



STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

MAY 2026 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

May 20, 2026



STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Program Delivery Committee

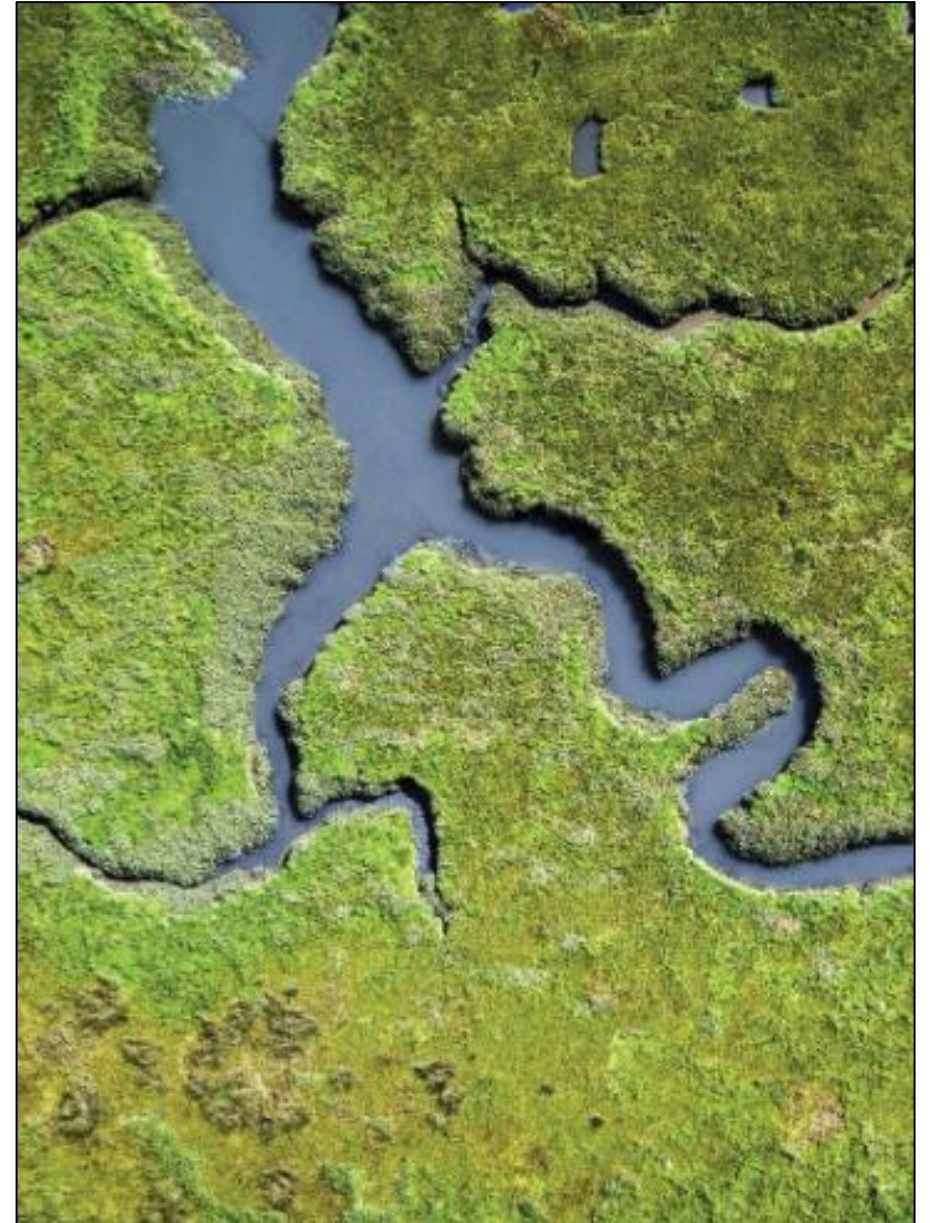
May 20, 2026



GDOT's Stream and Wetland Mitigation Program

Doug Chamblin
Assistant State Environmental Administrator
GDOT Office of Environmental Services
dchamblin@dot.ga.gov

May 20, 2026



GDOT's Stream and Wetland Mitigation Program

Agenda

1. Background
2. Mitigation Needs
Forecasting
3. GDOT's Strategy to Ensure
Continued Mitigation
Availability



Background

Stream and Wetland Mitigation

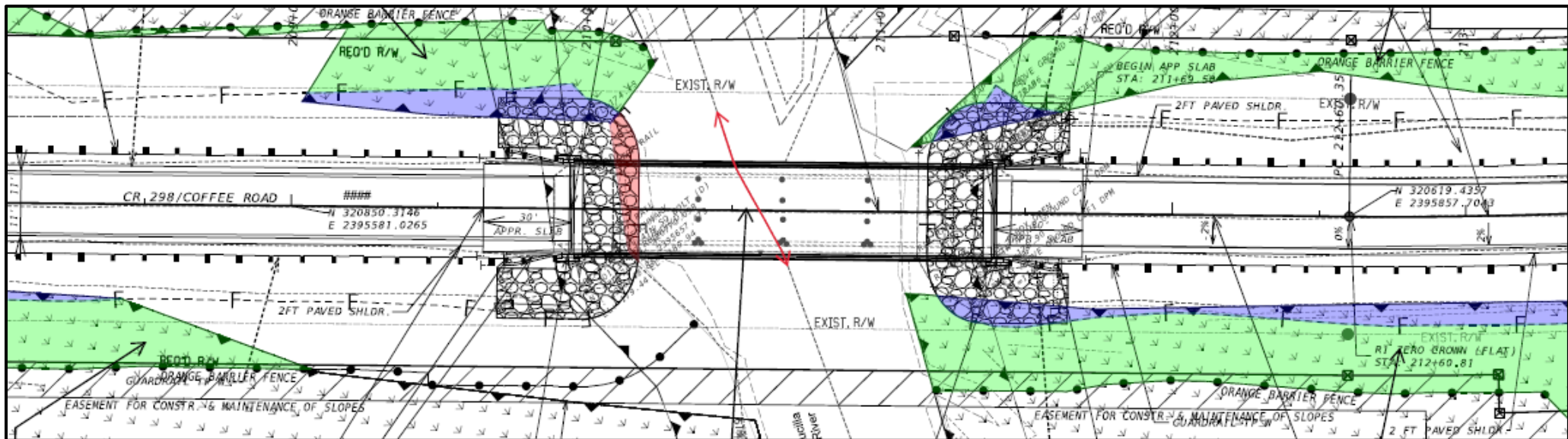
- Definition: The restoration, establishment, enhancement, or preservation of aquatic resources to offset unavoidable adverse impacts.
- A requirement under state and federal regulations.
 - Clean Water Act – Section 404 (US Army Corps of Engineers)
 - Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act (GA Environmental Protection Division)



Background

Credit Calculation and Purchase

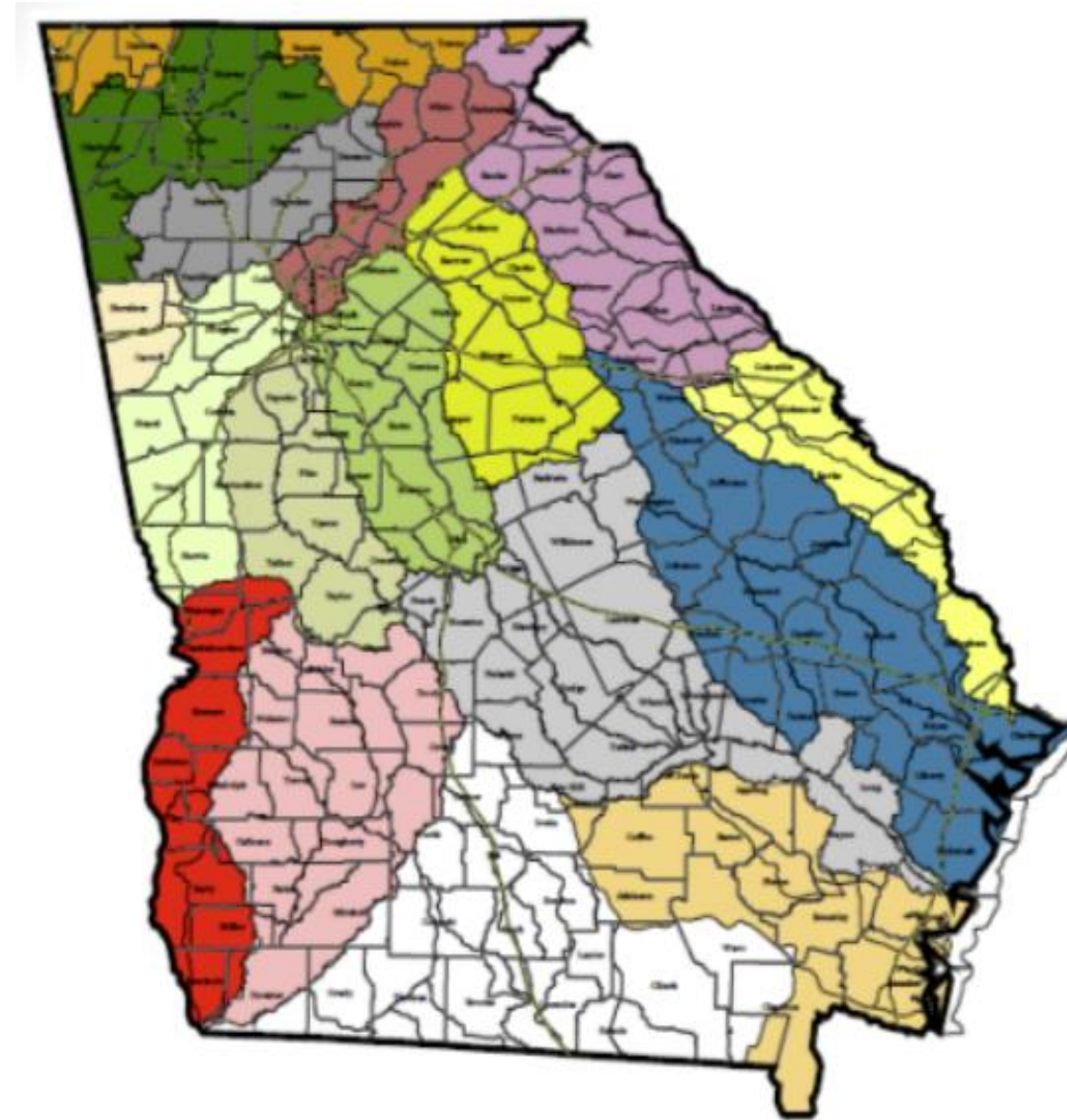
- Stream and Wetland impacts are calculated by overlaying field delineations on plans.
- Quantify linear feet of streams and acres of wetlands to be impacted (fill, clearing, etc.)
- Convert quantities to “credits” using a formula that considers quality of the resource, type/duration of impact.
- Purchase credits for projects that impact 100 linear feet of stream or 0.1 acre of wetland.



Background

Mitigation Service Areas

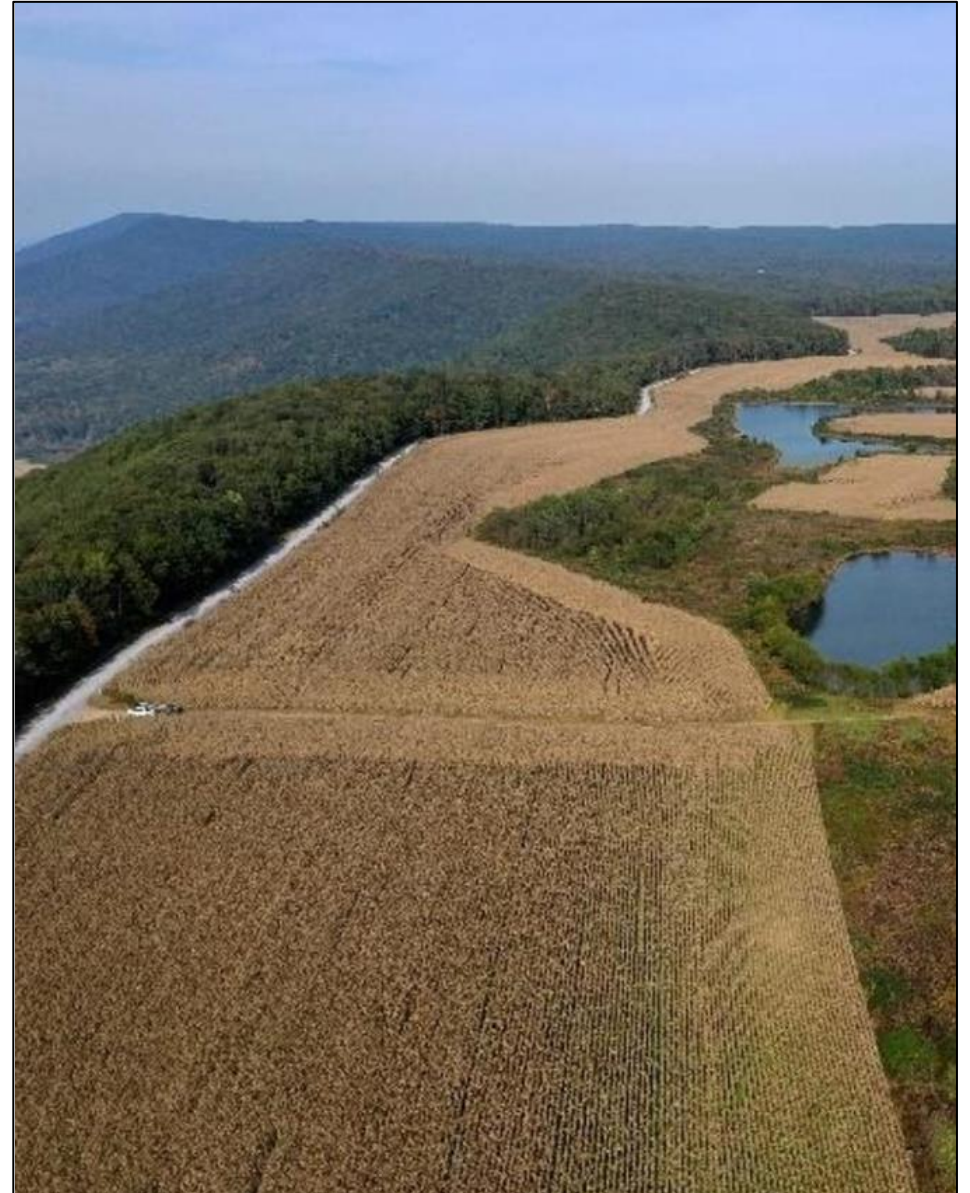
- USACE has divided GA into 17 mitigation service areas.
- Permittees generally must purchase credits from a bank in the same service area as their project.



Background

Importance of Mitigation Credits

- Without mitigation credits, permits cannot be issued and construction cannot take place.
- Lack of credits has delayed projects.
- Credit cost increases have also led to project delays!



Mitigation Needs Forecasting

A Look Ahead at Credit Availability vs. GDOT's Needs

- Historically, the market has provided all the credits GDOT needs.
- This has changed in the last several years, with some service areas running out.
- Forecasting is needed to determine whether this trend will continue and where we need to take action to prevent mitigation-related project delays.



Mitigation Needs Forecasting

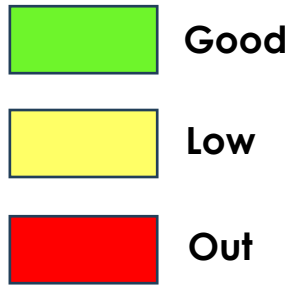
Forecast Study 2020

- Compared GDOT's expected credit needs with those available on the commercial market for the 10-year period from 2020-2030.
- Found multiple service areas projected to either have shortages or run out completely.

