



MILEPOST

GEORGIA

Winter 2018



Bridges Across Georgia

Addition By Subtraction: The Peachtree Road Restriping

Driving Behavior: It's A Choice

MilePosts 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 | 376 | 362 | | |
| Work zone fatalities for Georgia DOT employees | Toward zero deaths | 0 | 0 | | |
| Work zone injuries for Georgia DOT employees requiring medical treatment | Toward zero injuries | 15 | 8 | | |
| Work zone fatalities for the public | Toward zero deaths | 7 | 5 | | |
| Average HERO response time | 10 minutes or less | 11 minutes | 11 minutes | | |

CALENDAR YEAR FATALITY TREND ON GEORGIA'S ROADWAYS



* Reported as of 3/20/18

TOWARD ACHIEVING RESULTS

- Georgia DOT makes ongoing infrastructure investments designed 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 restricted-crossing U-turns (R-Cuts) and roundabouts. Road safety audits, where engineers walk a road to identify potential safety deficiencies, are also conducted.
- In 2017 about \$100 million was invested in infrastructure safety projects, including \$14 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 relaunches 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.

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MILEPOSTS

FY 2018 PERFORMANCE MEASURES

— SECOND QUARTER —

SETTING GOALS

Goals are crucial to the success of organizations like the Georgia Department of Transportation. 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 state 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 will share a few of these MilePosts to demonstrate how we're measuring up.

PAVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PRESERVATION

System preservation: Efficiently take care of current transportation facilities.

Tracks roadway pavement and bridge conditions.

Comprehensive pavement condition: Tracks pavement conditions on routes surveyed 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 |
|--|--------|------|------|
| CRITICAL Interstates, National and State Freight Corridors, Federal Strategic Highway Network | 85 | 84 | 84 |
| HIGH National Highway System, U.S. Routes, GRP Corridors | 85 | 79 | 79 |
| MEDIUM GEMA Routes | 82 | 78 | 80 |
| LOW All other Uncategorized Routes - low connectivity, less than four lanes, low regional significance | 79 | 80 | 80 |

Bridge Condition: Tracks bridge conditions based on strength and deck condition. The Federal Highway Administration requires states to ensure that no more than 10 percent of National Highway System bridges are structurally deficient and will penalize states if in violation for three consecutive years. No bridge that is rated fair or good is structurally deficient.

| MEASURE | 2013* | 2014* | 2015* | 2016* | 2017* |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| BRIDGES Percentage of all in GOOD Condition | 53% | 51% | 53% | 51% | 48% |
| On-system | 37% | 35% | 35% | 34% | 32% |
| Off-system | 16% | 16% | 17% | 17% | 16% |
| BRIDGES Percentage of all in FAIR Condition | 44% | 46% | 45% | 47% | 50% |
| On-system | 30% | 32% | 31% | 33% | 35% |
| Off-system | 14% | 14% | 14% | 14% | 15% |
| BRIDGES Percentage of all in POOR Condition | 3% | 3% | 2% | 2% | 2% |
| On-system | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% |
| Off-system | 2% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 1% |

* Annual time frame based on date of initial inspection.

TOWARD ACHIEVING RESULTS

- As a result of the Transportation Funding Act of 2015, Georgia DOT now has sustained funding to focus on deferred routine maintenance including pavement preservation and bridge rehabilitation or replacement of on- and off-system bridges. TFA returned the department to a 15-year capital maintenance cycle, allowing for preventative maintenance in between.
- The FY 18 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 TFA.

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

Invest to improve reliability, congestion and connectivity.

Tracks average speeds across the most congested freeways in the metro Atlanta region.

| MEASURE | TARGET | Q1 JULY-SEPT 2017 | Q2 OCT-DEC 2017 | Q3 JAN-MARCH 2018 | Q4 APR-JUNE 2018 |
|------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| GP lanes / Morning peak | >40 mph | 33 | 45 | | |
| GP lanes / Evening peak | >40 mph | 32 | 40 | | |
| Express lanes / Morning peak | >45 mph | 59 | 55 | | |
| Express lanes / Evening peak | >45 mph | 56 | 58 | | |

TOWARD ACHIEVING RESULTS

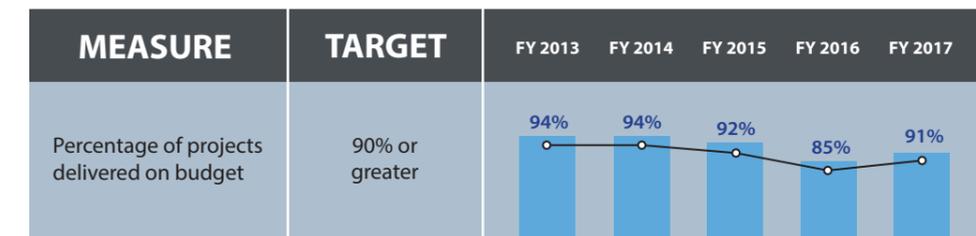
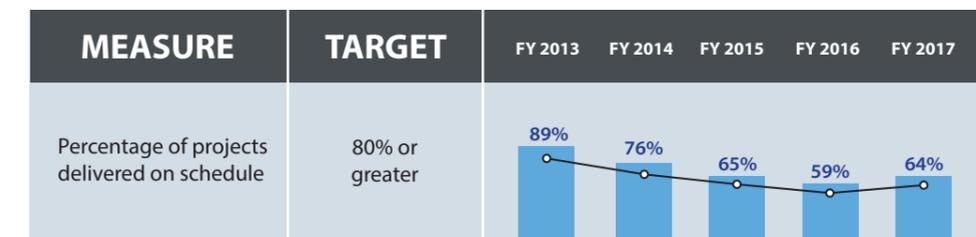
- Georgia DOT's Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP) is an initial list of 11 large-scale transportation projects that will improve mobility, and increase travel capacity, reliability and safety, help move freight more efficiently and provide economic benefits. Once complete, it is expected that 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.

STEWARDSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Deliver projects on time and on budget.

Tracks percentage of projects delivered on schedule and on budget.

| MEASURE | TARGET | Q1 JULY-SEPT 2017 | Q2 OCT-DEC 2017 | Q3 JAN-MARCH 2018 | Q4 APR-JUNE 2018 |
|--|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Percentage of projects delivered on schedule | 80% or greater | 73% | 68% | | |
| Percentage of projects delivered on budget | 90% or greater | 92% | 91% | | |



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.



Commissioner's Column

Winning With Teamwork.



The Milepost often showcases Georgia DOT's finest projects and initiatives. However, for me, highlighting our great team members is what I enjoy! This issue is chock full of accolades for our GDOT team.

Congratulations to our State Transportation Board Members Ann Purcell, Stacey Key, Emily Dunn and Dana Lemon, and GDOT team members Meg Pirkle, Hiral Patel and Kimberly Nesbitt, named by Engineering Georgia magazine to its list of 100 Influential Women To Know. They each raise the profile of Georgia's

engineering industry and greatly contribute towards the Department's fine work. I'm very proud to recognize these women; it's also important to note that 22% of GDOT's workforce are women.

This Milepost also acknowledges the recipients of GDOT's 2017 Statewide Awards and Commissioner's Merit and Achievement Awards. These remarkable individuals and teams are truly the best of the best and they exemplify what great people work at GDOT!

Earlier this year, I was humbled and honored to have been named Georgia Trend's 2018 Georgian of the Year. As commissioner, I was recognized for the I-85 Bridge Rebuild. I often receive recognition for many of the Department's achievements, but it is all of you that deserve the recognition. I accepted this award on behalf of all those involved from emergency response through the rebuild! This event highlighted all of our collective capabilities.

This issue of Milepost includes articles about how after much analysis, restriping and signalizing, improvements to Atlanta's most famous road, Peachtree Road, are bringing safety and traffic flow benefits; Georgia's bridge investments and ensuring safety through inspections; and how GDOT balances infrastructure's state of good repair with mobility projects.

As part of GDOT's focus on transparency and accountability, GDOT has launched a new blog - The Extra Mile. A recent post entitled Driving Economic Development, written by guest author Bert Brantley who is chief operating officer of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, looks at how Georgia's transportation infrastructure and long-term transportation plans will play a key role in keeping Georgia the number one state for business. I hope you will read this and all of our blog posts on Georgia DOT's website.

It is with a heavy heart that I want to honor Mr. Carey Ellerbee, assistant highway foreman of the Special Outfits crew in District 3. Carey tragically lost his life in the line of duty as he was returning from clearing snow and ice in Atlanta. Carey, a nearly 20-year employee of GDOT, was serving Georgians by working to make the roads passable. He is but one example of the men and women who work hard in less than ideal conditions when we tell others to stay home. Let us all be proud of Carey's dedication and commitment to Georgia. His loss is deeply felt.

I am further saddened by yet another tragedy. In February, C.W. Matthews team member Lamar Ragland died from injuries he received when he was hit by a motorist in a work zone on I-85 North in Gwinnett County. We can't stress enough to drivers the hazards in work zones and encourage them to slow down, pay strict attention and always watch for workers. I also encourage all of you working on our roadways to keep "Safety On My Mind."

Thus far, 2018 has had its successes and losses, but I feel it is full of great promise for Georgia. Let's all keep working hard to improve the lives of all Georgians.

Please enjoy this issue!

Russell R. McMurry, P.E.

