

# MILEPOST

GEORGIA

Fall 2018

## Talking Safety

Now Open! Northwest Corridor  
Reversible Express Lanes

Guardrail: A Photo Essay

Inland Port in Murray County

PATH400 Is National  
People's Choice Winner

**GDOT**  
Georgia Department  
of Transportation

## Commissioner's Column

### Talking Safety



*The safety of the people is the highest law.* Those words, from an ancient Roman philosopher, aptly apply at the Georgia Department of Transportation, where safety is not only a primary part of our mission - it's our number one priority.

This issue of Milepost focuses on safety - what GDOT does to enhance safety on our roads for the general public and for our workers. It also demonstrates how individuals can improve their own safety and the safety of those around them.

Throughout the magazine you'll find safety-related quotes and information from the Department's office heads and managers. They reveal how GDOT is continuing to focus on a culture of safety and to spread the message. In August, a District 4 traffic signal tech was struck by a tractor trailer while he was working from his bucket truck on an emergency repair of a traffic signal. Fortunately, Trey was not killed. But he was severely injured and is currently going through rehabilitation. We are keeping him and his family in our thoughts.

My congratulations to the recently-elected executive leadership on the State Transportation Board. Ann Purcell is chairman; Tim Golden is vice chairman; and Rudy Bowen is secretary. Many thanks to former chair Jamie Boswell for his devoted leadership and support over the past year.

Among the many recognitions of GDOT team members in this Milepost, you'll want to read about the unusual honor bestowed on Jim Pomfret by the Muscogee Creek Nation Ceremonial Ground. Jim was named a Green Corn Warrior. See it on page 5.

This summer saw advancement of some major projects, including the successful opening of the nearly 30-mile Northwest Corridor Express Lanes along I-75 and I-575 northwest of Atlanta. This is Georgia's second fully-reversible, tolled managed lanes project and perhaps one of the most innovative express lanes projects in the country. The Northwest Corridor will eventually be part of a hub-and-spoke system of express lanes projects in metro Atlanta, a key way we're working to provide motorists with more choices while reducing travel times and congestion. You'll also read about groundbreaking for the I-85 Widening Project (the first Major Mobility Improvement Project to begin construction) and the Diverging Diamond Interchange at I-285 and Camp Creek Parkway.

In September, GDOT was proud to host the 2018 annual meeting of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) in Atlanta. This national event, which brought together transportation professionals from across the country for information exchanges, committee meetings and policy discussions, was the result of the combined and extended efforts of many individuals. Thank you to all of the members of the GDOT team who took part in the planning and coordination of the meeting, yet another opportunity to show off our successes right here in Georgia. Look for highlights in the winter issue.

Please enjoy this edition of Milepost and sincerely consider its safety messages. I thank you in advance for keeping safety on your mind. And always remember to Drive Alert, Arrive Alive.

Russell R. McMurry, P.E.

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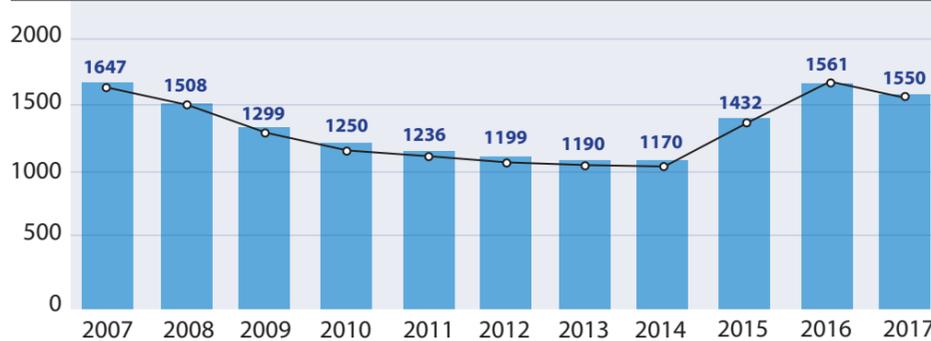
FY 2018 Performance Measures

# SAFETY

**Invest in safety for Georgians and Georgia DOT employees.**  
Tracks fatalities and injuries on Georgia's roads.

MEASURE	TARGET	Q1 JULY-SEPT 2017	Q2 OCT-DEC 2017	Q3 JAN-MARCH 2018	Q4 APR-JUNE 2018
Number of fatalities statewide	Reduce fatalities by 41 each year	417	380	341	379
Work zone fatalities	0	7	5	3	5
Work zone injuries for Georgia DOT employees requiring medical treatment	0	15	8	33	17
Average HERO response time in minutes	10 minutes or less	11	11	12	12

## CALENDAR YEAR FATALITY TREND ON GEORGIA'S ROADWAYS



### TOWARD ACHIEVING RESULTS

- Georgia DOT makes ongoing infrastructure investments to enhance safety. These include use of data and analytics to identify systemic safety projects such as improved pavement markings, cable barrier installations and rumble strips. Non-systemic projects in targeted locations include reduced conflict U-turn intersections (R-Cuts) and roundabouts. Road safety audits, where engineers walk a road to identify potential safety deficiencies, are also conducted.
- In 2018, over \$100 million was obligated to the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) for infrastructure safety projects, including \$7.8 million in off-system safety.
- Georgia DOT has several marketing safety campaigns including:
  - Drive Alert Arrive Alive, which educates drivers about how changes in their driving behavior can reduce preventable crashes and save lives. Since 2015, the Office of Strategic Communications has conducted outreach to combat distracted driving. The campaign relaunched in April 2018 with new creative and visual content.
  - See & Be Seen addresses a surge in pedestrian fatalities.
  - National Work Zone Awareness Week is observed each spring to call public attention to the dangers in roadway work zones.
  - Safety On My Mind is Georgia DOT's employee-focused initiative that inspires a safety-first culture among staff.
- It is anticipated that Georgia's Hands-Free cell phone driving law, which went into effect July 1, 2018, will contribute to enhanced safety on our roads.

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Visit GDOT's Performance Management Dashboard at [www.dot.ga.gov/Performance](http://www.dot.ga.gov/Performance).  
*Content subject to change based on new information.*

Georgia Department of Transportation

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# MILEPOSTS

## FY 2018 PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### — FOURTH QUARTER —

#### SETTING GOALS

At Georgia DOT, we align and measure our performance with our goals and objectives. Each goal relates to and supports the state's strategic priorities.

#### DATA DRIVES PERFORMANCE

Performance management enables us to accomplish our mission of providing a safe and well-maintained transportation system for the people of Georgia. Harnessing and measuring data enables Georgia DOT to make decisions, adjustments and improvements that lead to fulfilling this mission.

#### PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Georgia DOT's many performance measures - known as MilePosts - help us understand how we are doing and where we need to improve. They cover hundreds of key measures from average highway speeds to pavement conditions, the condition of our bridges to average Highway Emergency Response Operator (HERO) response time, the number of fatalities on our roads to percentage of projects completed on time and on budget.

#### MISSION AND GOALS

Georgia DOT's mission is to deliver a transportation system focused on innovation, safety, sustainability and mobility. This mission translates into five strategic goals relating to: safety, system preservation, project delivery, mobility and employees.

#### FIVE STRATEGIC GOALS

- Invest in safety for Georgians and Georgia DOT employees
- Efficiently take care of what we have
- Deliver projects on time and on budget
- Invest to improve reliability, congestion and connectivity
- Recruit, train and retain a quality workforce

Each quarter, we share a few of these performance measures to demonstrate how we're measuring up.

FY 2018 Performance Measures

## PAVEMENT AND BRIDGE CONDITION

**System preservation: Efficiently take care of current transportation facilities.**  
Tracks roadway pavement and bridge conditions.

**Comprehensive pavement condition:** Tracks pavement conditions on surveyed routes and is based on route prioritization. Scores are on a 0-100 scale, with 100 being the best. **Scores:** GOOD 85-100, FAIR 70-85, POOR less than 70

ROUTE	TARGET	2016	2017	2018
<b>CRITICAL</b> Interstates, National and State Freight Corridors, Federal Strategic Highway Network	85	84	84	84
<b>HIGH</b> National Highway System, U.S. Routes, GRIP Corridors	85	79	79	79
<b>MEDIUM</b> GEMA Routes	82	78	80	80
<b>LOW</b> All other Uncategorized Routes - low connectivity, less than four lanes, low regional significance	79	80	80	80

**Bridge Condition:** Tracks bridge conditions based on strength and deck condition. GDOT continues to reduce the number of deficient bridges and is also targeting bridges in "Fair" condition, raising them to a level of "Good." On-system bridge structures carry Interstate, U.S. Numbered and State Routes. Off-system bridge structures are locally owned.

MEASURE*	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>BRIDGES Percentage of all in GOOD Condition</b>	51%	52%	51%	48%	46%
On-system	51%	52%	51%	48%	45%
Off-system	51%	62%	51%	48%	48%
<b>BRIDGES Percentage of all in FAIR Condition</b>	47%	45%	47%	50%	52%
On-system	47%	51%	48%	52%	54%
Off-system	46%	34%	44%	48%	49%
<b>BRIDGES Percentage of all in POOR Condition</b>	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
On-system	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Off-system	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%

\*Revised based on new bridge condition methodology.

### TOWARD ACHIEVING RESULTS

- As a result of the Transportation Funding Act (TFA) of 2015, Georgia DOT has sustained funding to focus on deferred routine maintenance activities, including pavement preservation and bridge rehabilitation or replacement. Compared to FY 2015, funding for roadway resurfacing nearly quadrupled in FY 2016, with similar funding in FY 2017 and FY 2018. This allows GDOT to work towards restoring a 15-year pavement resurfacing cycle, rather than the 50-year cycle in place a few years ago. Additionally, funding for bridge repairs and replacements nearly doubled in FYs 2016, 2017 and 2018, allowing the department to repair or replace both on-system and off-system bridges.
- The FY 2018 GDOT investment in routine maintenance is \$447 million; capital maintenance is \$400 million; and repairing and replacing bridges is \$301 million. This is more than double the investment before the TFA.

FY 2018 Performance Measures

## SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

**Invest to improve reliability, congestion and connectivity.**

Traffic congestion causes delays, increases fuel consumption, and hinders motorists' ability to accurately estimate travel time. These measures track average speeds across the most congested freeways in the metro Atlanta region. By focusing on these key roadways, GDOT can identify and address the biggest congestion challenges. The goal is to reduce congestion so that a 30 minute trip during non-peak travel hours would take no more than 40 minutes during peak rush hours. That means an average speed of 55 mph during non-peak hours would be reduced no less than 40 mph during peak rush hours.

