



**SAM WELLBORN** 2110 Oak Avenue  
District 3 Columbus, Georgia 31906

706.615.0965 (Office)

[samwellborn@gmail.com](mailto:samwellborn@gmail.com) OCTOBER 2011

## Community Christens Fort Benning Gateway

State Transportation Board (STB) members, the mayor of Columbus, the commander general of Fort Benning and more than 150 other dignitaries and guest gathered in the National Infantry Museum aboard Fort Benning to celebrate the official opening of the Fort Benning Gateway earlier this month.

“This is an unforgettable overpass,” said Teresa Tomlinson, mayor of Columbus. “It is now the symbol of the city.”

The massive gateway required 56-acres of land to display its various components. The highlight of the view is the individual monuments sitting on top of four 50 foot columns flanking the corners of the unique overpass. There are also 20 fountains that can shoot water 20-feet high in the air and 20 flag poles that stand 50 feet tall.

Sam Wellborn, STB member and chairman of the Gateways Subcommittee, expressed satisfaction in working with the private community to help beautify the state

and honor the true heroes of this country.

“What a wonderful tribute to our soldiers and their families,” Wellborn said. “The whole purpose is to honor our soldiers and their families.”

The bridge bears witness of the appreciation the Columbus community and the state of Georgia has for the many soldiers that come to and leave from Fort Benning, home of the Army School of Infantry, to protect and defend America.



(L to R) Chris Hardy, Robert Brown, Teresa Tomlinson, John Flournoy and Sam Wellborn cut the ceremonial ribbon to signify the opening of the Gateway.

## GDOT Unveils Winter Weather Plan

Last winter’s uncharacteristic ice storm caught Georgia’s citizens, businesses and agencies by surprise. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has been working on being prepared for the worst while hoping for the best.

Eric Pitts, state maintenance engineer, gave an in-depth presentation of the Department’s inclement weather plan to State Transportation Board members during their monthly Board meeting.

“We have modified our policies and procedures on snow and ice removal,” said Pitts. “We want to keep traffic moving in a safe and uninterrupted manner.”

The Department has coordinated with local governments, purchased equipment and increased its manpower in preparation for the worst of storms.

“One of the major things we have done since the (ice storm) is begin working with our contractors,” said Pitts, professional engineer. “We just don’t have enough equipment across the state to treat and handle all of our roadways.”

Senate Resolution 30 was passed last year and made it

possible for GDOT to enter into contract agreements for assistance with ice and snow removal. The Department currently has 10 contractors on call for storms and continues to search for more.

Additionally, GDOT has upgraded worn-out equipment with new or replacement equipment. The Department purchased 112 plows, 155 salt and stone spreaders and six new pre-treat slide-in liquid tanks. The equipment is expected to be available by the end of November.

In addition to increasing manpower and improving the status of equipment, the Department has been working with local governments to improve coordination going into the winter season. So far, two intergovernmental meetings have been held with a third to be held in November.

Georgia isn’t known for severe winter storms.

However, the weather event that occurred earlier this year has left local and state agencies with a heightened level of awareness. GDOT has made arrangements and is ready to respond to the inclement weather events that may occur this coming winter.

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

**Finance:** The Committee was given updates on the first quarter FY 12 Budget and the federal transportation bills current state.

**Legislative:** The Committee received presentations revealing why the industry believes truck weight limit increases would positively affect commerce.

**Administrative:** The Committee was presented with changes made to the Outdoor Advertising Rules. The changes will be opened to the public for 30 days.

**Intermodal / Statewide Transportation Planning:** The findings from the Statewide Freight and Logistics Study was shared with the Committee. The study is in the fifth and final stage of the action plan, which looks to make Georgia the global gateway of choice.

### Did You Know?

#### STATE FUND COLLECTIONS

Estimated motor fuel collection, fiscal year to date, is \$255,164,802.03 and is 1.82% over budget. This represents an increase of 4.67% over last year's collections of \$243,785,372.78 for the same time frame.

#### TOTAL GDOT EMPLOYMENT FIGURE

The State Accounting Office is in the process of upgrading the Peoplesoft System and we are not able to provide employment figures at this time. As soon as the data is available, I will notify you with an up-

*Next Board Meeting: Atlanta, Georgia – November 17th*