GEORGIA MILEPOST

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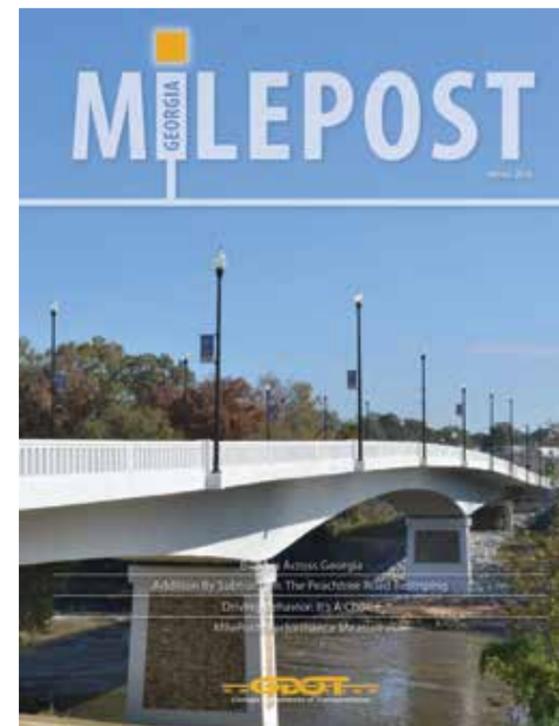
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On the cover: Broad Avenue Memorial Bridge in downtown Albany. The \$14 million project, which opened in 2015, replaced an aged bridge over the Flint River to increase access, safety and mobility while preserving its historic character. The bridge's main span is the longest concrete girder bridge span in Georgia. Photo: Nita Birmingham, GDOT



ACROSS THE BOARD



Jamie Boswell, Emily Dunn, Jerry Shearin



Stacey Key, Johnny Floyd, Dana Lemon

Board welcomes new member, veteran members re-elected

Jerry Shearin of Dallas was elected to the State Transportation Board to represent the Fourteenth Congressional District (CD 14) in northwest Georgia. Shearin is a former Paulding County Commission chairman, and works with McAdams Insurance Agency. He fills the seat left vacant due to the retirement of former Board Member Roger Williams.

These Board members were re-elected:

- Board Chairman **Jamie Boswell** of Athens, originally elected in 2013, represents CD 10.
- **Johnny Floyd** of Cordele, originally elected in 2008, represents CD 2. He previously served as Board chairman.
- **Stacey Key** of Atlanta, originally elected in 2013, serves CD 5.
- **Emily Dunn** of Blue Ridge, originally elected in 2011, serves CD 9. Dunn was the first female chairman of the Board.
- **Dana Lemon** of McDonough, originally elected in 2003, serves CD 13. Lemon was the Board's first female member.

Board advances I-16 widening, I-16/I-95 improvement projects

The State Transportation Board passed a joint resolution between Georgia DOT and the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) to move forward with the I-16 road widening and I-16/I-95 interchange reconstruction projects. The resolution authorizes GDOT to manage the projects and to act as SRTA's agent, even though there are no associated tolls; and authorizes GDOT to make funds available for annual appropriations. The projects, projected to begin construction in 2019, are part of the Department's Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP).

"The State Transportation Board and the members of the General Assembly are committed to continuing to work towards transportation improvements throughout Georgia," said Ann R. Purcell, STB vice chair representing Congressional District 1, "especially ones like these that will help make the Port of Savannah more competitive and provide benefits for the freight industry."

Tourism award a team effort

Commissioner Russell McMurry shared the Bill Hardman Sr. Tourism Champion Award/Government with the State Transportation Board, Chief Engineer Meg Pirkle and the men and women of GDOT. The award, presented at the Governor's Tourism Conference, acknowledges extraordinary support of tourism in Georgia through legislative or organizational efforts. Recent welcome center and rest area renovations were funded through advertising revenue collected from the Board's interstate exit sign Logo Program.



Influential Women to Know

State Transportation Board members (L-R) Ann Purcell (vice chairman), Stacey Key, Emily Dunn and Dana Lemon were named by Engineering Georgia to their list of "100 Influential Women to Know." The list, in the January/February 2018 issue, recognizes women of character, integrity and purpose who are shaping Georgia's engineering community.

Visit <http://bit.ly/100IWTK>.

Board Members Recognized

- **Robert Brown** received the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Georgia Chapter's highest tribute. The 2017 Bernard B. Rothschild award recognizes Brown's commitment to civic leadership, education and mentorship. Brown also received the Georgia Historical Society (GHS) John Macpherson Berrien Award for his service to GHS and his lifetime of achievement in the field of Georgia history.
- **Mark Burkhalter** was featured in the September/October 2017 issue of James Magazine. The article—How One Lawmaker Paved the Path for Mercedes-Benz Stadium—is about his legislative efforts that contributed to making the new stadium a reality. Burkhalter served 18 years in the Georgia General Assembly prior to joining the Board in 2015.
- **Rudy Bowen** received Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful's highest honor. The 2017 Connie Wiggins Environmental Legacy Award acknowledges his role on the STB in initiating the Georgia Inmate Program to clean up state highways and for the "many unspoken acts of stewardship he performs on behalf of the Gwinnett County community."

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.

State Transportation Board Secretary

At Bat With Tim Golden

By Brittany Wagner



From the ball field to the boardroom to the Capitol, Tim Golden is living his childhood dreams. He is an eternal student, with a thirst for knowledge and a bookshelf of captivating stories. Elected to the State Transportation Board in 2013 to serve Congressional District 8, Golden is a team player whose life experiences guide his decisions as secretary of the Board, a position he is grateful to have.

The gem of South Georgia. Golden spent the first 11 years of his life in Savannah, but Valdosta is home. *I have lived in Valdosta for more than 50 years. It's a progressive community – one I never would have imagined I would get the honor to represent. I grew up playing baseball here and so did my son. It's an incredible place.*

A history of studying history. He majored in history and political science, two passions he uses for the betterment of Georgia. *My mother had a passion for history. Spending my childhood in Savannah, a city full of history, I suppose it rubbed off. Looking at my nightstand, if you don't see a book on investments, you will see one on history. We should look at history as a guide - learn from past mistakes and adapt to better our future.*

Unique to Georgia. GDOT's State Transportation Board was established in 1966 during Gov. Carl Sanders' time in office. *It's a unique thing we've got with the Board. It provides a series of checks and balances and holds everyone accountable. It was an effort to get the politics out of transportation and I think it works. We've got a good thing going.*

Health care, education and business. His love of politics led him to serve 24 years in the Georgia General Assembly championing efforts such as PeachCare for Kids, a sales tax holiday and the "Drugs Don't Work" program. *I always looked at my job as doing two things – protecting the interests of my district and improving the state through pro-active, progressive legislation. Everything I did was in an effort to help local economies, businesses and citizens of Georgia.*

Carrying on the legacy. After losing both his mother and his best friend, Jay Shaw, in the same week, Golden says April 20 is a day he will never forget. *Jay had just been re-elected to the Board when he passed away. He was like a brother to me. Jay's son, Rep. Jason Shaw, asked me to consider running for the position in his dad's honor. I can't express what an honor it is to have been elected by the legislature to serve on this Board.*

America's pastime. Father/son bonding time is special, and for Golden it revolved around America's favorite sport – baseball. *It was a sad day when I took the batting cage down in my backyard. Some of my favorite memories are sitting with my son, drinking Gatorade with sweat dripping off us after throwing 100 to 200 balls and just talking about life. I miss it. Baseball is a special sport with a special place in my heart.*

Thinking differently. Autism is a unique diagnosis and those affected often see the world in a different light. *Visiting the Marcus Autism Center had such an impact on me. It inspired me to sponsor my final piece of legislation, SB 397, a bill requiring health insurance policies in Georgia to cover behavioral therapy for children six and under diagnosed with autism. One in 68 children is affected. Watching those children and their parents and seeing what they go through – It was eye opening.*

Is it luck? *My wife, Ellen, is a wonderful mother to our son. She is a lawyer and now a Lowndes County State Court Judge. She has been with me through some tough campaigns, and she makes me proud when I look at her strength and her accomplishments. I am proud of my son, Seth, for his accomplishments on the field and in the classroom. And my trusted lab, "Doc Holliday" – I look at them and think, how did I have such luck?*

Moving Forward



Kelvin Mullins is the new administrator in the Office of Local Grants and technical assistant to the deputy commissioner. Most recently Mullins was office head for the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Program. Mullins began his GDOT career in 1997 in the Athens Area

Office and served in progressive roles including area construction engineer, district State Aid coordinator, program manager for the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program, and project manager in the Office of Innovative Delivery. Mullins has a bachelor's in civil engineering technology from Georgia Southern University.



Kenneth Franks is the new administrator of the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) program. He was most recently the TIA regional coordinator. Franks began his 15-year GDOT career in the Office of Environment and Location and progressed through various roles

in Design Policy Support, Program Delivery and Program Control. He completed GDOT's Management Development Program (MDP). Franks has a bachelor's in civil engineering technology from Georgia Southern University.



Jeff Stone is the new administrator of the Office of Equipment Management (OEM). Stone joined GDOT in 2000 as a Maintenance Shop manager and has a wealth of experience overseeing building and equipment maintenance operations, as well as specifying and purchasing. Stone completed GDOT's Management Development Program. He attended Griffin Technical College.



Sharon Morales is Georgia DOT's new state safety manager. Morales has over 25 years of safety experience and most recently served the Virginia Department of Transportation as safety resource manager. She is a certified safety professional, treasurer for the North American

Association of Transportation Safety & Health Officials and serves on national safety committees. Morales has a bachelor's in industrial engineering from North Carolina State University and a master's in transportation policy, operations and logistics from George Mason University.

Recognitions & Distinctions

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Georgia and Georgia DOT announced the winners of its Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality (GPTQ) Preconstruction Design Awards at the 2017 Georgia Transportation Summit. The awards recognize engineering teams and firms for exemplary work, innovation and ingenuity in transportation and infrastructure projects in Georgia.

