

**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA  
MINUTES**

**Georgia Department of Transportation  
600 West Peachtree St.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308**

**June 18, 2025  
1:00 p.m.**

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ann R. Purcell, Chair  
Jamie Boswell, Vice Chair  
Dennis McEntire, Secretary  
Cathy Williams  
Stacey Key  
Doug Stoner  
Joe Stein  
Tim Golden  
Jeff Lewis  
Dan Snipes  
Micah Gravley

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE VIA TELEPHONE:**

Emily Dunn  
Dana Lemon

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Robert L. Brown

**DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Russell R. McMurry, Commissioner  
Andrew Heath, Deputy Commissioner  
Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer  
Angela Whitworth, Treasurer  
Jannine Miller, Director of Planning  
Annette Simelaro, General Counsel

Chair Ann R. Purcell called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Dennis McEntire gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. With a quorum being present, Chair Purcell proceeded to call for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2025

board meeting. Tim Golden made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Cathy Williams and unanimously approved. \*

Albert Shelby, Director of Program Delivery, gave a report on the Letting results for Fiscal Year 2025, the May 2025 Letting results and the projects in the July 2025 Letting. State TIA Administrator Kenneth Franks then presented the TIA projects for the July 2025 Letting. Chair Purcell called for a motion to approve the July 2025 Letting. Tim Golden made a motion to approve the July 2025 Letting, seconded by Dennis McEntire and unanimously approved. \*

Matt Markham, Deputy Director of Planning, presented two changes and one addition to the Construction Work Program. Chair Purcell called for a motion to approve the revised Construction Work Program. Cathy Williams made a motion to approve the revisions, seconded by Doug Stoner and unanimously approved.

Commissioner McMurry began his remarks by informing the Board of a pair of roadway incidents that highlighted the importance of work zone safety. On June 17, near MP 109 in Dooly County on I-75 southbound, an employee working for a contractor of GDOT was fatally injured in a hit & run crash. He then expressed his condolences to the family, friends and coworkers of the individual who lost his life. The commissioner then discussed the second incident which occurred on June 13. A GDOT crew was spraying herbicide on SR 84 East in Long County when a citizen's pickup truck struck a GDOT foreman's truck and then continued to also strike the truck carrying the herbicide tank. Three GDOT employees were involved. In addition to the two drivers of the GDOT vehicles which were struck, a GDOT employee was on foot conducting hand-spraying. To avoid being struck by the citizen's vehicle, the employee who was on foot jumped off the bridge, with an approximate fall of 40-feet, suffering a hip fracture and back strain injuries. He remains hospitalized at the time of the Board meeting. The GDOT drivers of the two vehicles received strain injuries and were transported to the hospital and released. After the collision, the citizen motorist exited the truck and was walking around. The commissioner stated that investigations into both incidents were ongoing, and he would update the Board as more information became available.

Commissioner McMurry then provided the monthly department reports including transportation fund collections ending May 2025. Also reported were the total employment figures ending May 2025; and the monthly procurement report for May 2025.

The commissioner moved on to highlight four projects open to traffic in May 2025: construction of a bridge and approaches on SR 60 over Suches Creek in Union County (Congressional District 9, GDOT District 1); widening and reconstruction on US 1/SR 4 from the Wadley bypass to the Louisville bypass and includes four bridges and approaches over Ogeechee River and Ogeechee Overflow in Jefferson County (Congressional District 12, GDOT District 2);

construction of a bridge and approaches on Sand Valley Road over Duhart Creek in Jefferson County (Congressional District 12, GDOT District 2); bridge rehabilitation project consisted of painting the steel superstructure, polymer overlay of the bridge deck and joint replacement at six locations in Greene, Laurens, Newton and Richmond Counties. (Congressional District 10 & 12, GDOT District 2). Commissioner McMurry then highlighted an aviation project which consisted of construction of a terminal building and land side facilities at the Reidsville Municipal Airport in Tattnall County. He then discussed an additional aviation project which consisted of the construction of a Taxiway B and compass calibration pad at Covington Municipal Airport in Newton County.

The commissioner began the Awards, Honors, Achievements and Recognitions section of his remarks by announcing two recent promotions. Jason Willingham has been promoted to serve as the new District Engineer for GDOT District 4 effective May 16<sup>th</sup>. Jason has been with the Department for 18 years, most recently holding the position of District Preconstruction Engineer since April 2020. He received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Southern Polytechnic University and his master's in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee and is a licensed Professional Engineer. The commissioner asked Jason to stand and be recognized. Commissioner McMurry then announced that Merishia Robinson Coleman has been appointed as the Executive Assistant to the Chief Engineer. Merishia holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering technology from Georgia Southern University and started her GDOT career in the D7 Design Office. Commissioner McMurry also asked Merishia to stand and be recognized. He then congratulated both Jason and Merishia on their promotions.