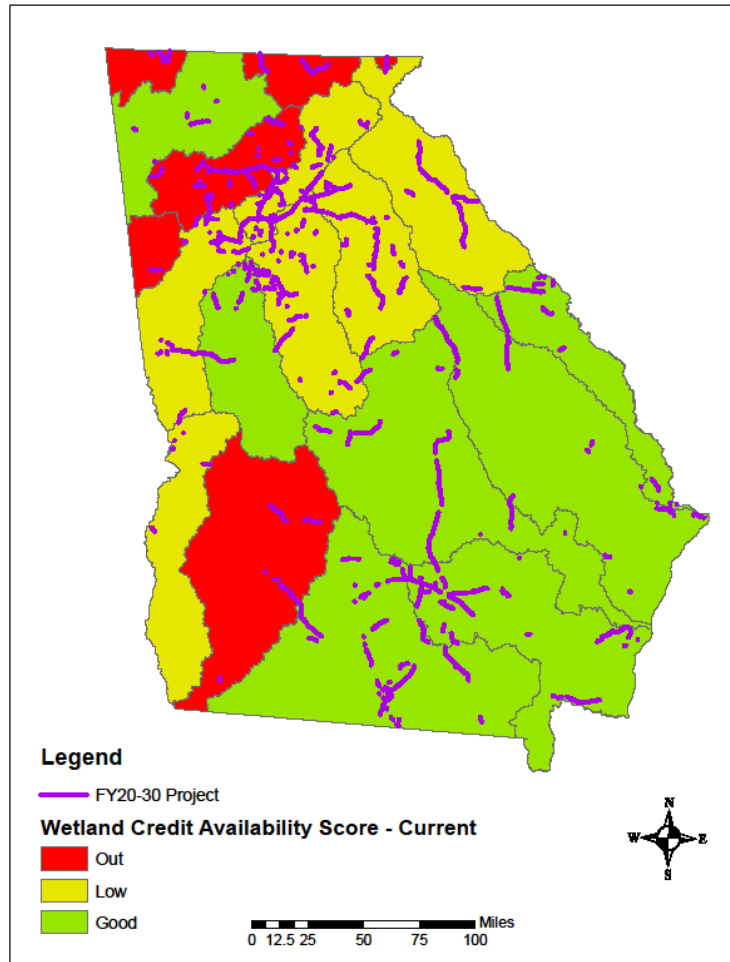


GDOT Mitigation Program

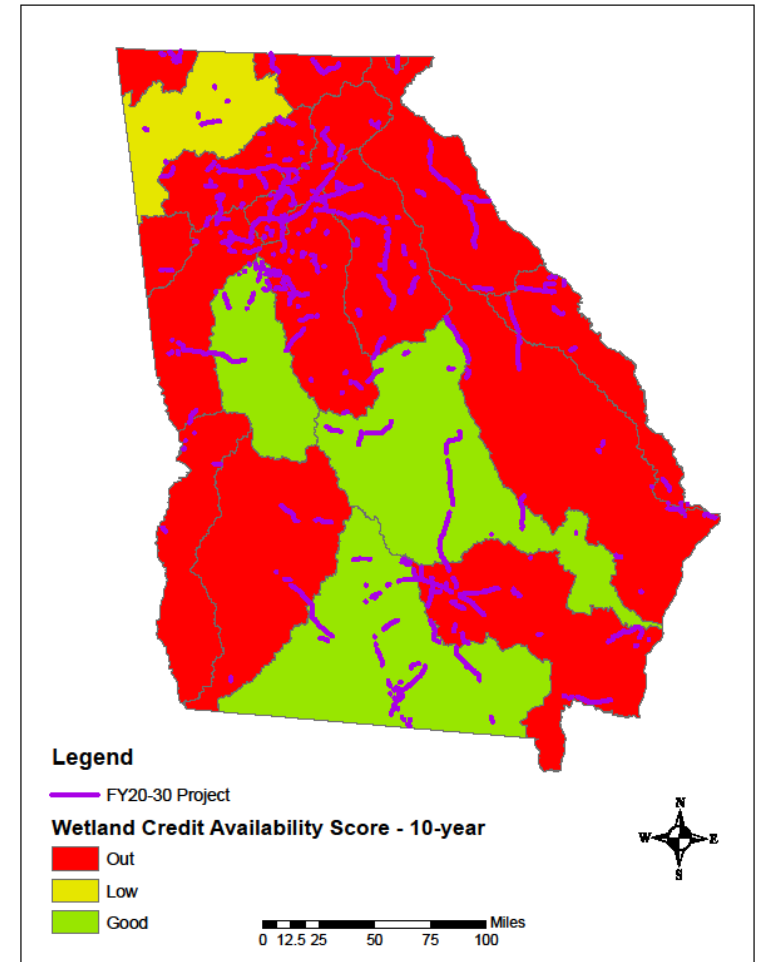
Wetland Credits



2020



2030



Mitigation Needs Forecasting

Next Step

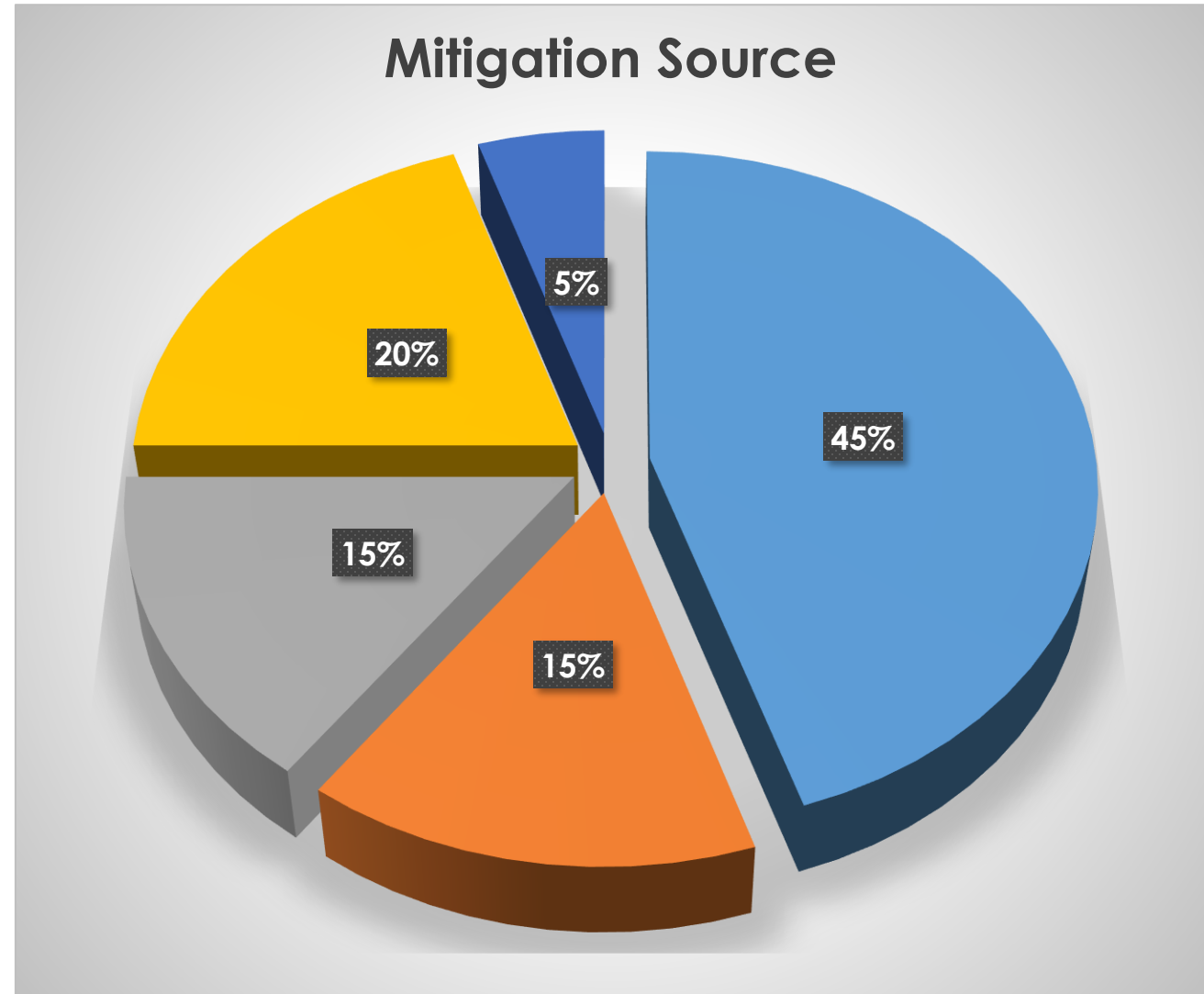
- Update forecast model: in progress with an expected completion in CY 2026.



GDOT Mitigation Strategy

Sources and Target Percentages

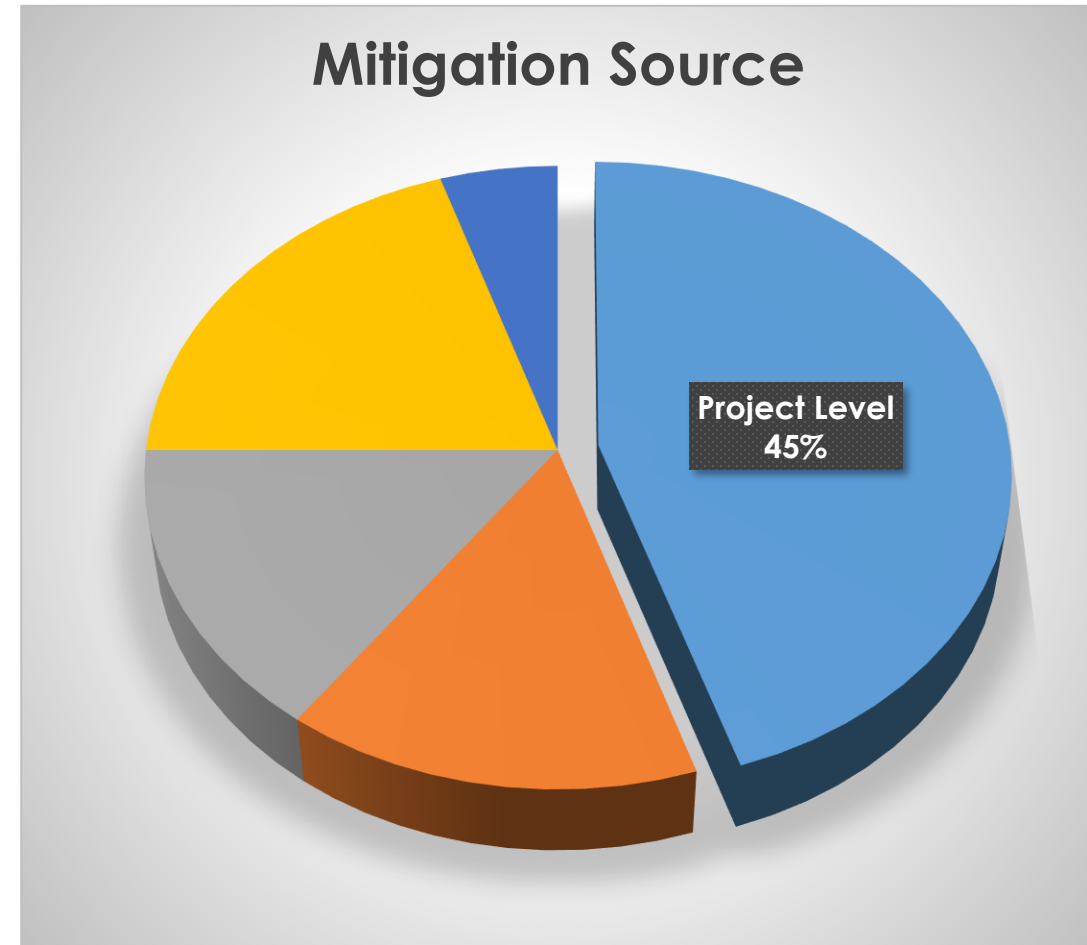
- Project-level Credit Purchases (45%)
- Advanced Credit Purchases (15%)
- Bulk Credit Solicitations (15%)
- In-lieu Fee Credits (20%)
- GDOT-Owned Bank Development (5%)



GDOT Mitigation Strategy

Project-level Credit Purchases – 45% of Credits

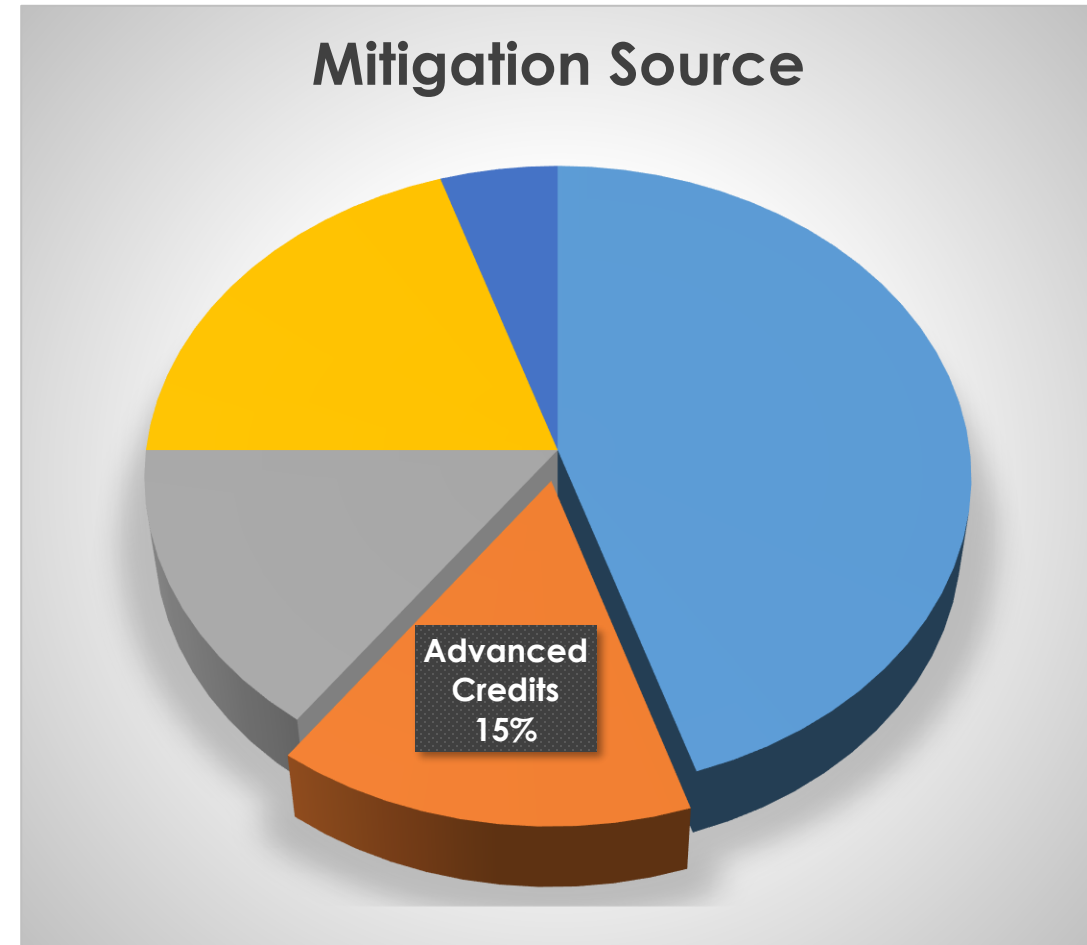
- Approach
 - Purchase credits from established banks, as needed for an individual project.
 - Credits tied to a USACE permit.
- Benefits
 - Standard process preferred by USACE.
 - Works great when credits are available.
 - Funded by project budgets.
- Challenges
 - Does not provide statewide, long-term credit stability.
 - Relies on established banks and market responsiveness to shortages (passive).