The **Grand Award** went to GDOT's Office of Roadway Design for the new **Continuous Flow Intersection** at SR 400 at SR 53 in Dawson County. The project reconstructed an existing at-grade intersection into an innovative, two-legged CFI, a first in Georgia, and implemented only a handful of times across the country; **Kimberly Nesbitt, Charles Robinson, Fletcher Miller, David Acree, Y-Thao Truong, Andy Casey.**

Other GDOT ACEC winners:

- **Reconstruction of I-16/I-75 Interchange** in Bibb County; Category: Context Sensitive Planning and Design including Public Participation Plan; **Clinton Ford, Eric Duff, Chad Carlson, Karlene Barron, Amber Phillips.**
- **Gulfstream Road at Robert B. Miller Road including Roundabouts;** Category: Traffic Safety and/or Intersection Design; **Brent Moseley.**
- **SR 96 Widening** (Peach/Houston counties); Category: Highway Design/Urban; **Vinesha Pegram, Clinton Ford, Krystal Stovall-Dixon.**
- **US 1/SR 17 Martin Bypass** (Stephens County); Category: Highway Design/Rural; **Brent Cook, Brandon Kirby.**
- **I-75 South Metro Express Lanes** from SR 155 to SR 138 (Henry/Clayton counties); Category: Design-Build; **Andrew Hoenig, Darryl VanMeter**

The **Office of Traffic Operations** received the **Intelligent Transportation Society (ITS) of Georgia Larry R. Dreihaupt Award** for demonstrating how ITS principles and technology can be applied in the face of significant operational events – from the I-85 bridge collapse to Hurricane Irma evacuations. **Brad Mann, Mark Demidovich** and **Alan Davis** accepted the award for the Traffic Ops team.

Commissioner Russell McMurry was named **Georgia Trend's 2018 Georgian of the Year** in recognition of his "leadership in handling an emergency and addressing the transportation challenges of a growing state." In a memo to employees, the Commissioner acknowledged that GDOT's triumphs—large and small—are the result of "a total team effort." He shared the award with employees for their "passion and ongoing commitment" to the people of Georgia. See the article at <http://bit.ly/2018GOTY>.



Georgia DOT staff were named by Engineering Georgia to their list of

"100 Influential Women to Know." They are (L-R) Chief Engineer **Meg Pirkle**, Engineering Director **Hiral Patel** and Program Delivery Administrator **Kimberly Nesbitt**. The list, in the January/February 2018 issue, "provides a glimpse into the diverse, strong and growing number of women helping to shape Georgia's engineering community." Visit <http://bit.ly/100IWTK>.

Georgia DOT was named 2018 **Owner of the Year** by **ENR Southeast**, a regional publication of the Engineering News-Record. ENR recognized GDOT's "notable steps in adopting alternate project-delivery methods" including design-build and public-private partnerships. ENR also noted GDOT's rapid rebuild of the I-85 Bridge in 2017.

Bridge Liaison Engineer **Mike Garner** and Construction Liaison **Jeremy Daniel** received the Atlanta Regional Commission's new **Unsung Hero Award**, created to recognize individuals who work quietly and effectively to improve the quality of life in the Atlanta region. They were acknowledged for their critical on-site work and dedication to the I-85 rebuild project.

The **Office of Strategic Communications** received the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Georgia Chapter 2017 **Phoenix Award for Crisis Communications in Government** for communications efforts during the I-85 collapse and rebuild.

The **Office of Transportation Data (OTD)** was a joint recipient of the 2017 **Innovation Award** from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for efforts with the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act of 2012 (MAP-21). The award recognizes creative approaches to advancing regional community and economic development and improved quality of life. The Georgia Association of Regional Commissions and the Carl Vinson Institute of Georgia shared in the award.

Two GDOT projects won 2017 **Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) Achievement Awards**. **River Watch Parkway Improvements** won in Transportation Sector/Construction - value less than \$10 million. **Transportation Investment Act/Band One** won in Transportation Sector/Construction - value greater than \$50 million.

In Case You Missed It (ICYMI)

Georgia named #1 state in which to do business (again).

It's the fifth consecutive year that Site Selection Magazine has ranked Georgia number one. Visit <http://bit.ly/1STDBUS>.

Georgia ranks as #5 best state for road, bridge and dam infrastructure.

USA Today reports that according to 24/7 Wall St., Georgia has the fifth best infrastructure ranking based on 2015 data on roads in poor condition, bridges classified as structurally deficient, and dams at high hazard risk. Visit <http://bit.ly/5BSRBDI>.

Accountability and Investment Report available.

Georgia DOT is accountable for its actions, for the results we achieve and for disclosing those results clearly and transparently. See GDOT's FY17 Accountability and Investment Report at <http://bit.ly/GDOT2017AIR>.

GDOT blog goes THE EXTRA MILE.

As part of the Department's goal for increased transparency, GDOT's new blog—THE EXTRA MILE—features timely topics written by subject matter experts like GDOT's Russell McMurry and Joe Carpenter and guest bloggers like Bert Brantley. It's a must read for anyone who wants to keep up with what GDOT is doing to keep Georgians moving, to support the state's economic growth and to help our communities thrive. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/TheExtraMile.

Need a piece of transportation information?

At the USDOT National Transportation Library (NTL) you won't find the latest best sellers. What you will find is a digital public access repository called **ROSAP** (Repository & Open Access Portal). **ROSAP** includes full-text electronic publications and datasets for USDOT-funded research. There is no charge to access. Visit <http://bit.ly/2HLFzkG>.

Hold the date.

2018, Sept. 20-24: Georgia DOT hosts American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Annual Meeting in Atlanta



2019, Aug. 18-20: Georgia DOT hosts Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) Annual Meeting in Savannah



GDOT Means Bu\$iness

By Liz Rothman

While the nation faces an ongoing crisis in long-term federal funding for much-needed transportation investments, and the outcome of the Trump Administration's Building a Stronger America initiative for rebuilding infrastructure is pending legislation, Georgia is in a desirable position. Despite a lack of federal appropriations, Georgia's Transportation Funding Act (TFA) of 2015 has enabled the state to advance over \$500 million in projects. While slow federal appropriations have limited the positive effects of the TFA, Georgia's transportation system continues to benefit from the sustained funding it receives for routine road and bridge maintenance, as well as major capital investments.

The primary focus of funds resulting from the Transportation Funding Act is to maintain and improve Georgia's transportation infrastructure. Since TFA was enacted, the department has continued to address a backlog of needs like resurfacing roads, bridge replacements and repairs, and safety and operational improvements.



Georgia is the number one state in which to do business. Georgia DOT takes its responsibility for managing the nation's 10th-largest transportation network seriously, says GDOT Commissioner Russell McMurry. "While often not exciting, maintenance projects are absolutely critical," McMurry explains. "Transportation

infrastructure drives Georgia's economy, supports community growth and helps us maintain our position as the number one state in which to do business. It makes Georgia attractive to prospective businesses like Amazon's second headquarters, as well as those in freight and logistics and our largest industry, agribusiness."

The goal, he adds, is to provide a balance of maintaining infrastructure while simultaneously advancing projects that address congestion – now and in the future.

Georgia Express Lanes expansion will create a connected system. Express Lanes rely on variable-price tolling to provide a choice for improved mobility and more reliable travel times for drivers and transit users. Building on the success of the reversible I-75 South Metro Express Lanes in Henry and Clayton counties, Georgia's second reversible Express Lanes project—the Northwest Corridor in Cobb and Cherokee counties—is scheduled to open this summer with 30 miles of reversible Express Lanes on I-75 and I-575 northwest of Atlanta.

Express Lanes are also planned along I-285 and SR 400 through the Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP), expected to have an immense impact in creating a safer, more connected, more mobile Georgia.

Freight mobility is critical for business. The widening of I-85 in Barrow, Gwinnett and Jackson counties—scheduled to break ground in 2018—is one of GDOT's first freight mobility projects and the first of 11 MMIP mega projects to do so. Due to an innovative best-value, variable-scope design-build procurement that encouraged competition to deliver the most lane miles of widening within an allowable maximum budget, the project gained four extra miles of capacity beyond its original design.

In 2019, construction is expected to start on two other MMIP freight mobility projects: the widening of I-16 and the reconstruction of the I-16/I-95 interchange near Savannah.

Other capital construction includes a freight network expansion comprised of 45 non-interstate freight corridor projects, a \$1.8 billion investment over the next 10 years, which is expected to deliver economic growth.



Georgia DOT has opportunities for service providers of all sizes to participate in a variety of transportation-related projects. Want to do business with Georgia DOT? Start here.

- Getting qualified: www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Business
- Routine Maintenance: www.dot.ga.gov/RoutineMaint
- MMIP Program: www.dot.ga.gov/MMIP
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program: www.dot.ga.gov/DBE
- Small, Veteran, DBE (SVDDBE) program / State Supported Funding Program (SSFP) Business Help Center: <http://gdotstateprojects.com>

Peachtree Road Restriping Project

A Case of Addition By Subtraction

By Liz Rothman

You know how it is when you're stuck in back of a driver who's waiting to make a left turn. They're waiting. You're waiting. Everyone is waiting.

Drivers on Peachtree Road used to experience these waits daily. But recent improvements have come to one of Atlanta's most high-profile corridors due to the Peachtree Road Restriping Project. Now three miles along Peachtree Road, from the Buford-Spring Connector to Pharr Road in Buckhead, have a continuous two-way left turn lane.

To accomplish this, GDOT took one northbound through-lane and transformed it into a continuous two-way left-turn lane, leaving two northbound through-lanes (the three southbound through-lanes remain).



Subtracting one travel lane and replacing it with a left-turn lane adds up to benefits for drivers.

"With over 800 crashes in the corridor during a five-year period, safety was the primary consideration," Georgia DOT State Traffic Engineer Andrew Heath said. "The goal is to drive that number down and turn lanes are an effective way to do that."

Removing left-turning vehicles from travel lanes provides significant safety and congestion reduction benefits. It cuts down on drivers weaving to get around someone who's stopped to make a left turn.

The two-way left turn lane is not only a low-cost safety strategy that is effective in reducing the frequency of rear-end crashes involving a turning vehicle. It is also expected to result in about a five percent decrease in average travel time during the a.m. and p.m. driving peaks along Peachtree Road, Heath said.

When Commuter Dude Jerry Carnes from WXIA-TV's 11Alive tracked his commute northbound on Peachtree Road before the restriping and then in November after the temporary restriping was down, he saw a 16% reduction in travel time on the same stretch of road. See the clip at https://youtu.be/soJ_4cbHEil.

As the project plan was developed, Georgia DOT conducted numerous meetings with the public, neighborhood and business groups, and elected officials to not only inform and educate them, but also to get their feedback and listen to their concerns. In fact, based on public comments, it was determined that bike lanes would not be included in the project. The partnership with the community resulted in the development of a project that enhances safety and improves traffic flow along this crucial corridor that connects Midtown Atlanta and Buckhead.