MEASURE	TARGET	Q1 JULY-SEPT 2017	Q2 OCT-DEC 2017	Q3 JAN-MARCH 2018	Q4 APR-JUNE 2018	FY18 AVERAGE
General Purpose lanes / Morning rush (6 am-10 am)	≥40 mph	38*	34*	35	36	35
General Purpose lanes / Evening rush (3 pm- 7 pm)	≥40 mph	33*	30*	33	32	32
Managed lanes+ / Morning rush (6 am-10 am)	≥45 mph	59	55	55	59	57
Managed lanes+ / Evening rush (3 pm-7 pm)	≥45 mph	56	58	63	65	61

\*Revised based on updated data.

+Managed lanes include Express Lanes and HOT lanes; not non-toll HOV lanes.

### TOWARD ACHIEVING RESULTS

- Georgia DOT's Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP) is an initial list of 11 large-scale transportation projects that will improve mobility, and increase travel capacity, reliability and safety, help move freight more efficiently and provide economic benefits. Once complete, it is expected that in the year 2030 there will be a five percent reduction in traffic congestion statewide.
- Georgia Express Lanes (GEL) provide a mobility choice for drivers to pay a toll to bypass congestion and offer a clear path for transit operators. GEL relies on variable-price tolling to maintain free-flowing travel. The result is more reliable and predictable trip times - even during peak travel periods.
- Incident management that facilitates efficient, safe and fast roadway clearance reduces the impact of crashes on motorists. In metro Atlanta, a primary mission of the HERO program is to clear disabled vehicles from the roadway to restore normal traffic flow.
- The TIME Task Force Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP) encourages the quick, safe clearance of large-scale commercial vehicle incidents. By paying performance incentives to highly skilled, TRIP-certified towing and recovery companies, delays and safety hazards are reduced.

FY 2018 Performance Measures

## STEWARDSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

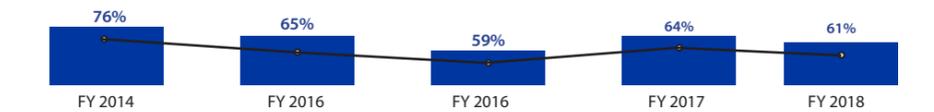
**Deliver projects on time and on budget.**

Tracks percentage of projects delivered on schedule and on budget.

### Percentage of Projects Delivered on Schedule

Each construction contract executed to build a project includes an agreed upon timeframe by GDOT and the contractor to complete construction. However, sometimes, necessary extensions occur. This measure tracks how well GDOT is constructing projects within the agreed upon (original) contract time.

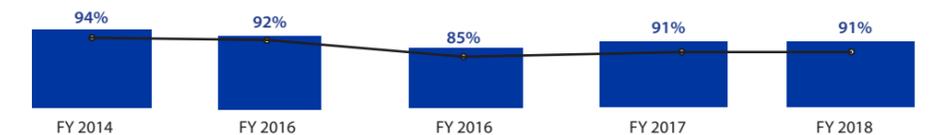
TARGET	FY	Q1 JUL-SEP	Q2 OCT-DEC	Q3 JAN-MAR	Q4 APR-JUN
80% or greater	2018	73%*	68%*	87%*	61%*



### Percentage of Projects Completed on Budget

Each contract executed to build a project includes a dollar (award) amount agreed upon by GDOT and the contractor to complete construction. However, sometimes, projects are completed over or under the award amount. This measure tracks how well GDOT is constructing projects within the agreed upon dollar (award) amount.

TARGET	FY	Q1 JUL-SEP	Q2 OCT-DEC	Q3 JAN-MAR	Q4 APR-JUN
90% or greater	2018	92%*	91%*	100%*	93%*



\*Figures are drawn from dynamic systems (i.e., constantly being updated) and are reflective of the time they were generated.

### TOWARD ACHIEVING RESULTS

- Georgia DOT's State Utilities Office ensures that Utility Adjustment Schedules are included in the advertisement for contractor consideration when bidding on projects.
- The project close-out procedure has been updated to allow for corrective work to be completed within the contract time.
- Georgia DOT works proactively with contractors to resolve issues as quickly as possible.
- These practices along with other initiatives have contributed to a significant reduction in utility delays on construction projects.

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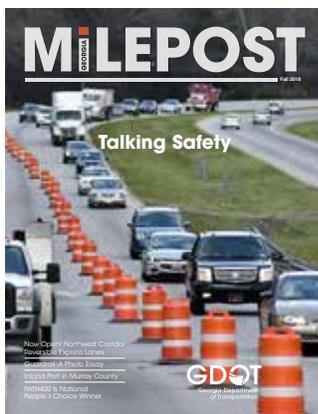
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**COMING IN THE WINTER MILEPOST**  
Highlights from the AASHTO Annual Meeting in Atlanta.

**On the cover:** Highly visible traffic safety cones temporarily taper traffic to one lane ahead of a resurfacing project outside of Augusta. Photo: Kyle Collins, GDOT



# ACROSS THE BOARD

## Board Elects Leadership for FY 2019



Rudy Bowen, Ann Purcell, Tim Golden

The State Transportation Board elected new leadership during their August meeting. **Ann R. Purcell was elected unanimously as chairman; Tim Golden was elected vice chairman; and Rudy Bowen was elected secretary.** 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.

Chairman Ann Purcell of Rincon, Ga. has served on the board for five years and represents Georgia's 1st Congressional District. She is a community and civic leader, a published genealogist, former educator and previously served 18 years in the Georgia House of Representatives. Most recently, she was board vice chair. As chair, Purcell serves as ex officio member of all committees.



Ann Purcell and Jamie Boswell

Purcell replaces Jamie Boswell of Athens, Ga. as chairman. Boswell represents the 10th Congressional District. During his tenure, Georgia DOT advanced two Major Mobility Investment Program projects; the first – a widening project on I-85 in Gwinnett, Barrow and Jackson counties – broke ground, and the second – the I-16/I-95 Interchange reconstruction – was awarded. Additionally, Boswell focused on meeting Georgia DOT staff in every district and working with them to support their needs and efforts. He is a business and civic leader, and president and owner of a group of insurance, real estate and appraisal companies.

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.

Vice Chairman Tim Golden of Valdosta, Ga. represents the 8th Congressional District. He was elected to the board in 2015 and was most recently board secretary. He is a business and civic leader, and a partner at Capitol Benefits Group, LLC. Golden served four terms in the Georgia House of Representatives and eight terms in the Georgia State Senate.

Secretary Rudy Bowen of Suwanee, Ga. is a businessman and a community leader who represents the 7th Congressional District. He was elected to the board in 2007.

## Board Recognizes U.S. DOT Secretary Elaine Chao



The State Transportation Board recognized U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao with an appreciation resolution during their August meeting.

The resolution commended Chao for her consistent support of transportation initiatives on a national and state level, and recognized her for the true partnership she has shown to GDOT. Through her actions as secretary—including securing \$10 million in emergency funding for the rebuild of I-85, and awarding the Department a proposed \$184 million Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant for the State Route 400 Express Lanes project—Chao has proven to be a champion of our Department.

The resolution reads, “Sec. Chao’s devotion to fixing our nation’s infrastructure, and her unwavering support of the Georgia Department of Transportation has allowed our state to shine on a national platform and gain recognition for the important and innovative solutions being utilized to advance and improve our transportation system.” The resolution was presented by newly-elected Board Secretary Rudy Bowen. (See article page 13)

## Traveling Rudy Bowen Highway

Approximately 2.5 miles of State Route 20 – from Windermere Parkway in Forsyth County to Suwanee Dam Road in Gwinnett County – is now designated as Rudy Bowen Highway. During their 2018 legislative session the Georgia General Assembly passed Senate Resolution 745, a 28-part road and bridge naming bill, to honor outstanding Georgians who have made an impact on our state. State Sen. Brandon Beach led the effort to recognize Bowen for his contributions to the state of Georgia.



State Transportation Board  
Congressional District 5

Changing Lanes with

# Stacey Key

By Brittany Wagner

Passionate, driven, focused, inspirational – four words that perfectly describe Stacey Key. A businesswoman to the core, she grew up talking finance and business with her parents. She took advantage of opportunities that ultimately led her to represent Georgia’s Fifth Congressional District on the State Transportation Board, a seat she’s held since 2013. Key, the CEO of a non-profit that aims to help small businesses prosper, believes personal growth and taking risks were keys to her success.

**Change is important.** The world is changing around us every day. *You need to be innovative, collaborative and open to new ways of doing things. Don’t be afraid to take balanced risks because it’s okay to fail ... it’s an opportunity to learn and grow. We need to think outside the box. Don’t be afraid of change – change keeps you fresh.*

**Falling into place.** Born in Louisville, Kentucky and growing up in Minneapolis, Key moved to Georgia to pursue an opportunity at IBM that launched her career in technology. *I didn’t know that was what I wanted to do, but my parents got relocated to Atlanta and their neighbor mentioned that IBM was looking for students and co-ops. My dad told me to apply. I did and I got hired. So I moved to Atlanta, started grad school at Georgia State University and started as a co-op student at IBM.*

**Following the path.** Most paths encounter a fork, but Key always knew the direction she wanted to go. *I’m focused and passionate, so I was clear on my journey and intent on the things I wanted to accomplish. I knew early on that I wanted to be in business, ultimately as the CEO of an organization. As a mother, along the journey I made the decision to leave corporate America - and the associated hustle and bustle and travel - to be a more engaged parent. I rerouted my path – that’s when I went into the non-profit world and accomplished my dream.*



**Motivated to help others succeed.** *I help small businesses grow. Every single day when my feet hit the floor, I’m excited – there’s something new, something different. There’s nothing greater than seeing a \$1 million dollar business grow into a \$10 or \$50 or \$100 million business. I get to see that every single day. That motivates me, inspires me and encourages me to do what I do. There is nothing better.*

**Infected with the bug.** Key caught the transportation bug from a friend who worked in the industry years ago. *My friend and I would always talk about transportation programs and initiatives. Then I was approached to help with a local SPLOST initiative. I got involved with education and engagement efforts targeting small businesses. As a result of the success, the bug took over and I jumped at the chance to represent the Fifth Congressional District on the State Transportation Board.*

**Family foundations.** Younger generations are the future of our nation and investing in their success is important to Key. *My family started a foundation in my father’s name at his alma mater - the Dunwoody College of Technology, formerly the Dunwoody Institute, in Minneapolis - to support young, budding engineers. We also established a scholarship in my late sister’s name at the Grady College of Journalism at the University of Georgia.*

**Once in a blue moon.** It doesn’t happen often, but when it does, Key knows how to kick back and relax. *I like to cook, although I don’t get the opportunity to do it as often as I’d like. My signature is my mac and cheese, which my family loves. Most of my free time is spent with family and friends and the people I love, watching football or vegging on the couch, which is rare – but awesome!*

**Why the caged bird sings.** You can learn a lot about a person from the people they look up to. *I admire Maya Angelou – her elegance, her grace and her ability to change the narrative with her words. She had an aptitude to reshape certain aspects of how we think based on her writing. She brought people together – a collaborator, a unifier. Her words were calming and comforting.*

## Moving Forward



**Eric Conklin** is the new administrator of the Office of Transportation Data. He was most recently the assistant administrator for OTD. Prior to joining the department in 2015, Conklin worked for 20 years at the Indiana Department of Transportation.