The next topic was the Transportation Research Board's 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Roundabouts and Geometric Design which was hosted by GDOT and held in Atlanta the week prior to the board meeting. The Transportation Research Board (TRB) is part of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, and provides leadership in transportation improvements and innovation through evidence-based information exchange, research, and advice regarding all modes of transportation. This conference is held every five years, and the Geometric Design component of the conference had never taken place in the U.S. until Georgia had the honor of hosting this year. The primary objective of the conference is to support and advance global safety, efficiency, and resilience efforts in roadway, interchange, and intersection design for a more sustainable transportation system. As the host of the conference, Georgia DOT was well represented with more than 25 attendees participating in and leading several sessions.

Georgia DOT's involvement included:

- Delivery of two keynote addresses by Deputy Commissioner Andrew Heath and State Safety Program Manager Sam Harris.
- Technical tours, identifying itineraries and routes, recruiting speakers/panelists and conference logistics/advice
- Participation in 10 technical sessions as panelists and moderators

- Seven GDOT employees served as technical tour guides for bus tours of interchanges and roundabouts, and walking tours on MARTA and the PATH 400 trail.
- GDOT employees also volunteered to help distribute safety vests, provide directions to visiting attendees, and other tasks and interfacing with guests as needed.

The commissioner thanked State Roadway Design Engineer Sam Woods who was pivotal in helping organize Georgia DOT's involvement, as well as all of the GDOT employees that participated.

Commissioner McMurry then discussed Foreman's Academy training which was produced by the State Maintenance Office and recently took place at the Macon area office. The commissioner stated that a Georgia DOT foreman supervises and instructs maintenance crews who are essential for keeping the state's transportation network in top condition. The Foreman's Academy is specialized training designed to foster front-line leadership which directly impacts the productivity and safety of the Department's maintenance crews. Participants are comprised of women and men who are earlier in their careers as foremen and receive training on policies and procedures, participate in peer exchange and form relationships with Subject Matter Experts. Upon completion of the Academy, GDOT team members are better equipped to manage crews, enforce standards, communicate effectively, and address issues proactively. Over the past two years, the Department has been fortunate to provide this training twice a year. The commissioner then mentioned the importance of investing in the Department's workforce and highlighted the Foreman's Academy as an excellent resource to nurture the talent GDOT already has on staff. He then congratulated all the graduates of this Foreman's Academy.

The next topic was the "Community Hurricane Prep Rally" which was hosted by Glynn County EMA and Brunswick EMA. GDOT District 5 and other state and local agencies were in attendance as well. June 1 marked the start of Hurricane season which means state agencies, local communities, EMAs and all entities, including GDOT, must be ready and prepared for the extreme inclement weather that often occurs during this time of year. The "Community Hurricane Prep Rally" was a family-friendly event where visitors and members of the community can learn all about preparedness, response and recovery from local experts, as well as how each household can be as prepared as possible as a storm approaches. The GDOT District 5 representatives talked with members of the community and shared information on GDOT's preparation for and response to hurricanes. The commissioner then offered his thanks to the Glynn County and Brunswick EMAs for hosting this event and allowing GDOT to be part of it.

The commissioner then discussed that GDOT is always on the lookout for the next generation of transportation professionals. As evidence of this focus, he highlighted the Department's internship program which is headed up by Recruitment Manager Nicole Glenn. This year's summer internship program had a record-breaking 879 applications which has resulted in the largest

summer intern class the Department has ever had with 105 students. As a result, GDOT has interns placed in all seven GDOT districts and 14 offices and this intern class represents 26 different schools and universities. Interns are invited to rotate through a variety of GDOT offices to obtain experience in different disciplines, attend State Transportation Board meetings, and take field trips to various field locations while gaining valuable experiences to take back to the classroom to guide their college careers. Commissioner McMurry showed a picture of Chair Purcell who met with the GDOT District 5 interns. He thanked Chair Purcell for taking the time to meet with the interns and asked the interns in attendance to stand and be recognized.