"GDOT Traffic Operations built one of the most robust micro-simulation models for the corridor that we ever have. It included actual turning movement counts, traffic signal timing and roadway geometry," Heath said. "It even accounted for MARTA ridership and how long a bus might stop at each drop off/pick up point. The effort put into the model led to public confidence in the proposed solution."

While initial benefits were seen with temporary striping, now that the more visible permanent striping is down, dedicated left turn signals continue to be installed at key intersections, and as drivers become familiar with the new lane, it is expected that the ride along this stretch of Peachtree Road will continue to improve.

Continuous two-way left turn lane on Peachtree Road. Smaller photo demonstrates the dangers crews face in work zones.

"We couldn't be more pleased with the restriping of Peachtree, and can't wait for the City of Atlanta to carry the same restriping pattern north from Pharr Road to Maple Drive later this year. Motorists are now utilizing all travel lanes instead of largely avoiding the far left lane. We are looking forward to the completion of the traffic signals at appropriate intersections to be modified with the permissive left turn arrows."

**Jim Durrett
Director, Buckhead CID**

Behind The Scenes

with Georgia DOT

By Bre Kirkpatrick

ARCHAEOLOGY



"Georgia DOT does the majority of the professional archaeological work in Georgia. As an archaeologist at GDOT, I am challenged daily by complex projects with interesting resources from across the state," said Pamela Baughman. "When I first started at GDOT in 2006 I spent most of my time in the field. As I have become more senior, I have steadily worked less in the field doing my own surveys and more in the office managing consultants who do projects and surveys for us."

Georgia DOT's activities are not always obvious. For example, people are often surprised to learn that GDOT has a team of archaeologists.

So in an effort to demonstrate what we do—after all, GDOT is a lot more than roads and bridges—we are sharing what goes on behind the scenes.

Behind the Scenes with Georgia DOT is a trending topic on Georgia DOT's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels.

The first post features Senior Transportation Archaeologist **Pamela Baughman** from GDOT's Cultural Resources section, who explains that archaeologists play a vital role in a construction project - from pre-planning to post-completion.

"What we do is ensure the Department's compliance with state and federal cultural resources and historic preservation laws," Baughman said. "Then we help to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse impacts to those resources."

In the initial stages of a project, the team goes into the field to identify areas that could be recorded as archaeological sites; then they evaluate those sites for significance and integrity to see if they are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. They consult with project designers to make sure that harm is avoided to Georgia's significant cultural resources. From there they follow the project through construction to further ensure that cultural resources are not impacted.

Archaeologists sometimes find artifacts at project sites that help them identify early inhabitants of the area. These can range from historic artifacts (50 years and older) like ceramics, glass and nails. Or they can be precontact parts of stone points and fragments of pottery.



While these projectile points are from different eras with thousands of years between them, they had a common use - as tools. The ones on top are made of quartz and were found in Bibb County. The lighter one is from about 4500 BC and the darker one is about 3500 years older - from around 8000 BC.

The projectile points on the bottom were found in Twiggs County. They are made of chert, a sedimentary rock made of silica that often breaks with sharp edges. It was determined, based on color, that these come from the Coastal Plain.

Artifacts first go to the lab to be cleaned, washed and analyzed, counted and weighed. The lab looks for characteristics about the material and design to help identify the time period from which it came, as well as what it was used for. Artifacts are then curated and many are stored at the University of West Georgia's Antonio J. Waring Archaeological Laboratory for future research when advanced technology may be available. Students use the artifacts to learn how to curate. Artifacts are loaned out for educational purposes and for exhibits at libraries in the county where they were found.

"There are a lot of really neat historic sites in Georgia," Baughman said. "And the Department considers their significance in the course of all of our projects."

For the Baughman interview and other Behind the Scenes with Georgia DOT footage, visit <http://bit.ly/2FVqk88>. Be sure to follow GDOT on all of our social media channels.



Bre Kirkpatrick is Georgia DOT's social media specialist. Reach her at bkirkpatrick@dot.ga.gov.



Remembering Carey Ellerbee A Man of Service

The Georgia DOT family mourns the loss of one of our own. Carey Ellerbee died in a tragic accident the morning of January 18 after he spent the night clearing roads of snow and ice for the citizens of Georgia. Carey, a husband, father, grandfather and brother, was a truck driver out of the District Three office and was with GDOT for nearly 20 years. He served in the U.S. Navy on the USS Saipan during the Vietnam Conflict. He was chairman of the Board of Deacons at his church. Carey will be missed.

2017 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Top Statewide Honors



The Wayne Shackelford Leadership Award, Georgia DOT's highest tribute, is presented for exceptional leadership, commitment to the Department, and service to the public. The 2017 recipient is **Sheila Hines**, whose wealth of knowledge and experience has been invaluable to the Department. Hines, now retired, was responsible for development and administration of bituminous construction-related policies and for providing quality assurances. She administered the Department's product and bituminous materials certification program; monitored supplier production and testing; conducted physical testing on existing pavements; and made recommendations for pavement rehabilitation. She also led research; managed tests for Qualified Products lists; and more. Hines' leadership, commitment and service was exceptional. She was with Georgia DOT for 26 years.



The **Community Service Award** is for volunteerism that improves the lives of others. The 2017 recipient, **Robbie Byrd** of District 2, has a spectrum of interests that led him to get involved in a variety of community programs. Byrd takes blind, autistic and special needs kids on deer and turkey hunts; teaches the Hunter Safety Course for the Department of Natural Resources, and was named Southeast Georgia Volunteer of the Year by the Treutlen County 4H Program. He also cuts the grass at his church and volunteers at a nursing home. After an auto accident in 2016, Byrd was unable to walk. Doctors felt it would take him over a year to recover and were unsure he would walk as before, but he was back to work in three months. Byrd is an individual of will and determination.



Hannah Pruett, ecology senior team leader in the Office of Environmental Services, is the recipient of the **Innovator Award**, which honors an employee who makes a difference in the way GDOT conducts business. Pruett first collaborated with Ecology Section managers to expedite documentation by developing a new and innovative ecology report template for the Low Impact Bridge Program, which transformed long narratives into a more tabular format, eliminated redundancy and made it easier to write and to review. In fact, it helped reduce internal review times, as well as significantly reduce agency review from seven weeks to two. Pruett developed other report templates that expand streamlined documentation to the entire GDOT program. Her innovative efforts should improve efficiency and on-time project delivery across GDOT.



District 5 Signal Manager **Andy Westberry** received the **Heroism Award**, presented for outstanding judgment, courage, self-confidence or ability in an emergency situation and/or meritorious action or service to prevent injury, loss of life, damage to or loss of property.

Westberry demonstrated a high level of commitment to safety and operational efficiency after two major storms—Tropical Storm Hermine and Hurricane Matthew—inflicted damage on highways in fall 2016. He quickly and effectively mobilized his team and available contractors to affected intersections where they worked day and night for seven consecutive days replacing signal components. Within a week 95 percent of affected signals were operating. Westberry was instrumental in opening roads for safe passage; his actions in the aftermath of these storms are heroic.



The Team Award recognizes a team that makes exceptional

contributions—with measurable results—toward the achievement of Georgia DOT goals. The 2017 team winner is **District 5 Utilities Specialists: Leslie Dubberly, Becky Simmons and John Royal**. Utility specialists coordinate adjustment, relocation and removal of utility facilities, and manage railroad crossing maintenance. While this small group has a heavy workload, they pull together to make sure timelines and metrics are met, and utility facilities are placed as permitted within the Department's right-of-way. They also exceed their performance metrics. Last year they processed 1,117 permits with an average turnaround of 2.04 days (the state goal is 5 days). They completed 100 percent of their pre-construction duties and finished the year with zero cases of escalation and mediation.

Safety Awards

- Best Lost Time Injury Record - District 2
- Most Improved Lost Time Injury Record - District 2
- Best Overall Safety Record - District 4
- Most Improved Overall Safety Record - District 2
- Best Medical Treatment Record - District 3
- Most Improved Medical Treatment Record - District 4
- Best Preventable Vehicle Accident Record - District 4
- Most Improved Preventable Vehicle Accident Record - District 7

Commissioner's Merit & Achievement Awards

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

D1 - Right of Way Team: Kevin York, Judi Braza, Jonathan Dills, Melissa Hayes, Trent Smallwood, Megan Dills, Amy Riddling, Viveca Cooper, Lisa Dorsey, Michael McLaine, Ashton Wright, Kim Byers. An exceptional group with a can-do attitude, excellent time management skills and eager to take on additional responsibilities. Their time-sensitive work is critical.

D2 - Ellen Wright, planning and programming coordinator. Prior to promotion to her current position, Wright was district training officer, where she oversaw training of 400+ district employees. For six months after her promotion she continued to provide training to district personnel.

D3 - Tyler Peek, traffic engineer. Using sound engineering practices and practical decision-making, Peek led district efforts to improve safety and the transportation system through his leadership on the District Quick Response Committee. He was also instrumental in addressing signal timing issues along 30 corridors.

D4 - Signal and Special Forces Units. 45 crews; 248 employees. When severe weather, including tornados, moved into Georgia, District 4 crews were dedicated to helping open roads and bridges by removing debris. An employee who lost his home worked through these events knowing he had no home to return to.

D5 - Aaron Allen, Joe Withrow. During a winter weather event, when a pump failure impacted the ability of District 7 brine operations to load trucks with brine, the pair—with only a few hours of sleep—replaced the pump in 90 minutes. Their effort contributed to the success of the metro winter operation.

D6 - Deborah Dunagan, procurement manager. When an increased workload resulted from HB 170 funding for maintenance contracts and changes to the state's purchase card program, Dunagan stepped up with commitment, accountability and teamwork.

D7 - Dona Lee Welch, assistant district construction engineer. For the last three years, Welch and the Contracts Management Team have met the challenge of reducing the project-pending backlog and improving the closeout process - going from over 1,200 days to 70 days.

Division of Administration/General Counsel – Betty Mason. Under her creative, tireless and innovative leadership, the office created a tool to set project goals for design and construction using a numerical formula that is available electronically and can be used for federal- and state-funded projects.