During his tenure there, he managed the transportation data section, which included state and local road inventory, traffic data collection, bridge inventory, bridge inspection and federal reporting. Conklin has a bachelor's in geography from Indiana University.



**Katina Lear** is the new assistant director for the Office of Strategic Communications. She was most recently Digital Media and Communications manager and has extensive expertise in social media, journalism, cause marketing and public outreach.

Lear attended GDOT's Management Development Program (MDP). She has a bachelor's in communications from the University of Alabama with an emphasis in photojournalism.

## Recognitions & Distinctions

Commissioner **Russell McMurry, P.E.** was elected to serve as president of the Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) for the coming year. GDOT hosts the 2019 SASHTO annual meeting on Aug. 18-20, 2019 in Savannah.



Civil Engineering Group Leader

**Robert Graham, P.E.**, was named a YoungGov40 winner. The award honors top government employees under the age of 40 in the metro Atlanta region. Graham, who manages the Roadway Lighting Group, is

one of 36 regional recipients from federal, state, and local agencies to receive the honor. His volunteer activities include GED Math Tutor for StandUp for Kids, MathCounts proctor, and the Southern Polytechnic & Kennesaw State University alumni associations.



GDOT's **Office of Procurement/Operational Procurement Section** won the **Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award** from the National Procurement Institute (NPI). The institute recognizes public and nonprofit organizations that excel in procurement innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity and leadership. GDOT is one of only eight state agencies in the United States and Canada to receive this award.

The **PATH400 Trail** is the **People's Choice winner of the national America's Transportation Awards (ATA)** competition. The project first received a regional SASHTO award and then competed against 11 other regional winners from across the country for the national honor. PATH400 received the most online votes from the public. The 5.2 mile bikeable and walkable greenway was built on public land and on the right-of-way of GA 400 using local funding – no federal or state dollars were used. (See page 24)

### TALKING SAFETY

Many people may not know that we dedicate a portion of the State Maintenance budget to pavement markings. Fresher, cleaner stripes and RPMs [raised pavement markers] allow drivers to see where they should be on the road, regardless of the weather or time of day. I believe improving our pavement markings helps make Georgia roads safer for everyone.

**Andy Doyle, P.E.**  
**State Maintenance Engineer**

# Pomfret Named Green Corn Warrior by Muscogee Creek Nation Ceremonial Ground

By Bre Kirkpatrick



Pomfret (left) with Chief David Proctor of the Tallahassee Wvkokaye ceremonial grounds

A time for personal purification, forgiveness, giving thanks, and renewal, The Green Corn Ceremony has been an important part of the Creek Indian culture for hundreds of years. This religious ceremony, which takes place annually in July, is a celebration of the new corn crop. The four-day ceremony consists of traditional rituals such as building the new fire, touching medicine prepared by the medicine man, fasting, bloodletting and dancing through the night.

When Jim Pomfret, an Environmental Program manager with GDOT and then-GDOT Tribal Liaison, was invited in 2015 by David Proctor, the Mekko (Chief) of the Tallahassee Wvkokaye ceremonial grounds, to learn more about traditional Creek culture and participate in the annual Green Corn ceremony in Oklahoma, he did not know what was in store.

“Our custom is to attach a warrior’s name to a person who has been through four ceremonies. This is a great honor for our people,” Chief Proctor said. “Mr. Pomfret has proven himself to be a warrior for our grounds by attending the Green Corn ceremony and has shown respect and accepted our ways.”

Pomfret received this honor during a naming ceremony and the warrior name Tvsekiyv Emathla, which roughly translates to “Warrior that travels with us.”

*“It has been the honor of a lifetime to have been able to participate in the annual Green Corn ceremony and become a member of the Tallahassee Wvkokaye ceremonial grounds. I am grateful that the Mekko, David Proctor, has provided me with this opportunity,” Pomfret said. “I am also very proud of working for an agency that places a high importance on tribal consultation and building relationships with our partners.”*

## In Case You Missed It

### **PIRL: the source for answers to public inquiries**

The Office of Program Delivery (OPD) recently completed the **Public Information Resource Library (PIRL)** - the first-ever internal-only resource for Georgia DOT employees and consultants to use when responding to public inquiries about projects. While PIRL will not answer every question, it enables employees to develop their own tailored responses based upon GDOT policy, standards and procedures.

Features:

- Search by topic and sub-topic
- Sections provide guidance on responses
- References appropriate manual or guide pertaining to subject
- Hyperlinks supplied to ROADS and other online repositories
- Supplemental information and a listing of all GDOT policies and manuals

The library is on the internal webpage in the “Policies, Publications and Templates” section. Using PIRL ensures consistent and accurate information is provided to constituents throughout Georgia.

**GDOT employees – watch for launch of T2.** Transportation Talks (T2) is coming. Whether it’s transportation industry trends, ideas and issues, transit or GDOT’s projects and programs, T2 is a quarterly series of discussions that will provide an interactive platform for compelling speakers and subject matter experts from GDOT and partner agencies who collaboratively share their thoughts and engage employees on topics affecting the department, the public and local, state and federal stakeholders. Look for upcoming T2 session announcements in the near future.

**E**arly in the transportation planning process, GDOT’s Office of Environmental Services ensures that possible social, economic, and environmental effects of projects are fully considered. These include historical, cultural, archeological and ecological resources. During the environmental phase of project development, GDOT currently consults with 19 federally recognized tribes with ancestral homelands in Georgia.

# Talking Safety

By Liz Rothman

**A**t **GDOT safety is a state of mind.** Whether it's researching and applying innovative technologies; designing, engineering and constructing projects; conducting environmental assessments; preparing for emergency response; or inspecting on- and off-system bridges - safety is always the top consideration.

With GDOT's emphasis on safety and with new vehicles increasingly enhanced with back-up cameras, blind spot detection and the like, why are more people dying on the roads? It's because every individual must do their part to turn the tide on preventable roadway deaths.

## Stop preventable crashes.

GDOT's Drive Alert Arrive Alive campaign focuses on changing unsafe driving behaviors. DAAA urges drivers to buckle up, stay off mobile devices and focus on the road. Of the 1,549 fatalities in Georgia last year, 70 percent were attributed to driver actions like distraction, impairment or driving too fast for conditions; and 56 percent of victims were not wearing a seatbelt (or it is unknown if they were). **WHERE ARE WE NOW? FATALITIES DOWN 9% FROM SAME TIME LAST YEAR.\***



**Pedestrian deaths surge.** 260 people on foot died in 2017, a 54 percent increase in three years. Walker safety is a shared responsibility between drivers and pedestrians. Everyone - pay attention. No electronic devices. No cell phones. No texting. No headphones. Walkers - cross where you can be seen and where you can see. Drivers - slow down. Speed kills. **WHERE ARE WE NOW? PEDESTRIAN FATALITIES ARE IDENTICAL TO THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR.\***

\*Data as of 9/27/18



## Work zone safety: everyone's responsibility.

Workers and motorists share an obligation for safety. Workers - be aware of potential hazards and put safety first. Drivers - pay extra attention, slow down and watch for workers. Remember - work zones are not only for construction. They are also for maintenance crews, HERO and CHAMP operators, law enforcement, first responders, tow trucks and utility service vehicles. And when you see these units stopped on the side of the road, move over or slow down. (See Move Over Law page 7)

### TALKING SAFETY

There is nothing more important to me than having our employees go home safely at the end of every day.

**Mike Dover, P.E.**  
Deputy Commissioner



# SAFETY

## On My Mind

### GDOT's employee safety initiative.

GDOT focuses on preventable workplace incidents with the goal of heightening safety awareness, reducing workplace injuries and preventing tragic fatalities. Employees are trained to think safety-first whether they're picking up a box, using a piece of equipment or in a work zone – to "Think. Look. Do."

### It's Georgia law.

- **Drivers, put down the phone.** Georgia's **Hands-Free Law** requires hands-free technology when drivers use cell phones and other electronic devices. It is illegal for a driver to hold a phone in their hand or to use their body to support a phone.
- **Move over for stopped emergency vehicles.** Georgia's **Move Over Law** (the Spencer Pass Law) requires drivers to move-over one lane if possible when approaching stationary highway maintenance and construction workers, HERO and CHAMP operators, law enforcement or emergency vehicles, firefighters, paramedics, tow truck drivers and utility service vehicles displaying flashing emergency lights. If it is unsafe to move over, slow down below the posted speed limit and be prepared to stop.
- **Buckle up.** While Georgia law requires front seat passengers to wear a seatbelt, GDOT recommends that all occupants buckle up. In a crash, an unrestrained passenger can injure or kill another occupant.

For details on all of Georgia's driving laws, visit [gahighwaysafety.org](http://gahighwaysafety.org).

### TALKING SAFETY

To make training effective for staff, we strive to engage. Whether the employee works out in the field or in front of a computer, the mind and body must be engaged so that knowledge is retained. When safety training appeals to a point of passion like self-pride, safety of family, or giving care to coworkers, that knowledge is not only retained, but also more readily applied.

**Sharon Morales, M.A., CSP**  
State Safety Manager

### GDOT doesn't just talk safety. Here's a sampling of what we do about it.

**Clear stalls and incidents that create unsafe conditions.** **HERO** (Highway Emergency Response Operators) and **CHAMP** (Coordinated Highway Assistance & Maintenance Program) operators provide complimentary interstate highway assistance 24/7 for motorists. Call 511. The **Towing and Recovery Incentive Program** (TRIP) swiftly clears large-scale commercial vehicle incidents. The **Transportation Management Center** (TMC) is home to the Georgia-NavigAtor 511 intelligent transportation traffic management system that provides real-time speed, volume and travel time information to motorists 24/7. Download the app, dial 511 or visit [511ga.org](http://511ga.org).



**Innovative intersections.** Today's traffic volumes and demands can be too complex for conventional intersections to safely handle. GDOT seeks solutions through innovative intersections. **Diverging diamond interchanges** (DDI) shift the flow of traffic to reduce points of traffic conflict. **Roundabouts** are circular intersections where entering traffic yields to vehicles on the roadway. **Reduced conflict U-turn** (RCUT) intersections restrict left turns and through movements at an intersection, while allowing the left turn downstream using a U-turn. **Displaced left turn** (DLT) intersections reduce the number of traffic signal phases and conflict points by moving left-turns from the main intersection to an upstream signalized location.



