak the interchange after its opening based on feedback from the public.

The construction cost of the project was \$16 million. The prime contractor was The Scruggs Co. of Hahira. Subcontractor Southern Concrete Construction Co. Inc. of Albany dismantled the old bridge and built the new overpass.



View at the top of the I-75 North exit ramp in 2014. The narrow bridge and the proximity of the ramp made it difficult to see oncoming traffic.

### D4 people on the move

Paul Kaspereen was promoted to Area Engineer for Area 1 in Valdosta in April and Jerry Wayne Smith was promoted to Assistant Area Engineer, Maintenance for Area 5 in Albany in June. Kaspereen was the former assistant area engineer, Maintenance for Area 5 and Smith was a former permit engineer in Area 1. Congratulations to you both!



## DISTRICT 5

Jesup/Southeast Ga.  
**JILL NAGEL**  
District Communications Officer  
jnagel@dot.ga.gov

# FIVE



Georgia DOT Statesboro Area Office, from left: Area Engineer Ron Nelson; Project Manager Tunisa Jackson; and Assistant Area Engineer/Construction Brent Blocker  
Photo: Valery McKinney, GDOT

### Statesboro Area Office contractor wins national asphalt paving award

Statesboro Area Office contractor R.B. Baker Construction won a 2015 Quality in Construction Award from the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) for construction of an asphalt pavement on the SR 67 project in Bulloch County. The 3.8 miles of milling and repaving near the campus of Georgia Southern University and the business district of Statesboro produced a smooth, high-quality asphalt pavement that improved ride quality by 40 percent.

### SR 204 Interchange Construction Project @ King George Blvd.

The \$26.9 million interchange project at SR 204/Abercorn Street in Chatham County is in the stage of bridge construction over King George Blvd. now that traffic has been shifted off the mainline on to the westbound ramps. Work also continues on the new eastbound SR 204 ramps, replacement of CSX bridge concrete barrier walls and construction of sound walls.

SR 204 is a main commuter route into Savannah and highly congested. The project is expected to improve travel time by eliminating the stop and go traffic at King George Blvd. and to reduce crash frequency at the intersection.

Completion is anticipated in summer 2017.



Aerial of SR 204 @ King Georgia Blvd. Photo: Balfour Beatty Infrastructure, Inc.

### Jimmy DeLoach Connector opens.



Gov. Nathan Deal, Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell McMurry and other dignitaries cut the ribbon to open the Jimmy DeLoach Connector, the final connection between I-95, the Port of Savannah and freight distribution facilities. Photo: Cedric Mohr, GDOT

### Design Team receives award

District Five's Design Team received the 2015 Preconstruction Design award for Traffic Safety and/or Intersection Design from the Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality (GPTQ). The Airways Avenue at I-95 northbound off and on ramp intersection project embodied innovation and quality to improve the intersection and enhance safety. Design Team members are District Preconstruction Engineer Troy Pitman; Roadway Design Leader Maggie Yoder; Design Engineer Teresa Tootle; and Design Specialist Billy Dampier, the project lead designer.



### Overview of SR 21 at I-95 Diverging Diamond Interchange.

Construction of the Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) began in August at I-95 (Exit 109) and SR 21 in the City of Port Wentworth in Chatham County.

This innovative design should offer relief for the heavily congested area. DDIs

are shown to improve overall traffic operations and safety with a reduction of major crashes and delay times, and an increase in overall capacity. Reeves Construction Company of Savannah is the contractor for the \$6.3 million operational improvement project. The DDI should open to traffic in the late fall.





## DISTRICT 6

Cartersville/Northwest Ga.  
**MOHAMED ARAFA**  
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# SIX



The 51-year old SR 299 Bridge will be replaced using accelerated bridge construction technology. Photo: David Sullivan, GDOT

### Bridge replacement in just a weekend?

Georgia's first accelerated bridge construction (ABC) comes to D6. The 51-year old State Route 299 Bridge over I-24 in Dade County is the first bridge in Georgia to be replaced using accelerated bridge construction technology. The bridge will be completely replaced in a 56-hour period.

Innovative ABC methods are capable of producing safer, more durable bridges with longer service lives than conventional bridges. Not only is onsite construction time shortened, safety for workers and the traveling public is enhanced, the impact of construction on traffic is minimized, construction costs are lowered and environmental impacts are reduced.