Division of Construction – Remone Kendricks, engineering technician. The I-85 rebuild required sampling, testing, inspecting and control of materials including performing concrete cylinder breaks to ensure strengths. Kendricks set aside personal time at all hours so the expedited schedule could be achieved.

Division of Engineering – Chris Rudd, assistant state roadway design engineer, led the development of Roadway Designs' new 12-month Roadway Accelerated Program for Individual Development (RAPID). He worked tirelessly to ensure that participants become qualified candidates for a lead design engineer position.

Division of Finance – Intermodal Accounting Team: Lisa English, Kevin Stone. When the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) enacted new billing requirements that tripled the information required for federal billing, the team met those requirements while maintaining their high level of customer service.

Division of Intermodal – Carrie Anderson, public transportation specialist. When Anderson came into her role some aspects of her responsibilities were behind. She completed the unfinished paperwork and solidified relationships with local officials. Her work improved the GDOT Transit Program in District 3.

Division of Permits and Operations – Simonia Nzemeke, operations analyst. With a knack for motivating and bringing people together, Nzemeke receives an exceptionally high level of confidence from team members. Her positive energy fosters an environment where everyone feels valued.

Division of Program Delivery – Timothy Evans, project manager. When he joined the Office of Program Delivery Evans was assigned several high profile projects with local governments. His management style, customer service and collaboration garnered their praise.

Division of Planning – Air Quality Branch: Phil Peevy, Daniel Dolder. When FHWA initiated a series of on-site, state DOT Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program reviews Peevy and Dolder organized an overview of the process. FHWA said Georgia's presentation was the best of all the states reviewed.

Deputy Commissioner's Staff – Orren Davis, IT Network Group team manager. Davis shows exceptional leadership moving his team forward in maintaining GDOT's highly technical IT infrastructure. This includes the NaviGator system, critical to providing statewide traffic information. Davis helps keep Georgia moving.

Chief Engineer's Staff – Design Review Team: Walter Taylor, Jason Willingham, John Kopotic, Joseph Capello, Jason Wiggins, Ted Crabtree, Winton Ward, Tanisha Georges, Abdel Koundaba. Despite high turnover and limited staff, the team did a remarkable job completing required activities. By involving all participants at a Field Plan Review, they create an atmosphere that encourages participation, helps ensure productive reviews, and a better understanding of the project.

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

D1 - Jerry Thomason, construction project manager. His knowledge of area roads and their unique issues allows Thomason to anticipate and fix problems quickly and efficiently. Whether it is an airport runway improvement, sidewalk upgrade or roadway resurfacing, he holds himself to a high standard.

D2 - Sharon Johnson, general trade craftsman. Johnson an exceptional team player, helps others whenever she can. She strives to exceed not only in her responsibilities like grounds maintenance, preparing assembly rooms for meetings and minor building repairs, but also in her professional growth like cross training in routine maintenance.

D3 - Doug Morris. Morris and his team handle time-sensitive and often complicated Quick Response Projects. When concrete pours at multiple locations were needed in a short timeline to enable brine treatment of routes, Morris got the job done. He takes pride in ensuring the safety of the motoring public.

D4 - District 4 Accounting Office: Kimberly Holt, Cynthia Holsenbeck, Brittany Brown. This exemplary team consistently displays customer service and teamwork. District employees know that their questions will be resolved promptly, thoroughly and efficiently.

D5 - Right of Way Office: Lonnie O'Quinn, Zackary Bailey, Malcolm Coleman, Tony Griffis, Kwalesha Allen, David Baldwin, Katie Proctor, Clinton Fort. Their work ethic, attitude and accomplishments are a testament to their organizational commitment and character. Last year, they delivered 100 percent of ROW acquisitions and certifications for assigned projects prior to letting. Has maintained a flawless record for years.

D6 - Christopher "CJ" Cumbee, construction project manager. Cumbee's leadership and professionalism have gained him respect among co-workers, contractors, the public and local officials. In 2016 he worked day and night to ensure that two high-profile, high-budget projects were completed on-time and on-budget.

D7 - Nebiat Abraham, planning and programming coordinator. In addition to duties that include managing projects and providing training and guidance to design staff, Abraham took on supervision of the district design office. She is working with the district maintenance office on a pilot project to improve resurfacing packages by creating an electronic log database.

Division of Administration/General Counsel – Legal Services, Contracts Review Team: Joanna Campbell, Jed Cochran, Pamela Cromwell, Jaqueline Ellis, Sybil Ogletree, Kathy Parnell, Helen Pinkston-Pope, Annette Simelaro. For the last several years, the team has reviewed every contract and agreement entered into by the Department, as well as assisted offices with updating contract templates and drafting new agreements. Since 2014, the number of contracts handled has increased by 57 percent.

Division of Construction – Michael Garner, Jeremy Daniel. Their construction expertise and "get the job done" attitude played a major role during demolition and reconstruction of the I-85 Bridge. Garner and Daniel spent numerous hours on site while maintaining a somewhat normal schedule with their assigned duties. They provided supervision for staff on site for work inspection. Their work was crucial to the project's expedited timeline.

Division of Engineering – Meghan Hedeem, Sam Woods. A recent collaboration between the offices of Environmental Services and Roadway Design offers new possibilities to make more informed transportation planning decisions and to streamline the environmental process. It is anticipated that this will lead to improved planning and construction for mobility-focused projects.

Division of Intermodal – Troy Green. As public transportation coordinator for District 5, Green also covered for D4 until that position was filled. He identifies work process improvements, represents GDOT at meetings and events, and makes special presentations on rural transit.

Division of Permits and Operations – Christina Barry, traffic operations manager. Barry created the new Intersection Control Evaluation Policy designed to instill safety-related decision-making into intersection evaluations to determine the right solution for the location. This has the potential to aid in GDOT's efforts to reverse the increase in roadway fatalities.

Division of Planning – Design Traffic Forecasting Branch: Tom McQueen, Rhonda Niles, Dan Funk, Andre Washington. The group has implemented numerous process improvements including updating the Traffic Forecasting Manual and developing a streamlined internal business process review. Last year 20 percent more projects were completed compared to the previous year, while average delivery time dropped 60 percent.

Deputy Commissioner's Staff – Office of Procurement Transportation Procurement Section: Curtis Scott, Karen Oaks, Steve Farrar, Sharon Cyrus, Daniel Foley, Vanessa Walker, Doug Kirkland, Folayan Battle, Rhonda Hightower-Rucker, Andrea Durden, Melissa Hannah, Amber Shakir-Greer, Kelly Engel, Charnele Dobbins, Ann Willis. This team was committed to supporting efforts in outsourcing engineering and design-related services. Despite an overwhelming workload and being short-staffed in critical contract specialist positions, the group met all performance metrics and set new records in the number of engineering and design-related contracts executed - an increase of 52 percent from the record high.



The iconic Sidney Lanier Bridge on SR 25 in Brunswick-Glynn County spans the Brunswick River. At almost 1.5 miles long, it is Georgia's longest bridge and one of the state's two cable-stayed bridges. It was built in 2003 to replace the original vertical-lift bridge, which was twice struck by ships. Photo: Cedric Mohr, GDOT



Using a snoopercrane to inspect a bridge on US Hwy 27 over the Flint River in Bainbridge, Ga.

Making Connections

Bridges Across Georgia

By Liz Rothman



Long before the ancient Greeks built arch bridges more than 3000 years ago, some ant species were using their own bodies to form living bridges to allow other ants to cross water or surface gaps. Like humans, these ants know that connections are essential to their survival.

Georgia's bridges come in all types, shapes and sizes. They span huge rivers and babbling brooks. They cross roads and railroads and valleys. And while most carry vehicles, some are for pedestrians to safely cross a busy route. Yet with all their differences, bridges have a common purpose: connecting people and places.

Bridges are essential to mobility, safety and economic development. They affect everyday lives. Drivers cross bridges to go to work or the store. School buses cross bridges to get kids to school, farmers cross bridges to bring crops to market. Bridges are critical for emergency vehicles and for general freight movement.

Like houses and roads, bridges require maintenance to keep them structurally sound and to extend their lives. As aging bridges begin to lack integrity or do not adequately serve current traffic needs, they are replaced based on a prioritization process.

Georgia DOT's Office of Bridges and Structures, headed by State Bridge Engineer Bill DuVall, is responsible for inspecting and maintaining existing bridges, including retaining walls and culverts, and designing and reviewing new bridges to meet the highest safety and environmental standards.



Investing in Georgia's bridges

As a result of the Transportation Funding Act (TFA) of 2015 Georgia DOT now has sustained funding to focus on previously deferred routine maintenance like bridge preservation and rehabilitation, as well as replacement. Georgia DOT's FY 2018 investment in repairing and replacing existing bridges is \$301 million and \$369 million in FY 2019.

"The federal bridge replacement program, which was eliminated in 2012 with the adoption of MAP-21, gave GDOT more flexibility in managing our bridges. But it also gave us more responsibility," DuVall explains. "We were no longer bound to federal apportionments specifically dedicated to bridge replacements. With TFA, the Department has made it a priority to upgrade and maintain our bridges and we use TFA funds to leverage more federal dollars for this program."

The state owns 46 percent of the almost 15,000 bridges in Georgia, and the balance are locally-owned. GDOT has bridge programs that address specific state and local needs.

- **Bridge bonds** have been utilized in FYs 2016-2019 to fund \$100 million a year in right-of-way and construction of bridge replacements on the state network. Using state funds reduces environmental documentation and allows advanced acquisition of right-of-way to speed up project delivery.
- The **Low Impact Bridge Program** (LIBP) replaces local bridges and streamlines the replacement process.
- The **Local Bridge Replacement Program**, through partnerships with local governments, addresses the more than 1,350 deficient bridges that either restrict truck travel or are completely closed to traffic.
- Through the **State-funded Bridge Replacement Program**, in FY 2017 Georgia DOT produced two bundles of design-build bridge construction projects, each split by geographic location to help the contractor work as efficiently as possible. These DB bridge bundles are an innovative way to replace aging local bridges and deliver a bridge in as little as 17 months compared to the typical timeline of four+ years.