**Reducing roadway departure. Safety edge** eliminates the vertical drop-off on the outside edge of uncurbed pavement to enable a driver who drifts off the highway to safely return.

**Rumble strips** use sound and vibration to alert drivers who drift. **Cable barrier** in highway medians prevents crossover crashes. **High friction surface treatment (HFST)**, a spot pavement treatment applied at curves and other crash-prone areas, enhances skid resistance. **Clearing trees** in or along the right-of-way provides room to recover if a driver runs off the road.

**Traffic signal upgrades.** GDOT is optimizing traffic signal software statewide with upgrades that provide detailed traffic data and better monitor how well a signal functions; provide an alert if a signal isn't operating correctly and enable remote adjustment. GDOT's Regional Traffic Operations Program (RTOP)—a cutting-edge ITS-based traffic signal synchronization program—continues to optimize signal timing from intersection to intersection in various locations.

**Operational improvements** optimize existing infrastructure without significant costs. Safety enhancements include modifying an interchange, adding a turn lane, installing a crosswalk, and adding a wheelchair ramp.

**Pedestrian friendly sidewalks and crossings. The Sidewalk Safety and Access Program** funds small projects that improve access, make a connection or fill a gap in existing pedestrian or cycling infrastructure. These include sidewalks and crosswalks, median refuge islands, lighting and beacons, shoulder widenings and pavement markings.

**Projects designed to enhance safety.** These include **Transform 285/400**, under construction in metro Atlanta, with safety enhancements like collector distributor (CD) lanes that reduce abrupt and excessive lane changes by separating through traffic from local traffic; and **commercial vehicle-only lanes** planned along 40 miles of I-75 north from Macon to McDonough, to take truck traffic out of the general purpose lanes.

**Road safety audits (RSA).** The RSA is performed on existing or future roads and intersections by an independent and multi-disciplinary team who qualitatively identify potential safety issues and opportunities for improvements. GDOT is working to integrate RSAs into the project development process for new roads and intersections.

**Off-system safety (OSS).** GDOT not only focuses on improvements to reduce the frequency and severity of crashes on state-owned roads and bridges, but also on city- and county-owned "off-system" infrastructure. Through the **Local Bridge Replacement (LOBR) Program** GDOT partners with local governments to replace structurally deficient or posted bridges on county roads.

**Extreme weather response.** Hurricane season is here and continues through the end of November. This past September, Georgia was spared the devastation of Hurricane Florence, which flooded the Carolinas. In preparation for the storm's possible effects in Georgia, GDOT suspended construction in the I-20 west corridor towards South Carolina, I-95 and I-16, and boosted the number of CHAMP units in the region. In October 2017, when Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irma crossed into Georgia, bringing floods of water and evacuees, GDOT's emergency plans, equipment and people were in place before the storm. After, GDOT cleared routes, repaired signals, conducted inspections and handled excessive traffic volumes. GDOT was prepared then. And we are prepared now. Are you? Visit [ready.ga.gov](http://ready.ga.gov).



**Protecting Georgia's environment.** GDOT is committed to ensuring that projects comply with state and federal environmental laws regarding historical, cultural, archeological and ecological resources. GDOT's Stormwater Management Program—Rain Check—keeps waterways free from roadway debris and

contaminants caused by stormwater runoff. It also educates the public on preventing stormwater pollution through proper disposal of litter and pet waste; recycling motor oil and car batteries; and limiting excessive pesticide and fertilizer application on lawns so there is no run off.

## What can you do for safety?

- **Make it a rule.** The car doesn't move until everyone buckles up.
- **Leave extra space—at least four car lengths—when driving near trucks.** Keep out of their blind spots. Don't pass on the right.
- **Never walk across or along the interstate.** It's dangerous and it's against the law. If your car breaks down and you can't drive to the shoulder, turn on your hazard lights, lock the doors and stay seat-belted inside. Call 511 for HERO or CHAMP vehicle assistance. Or 911 for law enforcement or emergency medical assistance.
- **Watch for moving work zones** that conduct maintenance like litter pickup and mowing. They may move slowly and stop intermittently.
- **Drive like your kids are watching.** They are. And they learn from you. Be the driver you want your children to be.





**TALKING SAFETY**

I recently spoke with a contractor who had a worker that was hit and killed in a work zone earlier this year. He said that as the vehicle came to a stop in the work zone, the driver got out of the car and asked “What did I hit?” The driver actually didn’t know what happened. The point is whether you are driving your car or working in a work zone, the risks are real. Distractions kill. You can never take safety for granted.

**Marc Mastronardi, P.E.**  
**Director of Construction**

**TALKING SAFETY**

Georgia DOT has a group of people in Traffic Ops who constantly look at crash information from the perspective of “what can we do to prevent these crashes from occurring?” And we do a wide variety of things in response to that question. Some are very specific – like implementing an improvement at an intersection, for example. While some are very broad – like installing new or additional signage at ALL sharp curves in the state.

**John L. Hibbard, P.E.**  
**Division Director of Operations**

**TALKING SAFETY**

GDOT’s Research Technical Advisory Group (RTAG) is dedicated to research with a view towards implementation. Among our active research projects, one evaluates the cost effectiveness of illumination as a safety treatment at rural intersections. Another looks at the safety of pedestrian workers who work in close proximity to heavy construction equipment. The goal is to identify reliable and cost-effective technologies that can be used in real-time to detect a hazardous situation and provide a warning. We recently completed research that resulted in the determination that all overlay projects will utilize edge line rumble stripes.

**David M. Jared, P.E.**  
**Assistant Office Head, Research Office of Performance-Based Management & Research (OPMR)**



# Letters, Emails, Notes & Tweets

Not all heroes wear capes. Thank you so much to **Jason Richardson** for helping us when we were on the side of the road. Our boat had blown a tire and we didn't have a big enough jack. Then along came our blessing, Jason. It was 98 degrees and he didn't think twice about helping my husband get under the boat to help us. He even followed us to the next exit. Not only that, he offered to come back to check on us. I can't say enough wonderful things about him. He was so sweet and so professional. He wouldn't even take any tip money. We seriously do not know what we would do without him.  
- K. Stewart, via Facebook

*Editor's note: This "hero" is a Coordinated Highway Assistance and Maintenance Program—CHAMP—operator. GDOT offers CHAMP as a free service to motorists.*



Aloha. My wife and her sisters were headed back to Thomasville from Atlanta on I-75 when they unfortunately ran out of gas ... But fortunately, GDOT employee **Raymond Stich** stopped to help them - gave them 2 gallons of gas and safely saw them back on the road to the nearest gas station. I am sincerely grateful to Mr. Stich. Please pass our sincere appreciation and thanks to him ...  
- D. Cannon, via GDOT's CONTACT US webpage

*Editor's note: Raymond Stich is a CHAMP operator*



Thank you for cleaning up the trash by spaghetti junction! It looks a million times better!  
- L. Hooten, via Twitter

Shout out to Georgia DOT! I had a blowout on I-95 and 3 different GDOT trucks stopped to check on me and offer help. I didn't even know y'all did that. Much respect!  
- Ryan G., via Twitter



Awesome highway design. Great job GDOT!  
- B. Lee, via Twitter

*Editor's note: Writer is referring to a roundabout at SR 17 and Blue Jay Road in southeast Georgia.*



Thanks to two very helpful Georgia DOT crew members today who helped me find a quicker route around construction instead of having me wait on the just departed pilot car.  
- A. Moore, via Twitter

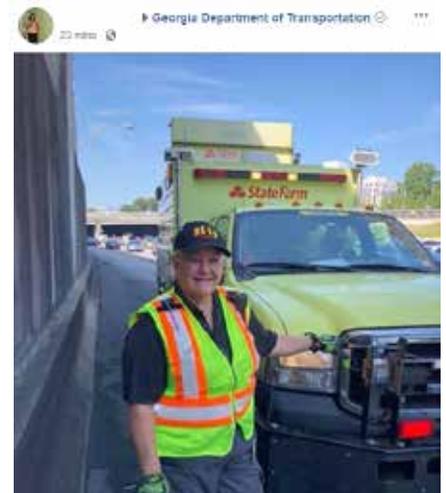


Big Kudos and many thanks to the gracious HERO employees! You were there for me when needed, and for that I am grateful! You are a great asset to the community at large. MUAH! Xoxoxo. We love you and need you!  
- Constituent, via Twitter



You have been really helpful and polite, considering I'm taking up your time for something you had nothing to do with. Have a great day!  
- Constituent, via Facebook

*Editor's note: This is in response to GDOT's answer to an inquiry about bus drivers. GDOT provided information to point the constituent in the right direction.*



This morning my tire blew out on I-75. I had an amazing experience when the HERO, who is a #SHERO, arrived and handled it, allowing me to get to my morning meeting on time ... This woman was so calm, polite, and of course professional, on top of being fast. She really makes a great impression during a stressful situation. Thank-you GDOT HERO!  
- R. Smith, via Facebook

*Editor's note: The commenter is referring to HERO **Dana Hollingsworth**.*



A couple of months ago, I introduced legislation requiring a 3 second head start for pedestrians at our most dangerous intersections. Today, I got to help reprogram the signals at 10th & Juniper to do just that. I won't lie, it was pretty fun.  
- A. Farohki, via Twitter

Take control of your commute

# Northwest Corridor Express Lanes Open

By Liz Rothman

**D**rivers in Cobb and Cherokee counties who commute to metro Atlanta – rejoice! The reversible Northwest Corridor (NWC) Express Lanes are open.

This \$834 million infrastructure project, the largest of its kind in state history, adds nearly 30 miles of barrier-separated and fully-reversible tolled express lanes along I-75 from Akers Mill Road to Hickory Grove Road, and along I-575 from I-75 to Sixes Road. On weekday mornings, the express lanes operate for southbound travel; for the ride home, the lanes reverse to northbound.

With more than 220,000 vehicles traveling this corridor each weekday, the largely elevated roadway provides additional capacity to accommodate travelers moving in the direction of greatest demand based on time of day, while utilizing electronic tolling technology to manage traffic flow. Rates rise as demand increases during peak travel times and rates fall at off-peak times.

“The Northwest Corridor Express Lanes represent one of the most transformative transportation projects in state history, enhancing both mobility and choice for motorists,” said GDOT Commissioner Russell R. McMurry, P.E. “We are deeply appreciative of the leadership of Gov. Nathan

Deal, the Georgia General Assembly and all of the agencies, organizations, municipalities and people who have contributed to the successful delivery of this project.”