To prepare for construction, onsite work is expected to begin in October 2016, with the replacement completed during a weekend in May 2017. Prior to that weekend there will be no construction-related traffic interruption. During the 56 hours of bridge construction, traffic on SR 299 will be detoured and the ramps on I-24 will be closed.

The bridge will be replaced under a single design-build contract where the contractor provides design and construction.

### Assistant D6 engineer hits the ground running

Kenny Beckworth, assistant District Six district engineer, has been on the job a few months now and cherishes his new role of reaching out to and working closely with—along with District Engineer Dewayne Comer—local and state officials, chambers

of commerce, business leaders and the public in the 17-county area. He has engaged in building partnerships with several local governments in northwest Georgia and is quickly earning a reputation as a district official who can be trusted and deliver results. Beckworth has a bachelor's in civil engineering technology from the Southern College of Technology. He began his career with the Georgia Department of Transportation in 1990 and most recently served three years as construction engineer for D6.

### Flashing yellow arrow: the safe way to turn left in NW Georgia



In District 6, flashing yellow left-turn arrows are becoming more and more common. Georgia DOT has installed/upgraded hundreds of flashing yellow left-turn arrows at certain intersections in Bartow, Cherokee, Whitfield, Carroll and Floyd counties.

As a component of the Regional Traffic Operations Program (RTOP) and "Quick Fix" initiatives of the Georgia Department of

Transportation in northwest Georgia, these new traffic signals designed to improve safety and increase traffic flow—especially for left-turns—have been installed at most busy intersections in the region. They are operating as expected and performing impressively to improve intersection safety.

And if you ask motorists whether they know what to do when they are waiting to turn left and they see a flashing yellow left-turn arrow, the overwhelming majority would tell you: "It's simple: be cautious, and after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians, make your left turn."

Flashing yellow arrow signals help drivers make fewer mistakes. They keep motorists safer during heavy traffic and reduce delays when traffic is light. Drivers in northwest Georgia also tell us that they find flashing yellow left-turn arrows more understandable than traditional yield-on-green indications (individual traffic signal lights). They also see more opportunities to make a left turn with the flashing yellow left-turn arrow than with the traditional three-arrow red, yellow and green indications.



## DISTRICT 7

Chamblee/Metro Atlanta Ga.  
**ANNALYSCE BAKER**  
District Communications Officer  
Abaker@dot.ga.gov

# SEVEN



To limit delays and driver inconvenience, much of the repaving work on Metro Atlanta interstates is performed at night. Photo: C.W. Matthews Contracting Co.

### Three Projects Create Smoother Ride for Motorists

Warm temperatures equal a smoother ride for Metro Atlanta commuters. This summer and fall District 7 is overseeing three major resurfacing projects: I-20, I-75 and I-75/I-85 (Downtown Connector). These key thoroughfares support hundreds of thousands of vehicles daily. The heavy traffic causes excessive deterioration to the asphalt - resulting in large potholes and a rough ride.

The resurfacing of I-20 is a joint venture project awarded to C.W. Matthews and E.R. Snell. The contractors are resurfacing 15 miles from Sweetwater Creek - just after Thornton Road (Exit 44) in Douglas County - to Hill Street (exit 56 B) in Atlanta. The project also includes an interchange reconstruction on I-20 eastbound at the I-285 northbound and southbound interchanges.

C.W. Matthews Contracting Co., Inc. was also awarded the I-75 and Downtown Connector projects. They are resurfacing 4.4 miles of I-75, northbound and southbound from just north of SR 54/Jonesboro Road to the I-285 interchange. On the Downtown Connector, they will resurface six miles, northbound and southbound, from University Avenue to the Brookwood Interchange.

The projects are scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

### Small business maintenance contractors hired as result of TFA

Sixty-five small business owners attended District 7's Transportation Funding Act of 2015 and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) outreach forum in February. There, business owners learned about the procurement process and the types of maintenance and construction projects planned for the Metro District. Since then, District 7 hired BrightView Landscapes, LLC to landscape interstate interchanges and Pro Cutters Lawscapes, Inc. to mow grass along the interstates.

More contractors are needed to perform maintenance work. Learn how you can do business with Georgia DOT. Visit [www.GAroads.org](http://www.GAroads.org).