The commissioner then concluded his presentation by informing the Board of an upcoming road dedication in honor of the late Johnny Floyd who was a former board member, friend and colleague. Mr. Floyd was the Congressional District 2 representative on the Board for more than a decade, serving over the years as both Chair and Vice Chair. Prior to the Board, he served in the Georgia House of Representatives for almost 20 years, including time as vice chair of the House Transportation Committee. The commissioner said it was fitting that Mr. Floyd will be remembered with a road dedication on the I-75 interchange at US 280 / SR 30, Exit 101 which will thereafter be known as the Honorable Johnny Floyd Jr. Interchange. State Representative Noel Williams spearheaded a dedication ceremony held on Friday, June 27 at 10am in Cordele, with coordination from board member Tim Golden and support from GDOT District 4. The commissioner thanked Mr. Golden for his involvement and Rep. Williams for organizing the event.

The commissioner then ended his presentation.

Committee Chairman Tim Golden gave the Statewide Transportation Planning/Strategic Planning Committee report. \* No actions were taken during this committee.

Committee Member Cathy Williams gave the Intermodal Committee report. \* No actions were taken during this committee.

Board Chair Ann R. Purcell gave the Committee of the Whole report. \* No actions were taken during this committee.

Board Chair Ann R. Purcell presented a retirement resolution on behalf of the board to former Deputy Commissioner Brad Saxon. Chair Purcell asked for a motion to adopt this resolution. Joe Stein made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Tim Golden and unanimously approved.

### **A Resolution by the State Transportation Board**

**WHEREAS**, Bradford W. Saxon, P.E., retired from the Georgia Department of Transportation after a 31-year career that began as an intern in the Savannah area construction office in the summer of 1990 and

culminated with his service as Deputy Commissioner. His genuine leadership style and strong connections with colleagues define an impressive career that has made a lasting impact on the Department and the state of Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, after four years working as an intern and upon graduation from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree in 1994, Bradford, known as Brad to his colleagues and friends, joined the Georgia Department of Transportation full-time as a Transportation Engineer II in the Savannah area office. In this role, he managed a diverse array of transportation projects which would establish the foundation of a distinguished career prioritizing the safety and mobility of the citizens of Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, Brad's early career with the Department was highlighted by consistent advancement reflecting an unwavering dedication to enhancing transportation in Georgia. In 1999, he received his first promotion, rising to the position of Assistant Area Engineer for Construction in the Glennville area office. He would later transfer to the Statesboro area office in the same role. His talents were soon recognized again in 2001, when he earned a well-deserved promotion to Assistant District Construction Engineer for GDOT District 5; and

**WHEREAS**, as Brad's career flourished in GDOT District 5, so did his contributions to the state's transportation network. During this time, he held several positions, including Assistant District Maintenance Engineer, District Construction Engineer, and District Preconstruction Engineer. A few of his notable accomplishments in service to the people of Georgia include construction oversight of the widening of the last five segments of I-95 in Georgia in Glynn and McIntosh Counties, completion of the Vidalia one-way pair project, and design of the widening of SR144 in Bryan County; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013, Brad was selected to serve as an assistant office head in the Office of Program Delivery, where he expanded his personal knowledge of the plan development process and aided in the delivery of hundreds of projects across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, in February 2016, Brad was appointed to the position of District Engineer in GDOT District 5 to lead the department's efforts in serving the citizens of southeast Georgia. After the passage of HB170, Brad prioritized addressing deferred maintenance on the state route system with a priority placed along I-16, I-95, and I-516, which included a vegetation management program to reestablish clear zones and improve recovery areas for errant vehicles, making interstates safer for all travelers; and

**WHEREAS**, Brad's unwavering dedication as District Engineer to serving the citizens of Georgia is evident in his highly effective leadership through response and recovery operations. Specifically, during Hurricane Matthew in October 2016, Hurricane Irma in September 2017, the winter storm of January 2018, the tragic crash of a WC-130 military plane along State Route 21 in Chatham County in May 2018, and Hurricane Michael in October 2018. Because of his steadfast leadership and heartfelt contributions during challenging times, he helped restore normalcy to many Georgians facing the worst of times; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019, Brad was appointed Director of Field Districts, where he worked with the District Engineers to ensure consistency in the delivery of the Department's programs with an emphasis on customer service; and

**WHEREAS**, over the course of his career, Brad steadily advanced within the Georgia Department of Transportation. In 2021, he accepted a promotion to the role of Deputy Commissioner, his final assignment with the Department. In this role, he significantly enhanced operations by prioritizing recruitment and retention of talented employees resulting in an increase of overall headcount, focused on equipment investment ensuring that staff had the resources necessary to deliver on the promise of a safe

and efficient transportation network, and concentrated on a high standard of service delivery to the citizens of Georgia.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the State Transportation Board recognizes Bradford W. Saxon for his leadership, dedication, and valuable contributions to the advancement of Georgia's transportation network.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, a copy of this resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of this meeting, and a suitable copy be presented to Bradford W. Saxon in honor and recognition of his 31 years of service to the state of Georgia and for his lasting impact on the Georgia Department of Transportation.