The express lanes not only provide an option for motorists to take control of their commutes by choosing to use the lanes, transit riders also see a tremendous benefit by having a quicker and more reliable commute - all for the same fare. And while users of the express lanes see an obvious benefit in time savings, drivers in the general purpose lanes can also realize reduced congestion.

GDOT is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the roadway. Operation of the pricing aspects of the lanes, including customer service functions related to the Peach Pass system, is managed by the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA).

The express lanes are open to drivers with a registered Peach Pass in vehicles with two axles and six wheels or less. Each vehicle requires a separate Peach Pass. Public transit providers and state-registered vanpools can use the express lanes for free, but require a Peach Pass.

Visit [www.peachpass.com](http://www.peachpass.com) to find out how to obtain your Peach Pass.





(L-R) STB Member (now Secretary) Rudy Bowen (CD 7); then-STB Chair Jamie Boswell (CD 10); Gov. Nathan Deal; GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry; Randall Pugh, Board of Directors (CD 9), Georgia Department of Economic Development; and STB Member Dana Lemon (CD 13).

## First MMIP Project Breaks Ground: I-85 Widening Project

By Sade Wilkins



A ceremonial groundbreaking for the first phase of the I-85 Widening Project was held in July. It is the first of 11 initial Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP) projects to break ground.

“Thanks to the General Assembly’s bold action in passing the Transportation Funding Act in 2015, we are now able to begin

this first MMIP project, an unprecedented and innovative step to significantly improve Georgia’s transportation network for its users,” Gov. Nathan Deal said. “I also appreciate the work of the State Transportation Board in seeing one of the nation’s largest infrastructure undertakings come to fruition.”

The I-85 Widening Project—constructed in two phases along a 24-mile stretch of highway from the I-985 interchange in Gwinnett County to Highway 129 in Jackson County—will increase capacity by utilizing the existing median to add a third driving lane in each direction. The full project also includes replacing eight mainline bridges and four overpass bridges.

“Georgia DOT is making a major investment in the state’s roadway transportation network to meet regional needs and deliver positive results to drivers,” GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry said. “The widening of I-85 and the other MMIP projects together expand Georgia’s transportation infrastructure, helping form a more connected transportation network.”

The first phase of the I-85 Widening Project, from I-985 in Gwinnett County to SR 53 in Jackson County, is anticipated for completion in 2020.

# Express Lanes, Bus Rapid Transit Coming to SR 400

By Brittany Wagner



State Route 400, a vital north-south transportation corridor in metro Atlanta, is on tap for major upgrades: express lanes and bus rapid transit (BRT).

The express lanes project, estimated to cost \$1.8 billion, will receive \$184 million from a proposed Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao visited the Peach State in June to attend a press conference where it was announced that Georgia will receive the single-largest INFRA grant in the nation.

Commissioner Russell R. McMurry, P.E. called the federal grant "a substantial down payment that gets this project started."

"Georgia is fortunate to have devoted advocates in Washington, D.C. championing transportation progress for our state," McMurry said. "Sens. Isakson and Perdue,

Congresswoman Handel and Congressman Woodall continue to fight for our vital infrastructure, and the awarding of this grant reflects their dedication to keeping Georgians moving forward. We are also grateful to Gov. Nathan Deal, Lt. Gov. Cagle and Speaker Ralston for their vision and support in bringing the SR 400 Express Lanes project and many others to fruition."

In addition, the governor announced \$100 million in general obligation bonds from the state for bus rapid transit.

The express lanes, part of Georgia DOT's Major Mobility Investment Program, will run for 16 miles in each direction from the MARTA North Springs Station in Fulton County to McFarland Parkway in Forsyth County. They are projected to reduce traffic delays in the corridor by 18 percent by 2030. The BRT project will tie into the express lanes and includes four bus-only interchanges. Both projects are anticipated to improve mobility and enhance economic vitality. They will be completed in conjunction with one another. Construction is expected to begin in 2021.

(L-R) GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry; U.S. Representative Rob Woodall; USDOT Secretary Elaine Chao; U.S. Representative Karen Handel; State Senator Brandon Beach; State Representative Kevin Tanner; SRTA Executive Director Chris Tomlinson



## Customer Service and Performance Awards 2nd Quarter 2018

Each quarter, Georgia DOT employees have the opportunity to recognize a coworker by nominating them for a commendation for customer service or performance excellence. Congratulations to the recipients of this quarter's Employee Recognition Awards.

### DISTRICT 1 (See photos on page 18)

**Scott Frederick**, Area 1 Manager, *Performance Excellence*. Frederick is always willing to listen and try to help even when it's outside his control. He performs at a level everyone in the Northeast Region aspires to.

**Josh Burns, Richard Crowe, and Shane Giles**, *Traffic Operations, Performance Excellence*. Worked tirelessly to ride on-system and off-system routes to identify sharp curves that qualify for safety treatments. Thanks to their efforts, District One was the first to submit the data for processing.

**Matt Needham**, Area 4 Manager, *Performance Excellence*. Needham experienced some of the most challenging maintenance events in his area this year. He is an exceptional performer in handling these events and great things lie ahead for him.

**White County Flood Crew**, 43 employees, *Performance Excellence*. Following severe storms and flash flooding that occurred on May 30, this crew stepped up to the challenge to reopen blocked roads, repair lanes affected by mudslides and to prevent others from collapsing.

**Parker Niebauer**, Civil Engineer, *Office of Preconstruction, Performance Excellence*. Niebauer produces documents to streamline, improve our work. Finding an error or omission in his work is like finding a penguin walking down the street in Atlanta; it doesn't happen.

**Kelly Hairston**, *Erosion Control Liaison Engineer, Office of Construction, Customer Service Excellence*. Hairston helps his peers across the state by answering questions and providing suggestions to improve the erosion control program. He does an outstanding job preserving the environment.

### DISTRICT TWO (See photos on page 19)

**Sandra Gilmore**, *Maintenance Equipment Operator, Performance Excellence*. Gilmore worked on the winter 2018 snow and ice removal team to improve road conditions to make it safe for the traveling public.

**Signal Shop**, seven employees, *Performance Excellence*. When an entire signal pole and cabinet were torn down in Cochran at SR 26 and SR 87, this team coordinated with utility contractors and worked extended hours to return normalcy. They also installed over 45 pedestrian assemblies within the last six months.

**Cathy Lockhart**, *Program Associate, Customer Service Excellence*. In addition to her daily responsibilities, Lockhart cares about each employee and when someone has a question, she will stop at nothing to find an answer.

**Dianne Dell**, *Program Associate, Customer Service Excellence*. Always so helpful, Dell greets everyone with a smile and helps come up with solutions. She's trustworthy, constantly provides feedback and is always engaged.

**Kevin Gunn**, *Traffic Signal Technician, Customer Service Excellence*. Gunn's extraordinary commitment to GDOT and customer service resulted in the City of Dublin commenting on several occasions about how much they appreciate his work.

### DISTRICT THREE (See photos on page 20)

**Maintenance and CHAMP Operators: Josh Miller, Edward Weston, David West, Wilton Newman, Charles Carter, Chad Taylor, Ronnie McNorton, Brad Boist and Jeffery Brooks**, *Performance Excellence*. When traffic control measures were needed on I-75 over the course of four days to obtain pavement evaluation readings they developed and executed the proper strategy, ensuring the safety of the testing vehicle and lab personnel.

**Fred Majors**, *District Bridge Maintenance Manager, Performance Excellence*. A bridge approach slab and end bent become undermined due to heavy water volumes. Majors assessed the damage and advised his crew to begin repairs immediately; demonstrating high level decision making and judgement.

**Trinity McDonald**, *Equipment Operator, Performance Excellence*. Giving 100 percent on every task, McDonald is always smiling and ready for a challenge. She may be small but packs a punch when performing her job. She loves interacting with the public and is a natural at handling their concerns.

**Terry Aiken**, *Mechanic Foreman, Performance Excellence*. Aiken located a stolen case loader, valued at \$173,000, via GPS satellite feed. He cooperated with law enforcement in two states to coordinate the secure recovery of the unit, and worked diligently to help bring the unit and the recovery team home.

**Jeffrey Butler, Josh Watson, Steven Dugger, Tommy Salter, Meg Hedeem (GO), Felicity Davis (GO), Chris Goodson (GO) and Sujai Veeramachaneni (GO)**, *Environmental and Maintenance Teams, Performance Excellence*. This interdisciplinary team collaborated to protect a newly identified rare plant within GDOT right-of-way. They quickly identified key players, developed a maintenance strategy and installed Environmentally Sensitive Area signage for long-term management of this resource.

**Jerry Stewart**, *Highway Maintenance Foreman, Customer Service Excellence*. Stewart was professional and displayed extensive knowledge of roadway construction while reviewing a citizen's concern. He followed up with the citizen two days later, and his dedication was recognized and relayed to area management.

**McKenzie Mathison**, *Maintenance Program Associate, Customer Service Excellence*. Collections have improved by 57 percent from \$58,000 to over \$91,000 since Mathison took over D3 guardrail recovery efforts.

#### **DISTRICT FOUR** (See photo on page 21)

**Donna Stinson**, *Administrative Officer, Customer Service Excellence*. Stinson leads by example and increases morale every day with her positive attitude and encouragement – a tremendous example of great customer service.

#### **DISTRICT FIVE** (See photos on page 22)

**Sign Shop** and **Savannah Area Maintenance Crews**: 78 employees, *Performance Excellence*. Following the plane crash in May, these teams worked together seamlessly to ensure traffic control measures and detour signs were in place in a timely fashion.

**Area One Construction Team**, *Performance Excellence*. Consistently delivers performance results in Project Close-Out, Asphalt Smoothness and Bridge Deck Steel Cover. Exemplifies team work and encourages open communication to solve problems.

**Jonathon Martinez**, *Civil Engineer, Customer Service Excellence*. Highly professional, courteous and respectful. Always responsive and strives to have pleasant and productive working relationships.

#### **DISTRICT SIX** (See photo on page 23)

**Onataria Riddick**, *Assistant District Roadside Enhancement Coordinator, Performance Excellence*. Every contract under Riddick's watch meets deadlines and achieves goals. Her integrity, knowledge and exceptional attitude improve GDOT's services and the community's quality of life.

#### **DISTRICT SEVEN** (See photos on page 24)

**Toni Smith Stanton**, *Program Associate, Performance Excellence*. Stanton worked many hours outside her normal schedule to reduce the number of unpaid invoices to less than two percent. She creates and processes large volumes of purchase orders and exemplifies exceptional performance.

**Latashia Fowler**, *Program Associate, Performance Excellence*. When District Seven lost an employee, Fowler stepped in, without being asked, to train two employees, take customer service calls and assist with closing inquiries in Remedy, while maintaining her own job responsibilities.