Family, friends, Georgia DOT and other supporters at the bridge naming for Spencer Pass. Photo: Cedric Mohr, GDOT

### Spencer Pass Memorial Bridge Named

The last day of January 2011 began as an ordinary day for Highway Emergency Response Operator Spencer Pass. As usual, he was assisting a stranded motorist. It was on I-85 near the Metropolitan Parkway exit that his day ended tragically. A utility truck driver towing a flatbed trailer struck Pass, who died of his injuries.

In June, the I-85 Bridge over Cleveland Avenue was named the Spencer Pass Memorial Bridge in honor of the respected and exemplary public servant who was described by co-workers as a man who "never had anything bad to say about anyone." The kind of employee you want serving the citizens of Georgia; a dedicated husband, loving father, and devoted son; a man of integrity, intelligence, and kindness.

The Georgia DOT Employee Association petitioned the Georgia General Assembly and State Senator Nan Orrock sponsored the bill to dedicate the bridge to Pass, ensuring that his life and sacrifice will always be honored.





...thank you and all of the GDOT representatives who helped us get the new HAWK signal approved, funded and installed on 301S here in Statesboro. The crossing is being heavily utilized by the residents and students who live in that area, and there is no doubt that the installation of the HAWK signal and accompanying crosswalk have made that section of highway much safer for pedestrians to cross.

Thanks again,  
Robert Cheshire, PE  
Deputy City Manager, Statesboro

*Editor's note: This email refers to the high-intensity activated cross walk that was installed at the entrance to Georgia Southern University.*

Dear Kimberly,  
Thank you so much for representing Ga DOT at the Bridge Dedication for the William S. Robinson Memorial Bridge ... Also thank Josh Walton, district sign shop manager and Steven Dugger, sign crew foreman. If there were others from Thomaston, please thank them for coming.

Our entire family appreciates the support of Ga DOT and it was our pleasure to meet you.

When I cross the bridge ... I have such a sense of pride for my father. Daddy was a faithful and dedicated employee of Ga DOT and did not seek publicity, but I know he would be proud of this dedication.

Sincerely,  
K. Hardage

*Editor's note: Note sent to D3 District Communications Officer Kimberly Larson*

I am a truck driver and I have seen many welcome centers but the center on I-85 on the SC border is by far the most beautiful I have seen. The grounds are very nicely kept and the building is very clean and welcoming. It is rare to see such a caring staff. This welcome center is more like a park than a rest area. Well done to everyone that takes such good care of this place. Thank you Georgia for giving us tired truck drivers such a wonderful place to rest.  
J. Ruckman

*Editor's note: Georgia's welcome centers have been, or are in the process of being, renovated. The writer is referring to the Lavonia Welcome Center that re-opened in January 2016.*

A few weeks ago I neglectfully left my cell phone on the roof of my car trying to hurry my daughter to her doctor's appointment. I drove out of my subdivision ... and got to her appointment about 10 min down the road. Anyway I realized my phone was missing and came to the conclusion it was on the side of the road somewhere. I looked with my husband later that day and with no luck. Just a few days ago my mother received a call from an employee of the department of transportation named Ronald Walker. He said he had found a phone ... I now have my cell phone and I wanted to show my sincere appreciation to Mr. Walker for being such an honest man. Not many people are so honest these days. I'm sure this may seem minuscule to the duties this department has, I just wanted to find a bigger way to thank him, and why not let his employer know how great of an employee they have.  
H. Sherwood

*Editor's note: Ronald Walker is with the Bryan Routine Maintenance Crew in District 5.*

Just wanted to send a positive comment on HERO operator Cole Watson (#580). He helped me and my 4 year old daughter with our flat tire on I-285 southbound on our way home last Sunday night ... He was polite and quick.

This was my first experience with HERO and it was great! I think the HERO service is one of the best uses of taxpayer money, bar none! :D  
D. Alkhayab

*Editor's note: the HERO program is federally-funded and receives additional funding through a sponsorship by State Farm.*

Greetings and a HUGE BIG THANK YOU!!!  
...how much we appreciate DOT for the prompt signal installation. This is awesome for the safety of us all. Also thanks for investigating all the concerns and the immediate action that has been taken to include projected safety enhancements. I'm overly pleased and many thanks.  
H. Hayes

*Editor's note: Thank you was received in response to the writer's request that Georgia DOT look into safety concerns at several exits on I-75. GDOT installed a signal at one exit and notified the writer that a project to reconstruct the other exit interchange is planned for bids in 2017.*