GDOT Mitigation Strategy

Advanced Credit Purchase – 15% of Credits

- Approach: purchase available credits for use on future projects.
- Since 2022, GDOT has spent \$86M to purchase 257,000 stream and 850 wetland credits.



GDOT Mitigation Strategy

Advanced Credit Purchases

- Benefits
 - Provides mid-to-long-term credit security in some watersheds.
 - Protects against cost increases.
- Challenges
 - Relies on credit availability in established banks.
 - Requires allotment of non-project funds.
 - May create credit shortages that affect other applicants/developers.

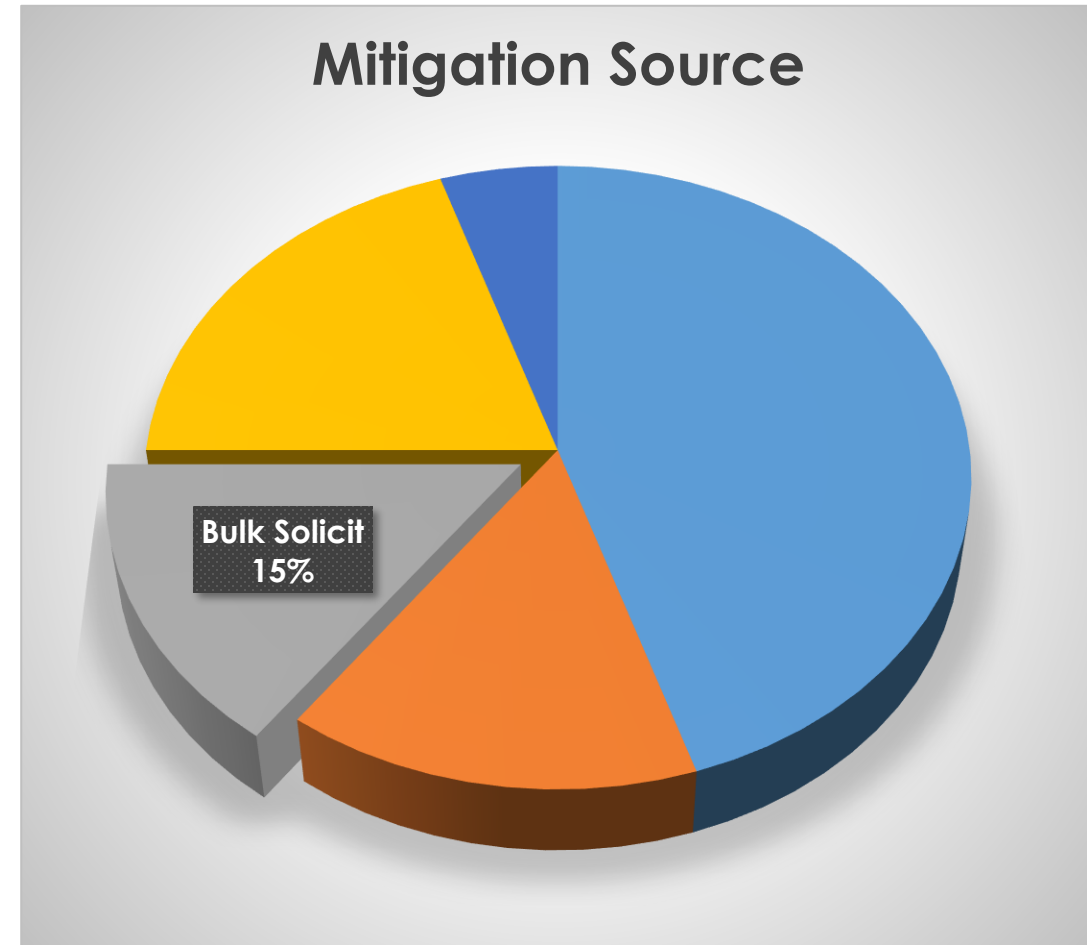
GA Watersheds



GDOT Mitigation Strategy

Bulk Credit Solicitations – 15% of Credits

- GDOT publishes a solicitation for the banking industry to provide:
 - A specific number of stream and/or wetland credits
 - In one or more designated service area
 - By a specified date
- GDOT enters into contracts to purchase credits once they become available.



GDOT Mitigation Strategy

Bulk Credit Solicitations

- Benefits
 - Potential for mid- to long-term credit security in service areas of our choosing.
 - Proactive approach can be scaled/repeated.
 - Protects against cost increases (prices locked in through contracts).
- Challenges
 - Requires allotment of non-project funds.
 - No guarantee that banking industry will be able to deliver requested credits.

GDOT Mitigation Strategy

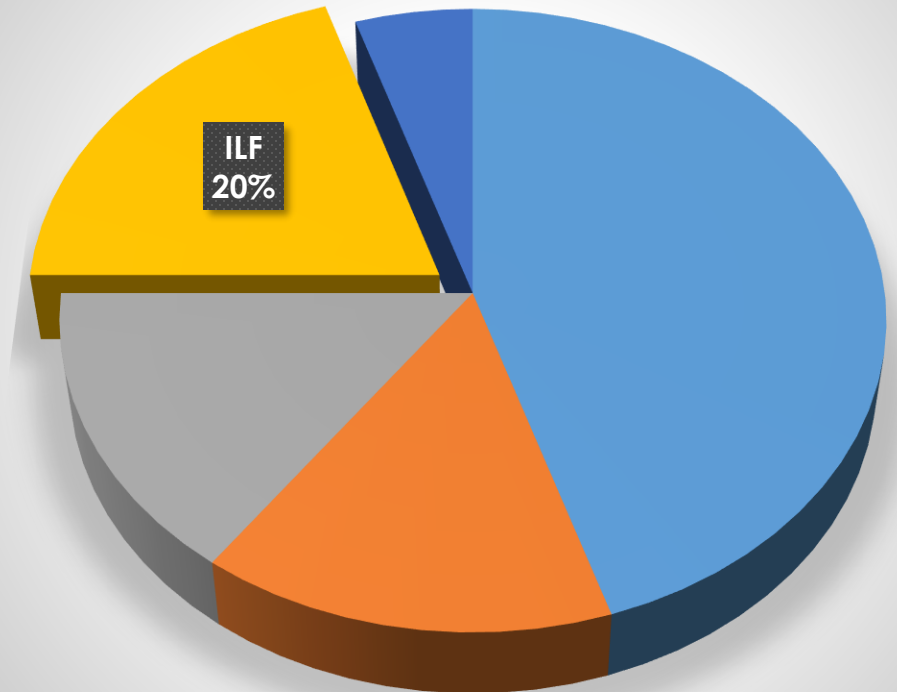
In-lieu Fee (ILF) – 20% of Credits

- Program managed by the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust (GALT).
- GALT receives an advance credit release from USACE and for a certain service area.
- GALT sells the mitigation credits and uses the money raised to pay for development of mitigation banks.



**GEORGIA-ALABAMA
LAND TRUST**

Mitigation Source



GDOT Mitigation Strategy

In-Lieu Fee



**GEORGIA-ALABAMA
LAND TRUST**

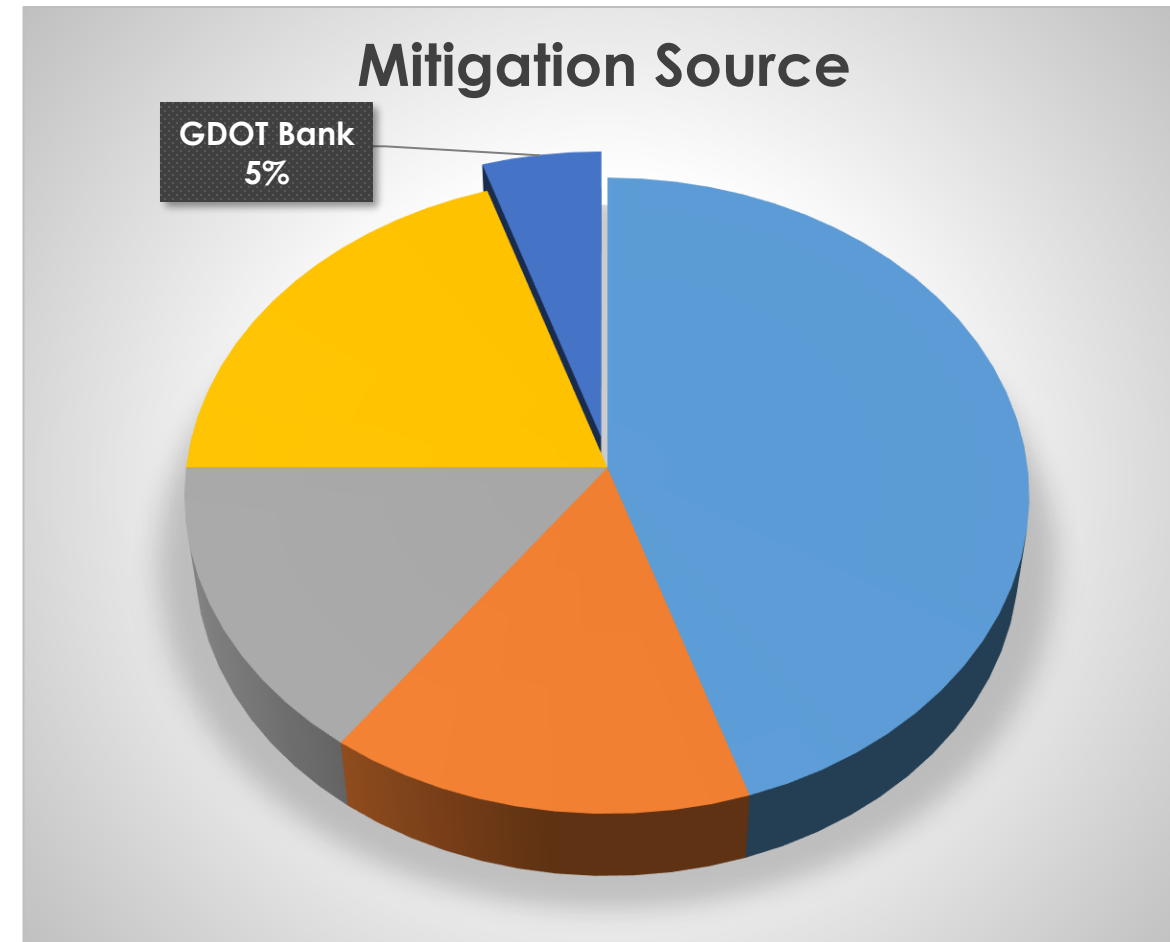
- Benefits
 - Serves as a backup when commercial credits are not available.
- Challenges
 - Not available in all service areas.
 - Can only purchase at the project level when other banks are sold out (does not compete with private banking market).
 - Does not provide statewide, long-term credit stability.



GDOT Mitigation Strategy

GDOT-Owned Bank Development – 5% of Credits

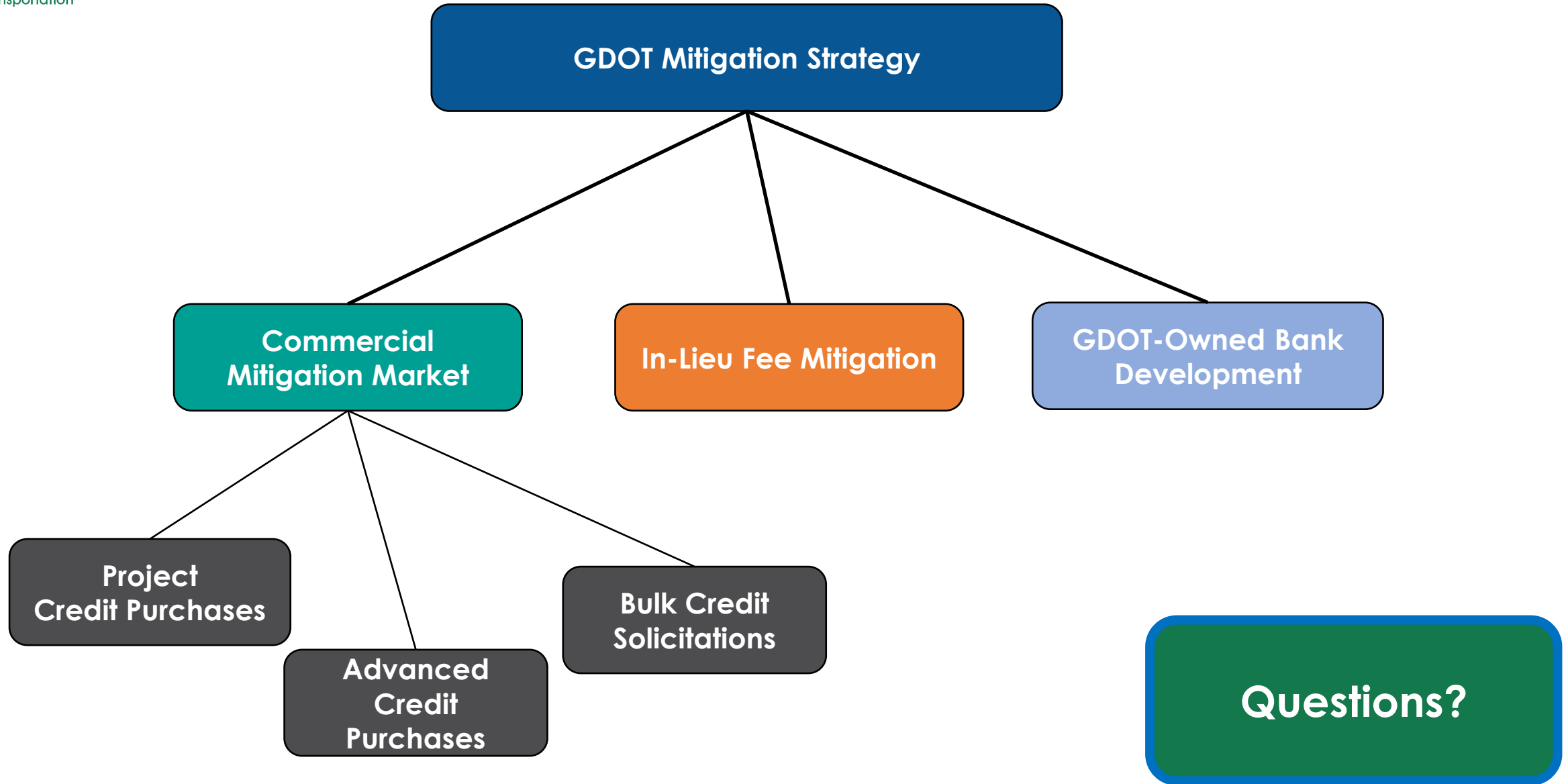
- Approach: GDOT develops its own banks on properties already owned.
- A cost/benefit study has shown that some such properties could yield valuable credits in service areas in which credit shortages are forecast.



GDOT Mitigation Strategy

GDOT Bank Development

- Benefits
 - Provides mid- to long-term credit security in some service areas.
 - Protects against cost increases in those service areas.
- Challenges
 - Cost to develop banks (time and money).
 - Risk of not getting immediate agency-approval (complex process).
 - Limited to service areas where GDOT holds properties.





GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

Chris Goodson, GDOT Assistant State Environmental Administrator

Jeff Bishop, GDNR Boating Access Coordinator



GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

When GDOT is Involved

GDOT Projects Using Federal, State, or TIA Funds

- Bridge Replacement Projects
- GDOT Let Projects
- Reconstruction, Repair, or Alteration Projects

Local Let Projects

- GDOT Responsible for Design
- GDOT Funding Construction
- Project on State Highway System



GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

When GDOT is Involved

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GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

How GDOT is Involved

- Office of Program Delivery** | • GDNR Boat Ramp Identification & Coordination
- Office of Bridge Design** | • Plan Review & Incorporation into Plan Set
- Office of Roadway Design** | • Plan Review & Incorporation into Plan Set
- Office of Design Policy & Support** | • Developed Boat Ramp IGA Process Flowchart
- Office of Environmental Services** | • Environmental Assessment & Permitting
- Office of Construction/Districts** | • Construction of Boat Ramps
- Office of Finance** | • GDNR Reimbursements & Mitigation Payments

GDNR Boat Ramps

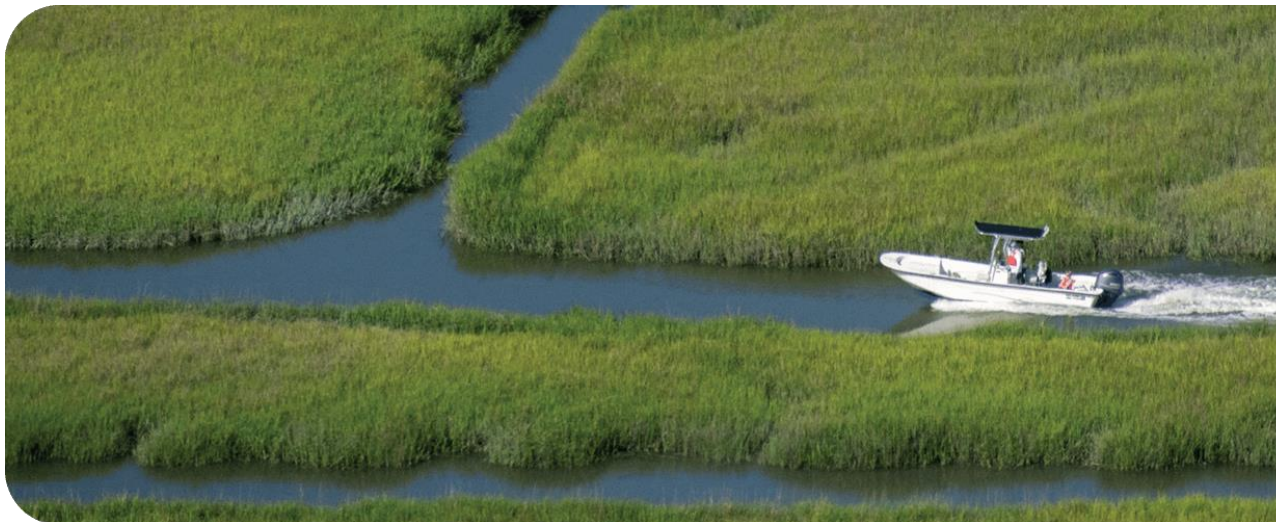
Why Boat Ramps Matter

Mobility | • Public Access to Georgia's Waterways – Boating & fishing

Safety | • Safety & Management – Controlled, safe launch locations

Sustainability | • Reduce Environmental Impact – Prevent stream & shore bank erosion

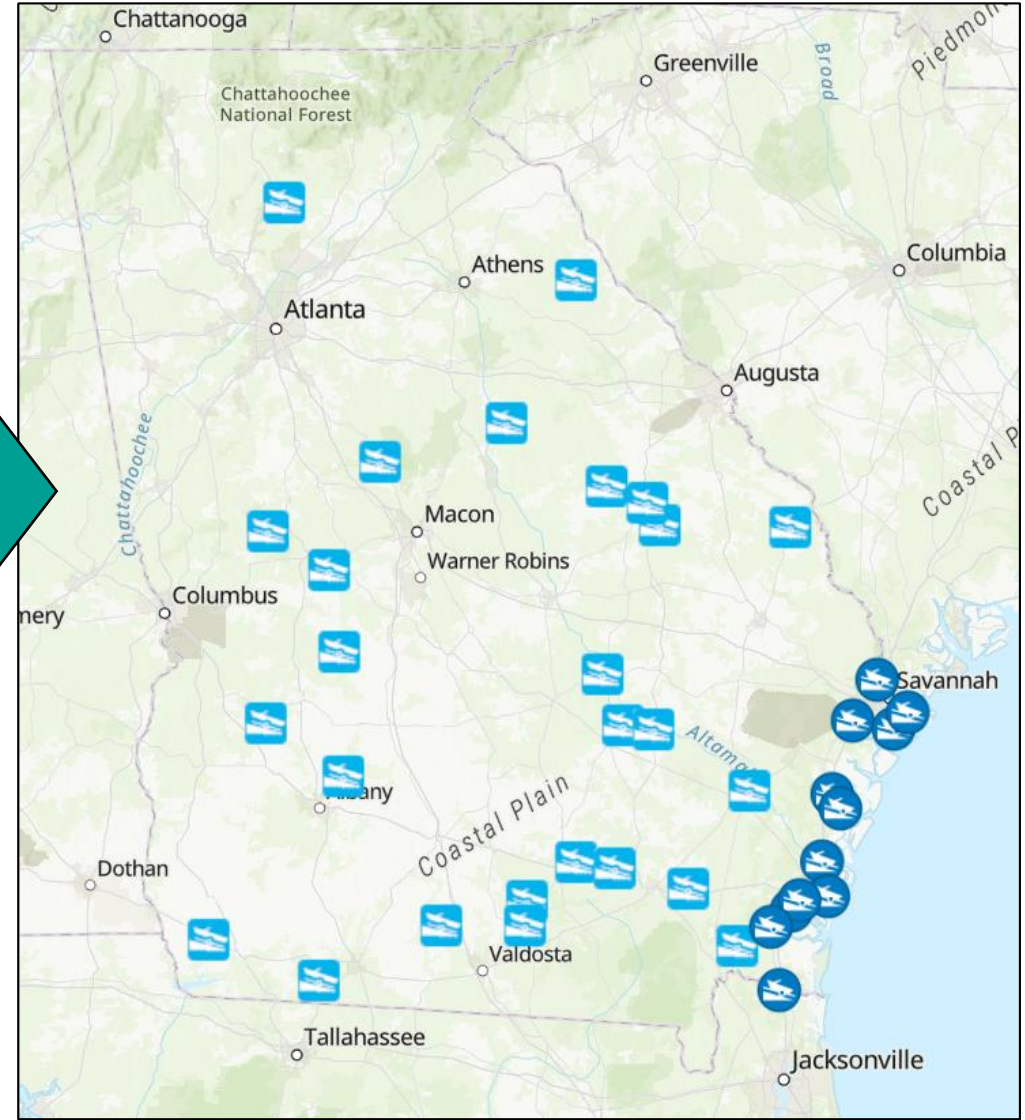
Innovation | • Economic Driver – Develop new recreation opportunities



GDNR Boat Ramps

Scope

- Over 200 GDNR-managed boat ramps in GA
- 38 boat ramps managed within or immediately adjacent to GDOT right-of-way



 GDNR – Wildlife Resources Division Boat Ramps (26)

 GDNR – Coastal Resources Division Access Points (12)



GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

GDOT Boat Ramp Projects

PI#	Description	County	Congressional District	Let Date
0007037	SR 135 @ Altamaha River	Jeff Davis/ Montgomery	012	2019
222120	SR 4 @ Ogeechee River	Jefferson	012	2021
0013596	SR 169 @ Canoochee River	Evans	012	2022
0013813	SR 83 @ Ocmulgee River	Jasper/Monroe	008/010	2024
0013525	CR 8998 @ Little River	Cherokee	011	2025
322460	SR 96 @ Ocmulgee River	Houston/Twiggs	008	2027
0008601	CR 628 @ Etowah River	Bartow	011	2028
0020164	SR 17 @ Broad River	Elbert/Wilkes	010/012	2029
0017415	US 80 @ Lazaretto Creek	Chatham	001	2029



GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

Pre-Agreement Process

- Identify boat ramp on GDOT project
- Coordinate with GDNR
- Determine agency-specific responsibilities
- Negotiate any necessary compensation
- Develop a project-specific Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)



MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BY AND BETWEEN

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

AND

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**P.I. NO. 0007037, JEFF DAVIS AND MONTGOMERY COUNTIES,
STATE ROUTE (SR) 135 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
OVER THE ALTAMAHA RIVER**

ARTICLE I – RECITALS

THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (hereinafter sometimes referred to as the “MOA”) made and entered into this 17th day of May, 2019, by and between the Department of Transportation, an agency of the State of Georgia (hereinafter “GDOT”), and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, an agency of the State of Georgia (hereinafter “GA DNR”). GDOT and GA DNR may be referred to individually, as the “Party” or collectively, as “Parties”.

WHEREAS, the GDOT Project P.I. 0007037 proposes to replace the SR 135 bridge over the Altamaha River in Jeff Davis and Montgomery counties, Georgia, with federal and state funds, hereinafter referred to as the “Project”; and

WHEREAS, GA DNR and GDOT have determined the Project would require the existing Uvalda Landing boat ramp adjacent to SR 135 to be closed during construction; and

GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

Overview

GOAL: Develop a consistent process for integrated coordination with GDNR into GDOT's Plan Development Process, as well as procedures for reimbursement and compensation

- Emphasis on early coordination
- Outlines agency-specific roles and responsibilities
- Agreement executed March 30, 2020; Amended July 2023 to simplify reimbursement



Darien City Boat Ramp



Champney River Park Boat Ramp

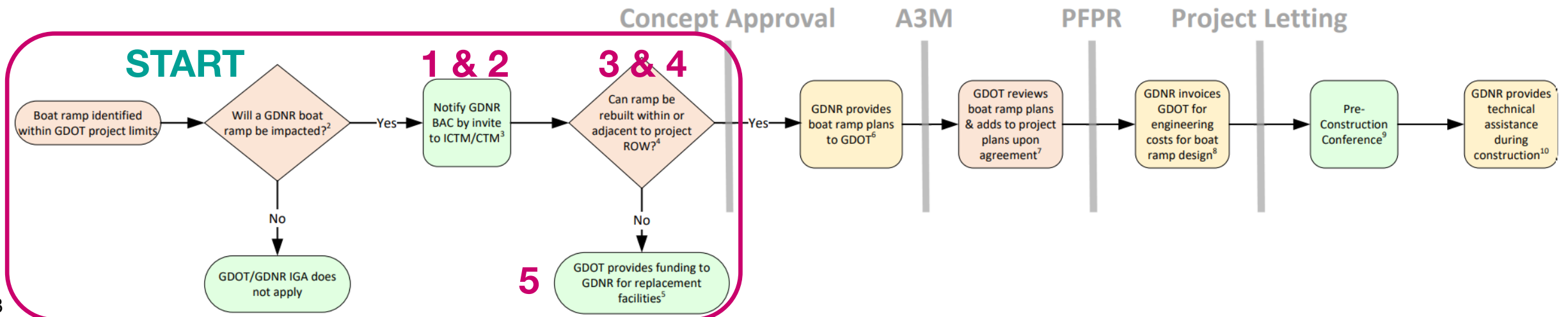


SR 4 @ Ogeechee River Boat Ramp

GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

Process – Coordination During Concept Design

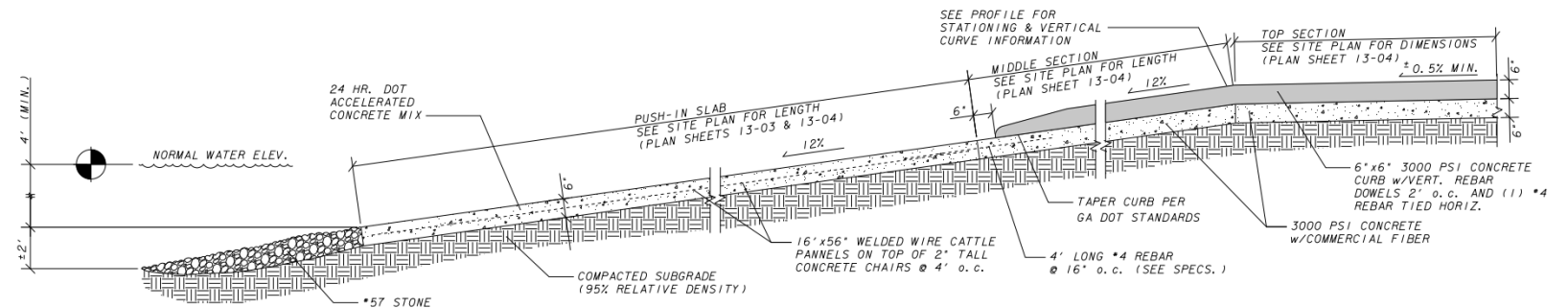
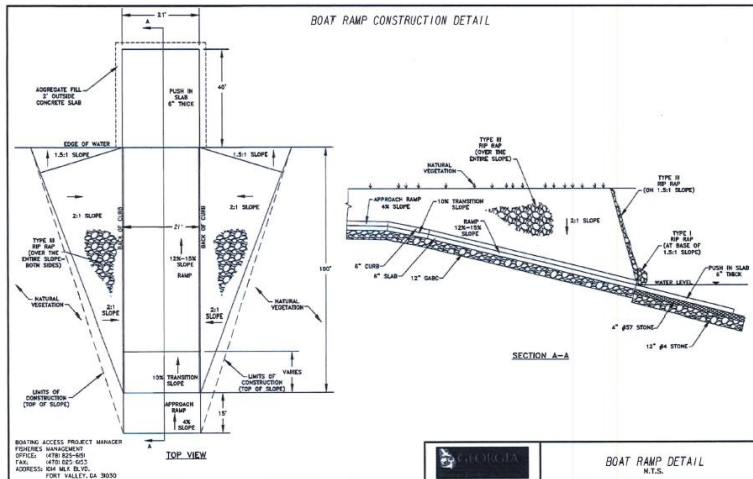
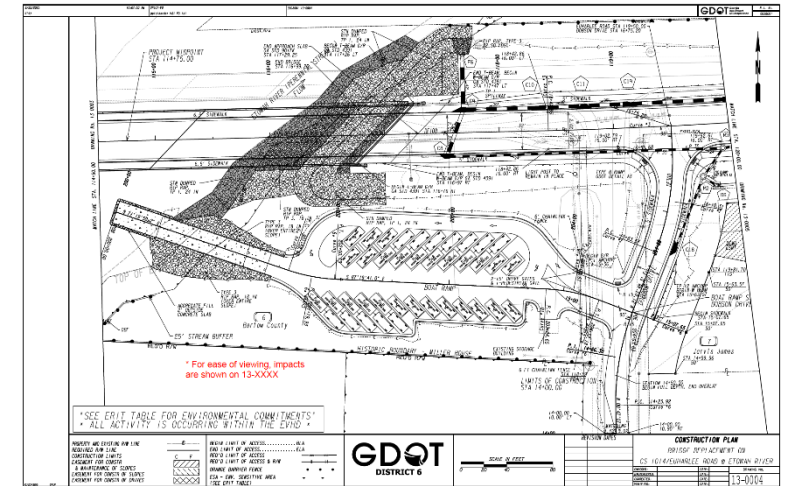
1. GDOT Project Manager notifies GDNR Boating Access Coordinator (BAC) of proposed project that may affect a boat ramp
2. GDNR provides input during Concept development
3. GDOT notifies GDNR of access change and/or need to relocate boat ramp
4. GDOT and GDNR determine feasibility of relocation on-site
5. GDOT reimburses GDNR for boat ramps unable to be relocated on-site



GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

Process – On-site Relocation

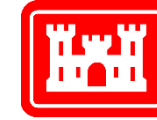
1. GDNR prepares boat ramp facility plans for GDOT review
2. GDOT completes environmental studies and obtain permits
3. GDOT constructs boat ramp facilities
4. GDNR provides technical construction consultation
5. GDNR performs all maintenance of boat ramp facilities



GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

Process – On-site Relocation

1. GDNR prepares boat ramp facility plans for GDOT review
2. **GDOT completes environmental studies and obtain permits**
3. GDOT constructs boat ramp facilities
4. GDNR provides technical construction consultation
5. GDNR performs all maintenance of boat ramp facilities



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION PUBLIC ADVISORY WATERSHED PROTECTION BRANCH	
August 14, 2013 Advisory Issue Date	/Crawford City/County
September 13, 2013 Advisory Close Date	BV-039-13-01 Control Number
Bridge Replacement on SR 137/SR 128 over the Flint River GDOT Project #BRST0-0154-01(012) PI #333205 Activity	
This advisory is issued to inform the public of a receipt of an <u>Application for a variance</u> submitted pursuant to a state environmental Law. The public is invited to <u>comment</u> during the <u>30-day period</u> on the proposed activity. Since the EPD has no authority to zone property or determine land use, only those comments addressing environmental issues related to air, water, and land protection will be considered in the application review process. <u>Written comments</u> should be <u>submitted to</u> : Program Manager, NonPoint Source Program, Erosion and Sedimentation Control, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354.	
Type of Permit Application:	Variance to encroach within the 25-foot State waters buffer.
Applicable Law:	Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act O.C.G.A. 12-7-1 et seq.
Applicable Rules:	Erosion and Sedimentation Control Chapter 391-3-7
Basis under which variance shall be considered {391-3-7.05 (2)(a-k)}:	a _____
Description and Location of Proposed Activity: Application is for impacts to 107 In ft (2,750 sq ft) of buffer to the Flint River for the construction of a boat ramp. This project is proposed on SR 137/SR 128 over the Flint River in Crawford County.	

GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

Process – On-site Relocation

1. GDNR prepares boat ramp facility plans for GDOT review
2. GDOT completes environmental studies and obtain permits
- 3. GDOT constructs boat ramp facilities**
4. GDNR provides technical construction consultation
5. GDNR performs all maintenance of boat ramp facilities



GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

Process – On-site Relocation

1. GDNR prepares boat ramp facility plans for GDOT to review
2. GDOT completes environmental studies and obtain permits
3. GDOT constructs boat ramp facilities
- 4. GDNR provides technical construction consultation**
5. GDNR performs all maintenance of boat ramp facilities



**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

PI No. #####, XXXX County

**SPECIAL PROVISION 999 — GDNR BOAT RAMP
CONSTRUCTION COORDINATION**

999.1 General Description

Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) will provide technical construction consultation as needed regarding the construction of any Boat Ramp.

999.2 Milestone Meetings

The contractor shall notify GDOT Area Manager fifteen (15) days prior to milestone date in order for the Area Manager to contact GDNR. The appropriate GDOT Area Manager or their designee will contact the respective GDNR COORDINATOR ten (10) calendar days prior to the defined milestones requesting their attendance. GDOT and GDNR will conduct a field technical consultation for each milestone. The milestone to be coordinate are as follows:

1. Initial - Pre-Construction Meeting to discuss scope of PROJECT in its entirety. Planning for remaining milestone consultation may be developed by GDOT/GDNR at the meeting;
2. Initial grading-discuss cut slopes and ramp slope and bed preparation in the river;
3. Determine the final position of end of push ramp slab so that an acceptable depth; will be achieved at low water given the types of craft expected to be launched;
4. Forming for concrete pouring of ramp;
5. Pushing ramp slab into position; and,
6. After construction of the Boat Ramp is completed by the GDOT contractor.

GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

Process – On-site Relocation

1. GDNR prepares boat ramp facility plans for GDOT to review
2. GDOT completes environmental studies and obtain permits
3. GDOT constructs boat ramp facilities
4. GDNR provides technical construction consultation
5. **GDNR performs all maintenance of boat ramp facilities**



GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

Case Study: PI# 0013813, SR 83 @ Ocmulgee River



GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

Case Study: PI# 0013813, SR 83 @ Ocmulgee River



GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

Case Study: PI# 333205, SR 128 @ Flint River



GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

GDNR Perspective



GDOT-GDNR Boat Ramp Agreement

Special Thanks

Office of Program Delivery

Office of Bridge Design

Office of Roadway Design

Office of Design Policy & Support

Office of Environmental Services

Office of Construction/Districts

Office of Finance



**Eric Duff, GDOT State Environmental
Administrator (retired)**

Hiral Patel, GDOT P3 Division Director



STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Committee of the Whole

May 20, 2026



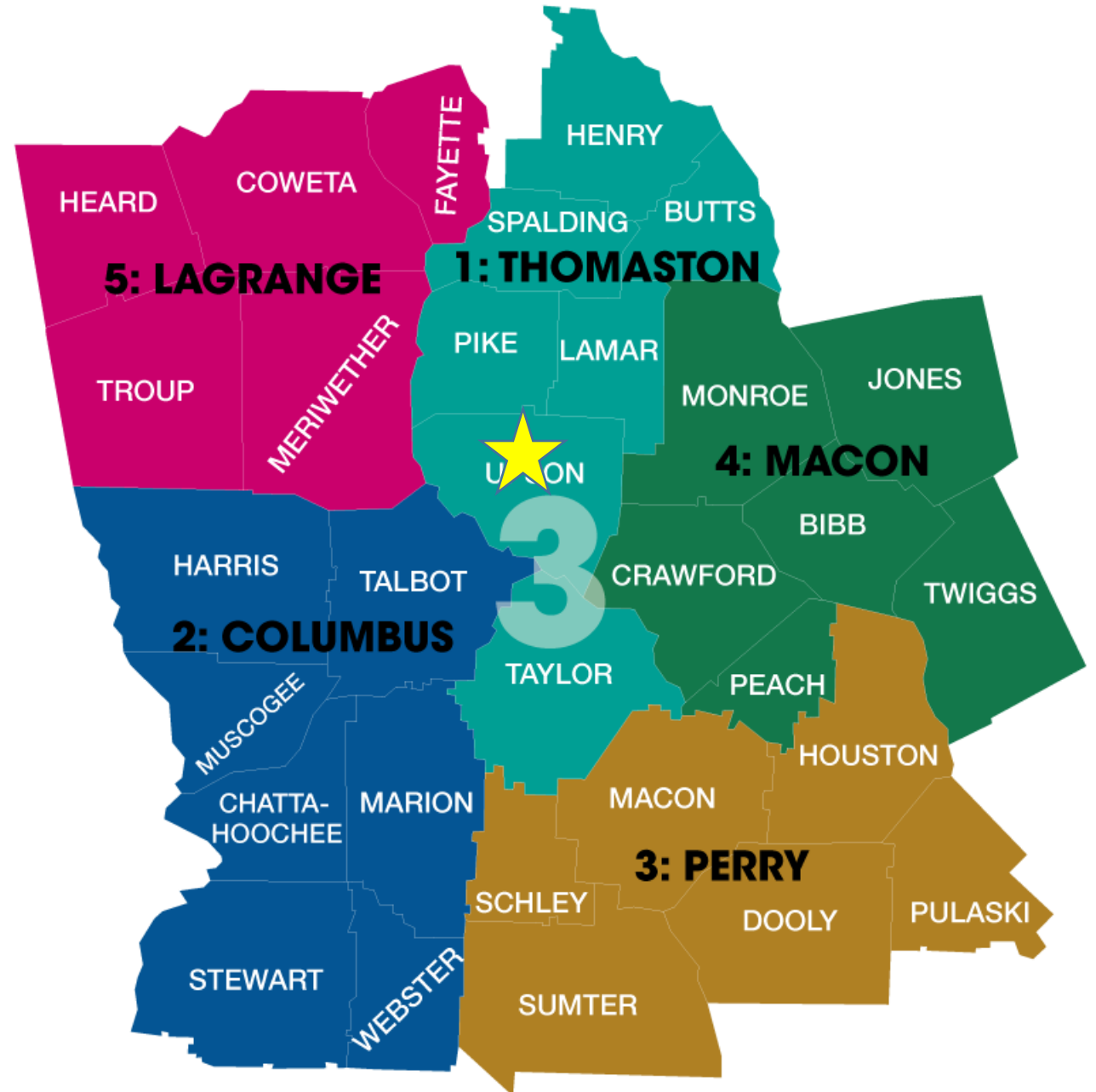
Georgia Department of Transportation

District 3 Update

Tyler Peek
District Engineer
May 20, 2026

Facts and Figures...

- Counties: **31** (19%)
- Geographical Area: **10,091 sq. miles** (17%)
- Interstate miles: **279** (22%)
- State Route miles: **3,320** (19%)
- Bridges: **2,600** (17%)
- Population: **1.61 million** (14%)
- Six congressional districts



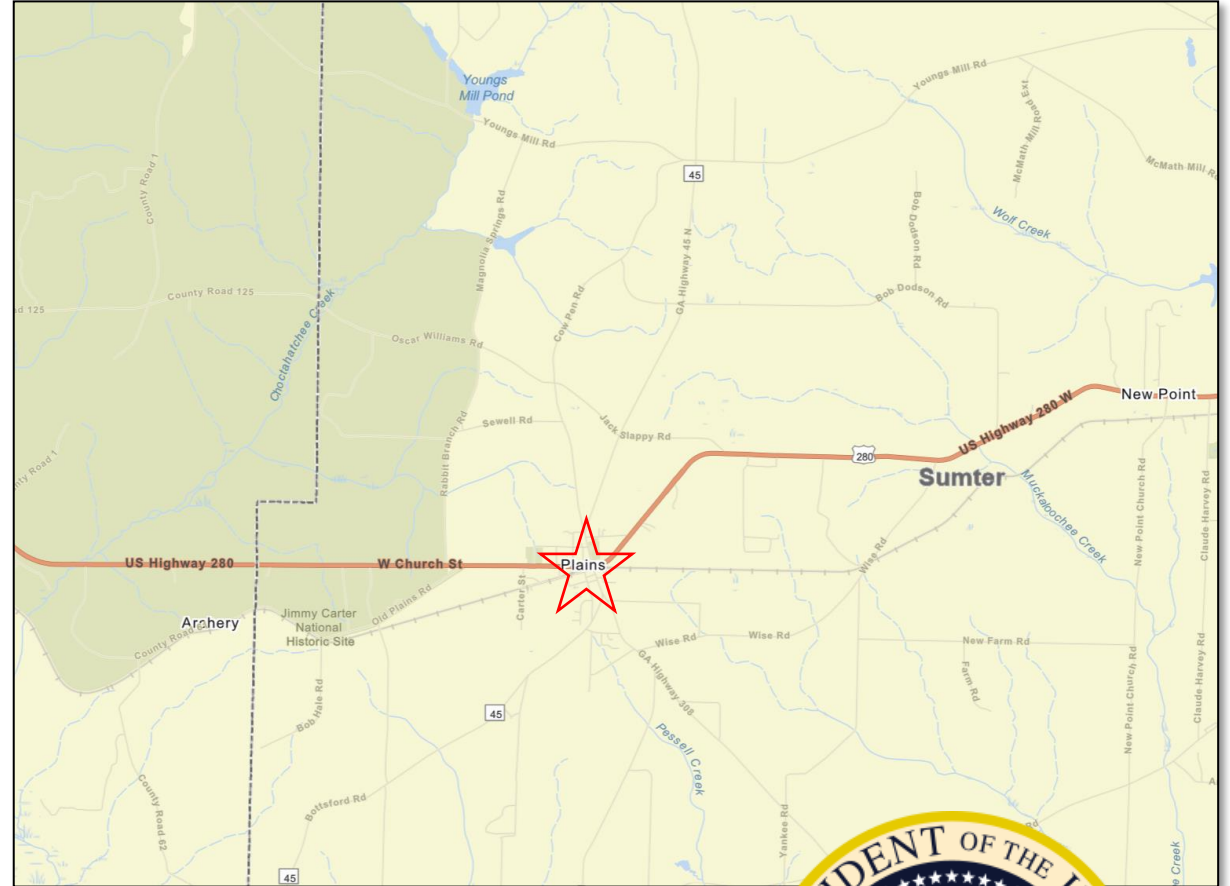


Career Days



Henry County Project Tour

Jimmy Carter Final Tribute – January 2025



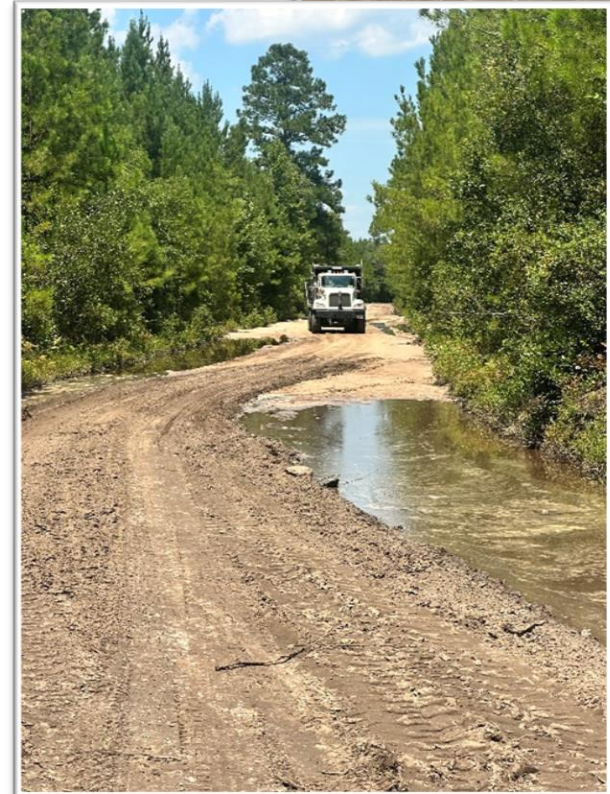
Emergency Response

Hurricane Debby (2024)



Hurricane Helene (2024)

***Jimmy Carter response
(2024/2025)***



Winter 2025 (2)

Winter 2026 (3)



I-16/I-75: Project Update

- 7 phases
- \$620M
- March 2017
- Late 2029



I-16, I-75 interchange facing east

I-16/I-75: Project Update



MLK interchange

Phases 1, 1b: closed out
Phases 2, 3: substantially complete
Phases 4, 5: open to traffic end of 2026
Phase 6: early construction, last phase to complete



Spring Street interchange



Phase 6 looking northwest



Phase 6 looking southeast

Project Data

- **95** active projects
- **\$1.27B** value
- **26 of 31** counties affected



SR 20 widening (Henry)



Western Parallel Connector (Henry)



