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General Assembly Rulings Bring Specific Results for GDOT

When the gavel fell to indicate the close of this year's lawmaking session, the Georgia Department of Transportation's Legislative Committee was pleased with the final results.

Two out of the four bills on the Board's Legislative Agenda became laws. The feeling expressed by board members were pleased with the results of the legislation that was enacted.



The Annual Housekeeping Legislation passed and will have a positive impact on more than half of the divisions at the Department. The legislation, also known as House Bill 137, will update and clarify various policies affecting GDOT.

The approval of either Senate Bill 58 or House Bill 156 will result in state highway employees receiving the same indemnification benefits as other hazardous workers. The bills will also be renamed to the Spencer Pass Hero Memorial Act.

Several Board committees met in advance of the full Board Meeting. Meeting highlights are below:

Finance: The Amended FY 11 budgets show a reduction in the motor fuel funds to balance actual collections for FY10. The state general funds were also reduced. The Amended FY12 budget shows an increase in motor fuel funds and federal grants. There will also be a reduction in state general funds for FY 12.

Legislative: The General Assembly passed two of the Department's bills, the Annual Housekeeping Bill and the Indemnification Bill. The legislature also adopted thirty-six (36) road naming resolutions.

Public Private Partnerships (P3): Status updates on the North by Northwest, Multi Modal Passenger Terminal (MMPT), Rest Areas/Welcome Centers projects were given.

Administrative: An update on the purpose and progress of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) was given. Currently the program has 26 projects in the pipeline.

A presentation was given on how the outreach efforts enable the Department to highlight accomplishments and positive programs that have improved efficiency. The enhanced GDOT website, and use of social media was also discussed.

Did You Know?

STATE FUND COLLECTIONS

The estimated motor fuel collection, fiscal year to date, is \$686,101,401.15 and is 1.83 percent over budget. This represents an increase of 13.12% over last year's collections of \$606,511,877.45 for the same time period.

TOTAL GDOT EMPLOYMENT FIGURE

The total employment figure for the month ending March 31st is 4,697. The report shows we hired eight (8) permanent employees and promoted fifty-four (54) employees; thirty-one (31) employees have separated their employment with the Department.

LEADERSHIP VISITS

The 2010 employee survey results made it clear that employees across the state wanted to see and hear more from Leadership. In response, four Leadership groups have been going out for quarterly meetings with employees in various district & area offices, maintenance shops, and satellite offices. This is an effort that will continue throughout the year. There has been open discussions and Q&A sessions with employees whose main concerns were:

- Employee compensation and increasing healthcare cost
- Outlook on hiring and career development
- The Department's budget
- Future of funding for commuter/high speed rail; alternate source of funding
- 2012 funding for fleet maintenance/replacement and specialized equipment

Next Board Meeting: Cordele, Georgia – May 19th