We build too many walls and not enough bridges.
Isaac Newton 1642-1727

Inspecting Georgia's bridges

Every two years Georgia DOT conducts topside—above the waterline—inspections on public-use on- and off-system bridges. Inspectors walk the bridge deck, and also assess bridge conditions from below. They look at beams, columns and caps, make sure joints are sealed, and check for deficiencies like cracking, exposed rebar and corrosion. They also look for scour—holes in the streambed around abutments or piers, caused by swiftly moving water—that can compromise bridge integrity. Snoopercranes, bucket trucks and drones are used for a close up look.

At a minimum of five-year intervals inspection dive teams inspect from the waterline down. They use deep-water and shallow-water boats, and scuba gear to inspect steel piling for corrosion, concrete for deterioration and timber piles for decay. With their hands-on inspection they are able to identify critical deficiencies like scour below the bridge foundation.

Joshua Cofer is Georgia DOT's bridge inspection supervisor. "Bridges are an integral part of our transportation infrastructure and we need to maintain them to ensure safe travel for the public," he said. "We conduct inspections as though our family members are driving across these bridges. When we finish evaluating a bridge, if we determine it is safe for our family, then we've done our job to keep the public safe."

See Georgia DOT's Bridge Maintenance video at <https://youtu.be/rngEfu5sDpM>.

News from the Districts

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



District 1

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

One



GDOT worker cuts away excess rebar reinforcement on concrete barrier wall along I-20 West in Atlanta. Photo: Cedric Mohr, GDOT

First widened southbound section of SR 400 open

The newly widened portion of SR 400 southbound between SR 141 and McFarland Parkway opened to traffic in December. The four-mile segment is the first of a total of 14 southbound miles to be widened. Construction continues southbound from SR 369/ Browns Bridge Road to SR 141/ Peachtree Parkway.

The project adds a lane in each direction on SR 400 from McFarland Road to State Route 369 and includes widening the bridges over Big Creek and the Sawnee Creek portion of Lake Lanier. Northbound widening was completed last fall.

The project is funded through a partnership between Forsyth County and the Georgia Department of Transportation. GDOT contributed \$13 million. The remainder – approximately \$34.5 million – is funded by the Forsyth County Transportation Bond, approved by 63 percent of Forsyth County voters in 2014.

Overall completion is scheduled for fall 2018.

D1 office staff has new address:

**1475 Jesse Jewell Parkway NE, Suite 100,
Gainesville, GA 30501**

For 55 years District One called 2505 Athens Highway home. Now office staff occupy 33,000 square feet of a newly constructed building on Jesse Jewell Parkway. The Georgia DOT maintenance buildings campus on Athens Highway remains in place.

“The relocation of district staff positions our headquarters closer to downtown Gainesville,” District Engineer Brent Cook, P.E. said, “We anticipate this will boost public involvement, enhance our use of technology, and enable us to more efficiently respond to emergencies as the command center.”

While leasing space is not the traditional way Georgia DOT district offices relocate—typically a new structure is built—the previous building, constructed in the early 1960s, required renovations that would be costly and slow. By leasing new space, staff was situated in weeks and is settled for the next ten years.

District One rallies teens to Drive Alert Arrive Alive

The goal of the Drive Alert Arrive Alive safety campaign is simple: raise awareness about how driver behavior contributes to preventable crashes and fatalities. And District One is doing just that.

Students wake up with phones in their hands. Last year Forsyth and Dawson counties were the top crash counties for drivers ages 15-19. District Communications continues to tour local high schools through May 2018 to get out the word about safe driving behavior. We ask students to really think about the potential outcome of texting and driving, of not wearing a seat belt, or of driving impaired. So far, over 100 Forsyth County students have signed a pledge to put down the phone, buckle up and drive alert.



Many of today's teens are taught to drive by parents who didn't have the distraction of a cell phone when they learned to drive. That's why we suggest Auto Coach, a free mobile app, which helps parents teach teens to drive safely. The app was developed by the Shepherd Center in partnership with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Visit <http://bit.ly/2HOBnkm>.

District One employees receive 2017 Annual Commissioner's Awards

Commissioner Russell McMurry, District Engineer Brent Cook and D1 staff celebrated the honorees for their exceptional achievements.



District One Right Of Way Team, Commissioner's Merit Award

Front: Russell McMurry, Kim Byers, Kevin York, Judi Braza, Melissa Hayes, Amy Riddling, Megan Dills. Back: Ashton Wright, Michael McLaine, Johnathan Dills, Brent Cook, Trent Smallwood, Viveca Cooper, Lisa Dorsey.



Jerry Thomason, Commissioner's Achievement Award



District 2

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

Two

New East Dublin bridge crossing opened and dedicated



State Transportation Board Member **Don Grantham** helped hundreds of attendees in Laurens County celebrate the brand new Oconee River Crossing made possible by Transportation Investment Act (TIA)

monies. The 2.4 mile project that extended Country Club Road south of the existing Blackshear Ferry Road intersection, opened to traffic in October 2017.



Special trick-or-treating tradition

For Halloween 2017, all of our GDOT District Office departments setup for trick or treaters from the Ridge Road Special Education Class. Thirty-five kids along with 15 parents/teachers joined the fun annual event at the Tennille Office - aimed at giving back to the local community.

District blood drives saving lives

Led by Accounting Manager **Pamela Garner**, who serves as a Sheppard Community Blood Center Primary Blood Drive coordinator, the Tennille District Office routinely hosts mobile blood drive collection events. In 2017, there were 163 donors, resulting in 132 good units. Considering that one donation can save up to three lives, this giving impacted 396 lives of those with the greatest and most urgent need. Since 2003 our district has tallied over 2,000 blood donations with the potential to save an estimated 4,980 lives.

Byrd wins GDOT statewide award



District Two's Robbie Byrd received Georgia DOT's 2017 Community Service Award for his dedication to improving the quality of life for young people and seniors through his involvement in a variety of programs. See more on page 9.

District Two employees recognized with annual 2017 Commissioner's Awards

Commissioner Russell McMurry and District Engineer Jimmy Smith were on hand to honor the winners at our annual meeting.



Ellen Wright, Commissioner's Merit Award



Sharon Johnson, Commissioner's Achievement Award



Larry Morris and **Corbett Reynolds** accept statewide Safety Awards on behalf of District Two.

- Best Lost Time Injury Record: 0%
- Most Improved Overall Safety Record: -8.34%
- Most Improved Lost Time Injury Record: -1.62%



District 3

Thomaston/West Central Ga.
KIMBERLY LARSON
District Communications Officer
klarson@dot.ga.gov

Three



Tyler Peek, Commissioner's Merit Award. Peek (right), district traffic engineer, was recognized for his outstanding initiative, strong work ethic and innovative approach to addressing operational and safety issues, which distinguished him as a competent and thoughtful leader.



Doug Morris, Commissioner's Achievement Award. Morris (left) was honored for his dedication to providing leadership in completing the pour of over 800 yards of concrete at four locations in less than three months to complete District Brine Operations construction.



District Three 2017 Annual Meeting and Commissioner's Awards

Commissioner Russell McMurry and District Engineer Michael Presley joined D3 staff at our Annual Meeting to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the employees of West Central Georgia. A few were recognized for going above and beyond. Photos: Kimberly Larson, GDOT



Increasing brine production

District 3 recently completed the addition of three brine production units to improve the District's response to winter weather events. The new production units are located in Upson, Monroe and Muscogee counties. Each location is equipped with a new brine salt barn, production unit and storage tanks to support winter weather operations. The new units, along with the existing Locust Grove production unit, will significantly improve the efficiency of brining operations on I-85, I-75, I-16 and I-475 as well as the state routes in the 31-county area of District 3. Brine unit in photo is located in Upson County.

District 3, statewide Safety Award for Best Medical Treatment Record. The District's safety record of 0.91% is indicative of our dedication to safety and efforts to manage risks in the workplace. (From left) Wesley Kennedy, district maintenance engineer and David Arrington, district administrative officer accept the award on behalf of the District.



District 4

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

Four

Familiar faces. New roles.

District Four recently saw section head reassignments. Providing broad management opportunities in various programs fosters overall effectiveness for the district.

- Construction Manager Van Mason (formerly Traffic Manager)
- Maintenance Manager Scott Chambers (formerly Construction Manager)
- Utilities Manager Stacy Aultman (formerly Maintenance Manager)
- Preconstruction Engineer Tim Warren (formerly Utilities Manager)
- Traffic Manager Randy Rathburn (formerly Assistant Construction Engineer)

A New Year & extreme weather go hand-in-hand in southwest Georgia

From tornadoes in 2017 to a series of winter weather events starting just days into 2018, District 4 has invested time and resources to keep Georgians safe in our region and in other areas of the state.

For the Jan. 3 winter storm, District 3 brine trucks assisted us by pretreating Interstate 75 the previous night. After the storm our employees were out before dawn with snow plows and a salt/rock mixture to treat icy bridges and roads. We loaded 172 tons of rock and 137 tons of salt.

Round two arrived Jan. 7, when we sent 48 people and 11 snow plows to Atlanta to assist in clearing routes in metro and north Georgia.

We were fortunate that the winter storm that came through Jan. 16 and 17 was mild in our district. Locally, we used 134 tons of rock/salt mixture on our state routes and bridges. We also sent two shifts of employees and 10 snow plows to Atlanta.



District 4 snow plow clears SR 32 in Irwin County.



Equipment operators Jacob Willis (on truck) and Austin Avant spread a salt/rock mixture by hand while treating the I-75 Barneyville Road overpass.

District Four employees receive 2017 Annual Commissioner's Awards

Commissioner Russell McMurry joined District Engineer Ritchie Swindell and district staff to honor award recipients.