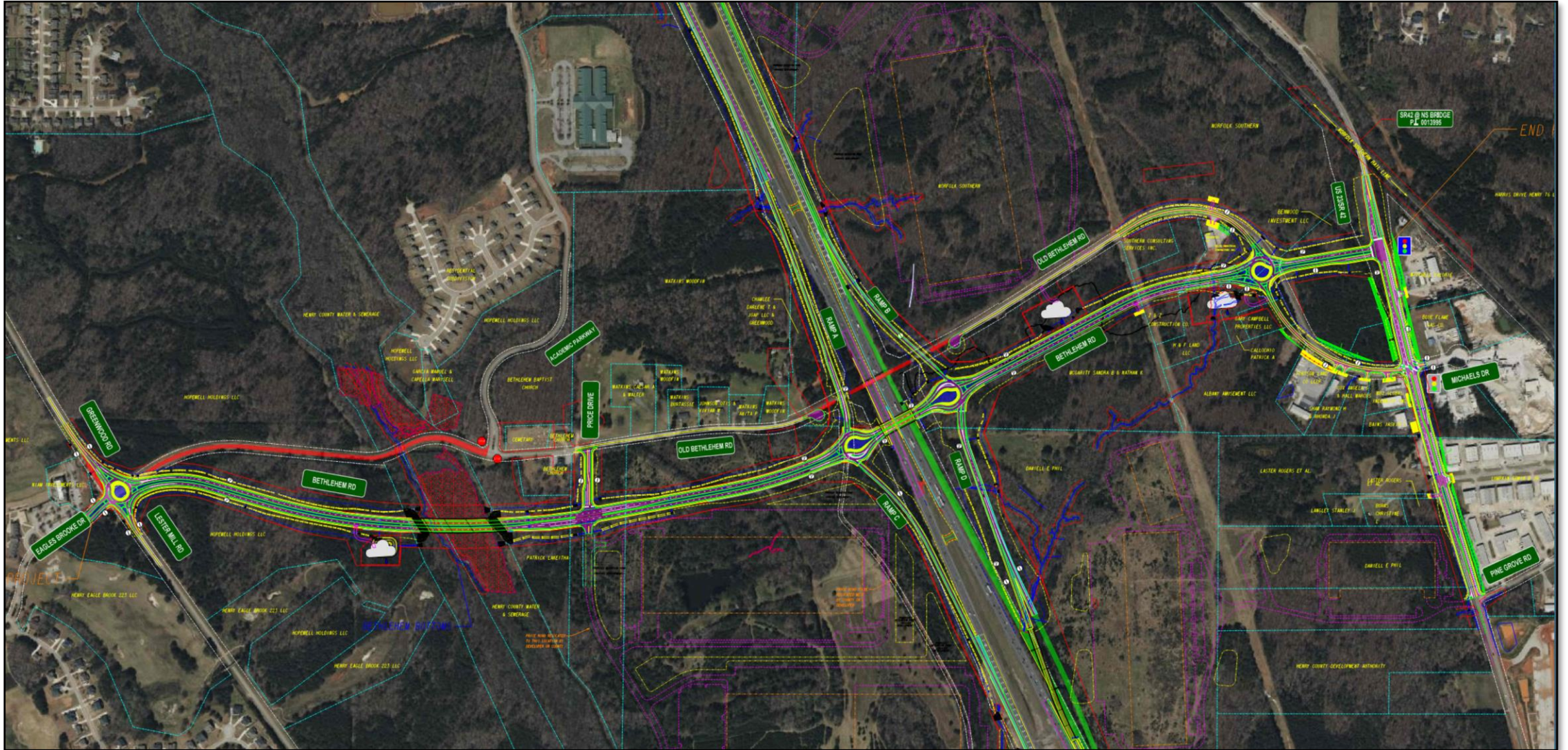
SR 36 Connector (Butts)



SR 96 widening (Twiggs)



I-75 at Bethlehem Road (Henry) – exit 214



I-185 at Old Cusseta Road interchange (Muscogee) – exit 2



Hamilton Road (US 27) widening (Troup)



Tucker Road bridges (Bibb)



SR 83 over Ocmulgee River (Jasper/Monroe)



I-16 bridges (Bibb)



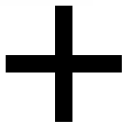
Walnut Creek



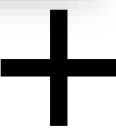
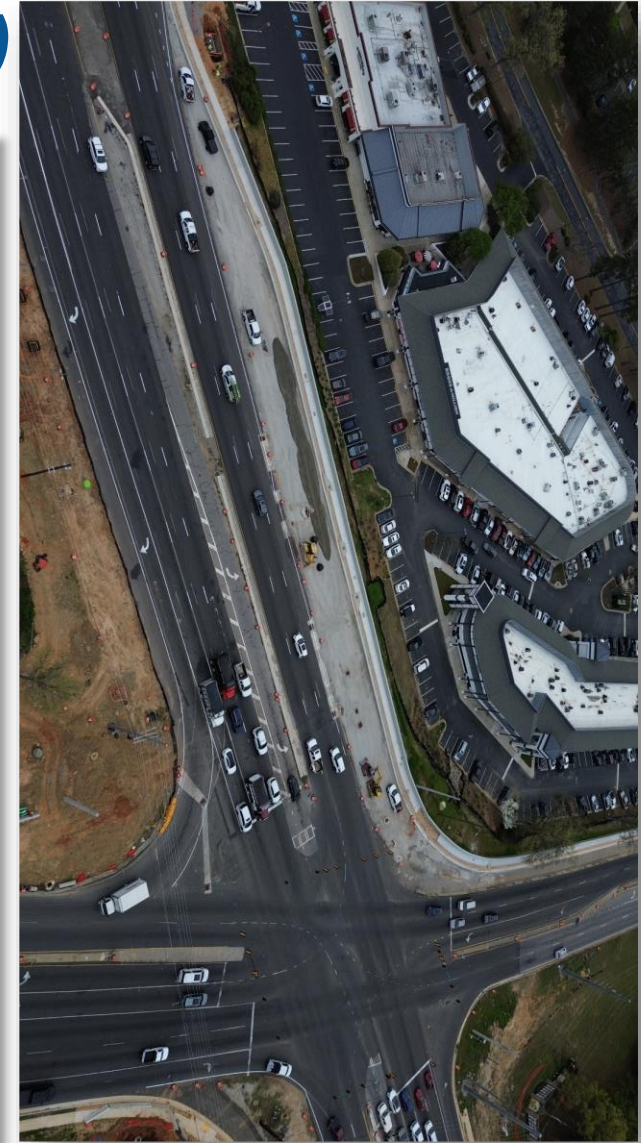
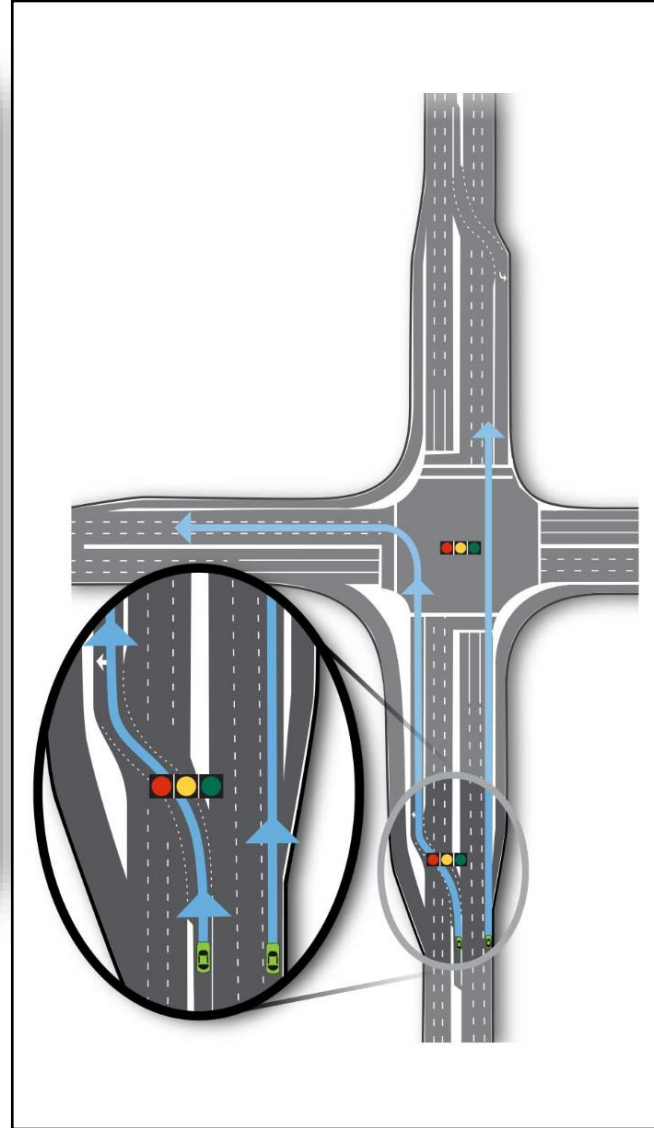
Ocmulgee Overflow



Bradley Park Diverging Diamond Interchange (Muscogee)



SR 54 at SR 74 Displaced Left Turn (Fayette)

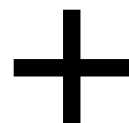


SR 42 at SR 74 Roundabout (Monroe)



SR 74

Fort Valley Railroad Crossing (Peach)



Buena Vista Road Diverging Diamond Interchange (Muscogee)



Our Team...Today

479 employees

- May 2022: **422**
- May 2026: **479** (14% increase)

<i>Maintenance</i>	350 (90%)
<i>Construction</i>	41 (82%)
<i>Preconstruction</i>	39 (98%)
<i>Traffic Operations</i>	26 (93%)
<i>Administration</i>	18 (100%)
<i>Utilities</i>	5 (100%)



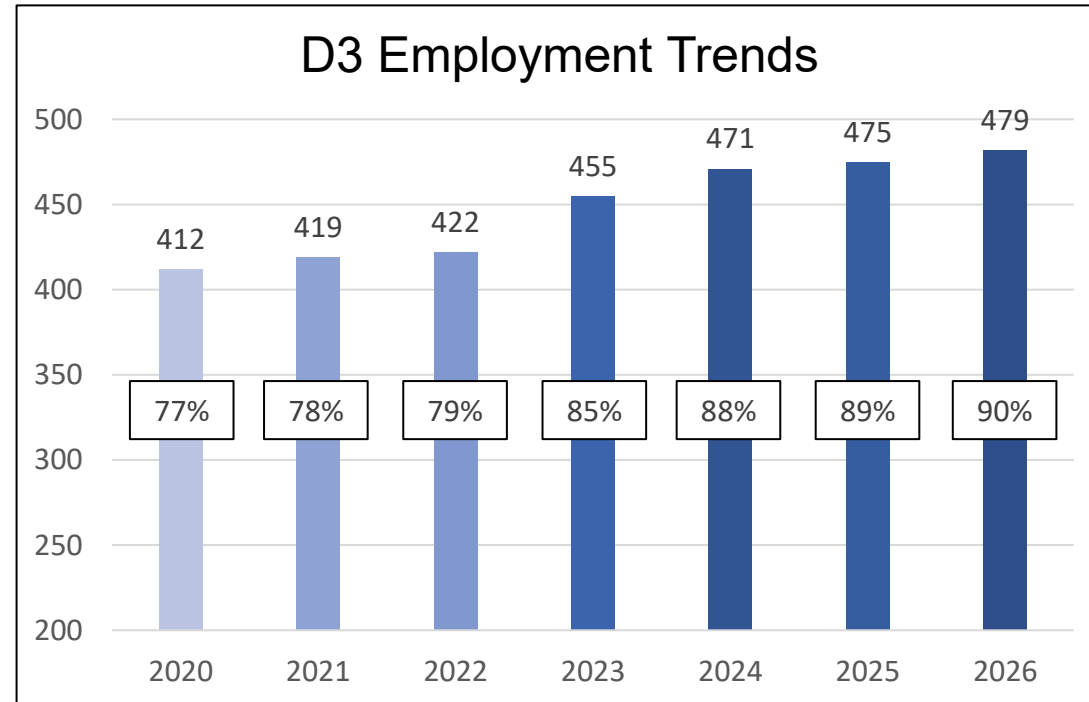
Preparing for Tomorrow

Retention

- Training
- Employee engagement
- Work environment

Recruitment

- Internships
6-10 interns last four summers
- Job fairs, college outreach
- Community engagement



Tyler D. Peek, P.E.
District Engineer
District Three – Thomaston

115 Transportation Blvd
Thomaston, GA 30286

706.646.6900 office
706.741.3434 cell
tpeek@dot.ga.gov





Strategic Communications Update

State Transportation Board Committee of the Whole

Scott Higley

Director of Strategic Communications

May 20, 2026

Your Strategic Communications Team



Communications is a Strategic Asset

- From information-sharing → **strategic engagement**
- Essential to delivering GDOT's mission

GDOT
Georgia Department of Transportation

PRESS ALERT

Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025
Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Location: Sautee Nacoochee Center – Community Hall

This project aims to replace the existing bridge to improve safety and ensure long-term infrastructure reliability for our community.

The open house is a drop-in style event—stop by anytime during the two-hour window to view project displays, ask questions, and share your thoughts with GDOT team members.

The venue is wheelchair accessible and offers handicap parking.

We hope to see you there! Your feedback helps shape the future of our transportation system.

#GDOT #WhiteCounty #BridgeReplacement #PublicMeeting #SauteeNacoochee #helenga #georgiamountains #NEGeorgia

GDOT
Georgia Department of Transportation

IN-PERSON PUBLIC MEETING

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

SR 17-SR 75 @ Chattahoochee River
Bridge Replacement Project
Project ID: 0017739

Where: Sautee Nacoochee Adventure Center
When: April 22, 2025 @ 5:00PM – 7:00PM

Map showing counties: 1: GAINESVILLE, 2: ATHENS, 3: CARNESVILLE, 4: CLEVELAND

SAFE ACTIONS SAVE LIVES

2026 National Work Zone Awareness Week

RIGHT LANE CLOSED AHEAD

NWZAW National Work Zone Awareness Week GDOT

KEEP GEORGIA SAFE

KEEP IT CLEAN GEORGIA #KeepItCleanGA

GEORGIA ABC123 CHATTAHOOCHEE

GEORGIA ABC123 CHATTAHOOCHEE

These license plates? They help us plant wildflowers.

GDOT Rural Georgia

DRIVE ALERT ARRIVE ALIVE

A 10-Year Perspective

- How much has the department grown and changed over a decade – and how did communications contribute to that evolution?
- Growth alongside an exceptional team
- Reflects a collective, monumental effort across GDOT



2016 marks the year of Georgia DOT's centennial!

On August 16, 1916, the Georgia Highway Commission—now Georgia Department of Transportation—was created.



**GDOT Announces Major
Mobility Investment Program**

2016



SHOVELS IN THE GROUND FOR SR 400

The ceremonial shovel turning symbolized the official start of construction and the collaborative effort between agencies, partners, and the community.

Georgia Express Lanes SR 400

GDOT

SWIPE FOR MORE ○●○●○

2026

First, we have to get (and keep) their attention.

- Do they trust us?
- Do they believe us?
- What are their expectations from us?



How it was



How it is



Consistency +
Transparency +
Reliability +
Accuracy =

TRUST

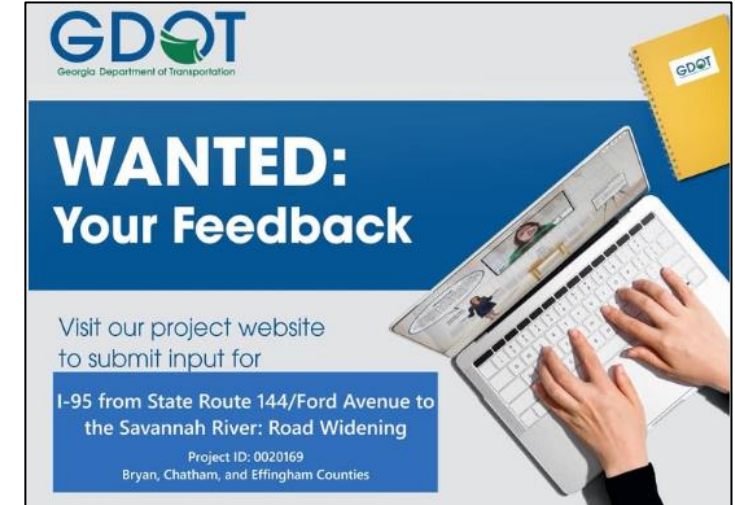


Our Day-to-Day Focus

- Proactive project & traffic impact communications – agency to constituent
- Media relations & issue management
- Crisis communications
- Public information campaigns
- Safety Education
- Stakeholder coordination
- Inclement Weather
- Major Events (FIFA World Cup, Super Bowl)
- Award entries
- Protect & position the GDOT brand



PRESS ALERT

GDOT
Georgia Department of Transportation

**WANTED:
Your Feedback**

Visit our project website to submit input for

I-95 from State Route 144/Ford Avenue to the Savannah River: Road Widening

Project ID: 0020169
Bryan, Chatham, and Effingham Counties



GDOT's Natalie Dale urges back-to-school safety with tips on cameras, crosswalks, and safer routes to school.