I just want to say thanks to the GDOT HEROs! My tire blew out on 285! I pulled over but was too scared to exit my car!! The hero came & saved me!!! Got to me super fast & changed my tire for me!! No charge! I'm so thankful, I really didn't know what to do & was scared to death!!!! Thank you thank you thank you.  
M. Carter

*Editor's note: If you break down on a Metro Atlanta expressway, pull onto the nearest shoulder and stay seat-belted in your vehicle with the doors locked. Call 511 for free HERO assistance. The HERO program is sponsored by State Farm.*

...thank you very much for working on I-20 between Lee Road and Atlanta. This stretch of highway in both directions was horrible. There were potholes and it was nearly impossible to see the lines even during the day ... I know some will complain about the traffic and the inconvenience. Even with all of this, I appreciate the fact that the DOT saw a need and has stepped up to fix it. Thank you again and keep up the good work!  
K. Boyer

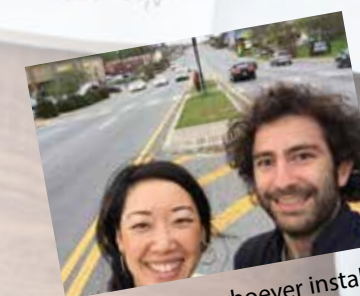
We get tweets ...

@GADeptofTrans I'm loving Interstate I-20 West resurfacing. Thank you for a smooth ride. On to the ramps! #westendbestendat!  
K. Palmer

Thanks @GADeptofTrans for paving I-20! It's making my commute MUCH smoother  
S. Mistry

@GADeptofTrans Just wanted to say great job on clearing the rollover crash today on 75S. No traffic, no delays on the way home. Thank you!  
B. Davis

**NAME CHANGER.** In 1972 the State Highway Department became the Georgia Department of Transportation.



Thank you to whoever installed this handy median!  
#marianandsimonsgreatadventure, brought to you by @GADeptofTrans!



# Think. Look. Do.

# SAFETY



Sade Wilkins, Office of Communications

The **Safety** of Georgia DOT employees is a priority. Together let's create a safety-first culture to avoid preventable injuries and accidents. To make sure we get home safely to our families.

Remember: **Think** safety first. Be part of the new GDOT safety culture.

**Look** at your surroundings. Be aware of safety hazards.

**Do** what is safe for you and co-workers. Be smart. Don't take short cuts.



Visit MyGDOT

## An Open Letter to Georgia DOT Employees



For over 25 years, I've always heard Safety is #1 at GDOT. I have to agree with that because it just is the right thing to do for the public but, most importantly, for us at GDOT.

Last year, we launched DriveAlert ArriveAlive, an external safety campaign that focuses on preventing fatalities on Georgia's roads. We also have work zone awareness week every year to get media coverage to make the public aware of the dangers of driving in work zones where we work. I thank you all for helping get the word out but now we have to focus on us!

Now it is time to renew and re-emphasize our focus on safety within the GDOT family – to embody a **culture of safety** and to be laser focused on making safety first and foremost in our jobs. **The most important reason for a culture of safety is for each of us to go home each and every day unharmed and uninjured!**

Today, we re-focus our attention on a safety culture – not just a campaign, but a mindset geared towards being safe. **Safety On My Mind** is not just a catchy phrase; it is intended to become ingrained in the GDOT culture.

1. Everyone must **THINK safety first and foremost in all that you do.** Your safety and the safety of co-workers and staff should be the first thing that you think of when preparing to do your job.
2. **Everyone must LOOK at your surroundings and be aware of safety hazards.** Take the time to analyze the situation you are in; pay attention to vehicles, equipment, and objects in your environment; and
3. **Everyone must DO what is safe for you and for the employees around you;** DO NOT take shortcuts and only do what is safe for you and others.

Over the next year, the safety team will perform a safety audit to identify gaps in our safety program; review, update and implement standardized SOPs; formalize a safety training program; and establish incentive/disincentives and compliance requirements. Your voice is critical in this effort!

We've established an internal web page that will provide valuable safety resources and information. Visit MyGDOT for more information on **Safety On My Mind!**

So please, commit to making safety your primary thought on every job and always insist that all co-workers and employees ensure a safe environment. Remember to Think, Look, Do! Always keep **safety on your mind.**

Thank you!

Commissioner Russell McMurry



# GDOT TidBits

## Outsmart traffic. With 511 and Waze.

You know that Georgia DOT's traffic information system—Georgia NaviGator 511—provides free 24/7 real-time traffic information by phone (dial 511), smartphone app or online at [www.511ga.org](http://www.511ga.org).