**Anthony Booker**, *Mechanic, Performance Excellence*. Booker – a 25 year GDOT employee – is always the first mechanic to volunteer during weather events. He works to improve processes – even developing a new tire repair technique to improve safety.

**James Tuten**, *Shop Foreman, Performance Excellence*. Tuten's level of knowledge and expertise in maintenance and repair is second to none. Over the years, he's persevered through difficult times with class and dignity. His work ethic and commitment shines.

**Winston Robinson**, *Equipment Operator, Performance Excellence*. Robinson does an excellent job forming up structures, taking measurements and making sure the job is done right. He is exceptional at showing new employees the correct way to get the job done.

**Angela Dupree**, *Roadside Enhancement Foreman, Customer Service Excellence*. Dupree takes time to listen to customers and explain how her unit can assist the public. She always follows up to make sure she – and the department – meets customer needs and expectations.

**Patrick Werho**, *Transportation Specialist, Customer Service Excellence*. Werho developed a plan—approved by District Traffic Operations—to improve a dangerous ramp. He was in the field ensuring every item was installed to specification. His detail and follow up were outstanding.

**Avondale Shop, Mechanics, Motor Pool and Parts Associates**, *Customer Service Excellence*. Consistently ensures the District Seven fleet is safe and efficient. A poster crew – working to raise the level of service for all customers.

#### **OTHER GDOT OFFICES**

(See GDOT employee website for photos)

**Dylan Eagleton**, *Design Engineer, Office of Design Policy and Support, Performance Excellence*. Eagleton helped solve problems relating to storm water on construction sites, including an underground detention facility at the SR 347 site in Hall County. He demonstrates excellent judgement, dedication and collaboration.

**Drew Martin**, *Design Engineer, Office of Design Policy and Support, Performance Excellence*. Martin was instrumental in obtaining the first memorandum of agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and GDOT, making the process of real estate conversion faster. He also implemented significant savings during the MS4 permitting process.

**Erik Rohde**, *Office Head, Office of Engineering Services, Performance Excellence*. Rohde saved GDOT and taxpayers millions of dollars in potential claims. He brings expert judgement and decision making to the Department and always keeps the big picture in mind.

**William “Brady” Hart**, *Environmental Compliance Specialist, Office of Engineering Services, Performance Excellence*. Hart coordinates with the EPA and EPD to ensure particularly sensitive projects are brought back into compliance. Both the EPA and EPD recognized and commended Hart for his efficiency and effectiveness.

**Kay Abikoye**, *Environmental Delivery Support Team Leader, Office of Environmental Services, Customer Service Excellence*. Abikoye is extremely knowledgeable and consistently works to improve project delivery within OES. She ensures that people receive timely responses and usually goes beyond what is required.

**Kimberly Seveur**, *EEO Specialist/ADA Coordinator, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Performance Excellence*. Seveur demonstrates professionalism, knowledge and responsiveness. It's rare to find someone who appreciates humanity and equality as she does. She handles and resolves difficult situations with remarkable patience and admirable tact.

**DBE Certification Section**, *Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Performance Excellence*. This team exhibits great teamwork and cooperation during weekly meetings. They consistently exceed expectations by avoiding backlog and processing applications under the 90 day limit.

**Deana Brown**, *Human Resource Specialist, Human Resources, Performance Excellence*. Brown helped the Ecology Section hire/promote 11 people in the last year. She is exceptional at anticipating the section's needs and filling positions quickly with high quality candidates.

**Terry Lee II**, *Regional Recruiter, Human Resources, Performance Excellence*. Lee takes initiative, confronts problems quickly and displays a strong commitment to the Department's success. He inspires others to commit to goals and is a huge asset to the recruitment team.

**Vivian Reid**, *Administrative Assistant, Human Resources, Customer Service Excellence*. Reid was responsible for scheduling and staffing high-demand external training classes. Scheduling took an astounding amount of patience and coordination, and she handled it well.

**Recruitment Team**, *Human Resources, Customer Service Excellence*. Each team member is knowledgeable, professional, helpful and responsive. This year they attended over 165 recruitment events where they assisted applicants and provided tips on resume writing and interviewing skills.

**Rick O'Hara**, *Project Manager, Office of Innovative Delivery, Performance Excellence*. O'Hara's interest in a historic component of the Courtland Street Bridge proved to be invaluable not only to the Department, but also to the public that demonstrated a strong interest in the history of the bridge.

**Larry Barnes**, *Assistant Director of Emergency Operations, Office of Maintenance, Performance Excellence*. Barnes orchestrated—in record time—the emergency shut down and detour installation on SR 21 where a cargo aircraft crashed in May. His hard work and diligence to this emergency operation, on top of his daily oversight of district maintenance operations, is commendable.

**Jason Oglesby**, *Technical Services Manager, Office of Materials and Testing, Customer Service Excellence*. Oglesby provides excellent customer service to all customers. When asked a question, he takes time to explain the answer so it's easy to understand. It shows he truly enjoys his job.

**Malaika Faciane**, *Project Manager, Office of Program Delivery, Performance Excellence*. Faciane often takes the initiative to assist in activities outside her role in order to help her team succeed. Her team meetings are highly organized, efficient and pleasant.

**Russell Nelson**, *State Appraisal and Review Manager, Office of Right of Way, Performance Excellence*. Nelson led the implementation of Right of Way's Master Appraisal Prime Contracts Statewide that are required for the timely negotiation and acquisition of DOT projects. Contracts are complete and set up for the next five years.

**Cory Payne**, *Assistant State Appraisal and Review Manager, Office of Right of Way, Customer Service Excellence*. Payne developed an extensive spreadsheet to track over 450 requests sent into the ROW Cost Estimating Unit to improve the service and quality of work provided to customers.

**Records Retention Team**, *Office of Right of Way, Customer Service Excellence*. Provides helpful, courteous, accessible, responsive and knowledgeable service to all customers when handling pertinent documents necessary in the sale, transfer or lease of vacant surplus properties.

**Teresa Lannon**, *Civil Engineer, Office of Roadway Design, Performance Excellence*. Many in the office come to Lannon with questions no one else can answer. She is always willing and able to answer them. She is humble, approachable, and genuinely happy for you when you succeed.

**Nasser Rad**, *Lead Design Engineer, Office of Roadway Design, Performance Excellence*. As one of our group's two Lead Design Engineers, Rad is a valuable and dependable team member of Office of Roadway Design's Consultant Oversight Group.

**Peter Eze**, *Lead Design Engineer, Office of Roadway Design, Performance Excellence*. As an experienced Lead Design Engineer in federal and state guidelines, Eze leads by example. He is dependable and always there to help his team, ensuring project review comments are submitted speedily.

**Eugene Davenport**, *HERO Risk Manager, HERO Unit, Customer Service Excellence*. Davenport is an outstanding individual. His empathy and compassion led to him helping countless HERO Unit employees with things outside of his normal job responsibilities.

**Violeta Deneva**, *GIS Analyst, Office of Transportation Data, Performance Excellence*. Deneva's commitment to the County Map Production and City Mapbook programs guarantee quality products get delivered on time. Her leadership and coordination skills are invaluable and greatly appreciated.

**Meg Hedeem, Felicity Davis, Chris Goodson, Sujai Veeramachaneni**, Jeffrey Butler (D3), Josh Watson (D3), Steven Dugger (D3), and Tommy Salter (D3), *Environmental and Maintenance Teams, Performance Excellence*. This interdisciplinary team collaborated to protect a newly identified rare plant within GDOT right-of-way. They quickly identified key players, developed a maintenance strategy and installed Environmentally Sensitive Area signage for long-term management of this resource.

**Safety Crash Data Office**, *Traffic Operations, Customer Service Excellence*. Undertook an extensive review and revision of the Georgia Uniform Motor Vehicle Accident Report. The revised crash report, vetted among stakeholders including the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, involved over 400 law enforcement agencies and 18 law enforcement software vendors.



# News from the Districts

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



The flagger is the first line of defense in a work zone.  
Photo: Kyle Collins, GDOT



# District 1

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

# One

..... BRENT COOK, DISTRICT ENGINEER

## Cable barrier project to improve safety in Athens



Drivers headed to Athens have watched in wonder at what one local journalist termed “a ribbon of concrete” in the center median of the State Route 10 loop. What they were actually seeing

was the concrete mow strip being poured prior to the cable barrier wires and posts being added to it. Now that the project is complete, motorists on the entire 19 miles of the SR 10 loop will benefit from the addition of these life-saving division cables, which reduce median crossover collisions, serious injuries and deaths.



## Meeting flooding challenges in White County



In the early hours of May 30, severe flash flood warnings were issued for White County. By the time the sun came up, the extent of the flood damage became apparent.

The torrential rainfall created mud slides and overwhelmed existing drainage structures resulting in our area maintenance crews working through the night to repair slopes and get roads back open. At one location the Chattahoochee River began to erode the bank that supports State Route 75. The embankment was only a few feet away from collapsing. These guys stepped up to the challenge - working through the night to get the roads back open. By responding quickly and working for consecutive hours, they prevented several other flood-affected areas from collapsing. Crews included White County area wide, White County routine maintenance and the Habersham area wide.

Emergency repairs included 40 workers, 33 pieces of equipment and 1,375 man hours (633 of those hours were in one day).

### D1 places in statewide Roaddeo

1. Matt Vandiver, D1 Area 3 Assistant Foreman, won first place in Tractor with Mower at the Statewide District-wide Roaddeo.
2. Steven Smallwood, D1 Area 2 Maintenance Equipment Operator, placed second in Single Axle Dump Truck and Tractor with Mower categories.



### D1 employees recognized for excellence

3. Parker Niebauer, Office of Preconstruction, Performance Excellence.
4. Scott Frederick, D1 Area 1 Manager, Performance Excellence.
5. Matt Needham, D1 Area 4 Manager, Performance Excellence.
6. Kelly Hairston, then-Erosion Control Liaison Engineer, Office of Construction, Customer Service Excellence.
7. (L-R) Josh Burns, Richard Crowe, Shane Giles, Traffic Operations, Performance Excellence.
8. White County Flood Crew, D1 Area 4, Performance Excellence.



## District 2

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

# TWO

..... CORBETT REYNOLDS, DISTRICT ENGINEER

### Making the social connection for better customer service



Road and bridge construction is a considerable undertaking with factors that may cause extended timelines, which do not make it easy on the daily commute. And, respectfully, patience wears thin.

When a Lincoln County bridge replacement project on State Route 43 over Soap Creek between Lincolnton, Ga. and McCormick, S.C. challenged drivers with a lengthy offsite detour that began in October 2016 and—due to utility relocation delays—stretched into summer 2018, we confronted the issue head-on.