Positioning GDOT as a trusted news source

- We're not just a transportation agency, we're also a news agency
- We strive to be the most trusted source of transportation information and news in Georgia
- To achieve this we reach people by employing a combination of leveraged and owned media that that helps build that trust among the public



How we work with media and reporters

NEWS WEATHER SPORTS FEATURES VIDEOS LET'S CHATT TV CONTESTS

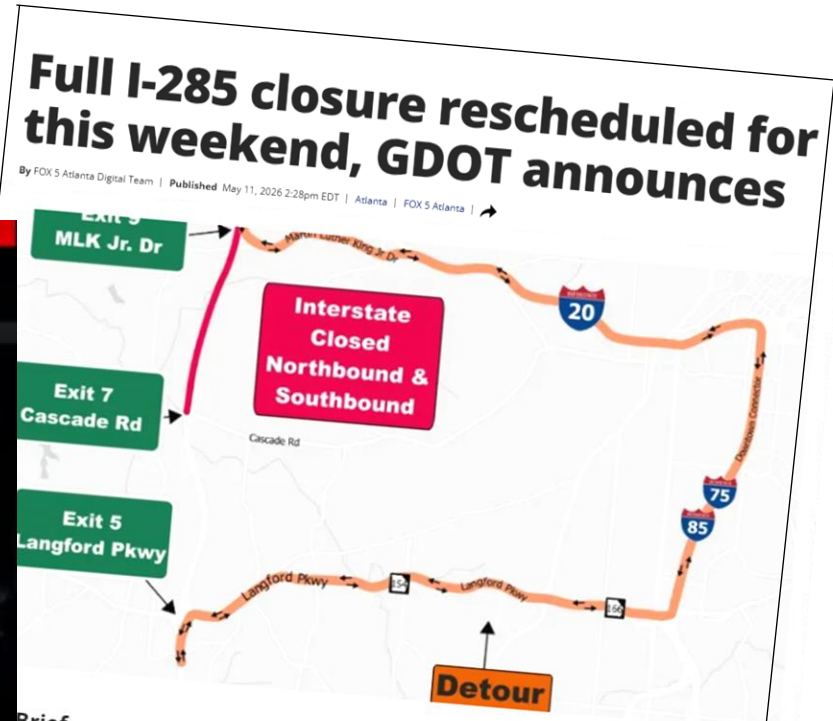
GDOT raise awareness for work zone safety

April 15, 2024 by Caleb Figgures



As pedestrian deaths on interstates rises, GDOT is urging public to follow this guidance

GDOT is pleading with stranded motorists to stay in their vehicles along busy interstates



Reporters seek us out – we respond

- Timely
- Accurate
- Helpful
- Emergency / Crisis scenarios

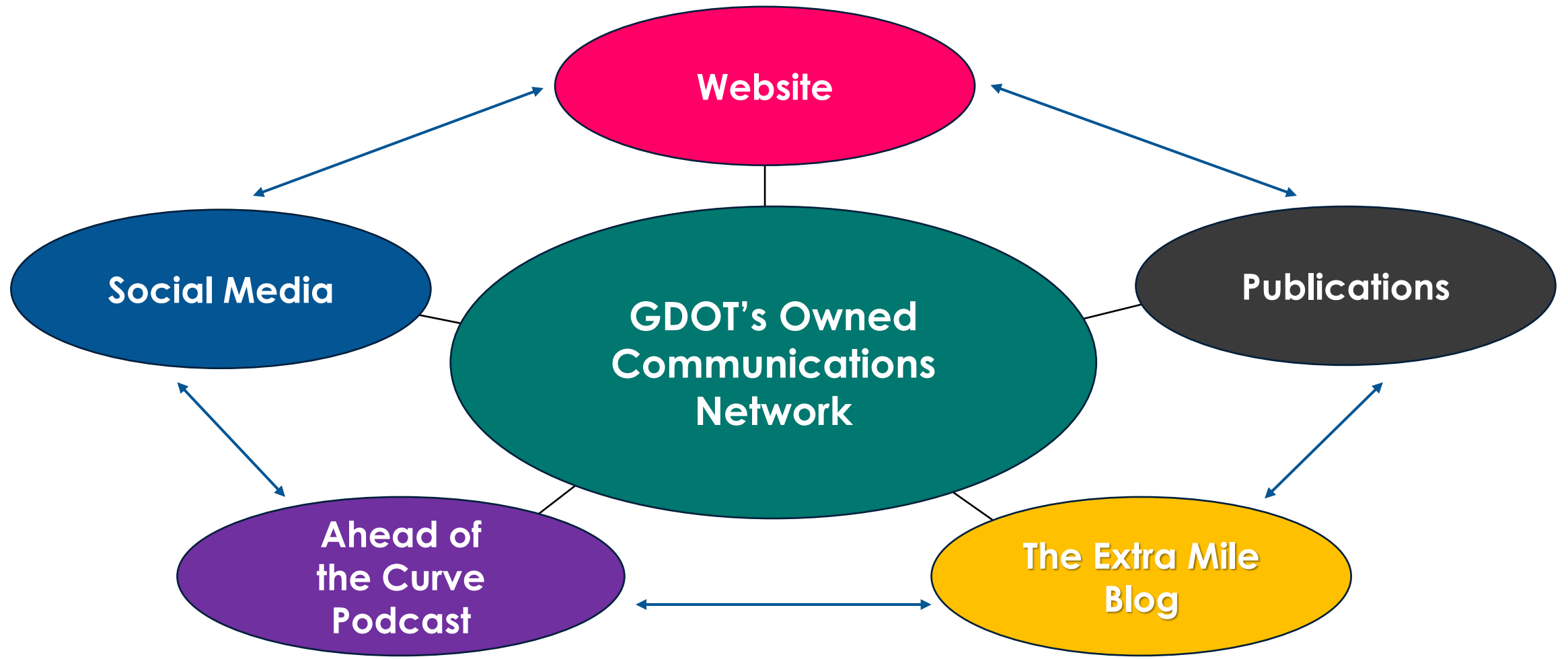




CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON GA 400 EXPRESS LANES



4:14
82°



Social Media Performance

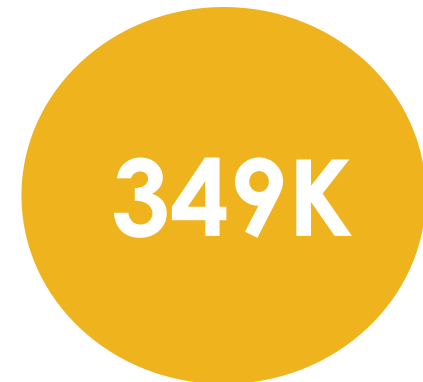
May 2025– May 2026



Impressions



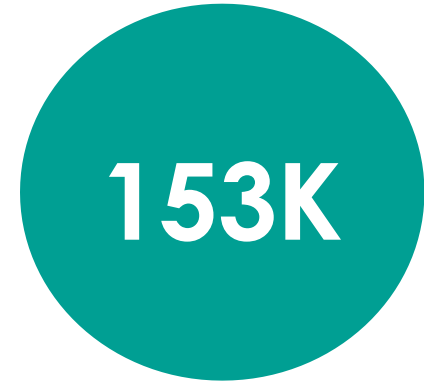
Engagement



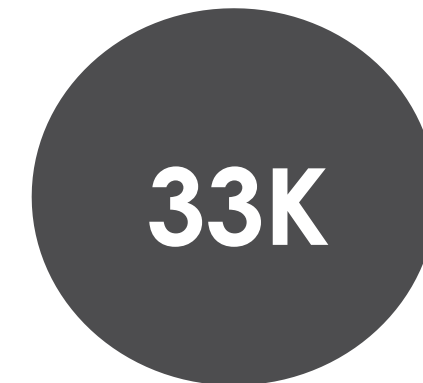
Audience/Followers



Video Views



Post Link Clicks



Received Messages

10-year Social Media Growth

Since 2016

2,800+%
Audience

3,000+%
Engagements

2,200+%
Impressions

1,450+%
Post Link Clicks

“News You Can Use”

- News-style updates carry information that builds credibility and trust
- We create content that not only adheres to GDOT’s brand, but is useful and helpful to the people we serve

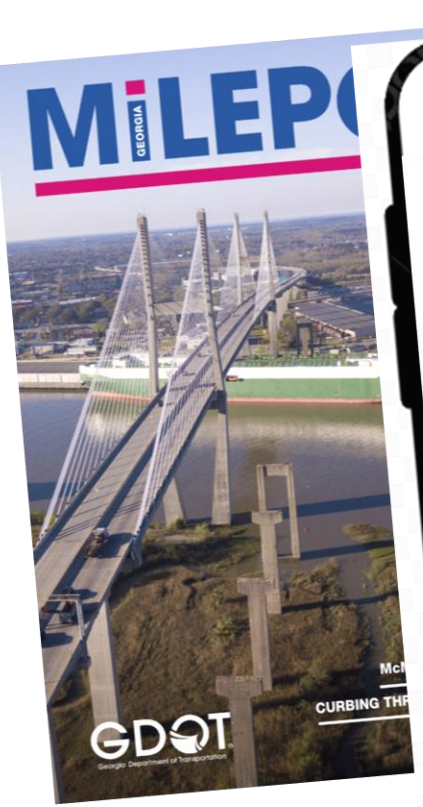




GEORGIA
Express Lanes[®]
SR 400
New Incident Response Units



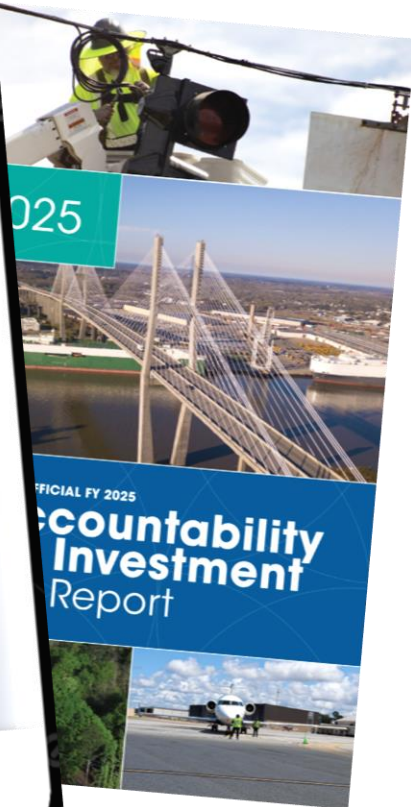
Publications (A.&I.R. 2018)



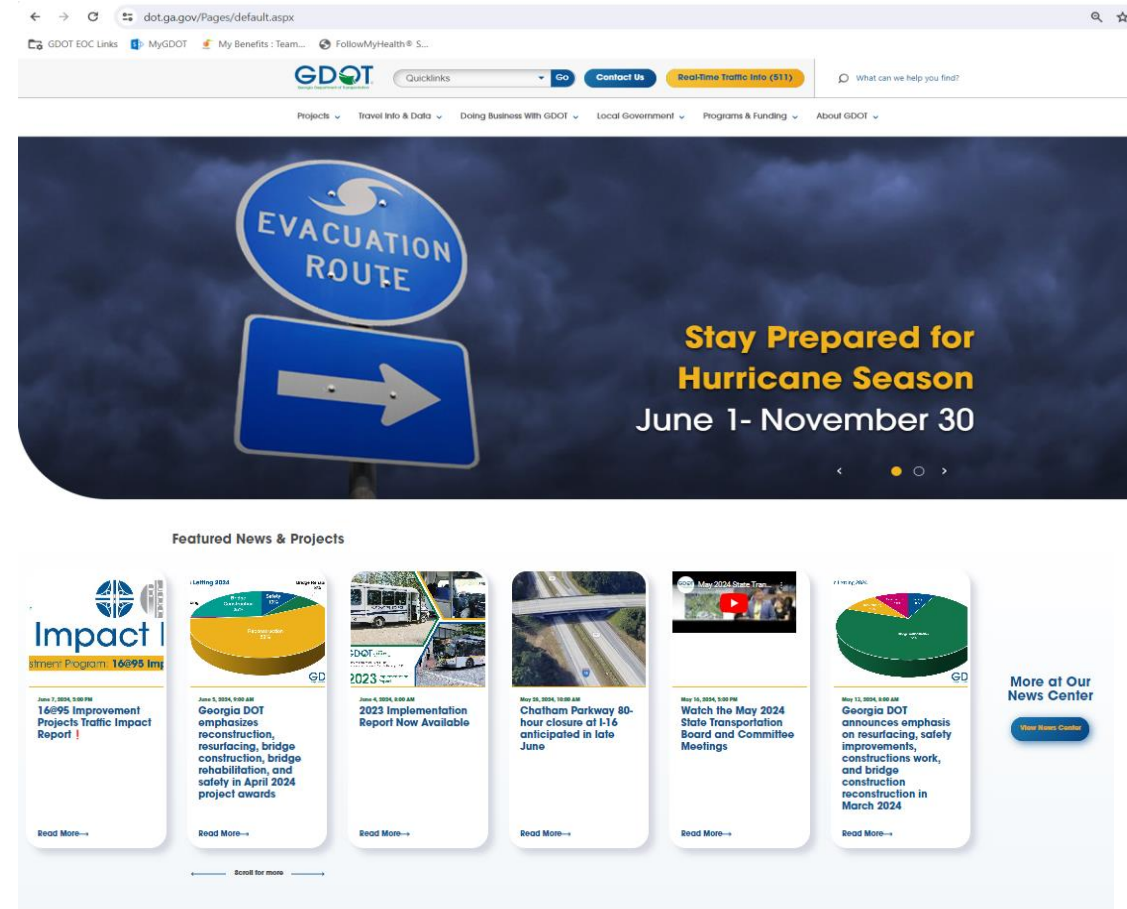
Quarterly Magazine



Stability & Investment Report



Website (2022)



How GDOT Serves Georgia

The Extra Mile Blog (2018)

The Extra Mile Blog

Had the World at My Fingertips - Or So I Thought

Posted: April 9, 2026, 12:45 PM

As a young woman, I had everything going for me. The future felt wide open and full of possibility, as if the world were at my fingertips.

I loved life. I was always trying new things, staying busy, and having fun. I was an avid runner, running three miles a day, it was my release, and I loved it. I also tap-danced and stayed heavily involved in school activities. My days were filled with energy, passion, and drive.

Then I was accepted into my dream college, Auburn University (War Eagle!). I majored in journalism, excited about the stories I would one day tell.



Author: Molly Welch, Motivational Speaker

[View Bio](#)

Spread the word:



Questions?

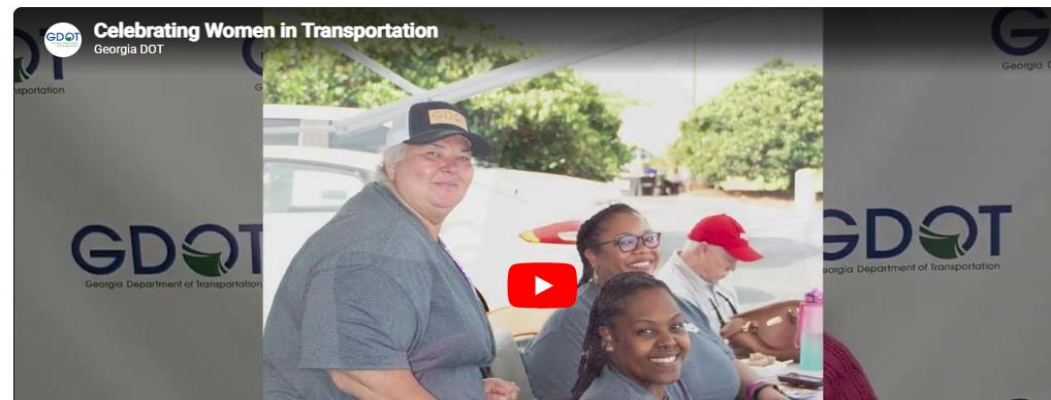
If you have a general comment or question, visit our [Contact Us](#) webpage

NOTE: Reproduction of images or content requires approval from Georgia DOT's Office of Strategic



Ahead of the Curve Podcast (2022)

dot.ga.gov



Storytelling is important.