And now we've partnered with Waze—the crowd sourced social GPS traffic and navigation app—to provide enhanced real-time traffic data.

Waze collects traffic data from anonymous participants who have the app turned on, and shares the local traffic and road data it collects. Georgia DOT also verifies the data and sends it to the NaviGator 511 website and phone system.

"While Navigator has long tracked conditions on the state's roadways, we have now a new source of information in place - direct from the motorists themselves," said Assistant State Traffic Operations Engineer Mark Demidovich. "This should help to further reduce the time it takes us to detect incidents."

The Waze app is hands-free and provides voice-guided turn-by-turn navigation around traffic tie-ups; voice-activated user reporting of road hazards, construction, incidents, congestion; and verbal notification of upcoming conditions.

Waze has 50 million users worldwide—called Wazers.

Get the free Waze smartphone app from the App Store, your favorite app source or visit [www.waze.com](http://www.waze.com).

Georgia NaviGator 511 is sponsored by State Farm.

**Georgia DOT reminds motorists: no screen time while driving.**



## Minority scholarship for engineering students

To recruit minority engineering undergraduates and encourage them to work in Georgia in an engineering field after graduation, the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA) offers a scholarship—a service-cancellable loan—for minority students who have earned 60 semester hours toward their engineering degree and are enrolled full-time in an engineering program at Georgia Tech, Georgia Southern, Kennesaw State, Mercer or the University of Georgia. For details on the Scholarship for Engineering Excellence for Minorities (MSEE) and other resources for planning for college, visit [www.GAfuture.org](http://www.GAfuture.org).

## Using technology to address truck driver fatigue

Under a new rule from the USDOT's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), commercial truck and bus drivers who use paper logs to record their hours behind the wheel must begin using an electronic logging device (ELD) by December 18, 2017. The rule is expected to improve roadway safety by strengthening commercial truck and bus driver compliance with hours-of-service regulations that prevent fatigue. Visit [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/elds](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/elds).

## Vote for safety: no unauthorized signs on state right-of-way

This election year, here's something on which we can all agree. Don't post signs on state right-of-way. Unauthorized signs can create a safety hazard. And while an election year means an increase in political signs – the yard sale, real estate, and goods and services signs are illegal too. Violation is a misdemeanor; punishable by a fine up to \$1,000 and/or 12 months in jail.

## We shouldn't need to say this, but we will anyway

No Pokémon Go from the driver's seat – do it from the passenger seat only. This new way of driving distracted has already resulted in crashes and injuries. And pedestrians do your part. Get your head out of your apps and pay attention.



Photo: Amala Sarvepalli, GDOT

**Always buckle up – stay off the phone and no texting – drive alert.**



## It happens every year: hurricane season

Hurricane season is June through November, so we're smack in the middle right now. Are you prepared? Do you know what to do in the event of a hurricane, severe weather or other emergency?

Get informed. Visit

<http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/Emergency>.

Read the hurricane safety brochure; learn about contra-flow lanes that reverse direction for emergency evacuation; and link to national, state and regional emergency resources. Also head over to [www.ready.ga.gov](http://www.ready.ga.gov), where you can download the Ready Georgia mobile app to receive severe weather alerts and learn how to protect your family.

## Weigh-in-Motion

Georgia DOT's Weigh in Motion (WIM) project is installing weigh scales in outside interstate lanes across the state. These scales—located upstream of each of the 19 existing weigh stations—record axle and gross vehicle weights as vehicles drive over them. Because there is no stopping, the process allows for weight-compliant commercial trucks to bypass inspection sites. In addition to saving time, WIM has environmental benefits and improves highway safety. Installation is expected to be completed by May 2017.



## How do GDOT employees feel?

Results for the 2016 Employee Survey will be posted on MyGDOT in early 2017. The survey - a joint effort between Georgia DOT's Office of Organizational Performance Management and the University of Georgia - was conducted in September. Thank you to those who participated – your feedback is both valued and appreciated.

## Kids and hot cars don't mix

You know that vehicles heat up quickly. And you would never knowingly leave your young child unattended in a car, even for short periods. But every year, children die from heatstroke because their parent or caregiver forgot or didn't know they were in the vehicle. This can happen to any parent, especially when there is a change in routine. But it can be prevented.

Before you lock up and walk away, make it a habit to look in your vehicle – front and back. For your child's sake.