Utilizing an open and responsive Facebook page, including photos and video combined with quick response to citizen comments, a tough situation turned into a celebration when the road and bridge reopened to traffic in early August.

From mid-June to Aug. 3, nine Facebook posts reached an audience of 85,000 while garnering reactions, comments and shares eclipsing 3,000.

Follow us on Facebook at Georgia DOT East and on Twitter @GDOTEastTraffic.

#### Here are excerpts from a few social media posts by the public ...

"... you're doing a great job. This is Facebook, people are going to hide behind their keyboard and complain. Most don't understand the entire process from engineering design ... to open up ... You're being kind enough to keep the public informed. Keep up the good work and thanks to all that you ... do that's seen and not seen."

"... My husband drives an 18 wheeler and this detour has cost him time and money ... I am thankful for y'all keeping us informed and always answering ... comments! Yes we are tired of the detour but I ... do not place all the blame on Georgia DOT ... Safety is first and foremost! Thank you for handling the anger, jokes and jabs... (Guilty) ..."



### Reynolds new east central Georgia leader

When **Corbett Reynolds**, District Two's new district engineer, began his career in the old Swainsboro Area Office, construction staff shared one computer and used radios to communicate in the field.

"I quickly learned GDOT employees are dedicated to their work and to helping each other," Reynolds said. "Many things have changed, but the constant is the good men and women who serve in this District. I'm proud that my entire career has been in District Two."

Reynolds brings 19 years of experience to his new role. He was previously district maintenance engineer.



#### Griffith medals in State Roadeo

**1.** Michael Griffith, assistant Warren County foreman, placed second in the Tractor with Mower category at the State Equipment Roadeo competition in Dublin, Ga.

#### Q2 Employee Recognition Award winners

- 2.** Sandra Gilmore, Maintenance Equipment Operator, Performance Excellence.
- 3.** Cathy Lockhart, Office of Maintenance Program Associate, Customer Service Excellence.
- 4.** Dianne Dell, Construction Program Associate, Customer Service Excellence.
- 5.** Kevin Gunn, Traffic Signal Tech, Customer Service Excellence.
- 6.** District Two Signal Shop, (L-R) Ray Spires, Kevin Gunn, Jonathon Ford, Jacob Black, Victoria Edge, Marquett Hannah, Perry Rogers, Performance Excellence.





## District 3

Thomaston/West Central Ga.

**PENNY BROOKS**

District Communications Officer  
[pbrooks@dot.ga.gov](mailto:pbrooks@dot.ga.gov)

### Hello, I'm Penny Brooks!

I grew up in Hattiesburg, Miss., so I'm a true Southerner and only happy when it's hot and humid. I went to Florida State University and graduate school at the University of Georgia, and I'm pretty much a Nole/Dawg hybrid. I first worked as a journalist in radio and television, including stints at WRFC-AM/WPUP-FM in Athens and KRCG-TV in central Missouri. For the past 10 years I have worked in marketing and public relations for nonprofits and universities. I'm excited to be Georgia DOT's newest district communications officer because I love sharing important information with everyone and because I look amazing in safety fluorescent yellow.

MICHAEL PRESLEY, DISTRICT ENGINEER

## First milestone complete - Phase 1B

### Working with communities to bring positive change in Macon

The I-16/I-75 Interchange Improvement project makes significant changes to approximately 2.5 miles of I-75 from Hardeman Ave. to Pierce Ave. and almost three miles on I-16 from I-75 to Walnut Creek. This major freight corridor—the gateway to Macon—is part of the daily commute for many residents.

Due to the project's scope, it is being built in seven phases. It has now met its first milestone – the completion of Phase 1B, which includes construction of two linear parks; resurfacing and streetscape improvements of several streets within the Pleasant Hill community; construction of cul-de-sacs at Craft Street, First, Second and Fourth Avenues; and converting a concrete drainage channel to a triple barrel box culvert to enhance water flow.



Jefferson Long Park

The parks—the Linear Park along the east side of I-75 and the Jefferson Long Park on the west side of I-75—provide green space, landscaping, lighting, benches and other amenities to be enjoyed for generations to come. The linear park includes a multi-use trail and information kiosks detailing the history of the Pleasant Hill community.

The \$500 million project includes improvements to four interchanges; wider shoulders; improving or replacing 41 bridge structures; additional lanes in most locations and construction of collector-distributor (CD) lanes to separate through traffic from local traffic. It is designed to bring improved safety and mobility to the city of Macon and to the central Georgia region.

Three other phases are under construction. Phase One widens I-16; adds CD lanes; widens Second Street between Walnut Street and Emery Highway; and reconstructs the Second Street Bridge over Norfolk Southern Railroad, Ocmulgee River and I-16. Phases Two and Three include one mile of operational improvements along I-75 north- and southbound from Hardeman Ave. to the I-16 interchange and the David Lucas Pedestrian Bridge. These are anticipated for completion in summer 2021.



Linear Park

### District Three proudly accepts Employee Recognition commendations.

1. Terry Aiken, District Mechanic Foreman, Performance Excellence.
2. McKenzie Mathison, Maintenance Program Associate, Customer Service Excellence.
3. Fred Majors, District Bridge Maintenance Manager, Performance Excellence.

Not pictured:  
Maintenance and CHAMP Operators, Performance Excellence. Josh Miller, Edward Weston, David West, Wilton Newman, Charles Carter, Chad Taylor, Maintenance; Ronnie McNorton, Brad Boist, Jeffery Brooks, CHAMP.

Trinity McDonald, Equipment Operator, Performance Excellence.

Jerry Stewart, Highway Maintenance Foreman, Customer Service Excellence.

Jeffrey Butler, State Agronomist Manager; Josh Watson, D3 Sign Shop Manager, Steven Dugger, Highway Maintenance Foreman; Tommy Salter, Environmental Compliance Engineer, Performance Excellence.

### State Rodeo Winner

Robert Wilfong, Jr., took first place in the Tractor Truck with Lowboy Trailer category in the State Equipment Rodeo (not pictured).





# District 4

Tifton/Southwest Ga.  
NITA BIRMINGHAM  
District Communications Officer  
jbirmingham@dot.ga.gov

# Four

..... RITCHIE SWINDELL, DISTRICT ENGINEER

## Guardrail: A photo essay

People damage our stuff, like a pickup truck that took out guardrail on US 82/SR 520 west of Ty Ty near the Tift/Worth county line. The crash left behind an ugly mess, but it also created a safety issue. Our District bridge/concrete

maintenance employees spent two days cleaning up the damage and replacing the posts and rails. Work was suspended the first day due to thunderstorms that made it unsafe for our employees to work in the median. Photos: Nita Birmingham, GDOT. Photos read left to right.

The guardrail was in place to prevent drivers from running into Ty Ty Creek, as it did the night the pickup truck crashed.



Equipment Operator Jermaine Yates (in front) and Highway Maintenance Cedric Carter haul off damaged guardrail on a hot and muggy day in July.

Maintenance Equipment Operator Isaac Graham (left), Maintenance Equipment Operator Zach Adams (center) and Yates toss damaged guardrail into the truck. The scrap will be recycled.



Surprise! Crews discover huge chunks of old concrete where they need to drive new posts. Highway Maintenance Foreman Bruce Jackson makes it look easy.

Jackson deftly maneuvers one of several pieces of concrete into the bed of a truck.



Carter drives a new post into the ground with direction from Adams (left) and Yates (right).

Carter, Adams and Graham muscle the steel into place so Yates can secure it.



## State Rodeo Winner

1. Congratulations to District Four Assistant Highway Maintenance Foreman Wendell Marlin Jr. He placed second in the tandem axle dump truck category at the annual Georgia equipment operation skills competition - the GDOT ROADEO. The statewide event, held in May in Dublin, gives our employees an opportunity to demonstrate the operational skills they use on the job.



## D4 employee recognized for excellence

2. Donna Stinson, Administrative Officer, Customer Service Excellence





# District 5

Jesup/Southeast Ga.

JILL NAGEL

District Communications Officer

[jnagel@dot.ga.gov](mailto:jnagel@dot.ga.gov)

# Five

BRAD SAXON, DISTRICT ENGINEER

## Spreading the vital work zone safety message

District 5 kicked off summer construction with a media event to call attention to the perils of driving through and working in roadway work zones. Under the guidance of District Engineer Brad Saxon, District 5 staff facilitated the event on the West Bay Street widening project in Savannah. Along with Saxon, State Transportation Board then-Vice Chairman (now Chairman) Ann R. Purcell, Georgia State Patrol Post Commander Chris Nease and Governor's Office of Highway Safety Senior Law Enforcement Liaison Powell Harrelson reminded motorists that work zone safety is everyone's responsibility. All TV news networks in the coastal region covered this Work Zone Safety Awareness Event to spread the crucial safety message.



Ann Purcell (Congressional District 1) of the State Transportation Board addresses work zone safety.

## Clearing the clear zone for safety

Everyone—including GDOT—loves green space, lush trees and beautiful landscaping. But when a vehicle veers off the highway and strikes a large tree in the right-of-way, the results can be deadly. That's why GDOT is working aggressively in District 5 and across Georgia to restore the clear zones and expand the recovery area for errant vehicles. GDOT looks to preserve trees that can be safely preserved, especially healthy hardwoods or specimen trees. Project specifications require correct pruning practices and erosion control for each location. While these areas are not pretty during the transition, we are cleaning up and beautifying them with location-specific trees, native grasses, wildflowers and other pollinators in order to provide appealing and safer roadsides for all.



District Engineer Brad Saxon is interviewed by the media.



District 5 office staff show their support for work zone safety by wearing orange to spread the safety message on social media.

### D5 employees honored for excellence

**1. District Sign Shop and Savannah Area Maintenance crews,** 78 employees, Performance Excellence. (L-R): Asst. Sign Shop Manager Sandy Landon and Sign Shop Manager Vincent Beal accept the award on behalf of the crews.



**2. Baxley Area Office Construction Team,** Performance Excellence. Front (L-R): Kelly Boulineau and Jackie Smith. Back (L-R): Area 1 Construction Manager Myra Deen, Luke Hutchinson, Brent Murphy. Not pictured: April Dent, Steven Moreno.



**3. Jonathan Martinez,** Civil Engineer, Customer Service Excellence.





## District 6

Cartersville/Northwest Ga.  
**MOHAMED ARAFA**  
District Communications Officer  
[marafa@dot.ga.gov](mailto:marafa@dot.ga.gov)

# Six

..... GRANT WALDROP, DISTRICT ENGINEER

### Now Open ...

## Inland Port in Murray County: Provides connectivity, boosts economic development, eases traffic congestion, enhances safety

It is called the Appalachian Regional Port. But it is nowhere near the ocean! This inland port—334 miles from the Atlantic—sits on 42 acres beside U.S. Highway 411 in northwest Georgia’s Murray County. Strategically located in an industrial belt, which includes the production and export of carpet and flooring, the Appalachian Regional Port provides a powerful new gateway to global markets.