Area, Signal and Special Forces Units, 248 employees, Commissioner's Merit Award



Employees were recognized for their actions during a tough and busy January 2017 when they repeatedly responded without hesitation or complaint to the challenge of clean up and repair following tornadoes that struck on two different occasions. Section heads and unit managers accepted the award on behalf of 45 crews. (L-R): Jody Tucker, Brad Cleveland, Derrick Wilkerson, Neil Tyson, Brian Fincher, Commissioner Russell McMurry, Scott Chambers, Brent Lupo, Keith Carver, Paul Kaspereen, Stacy Aultman, Van Mason.

District Accounting Office, Commissioner's Achievement Award



The District Accounting Office was recognized for its efficiency, customer service and teamwork. (L-R) Cynthia Holsenbeck, Accounting Tech; Brittany Brown, Accounting Parapro; Kimberly Holt, Administrative Operations Coordinator.

Our Moultrie Area Office is smooth - recipient of GDOT's 2017 Smoothness Award



The Smoothness Award is for the resurfacing of US 19/SR 3 in Thomas County. (L-R) Neil Tyson, Area Engineer; Michael Sumner, Construction Project Engineer; Commissioner Russell McMurry; Scott Chambers, Section Head.



District 5

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

Five

One man and a plow

Georgia Ports Authority Executive Director Griff Lynch was quoted praising Georgia DOT's tremendous effort during the rare winter storm in Savannah in early January. Here is an excerpt from the Savannah Morning News Jan. 11 article. "...the biggest help came from the Georgia Department of Transportation, which sent a salt and brine truck with a snow plow on the front ... You always hesitate to single any one person out when so many people did a great job, but Jerry Harper of GDOT was like a superman ... I barely saw him off that truck in the two days he stayed with us ... essentially, one man and a plow cleared the majority of our 1,200-acre terminal."

From the mouths of babes

District Five brought GDOT's Drive Alert Arrive Alive message to over 400 children (K-5) at Jesup Elementary School's Community Safety Day in November. Coastal Area Traffic Enforcement Network Coordinator Captain Luther Hires, with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, sent this message to district staff after the event. "You'll be proud to know that you made an impression on at least one little one Friday. We went out to eat Friday night and the cashier at the restaurant told us that her daughter told her that noisy children were a distraction so she had to be quiet when Mom was driving ..."

District Five employees recognized with annual awards

Commissioner Russell McMurry and District Engineer Brad Saxon gathered with District 5 staff in November for fellowship and reflection on a job well done in 2017. They presented awards to staff who especially demonstrated team work, dedication and professionalism.



District Right of Way Office, Commissioner's Achievement Award. Last year the team delivered 100 percent of right of way acquisitions and certifications for assigned projects prior to letting. Front (L-R): Commissioner Russell McMurry, Katie Proctor, David Baldwin, Kwalesha Allen, Zackary Bailey, District Engineer Brad Saxon. Back (L-R): Tony Griffis, Andy O'Quinn, Clinton Fort, Malcolm Coleman.



Andrew Westberry, Statewide Heroism Award. Westberry demonstrated his high level of commitment to safety and operational efficiency in the aftermath of one of the worst storms to hit Georgia.



Aaron Allen and Joe Withrow, Commissioner's Merit Award. Their dedication to the citizens of Georgia and their work ethic is unparalleled.



District Utilities Specialists, Statewide Team Award. This team continues to be the best in the state in their area of expertise. (L-R) Commissioner Russell McMurry, Leslie Dubberly, Becky Simmons, John Royal, DE Brad Saxon.



District 6

Cartersville/Northwest Ga.

MOHAMED ARAFA

District Communications Officer
marafa@dot.ga.gov

Six

Interchange demonstrates safety and operational efficiency

The reconstructed I-75/Redbud Road Interchange in Gordon County, which opened in late 2016, is now a model of safety and operational efficiency. That wasn't so in 1989 when the Department compiled a priority list of interstate interchanges with operational problems. The interchange received a number two priority, meaning reconstruction was important, but not urgent. Two issues were identified - poor sight distance under the I-75 Bridge and the pace of traffic movement.

Safety, always a top priority for Georgia DOT, necessitated an interchange reconstruction, which included the widening of SR 156 to provide two through lanes - one eastbound and one westbound - and left turn lanes on SR 156 for access to the I-75 entrance ramps. The widening of SR 156 required the replacement of the I-75 bridge over SR 156 with one long enough to span the widening. The project included the realignment and reconstruction of all four of the I-75 interchange ramps. Sidewalks were also constructed on both sides of SR 156 through the limits of the project.



Reconstructed I-75/SR 156 Interchange in Gordon County.



13-year GDOT veteran named assistant district engineer

Grant Waldrop is the new District 6 assistant district engineer. He works along with District Engineer Dewayne Comer as the face of Georgia DOT in northwest Georgia, and with local and state lawmakers, chambers of commerce, business leaders, the public in the 17-county area, and with adjoining state departments

of transportation.

"Grant understands our district's work in great detail," Comer said. "His leadership skills, attention to details and thoroughness in everything he does will help keep District Six moving forward with delivering the best transportation services to northwest Georgia citizens - on time and on budget."

Waldrop began his career with Georgia DOT in 2004 and was previously the D6 traffic engineer. He has a bachelor's in civil engineering and a master's focusing on transportation.

District Six employees recognized with annual 2017 Commissioner's Awards

Commissioner Russell McMurry and District Engineer Dewayne Comer presented the awards for merit and achievement at our annual meeting.



CJ Cumbee, Commissioner's Achievement Award (*Brandon Clayton accepted on Cumbee's behalf*). Cumbee, construction project manager, was honored for his work ethic, professionalism and for successfully taking on the challenges of managing two significant construction projects: reconstruction of the Rocky Face Interchange and resurfacing for I-75 from Rocky Face to the Tennessee State line.



Deborah Dunagan, Commissioner's Merit Award
Dunagan, district procurement manager and a 28-year GDOT veteran, received the award for her service, dedication, commitment, personal accountability and great teamwork.



District 7

Chamblee/Metro Atlanta Ga.

TORI A. BROWN

District Communications Officer
tobrown@dot.ga.gov

Seven

Restriping provides big improvement in Metro Atlanta

Traffic is flowing on Peachtree Road due to a three-mile restriping. The project, which runs from the Buford-Spring Connector to Pharr Road in Buckhead, removed one northbound lane and transformed it into a continuous two-way left turn lane. The project also added dedicated left turn signals. The new configuration has improved traffic flow and safety. See article on page 7.



D7 receives statewide Most Improved Preventable Vehicle Accident Record

District 7 had 22 preventable vehicle accidents last year - a reduction of 12 from the previous year. The improvement demonstrates the district's efforts to better manage risks on the road.



(L-R) Paul Dennard, Commissioner Russell McMurry, Jason Moore, Charlie Welmaker, District Engineer Kathy Zahul, Peronica Stephens, Johnny Emmett, Shun Pringle.

District Seven employees receive annual awards

Commissioner Russell McMurry joined District Engineer Kathy Zahul and D7 employees in celebrating the honorees.



Dona Lee Welch, Commissioner's Merit Award. Assistant District Construction Engineer Welch is an asset to the construction office where she manages \$1.3 billion of work and nearly 600 projects. Welch and the Contracts Management Team have reduced the Project Pending Backlog and improved the Closeout Process.



Nebiat Abraham, Commissioner's Achievement Award. Abraham is district planning and programming coordinator. In addition to assigned duties, she has taken on the responsibility of supervising the district design office. Abraham's work ethic, technical skills and willingness to assist others demonstrate her commitment.

Atlanta Road Bridge reconstruction project



The New Year began with considerable progress made on the reconstruction and operational improvement project at I-285 and Atlanta Road. Elements of the project have been completed

including installation of the bridge metal deck, construction of the bridge diaphragms and edge beams, construction of the on-ramp to I-285 southbound and the sound walls. Bridge completion is anticipated in the spring.

The overall project, originally scheduled for completion in fall 2017, was delayed when construction crews identified key structural and safety modifications, not included in the original project scope of work, that needed to be resolved. Those issues have been addressed and the project is on track for an anticipated completion in fall 2018.

We thank the community for their ongoing patience.

Lending a helping hand

During a winter snow and ice event in southeast Georgia, District 7 crews traveled to Savannah to lend a helping hand.



Anything ironic about snow on a beach in Georgia?



D7 in Savannah. ((L-R) Darrin Godwin, Dan Fitch, Clay Fagon.

Letters, Emails, Notes & Tweets

I want to thank you guys soooo much! Had a tire go flat while driving down the interstate and called CHAMP. You were there within 5 minutes, changed my tire, and I was on my way. Thanks!!!!
M. Clanton, via Facebook

.....

Just a note of "THANKS!" to my 'knight-in-shining-armor-with-a-CHAMP-logo,' Nicholas Baker, who arrived on-scene to my disabled vehicle ... along I-95 just north of Savannah ... Thankfully, I was able to get the car off the highway and onto the shoulder ... Nicholas arrived within 15 minutes and had my tire off by the time I received notice from AAA that it would be another 35 minutes to reach me - no need at that point since Nicholas has finished the job! He told me all about CHAMP - amazing program, people & cool trucks! Now I know who to call, CHAMP not AAA, if I need highway assistance in the future! Thank you so much for your help and keeping me safe on the Georgia highways.
C. Mitchell, via GDOT's CONTACT US webpage

.....

I had a flat tire on 75 SB near W. Paces Ferry and before I could pull up the AAA app in my phone to call roadside assistance, a HERO unit was behind me ready to give me aid. You guys really are the best. #ThanksForAllThatYouDo
G. Ellenburg, via Facebook

Mr. Clark called to commend Harvey Smith for his customer service when Mr. Clark had a flat in Marion County. Many people rode by and saw him, but did not stop. Smith stopped to assist. Mr. Clark said Mr. Smith was courteous and taught him a lot. He appreciates his kindness for helping him back to safety. Mr. Clark commended the Department for our hard work and for having Harvey Smith as an employee. Based on notes from D3 Program Associate Phoebe Beckham, via phone call from D. Clark

Editor's note: Harvey Smith is a construction inspector 2 in District 3

.....