<http://bit.ly/2bJfXZp>

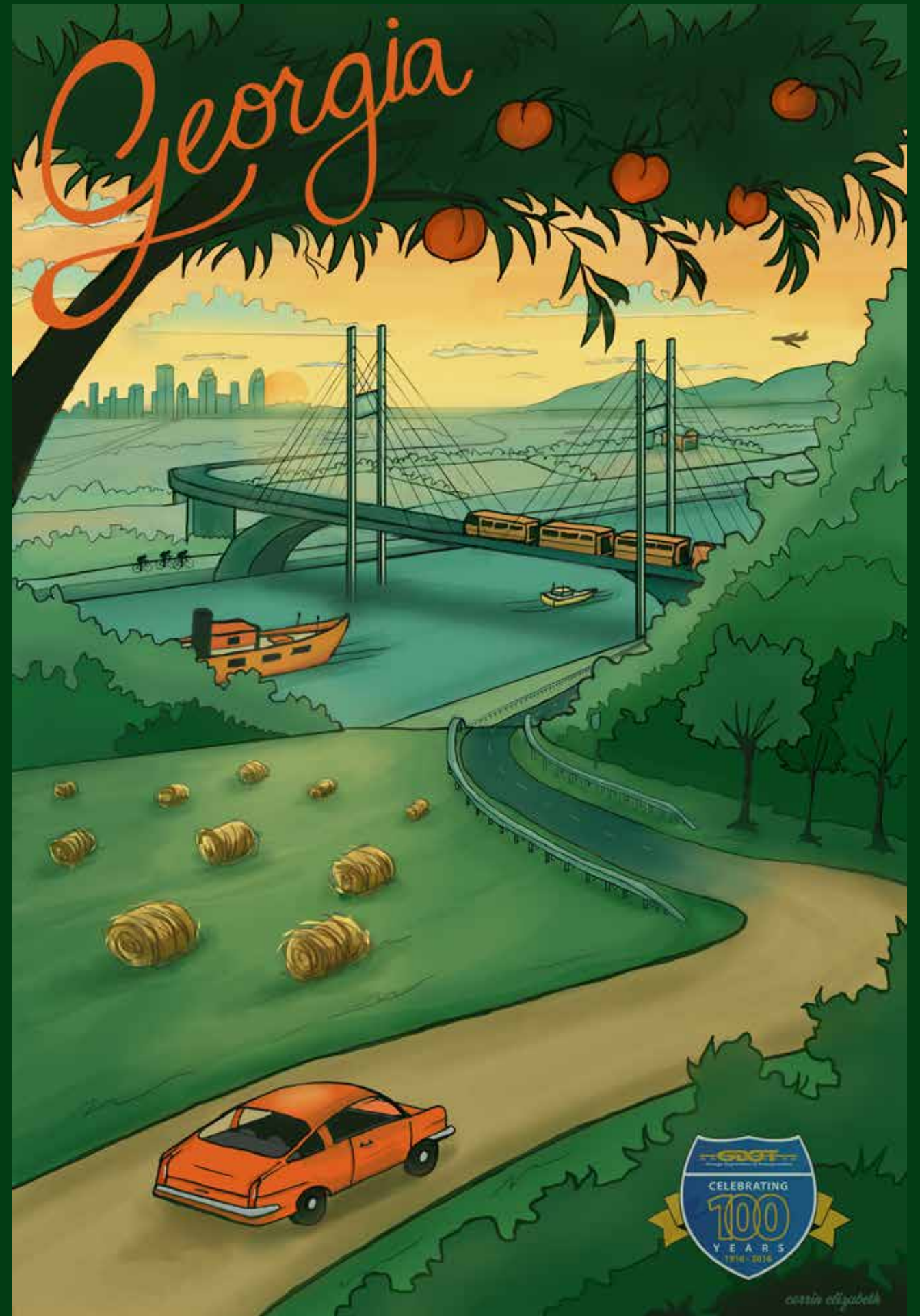


## A CENTENNIAL SNIPPET

**THANK A BICYCLIST.** In the 1880s, the Good Roads Movement—initially led by bicyclists—was a national crusade for improved roads, especially in rural areas. As the automobile gained momentum in the early twentieth century, cross-country projects developed - like the Dixie Highway. The highway extended from Montreal to Miami. Take a trip Down the Dixie Highway in Georgia. <https://youtu.be/eaAKHph9Wal>









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