**ADOPTED, this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025.**

There being no further business, Chair Ann R. Purcell adjourned the board meeting at 2:05 p.m.

**Approved:**

**Respectfully submitted**

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Ann R. Purcell., Chair

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Dennis McEntire, Secretary

**\*Denotes documentation in file.**

STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING/STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA

Georgia Department of Transportation  
600 West Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

June 18, 2025  
10:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

(\* indicates committee member)

Ann R. Purcell\*

Jamie Boswell

Dennis McEntire\*

Cathy Williams

Doug Stoner

Joe Stein

Tim Golden\*

Jeff Lewis\*

Dan Snipes

Dana Lemon\* (via telephone)

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Russell McMurry, Commissioner

Andrew Heath, Deputy Commissioner

Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer

Angela Whitworth, Treasurer

Jannine Miller, Planning Director

Annette Simelaro, General Counsel

Committee Chairman Tim Golden called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

SueAnne Decker, Assistant Director of Planning, presented on the Transportation Alternative (TA) program. Transportation Alternatives (TA) is a competitive federal program that promotes non-motorized transportation, like walking and biking. The TA presentation included material regarding who can apply, what types of projects are eligible for funding, and a schedule of when the next round of applications are due. The partnership with the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) was highlighted. SRTA assists in providing match assistance to rural Georgia through the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB). With this partnership, the program has been able to expand awareness of this opportunity and invite those interested to apply. In FY 2025, \$12.6M was awarded to 23 projects.

There being no further business, Committee Chairman Tim Golden adjourned the meeting at 10:18 AM.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted:

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Tim Golden, Chairman

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Dennis McEntire, Secretary



INTERMODAL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA

Georgia Department of Transportation  
600 West Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

June 18, 2025  
10:19 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

(\* indicates committee member)

Ann R. Purcell\*

Jamie Boswell

Dennis McEntire\*

Cathy Williams\*

Doug Stoner\*

Joe Stein

Tim Golden

Jeff Lewis

Dan Snipes

Dana Lemon\* (via telephone)

Micah Gravley

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Russell McMurtry, Commissioner

Andrew Heath, Deputy Commissioner

Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer

Angela Whitworth, Treasurer

Jannine Miller, Planning Director

Annette Simelaro, General Counsel

Committee Member Cathy Williams called the meeting to order at 10:19 AM

Patricia Smith, Transit Program Manager, provided a presentation to the Intermodal Committee. The presentation provided an update on GDOT's Transit Program, highlighting recent Statewide Transit Plan initiatives, Federal Transit Administration grant programs, and the Transit Trust Fund Program. Dr. Smith's presentation focused on the importance of rural transit, and GDOT's goal to provide oversight and assistance in the expansion and enhancement transit throughout Georgia's communities.

There being no further business, Committee Member Cathy Williams adjourned the meeting at 10:45 AM.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted:

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Emily Dunn, Chair

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Dennis McEntire, Secretary

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES

STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA

Georgia Department of Transportation  
600 West Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

June 18, 2025  
10:46 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ann R. Purcell  
Jamie Boswell  
Dennis McEntire  
Cathy Williams  
Doug Stoner  
Joe Stein  
Tim Golden  
Jeff Lewis

Dan Snipes  
Dana Lemon (via telephone)  
Micah Gravley

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Russell McMurtry, Commissioner  
Andrew Heath, Deputy Commissioner  
Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer  
Angela Whitworth, Treasurer  
Jannine Miller, Planning Director  
Annette Simelaro, General Counsel

Board Chair Ann R. Purcell called the meeting to order at 10:46 AM

Chris Rudd, Director of Engineering, presented an overview of the GDOT Bridge Program. This included a summary of the organization of the Bridge Design & Maintenance Office, types of funding that are available for the preservation and replacement of bridges, and the current condition of bridges in the state. The overview included a discussion of how bridges are inspected and selected for rehabilitation or replacement.

Emily Fish, Assistant State Maintenance Engineer, presented a Hurricane Helene recovery update, including final stats, a FEMA Public Assistance overview, and an After-Action Review. She presented an outlook of the Atlantic Hurricane season coming up this fall and discussed implementing lessons learned for preparations going forward.

There being no further business, Board Chair Ann R. Purcell adjourned the meeting at 11:44 AM.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted:

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Ann R. Purcell, Chair

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Dennis McEntire, Secretary