RAIL SAFETY

Jacee's journey: Young woman tells story of rail crash to help others

By Melissa Jordan
A spill second changed Jacee Thomas's life forever.

The teenager was working in the fields of her family's hay farm in Hoboken, Ga., one spring day in 2016 and took a break for lunch, driving into town across the railroad tracks near her home — railroad tracks she had crossed safely thousands of times before.

That one time, somehow, Jacee's car and the oncoming train collided. Her Honda Accord was dropped 1,700 feet before the train came to a stop, leaving the lifelong rodeo athlete with a traumatic brain injury that still requires daily therapy and has fogged her memories of the crash itself.

Call Jacee and her mother, Beth Ann Thomas, count their blessings and share their story with others as part of Georgia DOT and Lucile K3 Foundation's Safe Driving Summits for young people around the state.

"Slow down and look both ways," Jacee, now 24, tells the teenagers who attend the summits, the connection clear in her voice. When asked what motivates her to share her story, she answers without hesitation: "My parents, and God."

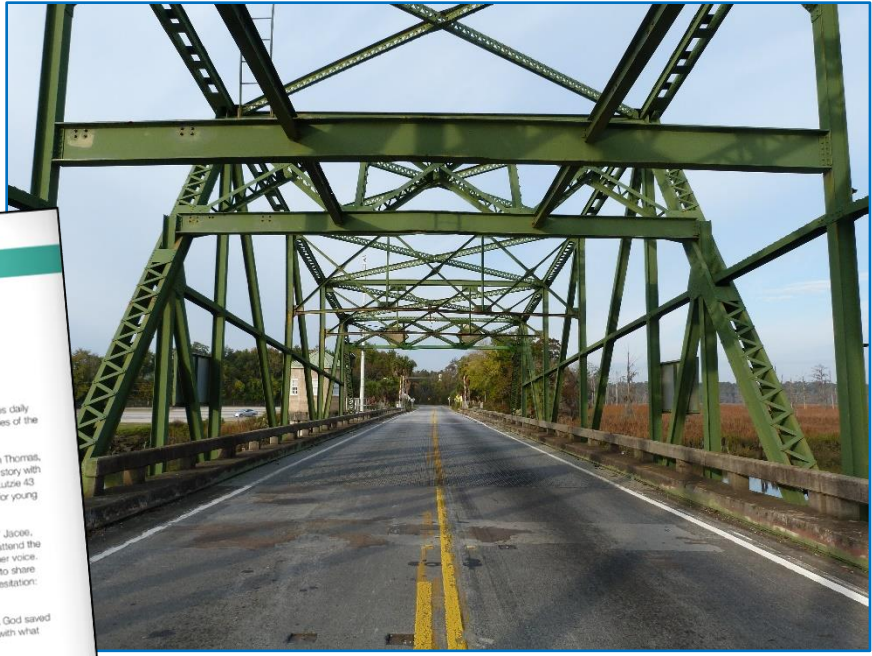
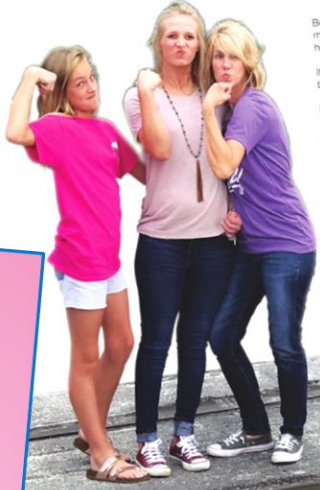
Beth Ann says: "She often asks me, 'Why do you think God saved me?' ... And I tell her, he expects us to do something with what he's given us. He's given you this life."

It is an active and full life, though far different from how it looked before the train collision.

Back then, Jacee competed in breakaway roping at rodeos. "She was born into it," says her mother, who was "her competitor. Living near the railroad was another life for both mother, daughter and entire family. It was blocks from the railroad track, and the trains would window in my house when they went by." Beth just another part of life.

Jacee's grandfather and many of their family live on the railroad. "We are a very tight community," Beth says where we are. No one meant for this to happen, but we make sure others are more aware that something can happen, to help keep it from happening to anyone.

There are more than 5,000 public, at-grade rail crossings in Georgia. "Our job is to look at every one of what we can do to make it safer," says Edlin F. program assistant in Georgia DOT's Office of



Georgia DOT, DNR partnership helps conserve lands for nature and recreation

By Melissa Jordan

Georgians who like to hunt, fish, birdwatch, hike and just experience nature's beauty will have wild lands preserved to enjoy in perpetuity through a partnership between Georgia DOT and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR).

Georgia DOT is transferring deeds to GDNR for several parcels of land with recreational or conservation value to be managed permanently by GDNR for the benefit of the public.

"This is a great example of two Georgia agencies working together to ensure we are managing properties responsibly," says Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell R. McMurry, PE.

Two parcels transferred in West-Central Georgia's Taylor County and South Georgia's Lee County have a rich diversity of rare plants and animals, such as the Southeastern American kestrel and the gopher tortoise.

A superbloom of slender blazing star at Taylor County site / Southeastern kestrel
Photo Credit: Georgia Department of Natural Resources

GDOT Georgia Department of Transportation

Quicklinks Go Contact Us Real-Time Traffic Info (511) What can we help?

Projects Travel Info & Data Doing Business With GDOT Local Government Programs & Funding About GDOT

Home Blog The Extra Mile Blog

The Extra Mile Blog

Georgia DOT, MARTA working together to improve safety at bus stops

Posted: August 3, 2023, 9:00 AM

In a first-of-its-kind data analysis partnership, Georgia DOT and MARTA are working together to systematically improve safety at bus stops across the Atlanta metropolitan area for all roadway users – pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders and motorists alike. Though this study has begun with MARTA, Georgia DOT is working to implement similar analysis at all bus stop networks across the state.

GDOT & MARTA Work Together to Improve Safety at Bus Stops

Watch later Share

Author: Ronald Knezevich, State

Georgia Department of Transportation

ARRIVE LIVE

**DRIVE
ALERT
ARRIVE
ALIVE**

**KEEP
GEORGIA
SAFE**

A FREE K-12 CAR AND ROAD
SAFETY PROGRAM FROM GDOT

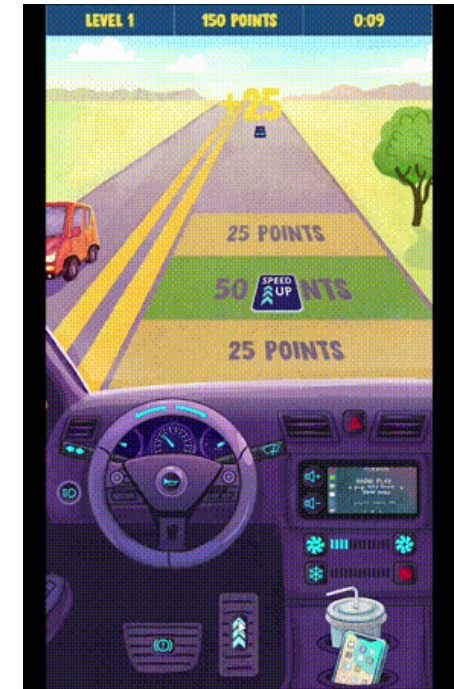
**SAFE
DRIVING
FORUMS**

**GO
GEORGIA**



**PEOPLE
ATL**

Keep Georgia Safe (2024)



FREE Lesson Plans

Please click on the appropriate image below to download the lesson plan.

K-5 Lessons and Worksheets

DESIGN YOUR OWN ROUNDABOUT

Students will put their engineering skills to the test while improving safety on the road.

Roundabouts are a safe way to get around the road. They are a safe way to get around the road. They are a safe way to get around the road.

Time Required: 30-45 minutes

Materials:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Colored paper

Prep: Cut out the paper circles, colored paper, and glue. Make sure you have enough paper to make a roundabout.

Instructions for the Lesson:

- TALK ABOUT ROUNDABOUTS:** Research roundabouts. Roundabouts are a safe way to get around the road. They are a safe way to get around the road.
- BUILD A ROUNDABOUT:** It's time to put your paper designs and let students create their own.

Design Your Own Roundabout

SAFE INTERSECTIONS

Learn how roundabouts can make a big difference in road safety.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Traditional Intersection: Traditional intersections have 32 potential conflict points.

Roundabout: With a roundabout design, there are only 8 conflict points.

3 More Roundabout Facts: Research and write facts you learn.

DID YOU KNOW? Roundabouts can decrease total crashes by 90%.

Safe Intersections

CREATE YOUR OWN SAFETY SIGN

Students will put their creativity to the test while also helping their communities.

RESPECT GEORGIA WORK ZONES

Time Required: 30-45 minutes

Materials:

- Paper
- Sign template

Prep: Print copies of the safety sign template, and make sure you have all supplies for everyone.

Instructions for the Lesson:

- TALK ABOUT CAR SAFETY:** Have students research facts and create a short car safety video. They will then share their video with the class.
- TALK ABOUT ROAD SAFETY:** Have students research facts and create a short road safety video. They will then share their video with the class.
- CREATE SIGNS!** After they've researched, have students create a sign for their community.

Create Your Own Safety Sign & Template

This book is made possible by **GDOT**

Let's keep Georgia roads safe for all.

It's not just your family and friends looking out for you. Now you know the Georgia DOT is, too!

TIP #5 DON'T BE A DISTRACTION IN THE CAR.

There's already a lot going on in a car.

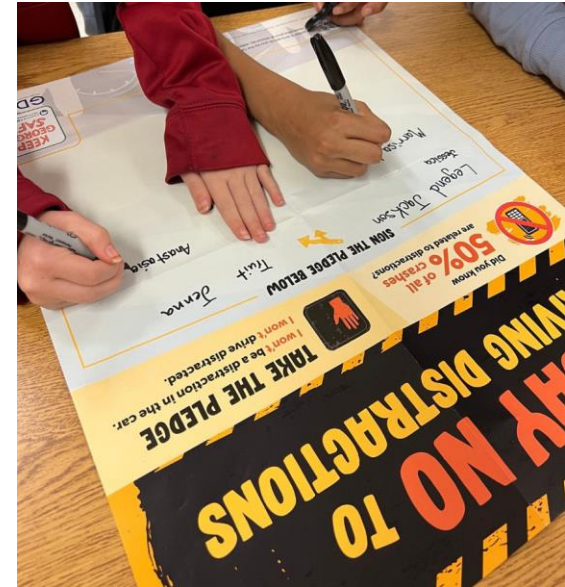
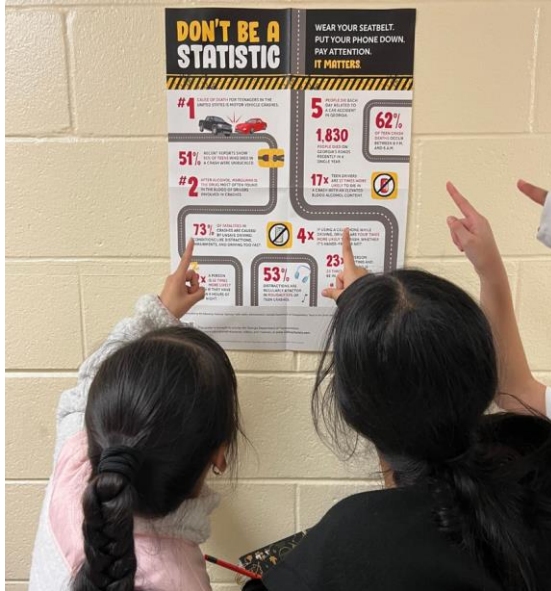
As a passenger in a car, you often add to these distractions without even knowing it.

Stay in your seat, and let the driver drive. By doing this, you make the roads safer for everyone.

STUDENT ACTIVITY BOOK

139,366

GEORGIA TEACHERS REACHED



→ **1.1M+**

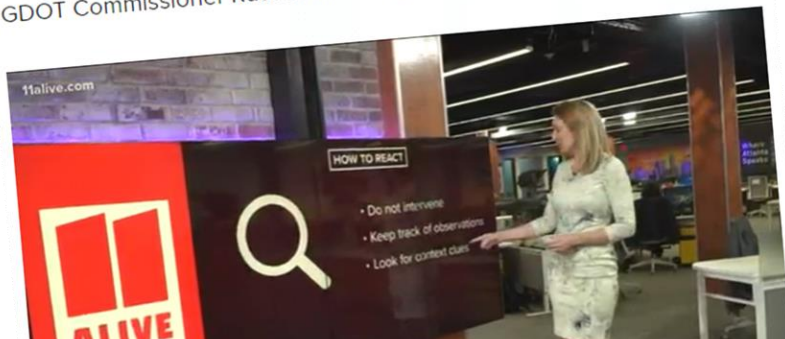
K-12 GEORGIA STUDENTS IMPACTED in Year 1 - Year 3.

Based on the numbers of print kits delivered + number of students in an average class, we know we have impacted a significant number of students across Georgia.

LOCAL NEWS

GDOT training all its employees to spot human trafficking

The agency comes into contact with thousands of people daily, says GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry.



2019



Human Trafficking



Human Trafficking

Episode 1 • 15th January 2026 • GDOT Ahead of the Curve Podcast • Georgia DOT



00:00:00

00:47:22



NOTES FOLLOW SHARE

Human trafficking is a devastating crime that occurs in communities across our state and nation, including along our transportation network—on roadways, at rest areas and welcome centers, in airports, and in other public spaces. Georgia DOT is deeply committed to combating human trafficking, not only in Georgia but wherever it occurs. In recognition of National Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January, we are taking every opportunity to raise awareness about how to recognize and report potential trafficking activity. As part of that effort, this episode of Ahead of the Curve features Susan Norris, a nationally recognized subject matter expert who has dedicated nearly two decades to the fight against human trafficking and currently serves as the Founder and Executive Director of the nonprofit organization Rescuing Hope, Inc. She joins host Natalie Dale for a thoughtful and informative conversation on this challenging but critical issue. In this episode, listeners will learn how they can

Public Involvement/Communications Audit (2025)

Purpose: To assess the effectiveness, accessibility, consistency, and compliance of GDOT's public-facing Public Involvement and Engagement practices.



Interviews

27 office heads and district engineers



Surveys

Approximately 70 staff survey respondents



Document & Website Review

169 project websites and 680 documents



Workshops (In-Person & Virtual):

Two workshops with 60 combined staff participants



Result: Recommendation & Implementation Plan

Findings synthesized into actionable recommendations to strengthen and standardize GDOT's public involvement and outreach efforts department-wide

Looking Ahead

- Supporting future transportation investments
- Enhanced safety advocacy & education
- Continued digital innovation
- Ongoing evolution of traditional media
- Deeper storytelling
- Greater impacts from A.I.
- Still all about the GDOT brand



We can do our jobs well because our colleagues do theirs so well.



Questions?

Scott Higley
Director of Strategic Communications
shigley@dot.ga.gov



STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

MAY 2026 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

May 20, 2026