The inland port, which opened in August 2018, makes it possible to ship containers through rail from the Port of Savannah to Murray County and then transfer the containers onto trucks at the rail hub for target businesses and markets in the Appalachian region of northwest Georgia, east Tennessee, northeast Alabama and Kentucky. The port provides an alternative to the all-truck freight route to and from the deep-water Port of Savannah.



Each round-trip container moved via the Murray County inland port will offset approximately 710 truck miles on Georgia highways, easing truck traffic congestion, reducing emissions and improving safety. It is estimated that in one year, the use of the inland port will avoid eight million truck miles on Georgia’s roads and potentially reduce emissions by 80 percent.

With a capacity of 50,000 containers per year, the intermodal transportation facility is a great outcome of a successful partnership between the State of Georgia, CSX Railroad, the Georgia Ports Authority and Murray County. It will undoubtedly improve freight mobility, while supporting businesses and creating jobs in an environmentally sustainable way.



### Waldrop takes helm as district engineer

Grant Waldrop is the new District Six engineer. Following the retirement of DeWayne Comer, Waldrop has taken the helm of the 17-county district that occupies the northwest Georgia region stretching from the Alabama state line on the west to

the Tennessee state line on the north and the metro Atlanta region on the east and south. He oversees the Department’s programs, projects and activities in the area and works with local and state lawmakers, chambers of commerce, business leaders and the public.

“I am motivated by challenges and I know that the District Six team, which I have been a member of for a few years, will continue to effectively meet all growing transportation challenges in this part of the Peach State,” Waldrop said. “In this new position and working with our excellent staff, I expect to see many more ideas turn into projects that improve the transportation network in our district.

I can’t wait to see the best get even better! There is nothing more rewarding than seeing a project go from idea to something you can actually drive on.”



**D6 employee recognized for resetting the standard**  
Ontaria Riddick, Assistant District Roadside Enhancement Coordinator, Performance Excellence. Riddick is flanked by DE Grant Waldrop and Roadside Enhancement Coordinator Richard Wade.



## District 7

Chamblee/Metro Atlanta Ga.  
**TORI A. BROWN**  
District Communications Officer  
tobrown@dot.ga.gov

# Seven

KATHY ZAHUL, DISTRICT ENGINEER

### I-285 at Camp Creek Parkway DDI groundbreaking

GDOT held a ceremonial groundbreaking in August for the I-285 at Camp Creek Parkway Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) project, Georgia's seventh DDI. The event was held at the Aerotropolis Atlanta CIDs headquarters in Atlanta. The \$12.3 million project is anticipated for completion in late 2019. GDOT worked with the City of East Point and with Airport West CID – a part of Aerotropolis Atlanta CIDs – to add lighting and landscaping to the interchange. See the Camp Creek Parkway DDI blog post by STB Member Dana Lemon in The EXTRA Mile on GDOT's website.



GDOT State Transportation Board Members Dana Lemon, Congressional District 13 (center right) and Stacey Key, Congressional District 5 (center left) were among those in attendance.

### Road named for Shepherd Center founder

A 1.5 mile stretch of Peachtree Road from Peachtree Battle Avenue to the Amtrak Peachtree (Brookwood) Station is now known as the J. Harold Shepherd Parkway. Shepherd was honored for his contributions to the road construction industry and for his philanthropic endeavors, which include the Shepherd Center, a private, not-for-profit hospital founded in 1975 that specializes in spinal cord and brain injury rehabilitation and research. The Shepherd Center is located along the route.

During their 2018 legislative session, the Georgia General Assembly passed House Resolution 444, a road and bridge naming bill that included the road naming designation.

### PATH 400 Greenway is the national People's Choice

The PATH400 Trail project, which converted unused right-of-way along GA 400 into a multi-use path for walkers, joggers and bicyclists, and provides recreational space and an alternate mode of transportation, won the Socrata People's Choice Award at the AASHTO Annual Meeting in Atlanta. The project received the most online votes from the public. The \$10,000 cash prize is being donated to help complete the PATH400 trail.

GDOT partnered with the PATH Foundation, Livable Buckhead and the Buckhead Community Improvement District on the \$9.3 million, 5.2-mile greenway.

"The project team came from different fields of knowledge and worked diligently to deliver a quality of life project," said GDOT's State Program Delivery Administrator Kimberly Nesbitt. "The approach presented to GDOT was revolutionary – by converting existing highway right-of-way into a multi-use trail we were able to significantly reduce right-of-way cost for our partners. The Department along with Livable Buckhead, PATH Foundation and the City of Atlanta experimented and found a winning formula for project delivery."



The award is part of America's Transportation Awards sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), AAA, Socrata and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, designed to recognize outstanding transportation projects across the country.

### D7 employees recognized for excellence

1. Toni Smith Stanton, Program Associate, Performance Excellence.
2. Latashia Fowler, Program Associate, Performance Excellence.
3. Anthony Booker, Mechanic, Performance Excellence.
4. Avondale Shop - Mechanics, Motor Pool and Parts Associates, Customer Service Excellence. Bottom (L-R): Clarence Spivey, General Trades Worker; Toni Smith Stanton, Program Associate; William Dadeah, Mechanic; Carlos Flores, Motor Pool Supervisor. Top (L-R): Louis Nicholas, Mechanic; Anthony Booker, Mechanic; Regynal Eppinger, Shop Supervisor; James Tuten, Shop Foreman

Not pictured:

- James Tuten, Shop Foreman, Performance Excellence.
- Winston Robinson, Equipment Operator, Performance Excellence.
- Angela Dupree, Roadside Enhancement Foreman, Customer Service Excellence.
- Patrick Werho, Transportation Specialist, Customer Service Excellence.



# Welcome New Employees

We're glad you've joined the GDOT ranks.

## DISTRICT 1

Hunter P. Boyle  
Nandi S. Brown  
Linda G. Hubbard  
Anthony G. Porter  
Brandy D. Sackel  
Jessica L. Suarez

## DISTRICT 2

Melvin J. Cox  
Raphael A. Green  
Brandon L. Griffith  
Jean E. Luma  
Joya C. McCants  
Byron K. Robinson  
Broderick A. Walker

## DISTRICT 3

Alexandra R. Boyd  
Shelby D. Brown  
Christopher Cloud  
Gaston D. Colbert  
Kerry Hall  
Derrick M. Harmon  
Matthew L. Logan  
Kevin S. Maines  
Willie J. McCrary II  
Johnquavius L. Napier  
James A. Newman  
Dede D. Portwood  
Leslie Q. Raines  
Bentorio D. Scott  
Jenifer R. Shepard  
Teresa Y. Taylor  
Scott A. Wheeless

## DISTRICT 4

Trace D. Akridge  
Phillip H. Bass  
John M. Bearden  
Christopher M. Bennett  
Jorge I. Cervantes

Douglas A. Durden  
Paul D. Durham  
Marcus A. Estep  
Ted W. Golden  
Kelvin A. Greene  
Steven A. Grimes  
Samuel L. Hampton Jr.  
Angela H. Harbin  
Mark E. Harris  
Patrick N. Hartman  
Wesley B. Higdon Jr.  
Sean F. High  
Kenneth J. Lebeck  
Dakota S. Lee  
Austin S. Phillips  
Guy E. Rentz  
Dontavious Q. Sims  
Roland W. Stafford  
Trequan R. Walker  
Timothy G. Watson

## DISTRICT 5

Connie K. Bennett  
Brandon W. Carter  
Laura E. Conn  
Terry Dubberly  
Matthew T. Elkins  
William C. Griffis  
Jed T. Johnson  
Quarry D. Johnson  
Aseemanuha A.  
Manziliomutonzi  
Benjamin H. Martin  
Dylan C. Mesta  
Phillip Z. Mydell II  
Nathan A. Rowland  
Dallory D. Rozier II  
Juan C. Velazquez Jr.  
Roger A. Webb Jr.  
David L. Wilburn  
Xavier D. Williams  
Gilbert W. Wilson

## DISTRICT 6

Jeff B. Arms  
Gilberto C. Barcenas  
Ashley D. Bassie  
Patrick D. Causey  
James M. Galloway  
Jerry S. Gayton  
Chance M. Scrutchins  
Uriah R. Virgo  
Jerry L. White

## DISTRICT 7

Tujuan P. Burlson  
Sarah A. Coleman  
Sarah J. Dillard  
Michael Harper  
Billie-Jeanne Harris  
Ishmel J. Johnson  
Linda M. Kay  
Daniel Marria  
Jere S. Martin Jr.  
Colett E. Newberry  
Jose R. Scott Jr.  
Natilia Smiley  
James A. Stone Jr.  
Raynor T. Walters  
Jerry White

## OTHER GDOT OFFICES

Stanley Adams,  
Equal Employment  
Opportunity  
Brittney M. Burkes,  
Materials & Research  
Robert E. Caudill,  
Urban Planning  
William A. Derr,  
Materials & Research  
Dontrey L. Garnett,  
Urban Planning

Badir D. Glass,  
Performance Based  
Management &  
Research

Lakia S. Hollins,  
Equal Employment  
Opportunity

Anjeanette Jeffress,  
Right of Way

Elizabeth A. Jones,  
Bridge and Structural  
Design

Kalen M. Jones,  
Materials & Testing

Jessica A. Kern,  
Environmental  
Services

Emily W. Kimani,  
Transportation Data

Sara M. Kuhn,  
Environmental  
Services

Jennifer A. Mercer,  
Environmental  
Services

Jason E. Worthy,  
Transportation Data

*Fulltime non-temporary hires 4/1/18-6/30/18*

## GDOT's 2018 Summer Interns

The Georgia Department of Transportation's internship program provides students with valuable professional work experience in an area closely related to their academic major. Students benefit by receiving knowledge and training that enhances their education and provides them with an easier transition into the workforce after graduation. Students also benefit by being afforded the opportunity to work on active projects being constructed throughout Georgia. GDOT hosted approximately 50 interns in 18 different offices and in every district across the state. We were very pleased to host this remarkable group of students. For future internship possibilities, look for our annual summer internship advertisement in January on [team.georgia.gov/careers](http://team.georgia.gov/careers) or reach out to GDOT's recruitment team at [recruitment@dot.ga.gov](mailto:recruitment@dot.ga.gov).



Fall 2018 Georgia Milepost

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GDOT employees honor victims of work zone crashes on Go Orange Day during 2018 Work Zone Awareness Week.



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