Keep meaning to congratulate you on the [Dougherty County] intersection of Jefferson Ave and Philema Rd. The restructuring of the on and off ramps was impressive but the timing and control of the lights is the best I've ever seen ... Right from the start the lights made things better. After a short fine tuning period they really work well. I go through this intersection many times a day and I've never seen any long backups and I never feel as if I have to wait long for the light to go my way. The lights seem very adaptive to traffic in real time. You folks should get an award for this intersection! Thanks for the good work.
G. Simons, via GDOT's CONTACT US webpage

.....

I recently sent a question about cleaning the graffiti on the noise wall along I-20. I received a prompt response and was made aware ... that removal had already taken place. Unfortunately, the noise wall was marred soon after and again, it was painted over by GDOT. I want to commend the GDOT for continuing to combat this ... so many copy catters come out ... and it seems to be a never ending problem ... your efforts are appreciated ... Thank you for working hard to preserve Atlanta's beauty.
C. Oden, via GDOT's CONTACT US webpage

Dear Mr. Smith, Mr. Ray Spires, District 2 and Mr. Andrew Ritter ... what a positive experience I have had... regarding improvement to the traffic signals...

Mr. Spires ... a blessing ... answers his phone or returns the call immediately ... pleasant, courteous and professional ... makes things happen ... never made me feel as if I were bothering him ... has kept me up to date ... the perfect example of "Excellent Service"...

Mr. Andrew Ritter ... has been courteous and attentive to our needs ... has been tweaking the timing of the signal in order to keep the traffic flowing in the AM/PM rush hours ... done a terrific job. ... traffic is flowing probably better than it ever has before. I appreciate Mr. Ritter's attention and responsiveness

I applaud you for having such fine employees and I also applaud them both for taking pride in their jobs, their desire to do their job exceptionally well and for caring about us and our concerns. We are just citizens in the community but feel that we have a voice and I know for a fact that they listen ...
C. Middlebrooks, via email to District 1 District Engineer Jimmy Smith

.....

Your road crew was on White Oak Dr. [in] Hiawassee Ga today. They were doing a great job! They were friendly and efficient! Tell them Thanks!
C. Earon, via GDOT's CONTACT US webpage

... One of our neighbors [S. Larimore] posted this video on Facebook, saying thank you to GDOT for the HAWK signal at E. Davis and S. Candler:

<http://bit.ly/2HM0nZc>
This is a great step toward safer streets ...
T. Andrade, via email to District 7 District Engineer Kathy Zahul

*Editor's note: A HAWK (high-intensity activated cross walk) utilizes a pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) and is generally placed mid-block in high pedestrian areas. The beacon remains dark until the pedestrian pushes the button to activate it. PHBs help pedestrians safely cross roadways while minimizing traffic delays. There are over 50 PHBs in Georgia. For more information, visit **<http://bit.ly/2FOVrXa>**.*

...what a superb job has been done by GDOT regarding its recent lane changes and resurfacing down Peachtree Road in Buckhead ... While I'm sure you've had a few complaints from people who are still getting used to the lane changes ... the overall impact is already being felt and is a massive improvement on the dangerous conditions which previously existed ...

Anyway, the changes GDOT has recently made on Peachtree Road in Buckhead are magnificent: they will now save lives, prevent injuries, improve traffic flow and overall quality of life - and GDOT should be applauded for its research and execution and for spending taxpayers money wisely ...
L. Crampton
Original Media, LLC

Your driving behavior is a choice **CHOOSE WISELY**

By Liz Rothman

After a decade of decreases in fatalities on Georgia's roads, the last few years saw an alarming 33 percent increase. And while the 2017 numbers decreased slightly from 2016, that's no solace for families who lost a loved one last year (1,550 at last count). These include 259 pedestrian fatalities, 24 more than in 2016.*

Over four deaths a day – many due to preventable crashes caused by driver behavior.

Not wearing a seatbelt, driving distracted or driving too fast for conditions are choices that drivers make, and these behaviors are linked to about three quarters of fatalities. Texting and talking on the phone are not the only distracted driving behaviors. Eating and drinking, grooming and talking to other passengers are just a few other behaviors that divert the focus from driving.



**HOW YOU CHOOSE TO DRIVE
CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.
THE CHOICE IS YOURS.**

The Drive Alert Arrive Alive campaign is a partnership between the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DAAA.

*Numbers based on information available as of 3/20/18.

**Don't reply,
stay
alive.**

honku
drivers keep wrecking
their cars and each other so
why say accident?

[A honku is a transportation haiku
17 syllable three-line poem
written in a 5-7-5 format.
www.honku.org]



#ArriveAliveGA

**DRIVE
ALERT
ARRIVE
ALIVE**



Welcome New Employees

You and Georgia DOT. Together we're a winning team.

Bekuman Olani Abdi, Materials & Research
Zacheary Scott Adams, District 4
Curtiss T. Adamson, District 3
Caitlynn Marie Anderson, District 5
Eddie H. Anglin, District 1
Isahias Anguiano, Traffic Operations
Charles Orlando Barbes Jr., District 4
Allen Wallace Bearden Jr., District 6
Philip Odis Bearden, District 6
Carnell Capone Bel, District 2
Tracy Lee Bentley, District 3
Jonathan William Billups, District 7
John Colton Bowen, District 5
Adam Charles Boyer, District 1
Kenneth Lanair Bradley, District 2
Christopher M. Branch, District 5
Valarie Brathwaite, District 7
Michael Norman Bridges, District 3
Vaquinta M. Brittain, District 7
Wallace Lamar Brown Jr., District 2
Michelle Ashley Brown, General Accounting
John F. Bryan Jr., District 2
Millicent Bryant, District 7
Ryan Brinson Buckley, District 4
James Lee Bugajski, District 5
Ashton E. Bush, Traffic Operations
Brandon Lamont Bush, District 4
Mathieu Cadeau, Traffic Operations
Gregory Scott Cain Jr., District 7
Charles Roy Canady, District 3
Rogelio Alberto Carpio, District 1
Sebastian Ricardo Casillas, District 3
Brandon Everette Chatman, District 3
Carey W. Chester, District 6
Richard Cullen Clark, District 6
Jonathan Paul Clifton, District 2
Tony Bernard Coleman, District 4
Megan Renee Collins, District 1
Jessica Ritcheson Conner, District 6
Caleb James Cook, District 6
Erika Samia Coons, District 3
Victoria Alisha Cooper, General Accounting
Ingrid Tatiana Cubillos, District 7
Sage Thomas Culpepper, District 1
Charles Woodall Daniel Jr., District 6
Eliza Ann Daniels, District 2
Mark Anthony Darrell, Traffic Operations
Donny E. Darsey, District 5
Jermel Antwon Davis, District 2
Clayton Edsel Pierce Dawson, District 6
Thomas A. Decker II, District 6
Kyle Russell Denton, General Accounting
Breonna Jeanette Deshazer, District 4
David Anthony Dickerson, District 4
Brett Patrick Dixon, District 6
Earndrez Q. Dixon, District 3
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Jon-Wesley Onyechi Duncan, District 5
Doris Dunn, District 2
Marcus P. Durden, District 2
Angela Shilo Durrence, District 5
Ike Duru Jr., Strategic Communications
Morgan Taylor Edge, Bridge & Structural Design
Ryan Matthew Ensley, District 7
Wayne Charles Erkens, District 2
Cynthia J. Espy, District 7
Matthew Casey Evans, District 1
Timothy Oneal Evans, District 1
Mame Astu Fall, District 7
Robbie Eugene Finch II, District 5

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Ahleycha Janay Gainey, District 4
Charlotte Denise Gibson, District 2
Robert Michael Gibson, District 6
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Brae Lewis Gordon, District 4
William Dakota Gordon, District 6
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Xaviandria D She Griner, District 2
Gnana Deepthi Guduru, Information Technology
Valkyrie Lovieshada Hagan, District 2
Chrisshawne M. Hall, District 2
Lori Nicole Hamaker, District 4
Ramon Joseph Hamilton, District 5
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Benjamin Harkins, District 1
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David James Herring, District 3
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Topekia J. Jackson, District 2
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Andrew Komonski, District 1
Adam Anthony Labaud Jr., District 7
Mika Joan Ladoux, District 3
Sheny Africa Lake, District 1

Casey D. Lane, District 5
Delilah Cooper Lassiter, Facilities
Logan Anna Lavender, District 2
Paul Justin Law, District 2
Leon Lawrence II, District 2
David M. Layfield, District 4
Dong Ik Lee, Program Delivery
William Lockhart, District 7
Deidre Denise Logue, District 2
Justin Eugene Long, District 3
Skyler A. Long, Maintenance
Michael Leroy Lund, Traffic Operations
Danielle Nicole Mallon, Transportation Data
Gene Henry Mann, District 3
Dylan G. Martin, District 5
Andrew Dunaway Martz, Traffic Operations
Matthew Stephen Masters, District 1
Charles B. Maxwell, District 5
Joshua Emanuel Mays, District 3
Devon Michael McClelland, District 5
Jacob Alan McCranie, District 2
William Alex McCray, District 7
Ryker Michael McDaniel, District 5
Ralph Randall McGouirk, District 3
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Tanishia Latrice Miles, District 7
Angela Moment, District 2
Jillian Jasmeda Money, District 7
Joshua Michael Montefusco Jr., District 7
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Kenneth Daniel Olson, Traffic Operations
Donald William Ord Jr., District 2
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Westley Robert Robinson, District 5
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Demian Rodriguez, General Accounting
Estevan Rodriguez, District 6
Trenton L. Rolle, District 2
Daniel J. Rush, District 5

Mark Adam Russ, Information Technology
Jesse T. Russell, Traffic Operations
Renyea Zhane Russell, District 2
Michael Andrea Scott, District 2
Anne Elizabeth Sexton, Environmental Services
Gary Scott Shreve, District 5
Robert Thomas Sicking, District 3
Sean Patrick Sills, Information Technology
Douglas Monroe Sims, District 2
Raypreet Singh, Materials & Research
Morris S. Smith, Roadway Design
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Robert B. Stewart, Traffic Operations
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Thea Conswell Young, Right of Way

Full time non-temporary hires
6/17/17-12/31/17

**Georgia Department
of Transportation**

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