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Don Grantham Elected to State Transportation Board

Thank you members of the 10th Congressional District who elected me to the State Transportation Board. I truly appreciate your vote of confidence. As your representative, I will do my best to stand for the values and concerns of our communities. I also look forward to hearing from you when you have an issue or matter of concern to share with the Board.

I would also like to thank my friend Bill Kuhlke, whose vacated seat I now fill. I am very fortunate to have had his endorsement and support in my ability to serve our District. He played an important role in my being elected.

I anticipate the opportunity to make sound transportation decisions for both the 10th Congressional District and the State as well. I greatly appreciate you and look forward to our working together.

Sincerely,

Don A. Grantham

The State Transportation Board approved projects for the March letting that included 22 projects in the regular program and 184 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) projects. Combined, the projects are valued at more than \$67 million. See letting report attached. Several Board committees met in advance of the full Board Meeting. Meeting highlights are below:

Legislative: all of the Department's bills have been dropped:

- **Annual Housekeeping Legislation—HB 137** (Sponsored by Rep Donna Sheldon)
- **School Safety and Infrastructure—HB 202** (Sponsored by Rep. Brooks Coleman)
- **Environmental Revisions—HB 131** (Sponsored by Rep. Bubber Epps)
- **Indemnification Benefits—HB 156 and SB 58** (Sponsored by Sen. Steve Gooch)
- **On-Premise Sign Revisions—SB 54** (Sponsored by Sen. Jeff Mullis)

A presentation on the Special Council on Tax Reform's final recommendations was also made. As related to the Motor Fuel Tax, the Council recommended increasing the motor fuel excise tax to \$0.151/gallon; eliminating the 3% sales and use tax; and adjusting the rate annually by the highway construction index. The council's final recommendations will go before the Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure for a series of hearings.

Public Private Partnerships (P3): Status updates on the North by Northwest, Multi Modal Passenger Terminal (MMPT), Rest Area/Welcome Center, and Communication Towers projects was given.

Finance: Treasurer Kate Pfirman gave a presentation that reviewed the FY 2011 Budget Status for the Department. To date, 46% of the total budget has been spent. It was also noted that there is a Budget Amendment pending and \$22 million in expenses on Stimulus projects are reflected as motor fuel until reconciliation is finalized.

Financial reports for January were reviewed including cash balances, motor fuel collections, lettings report and employment. An update was also provided on De-obligations. Since October, about \$34 million has been de-obligated and staff is continuing their efforts and cleaning up projects.

Intermodal: A presentation was given on the Savannah Harbor Deepening Project. Highlights of the project include deepening the channel from 42 to 48 feet; adding two passing lanes; and extending the bar channel another 7 miles.

Another presentation to update the Committee on the Human Services Transportation Plan. The presentation outlined the goals of the plan, benefits of coordination, efforts made to date including statewide efforts.

Did You Know?

STATE FUND COLLECTIONS

The estimated motor fuel collection, fiscal year to date, is \$540,838,503.02 and is 3.21 percent over budget. This represents an increase of 15.91% over last year's collections of \$466,613,822.42 for the same time period.

TOTAL GDOT EMPLOYMENT FIGURE

The total employment figure for the month ending January 31, 2011 is 4,755.

NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FY 2010

- Delivered more than 1,000 projects across the state, valued at \$ 1.4 billion!
- ROW also has been significantly streamlined with additional consultants that help us fast-track projects. Now, each project has established ROW performance measures that are routinely tracked so we stick to the overall project schedule.
- This year, we've also incorporated Value Engineering (VE) on projects above \$25 million to improve project quality, constructability and lower life-cycle costs.
- In 2010, 90% of the 1,256 projects completed by the Construction division were completed within the original schedule, and 93% within the revised schedule deadline. Congratulations to the construction staff for reducing the average time for contract modifications from 91 days in 2009, to 52 days in 2010.

Next Board Meeting: Atlanta, Georgia— March 17th